



## **"Between Exegete and Historian: Hermeneutic Paradigms for Studying Tibetan Reconstructions of Indian Buddhist Thought"**

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This paper attempts to provide an overview of recent methodological considerations of later Tibetan reconstructions of issues, analyses and controversies in the earlier Indian philosophical tradition. Of especial interest will be Tom Tillemans' Buddhological appropriation of Imre Lakatos' distinction between 'internal' and 'external' history in Tibetan readings of Indian material, as well as David Seyfort Rugg's observations of the 'systematic hermeneutics' at work in the transmission of ideas from India to Tibet; also examined will be related methodological insights of Ernst Steinkellner, Georges Dreyfus and José Ignacio Cabezón. My focus will be upon whether a wider normative paradigm may be developed from these respective approaches within which to explore the history and transmission of Buddhist ideas and the process of traditional doxographic reconstruction. This will be done with some consideration for wider poststructural trends, and an overall concern will be for competing claims for the often vexed notion of 'context' as it is conceptualised both in a traditional Buddhist setting, and in the field of Buddhist Studies.