Short report by Rachael Griffiths

The international symposium, *Advanced Computational Methods for Studying Buddhist Texts*, was held at the University of Vienna on April 27-28, 2023. It brought together researchers from various disciplines who are using computational and quantitative methods in their work. The symposium was organised by Patrick McAllister (IKGA, Austrian Academy of Sciences), Markus Viehbeck (*Tibetan Manuscript Project Vienna* TMPV, University of Vienna), and Rachael Griffiths (*The Dawn of Tibetan Buddhist Scholasticism (11th-13th C.)*[1], IKGA).

Over the course of the two days, 19 speakers and 50-60 participants on-site and online discussed the latest developments in the field and the new insights and opportunities they offer. Presentations encompassed the various ways of interacting with texts through digital tools; from data collection and accessibility through optical character recognition/handwritten text recognition (OCR/HTR) and digital archives and databases to analysis and visualisation through natural language processing (NLP) and image processing algorithms.

The symposium provided a platform for showcasing numerous multilingual tools and methods, and for exchanging experiences, challenges, and knowledge. Likewise, it offered a forum for exploring how these tools and methods can enhance our understanding of Buddhist texts and help identify patterns and trends not visible through traditional methods. This was captured in the keynote that highlighted the application of historical GIS to the biographies of eminent monks, which enables us to trace the development of the "Buddhist world" over time and gain insights into trends and transformations.

The event was well-received and provided a valuable opportunity for scholars to exchange ideas and share their work. The organisers express their gratitude to all who participated and hope to see similar events in the future.