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**“Fanhualou, the Pantheon of the Emperor: Translation  
and Adaption of Tibetan Buddhist Iconographic  
Programs at the Qianlong Court”**

**Donnerstag, 8. Januar 2026 um 18:00 c.t.**

**Institut für Sinologie, Kaulbachstr. 53, Raum E04**



This talk focuses on *Fanhualou*, one of the most complex Tibetan Buddhist pantheons in history, created under the Qianlong court. By examining its iconographic composition, organization, and visual features, the talk explores the distinctive characteristics of the pantheon, its significance within the religious landscape of the Manchu court, and the question of authorship. Contrary to the long-standing attribution to the National Preceptor Rolpai Dorje, this study argues that the unprecedented design of the pantheon was determined by the Qianlong emperor himself. This surprising discovery illuminates the complex interplay between the Qing state and Tibetan Buddhism, showing how Tibetan Buddhist material culture was deliberately shaped, curated, and appropriated to embody and reinforce the imperial ideology of the Qianlong period.