



Dharmadhatustotra: Nagarjuna's revolutionary corrective to his doctrine of emptiness

Drasko Mitrikeski – University of Sydney

This project aims to develop the most comprehensive study of Dharmadhatustotra, Nagarjuna's revolutionary corrective to his doctrine of emptiness, including the study of all existing canonical commentaries and the influence that the text has had to the present day. In doing so, the project will also uncover a vital but unexamined stream in the history of Buddhism, essential for understanding the contestations within the Tibetan Buddhist groups. The specific objectives of the project are:

- To provide a critical edition and translation of the only existing Sanskrit manuscript of the Dharmadhatustotra,
- To examine the doctrinal, religious and social consequences of the new doctrine introduced in the Dharmadhatustotra for Nagarjuna's opus as a whole and for the Buddhism of his time and place,
- To provide an edition and translation of all existing canonical commentaries of the hymn in order to understand the influence of this work on the subsequent Buddhist traditions,
- To produce a comparative study of all commentaries in order to determine how the text was historically understood and used,
- In light of the results collected, to produce an extensive critical discussion on the role of the commentator both of the traditional Buddhist exegete and of the modern Western scholar,
- To contribute to living Buddhism by providing a balanced view of the range of interpretations of the pivotal text, considered by many Tibetan schools to contain Nagarjuna's final philosophical position but virtually neglected by the academic audience.