

# Succession in Times of Change in the Tibetan World

June 12–13, 2025

Maison de l'Asie, 22 avenue du Président Wilson, 75116 Paris

A conference jointly sponsored by the École française d'Extrême-Orient and Aarhus University as part of the Leadership and Reincarnation of the Dalai Lamas (LEAD) project: A Research Network on Succession, Innovation, and Community (Independent Research Fund Denmark (Danmarks Fri Forskningsfond, 2023–2026)

Organizing Committee: Cameron Warner, Fabienne Jagou, and Nicole Willock

How do we speak of succession in the context of modern Tibetan history? In order to understand the transfer of power and status after the deaths of high-ranking lamas, we invite presentations to explore the topic of succession broadly construed in Tibetan society. The aim of the workshop is to expand research on Tibetan succession beyond the reincarnation lineage of the Dalai Lamas in order to place the issues of his succession in a wider historical and cultural context. We invite presentations on examples of Tibetan succession between the 17th and 21st centuries.

Papers could either contribute to the development of a theoretical framework based on previously published data or draw from new empirical examples found in the historical record or emerging from recent fieldwork. Potential questions include: what is at stake in Tibetan succession? For example, what have been the political ramifications within Tibetan society and through international relations, for example in the creation of the Kashag, the use of the Golden Urn, or the recognition of a tulku within a lay protector family? How have local politics impacted succession, for example the discovery of a *yangsi* in local aristocracy? How does succession relate to corporate ownership, historically in relation to *labrang*, aristocratic land ownership, or in contemporary times in relation to non-profit organizations? How has succession impacted religious innovation through the creation of new lineages and highlighted new practices or pedagogical structures, such as the rimé movement in Eastern Tibet? How has the experience of exile contributed to the emergence of new rules of succession? What can we learn from the contemporary examples of the successions of the 16th Karmapa and the 10th Panchen Lama?

## Thursday 12 June, 2025

10:00

Welcome address

10:15-11:00

Carole McGranahan

**Lay Leadership, Loyalty, and Change in Exile**

11:00-11:45

Tsering Wangmo Dhompa

**The Politics of Sorrow: Shifts in views of the nation**

11:45-12:30

Yoko Ikejiri

**The Position and Role of Kundeling's Treasurer: A Basic Study of the Foundation and Succession of Gling bzhi**

12:30-14:00 Lunch, on site (Indian food)

14:00-14:45

Darig Thokmay, University of Cambridge

**Authenticity in Question: Reassessing *A Collection of Documents Dispatched to This Side in the Year of the Water Ox***

14:45-15:30

Sangseraima Ujeed

**Buddhism, Reincarnation, and Succession in Mongolia: Past, Present, and Future**

15:30-16:15

Uradyn E. Bulag

**The 10th Jebtsundamba Khutagt and Mongolia's Buddhist Diplomacy in the Next Dalai Lama's Selection**

Coffee break / Walk to the Eiffel Tower

17:30 Keynote Speech

Antonio Terrone

**The Politics of Reincarnation: The Case of the Tenth Panchen Lama**

20:00

Dinner

## **Friday 13 June, 2025**

10:00-10:45

Nicole Willock

**Historical and Rhetorical Strategies for Establishing Authenticity and Authority in Tulku Succession**

10:45-11:30

Nicola Schneider

**Unbroken Religious Lineages and New Settings in Tibetan Monastic Life**

11:30-12:00

Chandra Chiara Ehm

**A Wild Goose Chase or a Treasure Hunt? Succession and Leadership in Female Monastic Communities in the Geluk Order of Tibetan Buddhism**

12:00-13:30 Lunch on site (Tibetan food)

13:30-14:15

Cameron David Warner

**On Not Holding a Throne: Reflections on Succession from the Sakya Khön Family**

14:15-15:00

Charles Ramble

**Strategies for Succession in Bonpo Religious Institutions**

15:00-15:45

Fabienne Jagou

**Succession within the Karma Kagyu School**

19:00

Dinner

\*Please note that unless otherwise indicated, meal attendance is for conference participants only\*