

Daniel Wojahn, MA

(PhD student in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies at the University of Oxford)

Living Law between the Lines: Explorations into the Collected Epistles of Chennga Drakpa Jungné (1175–1255)

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Institut für Sinologie, Kaulbachstr. 53, Raum E04



The 13th century marks a critical juncture in the history of Tibetan civilisation. This formative period saw the emergence of new Tibetan ideas on legal practises and the incorporation into the Mongol Empire and the Yuan Dynasty, respectively.

In my talk, I will explore the extensive correspondence of Chennga Drakpa Jungné (1175–1255), the third abbot of Drigung Monastery in central Tibet, with local and foreign rulers and religious authorities. His collected works illustrate his influence on politics and society by questioning how institutional structures should promote justice and restore social harmony. His writings not only emphasize the interdependence of religious and social networks, but also illustrate how he made and justified legal decisions and positioned himself as a leader within Tibetan communities vis-à-vis other Tibetan elites, the Mongols, and outside officials and agents.