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Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Campus Nation

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When Tantra Meets Pramāṇa: Interrelations Between the Traditions of Esoteric and Non-Esoteric Mahāyāna Buddhism

The *Sāramāñjarī* by Samantabhadra (mid-9th century CE) is a commentary on Jñānapāda's *Samantabhadrasādhana*, a Tantric manual for meditation. Along with Tantric materials, the two authors introduce many philosophical passages of various lengths that adopt many ideas and argumentations of the (Vasubandhu-)Dignāga-Dharmakīrtian tradition of logic and epistemology (*pramāṇa*). Their primary aim is to combine tenets from this tradition with an ultimately Madhyamaka viewpoint on absolute truth in a Tantric setting. Most likely, these works influenced Jitāri and Mokṣākaragupta, given the number of parallel passages with the **Sugatamatavibhaṅgabhāṣya* and the *Tarkabhāṣā*, respectively. As discussed by some scholars in the past, these two thinkers regarded Dharmakīrti as being actually a Mādhyamika. By investigating some specific topics and passages from works by Samantabhadra and Jñānapāda, I shall discuss some instances of reciprocal influence between the two traditions of "Tantra" and "Pramāṇa."

Serena Saccone is Associate Professor at the University of Naples "L'Orientale." Her main area of research is the intellectual history of Buddhism, focusing on South Asian authors from the early medieval period. Her monograph, *On the Nature of Things* (2018), concerns the internal Buddhist debate on cognitions and their object in the eighth century. Her second book, *Tantra and Pramāṇa. Studies in the Sāramāñjarī* (2022), co-authored with Péter-Dániel Szántó, deals with the interrelationship between Tantric Buddhism and the Dignāga-Dharmakīrtian tradition of logic and epistemology.