



Die Hamburger Gesellschaft für Thaiistik e.V.  
in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Arbeitsbereich  
Thaiistik der Abteilung Sprachen und Kulturen  
Südostasiens des AAI und das Numata  
Zentrum für Buddhismuskunde laden Sie zu  
folgendem Vortrag ein:



## Translated for the Glass Cabinet Only? Thai Translations of Buddha's Word Examined in Their Cultural Context

Buddhism in contemporary Thailand is labelled "Theravada Buddhism" while the "Pali canon", or the "Tipitaka", is regarded as the canonical scriptures of this branch of Buddhism. In this lecture, Susanne Ott will not only reflect on canonization and the general role of translation in creating "-isms" and underpinning identities and power relations. She will mainly draw from her context-oriented research about the Thai translations of the Tipitaka, thereby viewing translation not as a merely linguistic but as a cultural phenomenon. Driven by the question as to why Thai translations of the Tipitaka are sometimes criticized for their poor intelligibility and "clunkiness", the following aspects will be reflected on: the role of the scriptures, the purpose of the translations, target audience, agents involved in translating and the place of politics in the whole process, the different concepts and ideas about translation used in various contexts and fields in Thailand, traditional Pali education and other related aspects of cultural history.

**Susanne Ott** is a PhD candidate in Thai Studies at the University of Hamburg. From 1999 to 2000 she studied Buddhism at Chiang Mai University within a Thai BA programme. During her subsequent MA studies in Hamburg, in which she majored both in Thai Studies and Classical Indology, she focused on questions of linguistic research such as the usage of Indic roots in coining modern terminology in Thai (corpus planning). Her interest in translations from Pali to Thai arose during the Winter term 2007/2008 at Silpakorn University, Bangkok, where she taught MA level classes in Sanskrit as a guest lecturer. A deeper understanding of Translation Studies and the completion of a training in Humanistic Psychotherapy have added new perspectives to her research.

**Dienstag 17.01.2017**  
**18:15-19:45 Uhr**  
**Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1**  
**Asien-Afrika-Institut: Raum 120**