

འགྲུབ་ལྷན་ཁག་གི་འབྲེན་པ་

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TRANSLATION & TRANSMISSION

འགྲུབ་ལྷན་ཁག་གི་འབྲེན་པ་

OCTOBER 2-5, 2014

KEYSTONE, COLORADO, USA

Workshop 2 | Room: CRESTONE PEAK I | 4:30–6:30pm, October 3, 2014

Translating Philosophical Materials A

with Sara McClintock, Thomas Doctor, Jim Blumenthal, Dorji Wangchuk



Thomas Doctor

(RYI, and Dharmachakra Translation Committee)

Thomas Doctor has studied Buddhist philosophy at Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery in Kathmandu since the late 1980s. He teaches on the Rangjung Yeshe Institute graduate program and works for the Dharmachakra Translation Committee (DTC). Thomas received his BA and MA degrees in Tibetan Studies from the University of Copenhagen and his Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from the University of Lausanne. He is the author of *Reason and Experience in Tibetan Buddhism: Mabja Jangchub Tsöndrö and the Traditions of the Middle Way* (Routledge 2013). With DTC he has translated sūtras and tantras for the 84000 project, as well as classics of Buddhist philosophy, such as *Ornament of Reason (Mūlamadhyamakārikā* with commentary by Mabja Jangchub Tsöndrö, Snow Lion 2011) and *Ornament of the Great Vehicle Sūtras (Mahāyānasūtrālamkāra* with commentaries by Khenpo Shenga and Ju Mipham, Shambhala 2014).

Thomas Doctor's Presentation

Finding by Losing: On the Possibility of Perfect Translation

In an effort to develop a sufficiently coherent view of the nature and dynamics of translation, it seems worthwhile to begin by acknowledging just how easy it is to come to the conclusion that translation really cannot be done. For the working translator, skeptical critiques of the very idea of translation are not abstract meditations that can be pursued at leisure and within the comfort of one's armchair. What the skeptic is pointing at are the translator's everyday issues. Any hope of rendering translation intelligible as a true and concrete possibility will, it seems, have to be won not by passing over, but by facing, the skeptic's challenge. In the process of doing so, translators might develop a greater sense of both freedom and responsibility.