

Francesco Sferra

Curriculum of Scientific and Didactic Activities (May 2024)

A student of Raniero Gnoli, Corrado Pensa and Raffaele Torella, Francesco Sferra (b. 1965) is Full Professor of Sanskrit language and literature at the University of Naples “L’Orientale.” Member of several scientific societies, including the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (Pune, since 1995), the Société Asiatique (Paris, since 1996), the Pali Text Society (Oxford, since 2003), and the Austrian Academy of Sciences (since 2022), Sferra is part of the Academic Board of the *The Annual Report of the International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology at Soka University* (Tokyo) and of the *Journal of the Japanese Association for Indian and Buddhist Studies* (Tokyo). He is the Director of the *Series Minor* (Naples) and Founder and Codirector of the *Series Manuscripta Buddhica* (Naples - Hamburg). Teacher of Sanskrit in Naples since the academic year 1998–99, in 2007 and in 2011–2012 he was visiting professor (Numata–Professor für Buddhismuskunde) at the Asien–Afrika–Institut (University of Hamburg). Since 2006 he has directed an international research project for the critical edition and study of unpublished Buddhist works in Sanskrit. The first results of the research have appeared in 2008 in vol. 1 of the series *Manuscripta Buddhica* with the title *Sanskrit Texts from Giuseppe Tucci’s Collection. Part I* (Rome). Among his major publications are the edition of the Sanskrit text and English translation of the *Śaḍaṅgayoga* by Anupamarakṣita with the commentary by Raviśrījñāna (Rome 2000) and the critical edition of the Sanskrit text of the *Paramārthasaṅgraha* by Nāropā (Rome 2006). Together with Harunaga Isaacson he published the *Sekaniderśapañjikā* of Rāmapāla (Manuscripta Buddhica vol. 2, Naples 2014). Translator from Sanskrit and Pāli for the series “Meridiani” of the publishing house A. Mondadori Editore (Milan 2001, 2004), he was the editor for the same series of one volume on ancient Hinduism (2010). Author of essays on linguistic speculations of some Hindu religious–philosophical schools (1991, 1994, 2007 and 2010), his research focuses also on Indian tantric traditions, in particular Kashmir Shaivism and the Buddhist Kālacakra.

Current Position	Full Professor of Sanskrit Language and Literature, University of Naples “L’Orientale” (Dipartimento di Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo). Permanent position.
Date / Place of Birth	16 th March 1965, Rome (Italy)
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Academia page	https://unior.academia.edu/FSferra

EDUCATION

- 1995–1998 Doctorate in Classical and Medieval Indological Studies, University of Rome “La Sapienza”. The thesis, entitled *The Śaṭsāhasrikākhyā Hevajratantrapīṇḍārthaṭīkā by Vajragarbha. Critical Edition and English Translation*, has been defended on 8th July 1999 [Supervisor: Prof. Raniero Gnoli].
- 1993 Master’s degree in Philosophy: *Laurea cum laude*. The thesis, entitled *Le speculazioni su vāc nelle Saṃhitā del Pāñcarātra*, was defended on 29th July 1993 [Supervisor: Prof. Raffaele Torella].

MEMBERSHIP OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

- 2023–2027 Guest Researcher at the China Tibetology Research Center, Beijing
- 2022– Corresponding Member Abroad of the Austrian Academy of Sciences [Korrespondierenden Mitglied im Ausland der philosophisch-historischen Klasse, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften] (since April)
- 2012– I S M E O — Associazione Internazionale di Studi sul Mediterraneo e l’Oriente, Roma
- 2003– Pali Text Society, Oxford
- 1999, 2001–23 International Association for Buddhist Studies
- 1996– Société Asiatique, Paris
- 1995–2011 Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente (ex IsMEO), Rome
- 1995– Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune (India)
- 1992– Associazione Italiana Studi Sanscriti, Turin

MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARDS OF

- *Journal of the Japanese Association for Indian and Buddhist Studies* (Tokyo)
- *Manuscripta Buddhica* (Naples–Hamburg) [Founder and Director of the series with Prof. Harunaga Isaacson]
- *Rivista di Studi Sudasiatici* (Rome)
- *Series Minor* (Naples) [Director since 2015]
- *Tantric Studies* (Hamburg)

- *The Annual Report of the International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology at Soka University (ARIRIAB) (Tokyo) (since 2018)*

DIDACTIC ACTIVITIES

Teaching at the University of Naples “L’Orientale”

2016–2020	Appointment for the teaching of Indian Religions and Philosophies.
2010–2011	Appointment for the teaching of Indology.
2009–2010	Appointment for the teaching of Indian Religions and Philosophies.
2004–2009	Appointment for the teaching of Indology.
2002—	Permanent appointment for the teaching of Sanskrit Language and Literature (Associate Professorship from 1 st Nov. 2002 to 15 th Sept. 2017).
2001–2002	Appointment for the teaching of 60 hours of Sanskrit Language and Literature.
2000–2001	Appointment for the teaching of 60 hours of Sanskrit Language and Literature.
1999–2000	Appointment for the teaching of 50 hours of Sanskrit Language and Literature.
1998–1999	Appointment for the teaching of 50 hours of Sanskrit Language and Literature.

Teaching Abroad

2021	November 8–24: Directeur d’études invité (course: “Deux traditions bouddhistes indiennes. Les Saṃmitīya et le Kālacakra”), École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris.
2018	June 11–15: Erasmus Gast-Professor (course: “Buddhist theories of the Self” – 8 hours), Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie (Instytut Religioznawstwa).
2018	May 7–11: Erasmus Gast-Professor (course: “Reading and Commentary of Selected Passages from Kamalaśīla’s Works” – 8 hours), Universität Wien (Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde).

- 2015 January 19-23: Erasmus Gast-Professor (course: “Constructing the Wheel of Time. Doctrinal Settings” – 8 hours), Universität Wien (Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde).
- 2014 January 13-21: Erasmus Visiting Professor (6 hours), SOAS, University of London.
- 2011–2012 Winter Term (October–February): Numata-Professor für Buddhismuskunde, Universität Hamburg (Asien-Afrika-Institut).
- 2008 June 3-6: Erasmus Gast-Professor (course: “Reading and Commentary of Selected Passages from Rāmapāla’s Unpublished Commentary on the *Sekaniṛṇaya* by Maitreyaṅātha” – 6 hours), Universität Wien (Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde).
- 2007 Summer Term (April–July): Numata-Professor für Buddhismuskunde, Universität Hamburg (Asien-Afrika-Institut).

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2005–2009 Responsible for the BA courses of Language and Cultures of Asia and Africa at the University of Naples “L’Orientale”
- 2007–2011 (Nov. 2007–Dec. 2011) Director of the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Naples “L’Orientale”
- 2012–2016 President of the University Library System (Sistema Bibliotecario di Ateneo, University of Naples “L’Orientale”)
- 2016– “Delegato alla Ricerca” of DAAM, University of Naples “L’Orientale”
- 2021–2023 Componente per il Settore Concorsuale: 10/N3 - CULTURE DELL’ASIA CENTRALE E ORIENTALE della Commissione per l’Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale
- 2018–2023 Coordinatore del Centro di Studi sull’Asia Meridionale e il Sud-Est Asiatico (Centro di Studi del Progetto Dipartimento di Eccellenza del DAAM)

PHD PROGRAMS

- 2013– “Dottorato di ricerca Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo” (University of Naples “L’Orientale”): member of the scientific board.

- 2012 “Dottorato di ricerca su Asia orientale e meridionale” (University of Naples “L’Orientale”): member of the scientific board.
- 2006–2012 “Dottorato di ricerca in Studi Indologici e Tibetologici” (University of Turin) (since 2008 part of the Doctoral School in Euro-Asiatic Studies: Indology, Linguistics, Onomastic): member of the scientific board.
- 2003–2005 “Dottorato di ricerca in Religioni, Filosofie e Teorie di salvezza” (University of Naples “L’Orientale”): member of the scientific board.

SCIENTIFIC BOARDS

- 2005– Member of the Directive Board of the Centre for Buddhist Studies (Centro di Studi sul Buddhismo, University of Naples “L’Orientale”).
- 2009– Member of the Directive Board of the Italian Association of Sanskrit Studies (Associazione Italiana di Studi Sanscriti).
- 2006–2011 Member of the Directive Board of the Centre for the Edition of Texts (Centro per lo Studio e l’Edizione dei Testi, University of Naples “L’Orientale”).
- 2008–2011 (July–July) Member of the Scientific Board of the Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente (Roma).
- 2009–2012 Member of the Advisory Board of the Centro Interdipartimentale di Ateneo “‘Il Torcoliere’ - Officine Grafico-Editoriali d’Ateneo” (University of Naples “L’Orientale”).
- 2011– Member of the Advisory Board and of the Editorial Board of the Khyentse Center for Tibetan Buddhist Scholarship, Universität Hamburg.
- 2019–2023 Member of the Advisory Board of the International Association of Buddhist Studies.
- 2023– Membro del Comitato Scientifico dell’Unione Buddhista Italiana.

COMMUNICATIONS IN WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

- 2023 28th November, Bologna: ‘How a Pot Knows Mario’, *Immediacy, Consciousness, Knowledge. A Symposium on South Asian and European Philosophy*, Università di Bologna, Dipartimento di Storia

- Culture Civiltà, Accademia delle Scienze dell'Istituto di Bologna, November 27–28.
- 2023 16th August, Beijing: 'On the *Vajrapadasārasaṃgraha*. Part II', Sanskrit Panel Session of the 7th Beijing International Seminar on Tibetan Studies, CTCRC.
- 2023 17th July, Tokyo: 'A Life of Hell. Narakas and Nārakas According to the *Abhidharmasamuccayakārikā* by Saṅghatrāta' (The Conference of Heavens and Hells. Life After Death in Religious Traditions from South Asia. ERC Project "Śivadharma," L'Orientale University of Naples. Supported by the Department of Indian Languages and Literature, the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo and "Dynamism of Cultural Contact in South Asia," ILCAA Joint Research Group, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies).
- 2023 22 May – 1 June, Naples: 'Paramākṣarajñānasiddhi. Kālacakra Reading Seminar' (DAAM Napoli).
- 2023 13–14 May, Vienna: 'Ratnatrayaparīkṣāṭīkā Workshop' (no communication read) (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens).
- 2023 20–25 Marzo: ITLR Retreat.
- 2022 7 May, Rome, 'Pratiche contemplative secondo la tradizione Theravāda,' *La dimensione contemplativa della vita. La meditazione nella tradizione buddhista, cristiana e induista* (Roma, UNEDI).
- 2022 5 March, Vienna, 'On verbal cognition. Kamalaśīla's treatment of *vivakṣā*,' *Kamalaśīla's Significance in the Intellectual History of Buddhism 4–6 March 2022* (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens).
- 2020 15 July, Beijing, 'Trends in Buddhist Studies', International Webinar on Tibetan Cultural Heritage and Religious Belief, CTCRC.
- 2020 8 January, Beijing, 'On the *Vajrapadasārasaṃgraha*. Part I', Workshop on Sanskrit Manuscripts Studies A Pre-Panel Session of the 7th Beijing International Seminar on Tibetan Studies, CTCRC.
- 2018 11–12 December, Bologna, 'Lettura e commento della *Vātsīputrīyaparikalpītātmaparīkṣā*'.
- 2018 24 September, Tokyo, 'Weaving Dharma into Words: Composition Strategies in Buddhist Tantras' (Evolution of

- Scriptures, Formation of Canons, Tokyo Campus of the University of Tsukuba at Myogadani, September 24–25).
- 2017 27 November, Naples, ‘The Political Cosmos of Late-Indian Buddhists’ (Exploring the Two Wings of Buddhism in the World (2) Buddhist Cultural Practices Across Asia 国際シンポジウム「仏教の両翼を世界に探る」(第2部) International Symposium — University of Naples “L’Orientale”).
- 2017 22 August, Toronto, ‘Adapting the Middle Path to the Vajra Vehicle: An Enquiry into the Doctrinal Settings of the “Wheel of Time”’ (XVIIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto, 20–25 August 2017).
- 2017 26–29 June, Vienna, ‘*Bhāvanākrama* Workshop’ (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens).
- 2017 23–27 January, Manipal (Karnataka, India), ‘International Workshop on Tantric Studies’ (Centre for Religious Studies, Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, Manipal University).
- 2016 22nd October, Turin, ‘Tradurre testi sanscriti e tibetani’, *Parole e Idee In/Oltre l’Asia Meridionale: Tradurre e produrre testi in contesti multilinguistici* (Università degli studi di Torino, 20–22 ottobre 2016).
- 2016 4th August, Beijing, ‘The *Amṛtadhārā* of Śrībhānu: An Unpublished Commentary on the *Vajrāmṛtatantra* Kept in the TAR’, 6th *Beijing International Seminar on Tibetan Studies* (August 1–4, 2016, China Tibetology Research Centre).
- 2016 20th–23rd June, Paris: ‘Saṅghatrāta’s *Abhidharmasamuccayakārikā*: A Sanskrit Work of the Sāṃmitīyas’, *Second International Pali Studies Week* (Sorbonne).
- 2016 13th–14th April: ‘Epistemologia e logica nel pensiero indiano. Commento di brani dal *Nyāyasūtrabhāṣya*’ (University of Bologna).
- 2015 17th December, Vienna: ‘An Analysis of the *Mārgasamuccaya*, Being the Sixth Chapter of Saṅghatrāta’s *Abhidharmasamuccayakārikā*, *Paths to Liberation in South Asian Buddhist Traditions* (Austrian Academy of Sciences).
- 2015 4th November, Roma: ‘Il linguaggio dell’epistemologia nella riflessione filosofica in sanscrito’, *La terminologia filosofica tra Oriente e Occidente* (Università degli Studi di Roma, La Sapienza).

- 2015 27th March, Bologna: ‘*Pudgalo ’vācyah* – Tra eresia e tradizione. Il ritrovamento di un nuovo testo della tradizione buddhista dei Sāṃmitīya’, *AISS. XVI Convegno Nazionale di Studi Sanscriti* (Università degli Studi di Bologna).
- 2015 20th February, Salaya: ‘The Role of Sanskrit in the Study of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism’, *Buddhist Studies: The Role of Sanskrit* (Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University, Salaya Campus, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand).
- 2015 12th-25th February, Salaya: ‘Buddhist Texts in Sanskrit: Intensive Readings at Mahidol University’ (Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University, Salaya Campus, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand).
- 2014 26th September, Cambridge: ‘Apropos of a Recently Rediscovered Buddhist Manuscript. The *Abhidharmasamuccayakārikā* by Saṅghatrāta’, *The South Asian Manuscript Book: Material, Textual and Historical Investigations* (Workshop at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge 25th-27th September 2014).
- 2014 28th-30th June: ‘Readings from MSS of Tantric Texts kept at the CUL: Passages from the *Vajrāmṛtamahātantra*’ (University of Cambridge, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies).
- 2013 13th April, Cambridge: ‘Apropos of Some Buddhist Tantric Manuscripts: CUL Add. 1108, Add. 1708.1, Or. 158’, *Buddhist Manuscript Culture: Textuality and Materiality* (Workshop at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge 12th-13th April 2013).
- 2013 23rd-24th March, Kyoto, ‘Reading Session: *Hevajratantra-piṇḍārthaṭīkā, pariccheda 4; Sarvarahasyanibandha ad stt. 7-11, 23-24*’, *The Vikramaśīla Workshop* (March 23-24, 2012, University of Kyoto).
- 2012 15th-16th September, Tokyo, ‘Reading Session: *Sarvarahasyanibandha ad stt. 1-6*’, *The Vikramaśīla Workshop* (September 14-17, 2012, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo, participation via Skype).
- 2012 3rd August, Beijing, [With LUO Hong] ‘The *Paramārthasevā* by Puṇḍarīka and Its Place in Early Kālacakra Literature’, *5th Beijing International Seminar on Tibetan Studies* (August 1-4, 2012, China Tibetology Research Centre).
- 2012 23rd July, Hamburg, ‘Theories and Practice in Translating Indian and Indo-Tibetan Texts’, *Cross-Cultural Transmission of Buddhist*

- Texts: Theories and Practices of Translation* (July 23–25, 2012: University of Hamburg).
- 2012 16th June, Cagliari, ‘Manoscritti Sanscriti in Cina. La *Paramārthasevā*’, AISS. *XV Convegno Nazionale di Studi Sanscriti*.
- 2011 22nd June, Taipei, ‘The *sākāra/nirākāra* Debate in Buddhist Tantric Literature’, *XVIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies* (Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Jinshan, New Taipei City, Taiwan, June 20–25, 2011).
- 2011 17th June, Beijing, ‘Indo-Tibetan Studies in Italy: Past, Present and Future’, *Sino-Italian Seminar of Tibetan Studies* (China Tibetology Research Centre).
- 2010 1st October, Melbourne, ‘The “thought” of Giuseppe Tucci. Method and result – Tucci’s contribution to Buddhology and Indo-Tibetan Studies’, *A symposium in honour of Giuseppe Tucci* (Monash University).
- 2010 14th June, Roma, ‘La fluidità testuale nella tradizione antico-indiana’, *Canonii liquidi. Variazione culturale e stabilità testuale dalla Bibbia a internet* (Università Roma Tre) [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qe2SONmd1s>].
- 2009 9th December, Capua, ‘La visione dell’altro nell’India classica’, *La visione dell’altro* (Istituto superiore di scienze religiose).
- 2009 24th March, Ercolano, ‘Trasmissione e costruzione del sapere nell’India classica’, *L’insegnamento delle technai nelle culture antiche* (Museo Archeologico Virtuale).
- 2008 16th October, Beijing, ‘Tucci’s expeditions in Tibet and Nepal’, *Beijing Seminar on Tibetan Studies* (China Tibetology Research Centre).
- 2007 11th–12th October, Padova, ‘Mente e fattori mentali nella tradizione buddhista Theravāda’, *Mente e coscienza tra India e Cina* (Università degli studi di Padova).
- 2006 11th December, Naples, ‘Strutture e figure nella poesia indiana’, *Seminario interdisciplinare 2006–2007: Leggere la poesia* (University of Naples “L’Orientale”).
- 2006 6th–9th December, Siracusa, ‘I *mahāvākya*, o “Grandi enunciati”, come fondamento della conoscenza suprema’, *Rivelazione e conoscenza* (Officina di Studi Medievali).
- 2006 6th April, Turin, ‘Building a Common Path’, *Università italiane e indiane. Convenzioni e progetti* (University of Turin).

- 2005 3rd-5th October, Tokyo: 'Constructing the Wheel of Time. Strategies for establishing a tradition', *On Tantrism, Around Tantrism* (The Institute of Oriental Culture, University of Tokyo).
- 2005 21st-22nd May, Palermo: 'Dall'esser-questo alla pienezza del vuoto. Orientamenti soteriologici nel buddhismo indiano', *Il fine ultimo dell'uomo* (Università di Palermo, Officina di Studi Medievali).
- 2004 13th November, Turin: 'La figura del Buddha e il suo insegnamento', *Tradizioni religiose dell'Asia. Buddhismo*.
- 2004 22nd-23rd January, Venice: 'Recenti ritrovamenti di manoscritti buddhisti indiani', *Scritture e Codici nelle Culture dell'Asia. Prospettive di Studio* (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Università degli Studi di Milano).
- 2003 13th-15th November, Cortona-Viterbo: 'Problemi di ecdotica dei testi indiani', *Il testo, il supporto e la funzione (le metodologie orientaliste e quelle tradizionali d'Occidente)* (Comune di Cortona, Università di Napoli "L'Orientale", Università della Tuscia, Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente).
- 2003 4th March, Venice: 'Il buddhismo e la tecnica', *Dolore e immortalità. Filosofia e buddhismo di fronte ai nuovi orizzonti della tecnica* (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia & Centro Studi Maitreya).
- 2002 18th-20th April, Venice: 'Insegnamento e direzione spirituale nelle tradizioni del buddhismo indiano. Alcune note sul ruolo del maestro', *Guru. Il maestro spirituale nelle tradizioni d'Oriente e d'Occidente. Autorità e carisma* (Venetian Academy of Indian Studies).
- 2002 14th March, Naples: 'Rivelazione e parola nelle fonti indiane', *Hieròs. Sulla rivelazione. Segno, parola gesto* (Istituto Universitario Suor Orsola Benincasa).
- 2001 9th-10th November, Matera: 'Il silenzio del Buddha', *Fedi e culture oltre il Dio di Abramo* (Centro Carlo Levi).
- 2001 25th-26th May, Naples: 'Discordant Classifications of Feelings and Emotions in the Rhetoric Tradition of Classical India', *Prototypical examples of emotions in Southern and East Asia* (Istituto Universitario Orientale).
- 2001 22nd May, Naples: 'Tantra hindu e tantra buddhista: basi comuni e influenze reciproche', *Primo Convegno Napoletano di Studi sul Buddhismo* (Istituto Universitario Orientale).
- 2001 15th May, Rome: 'Rivelazione e autorità nell'induismo', *Hieròs. Sulla rivelazione* (Pontificia Università Lateranense).

- 2001 25th January, Naples: ‘La rivelazione in India’, *Hieròs. Sulla rivelazione* (Istituto Universitario Suor Orsola Benincasa).
- 1999 15th October, Biella: ‘Alcune considerazioni sulla relazione tra tantra buddhisti e tantra hindū’, *AISS. X Convegno Nazionale di Studi Sanscriti*.
- 1999 7th–10th October, Warsaw: ‘Sanskrit Manuscripts and Photos of Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Giuseppe Tucci’s Collection. A preliminary Report’, *On understanding other cultures. International Conference on Sanskrit and Related Studies to Commemorate the Centenary of Birth of Stanisław Schayer (1899–1941) at the Warsaw University*.
- 1999 23rd–28th August, Lausanne: ‘Some Considerations on the Relationship between Hindu and Buddhist Tantras’, *XIIIth Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*.
- 1997 3rd–9th January, Bangalore: ‘Notes on the *Hevajratantrapiṇḍārthaṭīkā* by Vajragarbha’, *Xth World Sanskrit Conference*.
- 1997 23rd–24th October, Genova: ‘L’idea di “purificazione” in alcuni testi del tardo buddhismo indiano’, *AISS. IX Convegno Nazionale di Studi Sanscriti*.
- 1995 3rd–4th October, Turin: ‘Alcune note sull’*Hevajratantrapiṇḍārthaṭīkā* di Vajragarbha’, *AISS. VIII Convegno Nazionale di Studi Sanscriti*.
- 1993 20th–21th May, Palermo: ‘Le fonti scritturali del Pāñcarātra nel *Samvitprakāśa* di Vāmanadatta’, *AISS. VII Convegno Nazionale di Studi Sanscriti* (Università di Palermo).
- 1991 29th–31th May, Pisa: ‘Le *Nādakārikā* di Rāmakaṇṭha’, *La parola creatrice in India e nel Medio Oriente* (Seminario della Facoltà di lettere dell’Università di Pisa).

LECTURES

- 2023 20th July: ‘The World as Concept and Representation. An Inquiry into Taxonomy and Doxography in Classical India’ (The University of Tokyo, Tokyo).
- 2023 20th June: ‘The World as Concept and Representation. An Inquiry into Taxonomy and Doxography in Classical India’ (Doctoral Day, Dipartimento di Lettere, Lingue e Beni culturali, Università degli Studi di Cagliari, Cagliari).
- 2023 8th May: ‘Introduzione alla filosofia indiana. Fondamenti’ (Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici, Napoli).

- 2021 6th May: ‘Lo yoga nelle tradizioni del Grande veicolo buddhista’ (Roma, Museo delle civiltà).
- 2021 29th April: ‘Pratiche di yoga e contemplazione nel buddhismo antico’ (Roma, Museo delle civiltà).
- 2019 11th November: ‘Dipendenza e interconnessione nel canone buddhista in pāli’ (Le Conferenze del Centro di Studi sul Buddhismo, Università degli Studi di Napoli ‘L’Orientale’).
- 2019 11th February: ‘Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla on Verbal Testimony’ (Univeristy of Manipal, Centre for Religious Studies / Manipal Centre for Humanities: *Three Day Buddhist Pramāṇa Workshop* 10-12 February).
- 2019 10th February: ‘Śāntarakṣita and Kamalaśīla vs the Buddhist Personalist view-point’ (Univeristy of Manipal, Centre for Religious Studies / Manipal Centre for Humanities: *Three Day Buddhist Pramāṇa Workshop* 10-12 February).
- 2019 7th February: ‘Saṅghatrāta’s *Abhidharmasamuccayakārikā: A Newly Discovered Source for the Study of the Puḍgalavāda Buddhism*’ (University of Pune, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies).
- 2019 5th February: ‘The *sākāra* vs *nirākāra* Debate in Buddhist Tantric Literature’ (Kolkata, Jadavpur University, Department of Philosophy).
- 2019 4th February: ‘*Vivakṣā: The Desire to Speak. A Glimpse into the Buddhist Philosophy of Language*’ (Kolkata, Rabindra Bharati University, Department of Philosophy).
- 2018 14th July: ‘Lo yoga buddhista: lettura e commento di passi salienti’ (Università Ca’ Foscari di Venezia, Master in Yoga Studies, Milano).
- 2018 14th June: ‘The Selfless Self. A Glimpse into the Buddhist Views of the Ultimate Reality’ (Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie, Instytut Religioznawstwa).
- 2018 17th May: ‘La critica buddhista della testimonianza verbale come mezzo di conoscenza’ (Università di Cagliari, Facoltà di Studi Umanistici, Dipartimento di Filologia, Letteratura e Linguistica).
- 2018 11th May: ‘An unpublished commentary on the *Ratnatrayaparīkṣā* by the Śaiddhāntika master Śrīkaṇṭhasūri’ (University of Vienna).
- 2018 3 maggio: ‘Trasmissione e studio della *Ratnatrayaparīkṣā* di Śrīkaṇṭhasūri alla luce dei suoi commenti in sanscrito’ (Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali,

- Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”).
- 2018 13 aprile: ‘Lo yoga tantrico: tra identità e innovazione’ (UNO, I saperi dell’Orientale — Religioni e identità).
- 2017 12 luglio: ‘When Buddhists Are the Enemies: A Sketch of the Debate on the Different Ways of Salvation in Tantric Buddhism’ (Khyentse Center for Tibetan Buddhist Textual Scholarship Universität Hamburg).
- 2017 4 maggio: ‘*Kecid vadiṣyanti...* ovvero quando i nemici sono buddhisti. Dibattito sulle diverse vie di salvezza nel buddhismo tantrico’ (Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”).
- 2017 30th January: ‘In Search for a New Orthodoxy: The Middle Path of the Kālacakra’ (Nalanda University [Bihar, India], School of Buddhist Studies, Comparative Religion and Philosophy).
- 2016 13th December: ‘In Search for a New Orthodoxy: The Middle Path of the Kālacakra’ (Université de Lausanne, Faculté des Lettres).
- 2016 5th May: ‘Il buddhismo tantrico: stato degli studi, nuove scoperte e prospettive di ricerca’ (Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”).
- 2016 26th February: “La quadratura del cerchio”. Riflessioni sulla traduzione dei testi indiani e tibetani’ (Università di Torino).
- 2016 22nd January: ‘Notable Manuscripts, Forgotten Texts. Glimpses of Indian Manuscript Cultures in the Middle Ages’ (Universität Hamburg, Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures).
- 2015 18th May: ‘*Puḍgalo ’vācyah* – Between heresy and tradition. The discovery of a new text of the Sāṃmitīya Buddhist tradition’ (Lingyin Lectures in Buddhist Studies, The Oriental Institute, University of Oxford).
- 2015 9th April: ‘*Puḍgalo ’vācyah* – Tra eresia e tradizione. Il ritrovamento di un nuovo testo della tradizione buddhista dei Sāṃmitīya’ (Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”).
- 2015 24th January: ‘New Materials for the Study of the Buddhist Saṃmitīya Tradition’ (Universität Wien, Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde).
- 2014 26th November: ‘Rephrasing the Buddha’s Words. On the Semiotic Enrichment of the Pāli Nikāyas’ (Asien-Afrika-Institute, Universität Hamburg).
- 2014 29th March: ‘Soma, Psiche e Pneuma. Il Buddhismo’, *Soma, Psiche e*

- Pneuma (Corpo, Anima e Spirito). Frontiere da esplorare per una nuova comprensione dell'umano. La riflessione e l'apporto delle grandi tradizioni religiose* (Istituto Stensen, Firenze).
- 2014 20th January: 'Readings from MSS of Tantric Texts kept at the CUL: Passages from the *Vajrāmṛtamahātantra* and other Buddhist Works' (University of Cambridge).
- 2014 16th January: 'The 'Bodhisattva Corpus' and the attempt to establish a new orthodoxy at the dawn of the 11th century' (University of London, SOAS – The Buddhist Forum lecture series).
- 2013 6th November: 'Letteratura narrativa ed ermeneutica buddhista' (Università degli Studi di Milano, Dipartimento di Studi letterari, filologici e linguistici).
- 2013 5th November: 'Costruzione dell'identità brāhmaṇica nell'India medievale' (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia e sull'Africa Mediterranea, Dottorato di Studi sull'Asia e sull'Africa).
- 2013 15th May: 'Identità perdute. Processi di trasformazione nell'India medievale' (Università degli Studi di Napoli 'L'Orientale', Dottorato di Ricerca AOM, Centro di Studi sul Buddhismo).
- 2013 26th March: 'Progressive Teachings in the Pāli Nikāyas' (Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, The University of Tokyo).
- 2013 18th March: 'Teaching the Dharma of the Buddha: Models and Strategies in Indian Texts' (*VIII^{ème} Journée Monde Indien*, CNRS, Sorbonne Nouvelle, INALCO, EPHE, Paris).
- 2013 2nd March: 'Il dubbio nel buddhismo', "*Dubito ergo sum*". *L'esperienza e l'intelligenza del dubbio* (Istituto Stensen, Firenze).
- 2012 22nd May: 'Constructing the Wheel of Time (Kālacakra). Doctrinal and Practical Strategies' (Universitetet i Oslo: Oslo Buddhist Studies Forum).
- 2012 27th April: 'Texts in Context: A Reflection About the Hermeneutics of Buddhist Texts' (International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden).
- 2012 13th March: 'Apropos of Some Late Indian Buddhist Manuscripts kept in the Cambridge University Library' (University of Cambridge: Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies).
- 2012 25th February: 'L'autorità nel buddhismo', *Ripensare l'autorità* (Istituto Stensen, Firenze).
- 2011 26th May: 'Il tardo buddhismo indiano: nuove scoperte e

- prospettive di ricerca' (University of Trieste/Studium Fidei). [With a few changes this is the same lecture of 19th April 2011]
- 2011 19th April: 'Il tardo buddhismo indiano: nuove scoperte e prospettive di ricerca', *Le Conferenze del Centro di Studi sul Buddhismo, VIII Ciclo (2010-2011), Ricerche in Corso* (University of Naples "L'Orientale").
- 2011 3rd March: 'Il buddhismo tra immaginazione e realtà', *Come alla corte di Federico II* (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II) [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WvG3wJ1vsQ>].
- 2011 12th February: 'L'idea di vita umana nel buddhismo', *Ripensare la vita* (Istituto Stensen, Firenze).
- 2010 20th December: 'Hinduismo antico. Dalle origini vediche ai Purāṇa', *Lunedì della Peterson* (Università di Torino, Dip. di Orientalistica).
- 2010 21th October: 'Abhinavagupta's Life and Works' (Fudan University, Shanghai).
- 2010 20th October: 'Giuseppe Tucci's Life and Works' (Fudan University, Shanghai).
- 2010 19th October: 'Introduction to Hindu Tantrism' (Fudan University, Shanghai).
- 2010 18th October: 'Introduction to Buddhist Tantrism' (Fudan University, Shanghai).
- 2010 20th February: 'Il rapporto fra religione e sessualità nel buddhismo' (Istituto Stensen, Firenze).
- 2009 6th May: 'Grammatica e argomentazione in Abhinavagupta', Università di Cagliari.
- 2009 5th May: 'Critiche śaiva alla teoria buddhista dell'«esclusione» (*apoha*)', Università di Cagliari.
- 2009 28th February: 'Buddhismo e scienza' (Istituto Stensen, Firenze).
- 2009 25th February (seminar in collaboration with Vincenzo Vergiani): 'Grammar and Argumentation in Abhinavagupta's Works' (University of Cambridge: Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies).
- 2008 15th July: '*Manuscripta buddhica*. I testi sanscriti della Collezione Tucci e recenti ritrovamenti. Progetti di edizione e nuove prospettive di ricerca' (Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente, Rome).
- 2008 5th June: 'The Concept of Knowability According to Abhinavagupta' (University of Vienna).

- 2008 30th April: ‘The Nāda Theory of Language: A Śaivasiddhānta Perspective on Verbal Communication’ (Asien-Afrika-Institute, University of Hamburg).
- 2008 16th April: ‘Introduzione alla meditazione *vipassanā*’ (Centro di Studi sul Buddhismo, University of Naples “L’Orientale”).
- 2008 23rd February: ‘Il ruolo delle scritture nelle tradizioni buddhiste’, *Il ruolo delle scritture nelle tradizioni religiose: le forme, i contenuti, gli usi, ieri, oggi e domani* (Istituto Stensen, Firenze).
- 2008 7th February: ‘Aspects of the Buddhist Criticism of the Sphoṭa Theory’ (University of Calcutta, Department of Philosophy).
- 2008 4th February: ‘The Abhidharmic Buddhist Theories on Word and Verbal Communication’ (Kolkata, Rabindra Bharati University, Department of Philosophy).
- 2008 31st January: ‘The Nāda Theory of Language. An Analysis of its Ontological Presuppositions’ (Kolkata, Rabindra Bharati University, Department of Philosophy).
- 2008 30th January: ‘The Apoha Theory in Saiva Context’ (University of Calcutta, Department of Philosophy; this lecture has been repeated at the University of Burdwan on the 5th February during the *ICPR-Sponsored National Seminar on Philosophy of Logic and Language, 4-6 February 2008*, Department of Philosophy).
- 2007 19th December: ‘Le dottrine delle principali scuole del buddhismo antico e la formazione del Canone pāli’ (Centro di Studi sul Buddhismo, University of Naples “L’Orientale”).
- 2007 17th March: ‘Etica e buddhismo’ (Istituto Stensen, Firenze).
- 2007 12th February: ‘The Concept of *atammayatā* in the Pāli Nikāyas’ (University of Paris La Sorbonne) [revised version of the lecture given in Tokyo in 2005].
- 2006 20th January: ‘The Wheel of Time. Strategies for Establishing a Tradition’ (University of Vienna).
- 2006 11th January: ‘Inventare una tradizione: la Ruota del tempo’ (Centro di Studi sul Buddhismo, University of Naples “L’Orientale”).
- 2005 6th October: ‘The Concept of *atammayatā* in the Pāli Nikāyas’ (The University of Tokyo).
- 2005 21st April: ‘Il Buddha storico’ (Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente, Rome).
- 2003 22nd May: “Bruciare il fuoco”. *Le Quattro Nobili Verità del Buddha* (National Museum of Oriental Art, Rome).

- 2003 15th–18th June: ‘Quattro lezioni di introduzione alla soteriologia buddhista’ (Fondazione CUM, Verona).
- 2002 30th September: ‘*Sallasutta*. Two Ways of Suffering. A Teaching of the Buddha on the Origin of Pain’ (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia).
- 2002 9th April: ‘Paramahansa Yogananda: “Tu sei me, io sono Te”. Riflessione sull’insegnamento di un maestro contemporaneo’ (Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente, Rome).
- 1999 20th May: ‘L’idea di un Dio salvatore nell’induismo’ (National Museum of Oriental Art, Rome).
- 1997 5th March: ‘Liberazione e mezzi di liberazione nelle scuole del tardo buddhismo indiano’ (University of Rome “La Sapienza”).
- 1995 9th February: ‘Introduzione al Buddhismo’ (Liceo Scientifico Statale “Benedetto Croce”, Rome).

DIRECTION OF SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

- 2023–2025 (PI) PRIN 2022: *The “Wheel of Time”: An Inquiry into New Sources of Late Indian Buddhism (X–XIII cent.)*.
- 2013–2022 Director of the project of research: *Edizione critica e studio di opere inedite śivaite e buddhiste in sanscrito* (Department of Asiatic Studies, Naples).
- 2006–2012 Director of the project of research: *Edizione critica e studio di opere inedite buddhiste in sanscrito* (Department of Asiatic Studies, Naples).
- 2007–2008 Responsible of the local unit of the PRIN 2007: *Monumenti epigrafici e letterari del medioevo iranico, centrasiatico e indiano: filologia e lessicografia* (since 8th June 2007; see also below).
- 2003–2005 Director of the project of research: *Edizione e studio di opere tantriche buddhiste dell’India del nord* (Department of Asiatic Studies, Naples).

PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

- 2018— Member of the *The Vihāra Project Comprehensive Studies of Indian Buddhist Monasteries from the Gupta Period Onward* (JSPS KAKENHI Grant no. 18H03569, Director Prof. Dr. Kyuma Taiken, Mie University [Japan]; Japan Society for the Promotion

- of Science [JSPS]). (<https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/grant/KAKENHI-PROJECT-18H03569/>).
- 2011— Member of the Project: *Indo-Tibetan Lexical Resource* (<https://www.itlr.net/test.php?md=view>).
- 2010–2017 Member of the *Vikramaśīla Project* (Director Prof. Dr. Kyuma Taiken, Mie University [Japan]; Japan Society for the Promotion of Science [JSPS]).
- 2007–2008 Member of a PRIN 2007: *Monumenti epigrafici e letterari del medioevo iranico, centrasiativo e indiano: filologia e lessicografia* (scientific responsible of the local unit: Prof. Mauro Maggi; national scientific coordinator: Prof. Carlo Cereti. NB since 8th June 2007 Sferra was scientific responsible of the local unit; see above).
- 2005–2006 Member of a PRIN 2005: *Filologia e lessicografia di testi buddhisti indiani, iranici e tibetani* (scientific responsible of the local unit: Prof. Mauro Maggi; national scientific coordinator: Prof. Carlo Cereti).
- 2002 Member of the project of research directed by Prof. Mauro Maggi: *Testi buddhisti dell'India del nord e l'Asia centrale* (Department of Asiatic Studies, Naples).
- 2001–2002 Member of the project of research directed by Prof. Raniero Gnoli: *Rito e speculazione in India* (Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente, Rome).
- 1993–2000 Member of the project of research directed by Prof. Raniero Gnoli: *“Ruota del Tempo” (Kālacakra)* (Department of Oriental Studies, Rome).
- 1991–1997 Member of the project of research on Śaiva Tantrism directed by Prof. Raffaele Torella (Department of Oriental Studies, Rome).

EXPERT ADVICE

- 1) External advisor for cataloguing the collection of Indian manuscripts kept in the University Library of Cambridge (UK) (2012–2015).
- 2) External advisor of the Publikationskommission of the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Wien) (2014).
- 3) External advisor for cataloguing the collection of Indian manuscripts kept in the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (2008).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2013–2019 Member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Brill's Encyclopedia of Buddhism* [ISBN 978-90-04-28469-2].
- 2005 Curator of the entries regarding Indian Literature in the revised and enlarged edition of the *Dizionario Bompiani degli Autori*, 6 Vols., Milan 2006 [ISBN 88-452-5586-7].
- 2001–2003 Curator of the entries regarding Indian Literature in the revised and enlarged edition of the *Dizionario Bompiani delle Opere e dei Personaggi*, 12 Vols., Milan 2005 [ISBN 88-452-3230-1 etc.].
- 1998 Curator of a catalogue of Sanskrit manuscripts kept in the Library of the ISIAO in Rome. Initially the work has been done in collaboration with Claudio Cicuzza.
- 1997–1998 Author of five introductions for the series *I classici dello spirito* (Fratelli Fabbri, Milan).
- 1997 Translator for the publishing house Adelphi (Milan) of the volume by Lilian Silburn *La Kuṇḍalinī ou l'énergie des profondeurs* (Paris 1983).
- 1996–1997 Curator under the supervision of Prof. Stefano Piano of 62 entries regarding Indian Art and Archaeology in the Italian edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* [This edition has never been published for financial problems of the publishing house].
- 1995 Translator for the publishing house Ubaldini (Rome) of the volume by Sharon Salzberg *Loving Kindness* (Boston 1995).
- 1992 Author of three reviews for the journal *Sati* and of a paper entitled: *Pañcendriya. Le cinque facoltà spirituali*.

PARTICIPATION TO RADIO BROADCASTS

- 2016 16th July: Interview on the Library of the Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale", *Corriere del Mezzogiorno*: http://corrieredelmezzogiorno.corriere.it/napoli/arte_e_cultura/16_luglio_09/saggezza-asiatica-all-orientale-elefanti-carta-svelano-siam-e3673a4a-45d5-11e6-9c7d-5c4ec5b1f94a.shtml
- 2016 30th April: participation in the radio broadcast *Passioni* held by Cristiana Munzi (Rai, Radio 3).
- 2004 12th November: participation in the radio broadcast held by Guido Zaccagnini (Radio 3).

- 2002 6th, 13th, 20th, 26th January: participation in the radio broadcast *Uomini e Profeti* held by Gabriella Caramore (Rai, Radio 3).
- 2001 15th August: participation in the radio broadcast *Fahrenheit* (Rai, Radio 3).
- 2001 24th September: participation in the radio broadcast *Mille voci* (Radio Svizzera).

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Volumes

- (1999) *The Śaṣṣāhasrikākhya Hevajratantrapinḍārthaṭīkā by Vajragarbha*. Critical Edition and Translation, Roma, xxvii + 290 pp. [Doctorate thesis; a thoroughly revised edition of this volume is being prepared to be published in the Manuscripta Buddhica Series].
- (2000) *The Śaḍaṅgayoga by Anupamarakṣita with Raviśrījñāna's Guṇabharaṇīnāmaśaḍaṅgayogaṭippaṇī*. Text and Annotated Translation, Serie Orientale Roma 85, IsIAO, Roma, 342 pp. [ISBN 9788863230987].
- (2006) *The Paramārthasaṃgraha by Nāropā (Sekoddeśaṭīkā)*, Critical Edition of the Sanskrit Text by Francesco Sferra and Critical Edition of the Tibetan Translation by Stefania Merzagora, Serie Orientale Roma 99, IsIAO, Roma, 460 pp. [Sferra is responsible for pp. 13–21, 29–35, 59–207] [ISBN 88-85320-37-6].
- (2014) H. Isaacson and F. Sferra, *The Sekanirdeśa of Maitreyaṇātha (Advayaṅvāra) with the Sekanirdeśapañjikā of Rāmapāla*. Critical Edition of the Sanskrit and Tibetan Texts with English Translation and Reproductions of the MSS. With Contributions by Klaus-Dieter Mathes and Marco Passavanti, Manuscripta Buddhica Series 2. UNO and Asien-Afrika-Institut, Serie Orientale Roma 107, Napoli, 589 pp. [ISBN 978-88-6719-068-3].

Papers

- (1991) “Aspetti della speculazione linguistica nello Śaivasiddhānta. Le Nādakārikā di Rāmakaṅṭha”, *Rivista degli Studi Orientali* 65.3-4: 311–337 [ISSN 0392-4866].
- (1994) “Le speculazioni su Vāc in alcuni testi del Pāñcarātra”, *Rivista degli Studi Orientali* 68.1-2: 45–108 [ISSN 0392-4866].

- (1997) (In collaboration with Claudio Cicuzza) “Brief Notes on the Beginning of the Kālacakra Literature”, *Dhīh. Journal of Rare Buddhist Texts Research Project* 23: 113-126 [Sferra is responsible for §§ 1, 4].
- (1998) “Le fonti scritturali del Pāñcarātra nel *Samvitprakāśa* di Vāmanadatta”. In: Oscar Botto (ed.) *Atti del Settimo Convegno Nazionale di Studi Sanscriti (Palermo 20-21 maggio 1993)*, Associazione Italiana di Studi Sanscriti, Torino, pp. 285-299.
- (1999) “The Concept of Purification in some Texts of late Indian Buddhism”, *Journal of Indian Philosophy. Special issue. Guruvandana: Essays in Indology in Honour of K. Bhattacharya*, vol. 27.1-2: 83-103 [ISSN 0022-1791].
- (1999) “The *Tantroccaya* by Abhinavagupta. An English Translation”, *Annali dell’Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli* 59.1-4: 109-133 [ISSN 0393-3180].
- (2000) “Sanskrit Manuscripts and Photos of Sanskrit Manuscripts in Giuseppe Tucci’s Collection. A preliminary Report”, *Studia Indologiczne* 7: 397-447 [= Marek Mejer and Piotr Balcerowicz (eds.) “On understanding other cultures”. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Sanskrit and Related Studies to Commemorate the Centenary of Birth of Stanisław Schayer (1899-1941) at the Warsaw University (October 7-10.1999)*, Warsaw] [ISSN 1232-4663] [Reprinted in: Piotr Balcerowicz and Marek Mejer (eds., assistant editor Anna Trynkowska) *Essays in Indian Philosophy, Religion and Literature*, Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Private Limited, Delhi 2004, pp. 451-501] [ISBN-10: 8120819780; ISBN-13: 978-8120819788].
- (2001) “Alcune note sulla *Hevajratantrapiṇḍārthaṭīkā* di Vajragarbha”. In: Oscar Botto (ed.) *Atti dell’Ottavo Convegno Nazionale di Studi Sanscriti (Torino 20-21 ottobre 1995)*, Associazione Italiana di Studi Sanscriti, Torino, pp. 125-135.
- (2001) “Il Sūtra del loto: temi principali e fortuna del testo”: Introduzione a *Il Sūtra del loto*, traduzione a cura di Luciana Meazza, BUR, Milano, pp. 3-39 [ISBN 88-17-12704-3].
- (2001) “La *Tantravaṭadhānikā* di Abhinavagupta”. In: Raffaele Torella (ed.) *Le parole e i marmi. Studi in onore di Raniero Gnoli nel suo 70° compleanno*, Serie Orientale Roma 92.1-2, IsIAO, Roma, pp. 743-769 [ISBN 88-7188-650-x].
- (2003) “Il silenzio del Buddha”. In: Giovanni Maria D’Erme (ed.) *Fedi e culture oltre il Dio di Abramo*, Guida Editore, Napoli, pp. 115-133 [ISBN-10: 887188650X; ISBN-13: 978-8871886503].
- (2003) “Some Considerations on the Relationship Between Hindu and Buddhist Tantras”. In: Giovanni Verardi and Silvio Vita (eds), *Buddhist Asia 1. Papers from the First Conference of Buddhist Studies Held in Naples in May 2001*, Italian School of East Asian Studies, Kyoto, pp. 57-84 [ISBN 4-900793-22-1].

- (2004) “Teaching and Spiritual Counselling in Indian Buddhist Traditions. Some Considerations on the Role of the *kalyāṇamitra*”. In: Antonio Rigopoulos (ed.) *Guru. The Spiritual Master in Eastern and Western Traditions: Authority and Charisma*, Indoasiatica 2, Venezia, pp. 345-371 [ISBN 88-7543-083-7] [Reprint in D. K. Printworld (P) Ltd. New Delhi 2007, ISBN 8124603901].
- (2005) “Constructing the Wheel of Time. Strategies for establishing a tradition”. In: Federico Squarcini (ed.) *Boundaries, Dynamics and Construction of Traditions in South Asia*, Firenze University Press and Munshiram Manoharlal, Firenze and New Delhi, pp. 253-285 [ISBN 88-8453-262-0].
- (2005) “Le dodici strofe sulla realtà suprema”. In: Michele Bernardini and Natalia L. Tornesello (eds) *Scritti in onore di Giovanni M. D’Erme*, Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”, Dipartimento di Studi Asiatici, Series Minor 68, Napoli, vol. II, pp. 1099-1113 [ISBN 978-88-6719-090-4].
- (2005) “Rivelazione e parola nelle fonti indiane”. In: Patrizia Manganaro and Riccardo Ferri (a c. di), *Gesto e parola – ricerche sulla Rivelazione*, Città Nuova Editrice, Roma, pp. 167-186 [ISBN 88-311-3278-4].
- (2006) “Recenti ritrovamenti di manoscritti buddhisti indiani”. In: Giuliano Boccali and Maurizio Scarpari (eds), *Scritture e Codici nelle culture dell’Asia: Giappone, Cina, Tibet, India. Prospettive di studio*, Venezia, pp. 257-275 [ISBN 88-7543-086-1].
- (2007) “Fragments of Puṇḍarīka’s *Paramārthasevā*”. In: *Indica et Tibetica. Festschrift für Michael Hahn zum 65. Geburtstag von Freunden und Schülern überreicht*, herausgegeben von Konrad Klaus und Jens-Uwe Hartmann, Wiener Studien zur Tibetologie und Buddhismuskunde 66, Wien, pp. 459-476 [ISBN-10: 3902501057; ISBN-13: 978-3902501059].
- (2007) “Materials for the Study of the Levels of Sound in the Sanskrit Sources of the Śaivasiddhānta. *Ratnatrayaparīkṣā* 22, 70c-86b, 171c-173b and its *Ullekhiṇī*. With Excerpts from an Unpublished Commentary”. In: Dominic Goodall & André Padoux (eds), *Mélanges tantriques à la mémoire d’Hélène Brunner/Tantric Studies in Memory of Hélène Brunner*, Collection Indologie — 106, Institut Français de Pondichéry/Ecole Française d’Extrême-Orient, Pondichéry, pp. 443-474 [ISBN 9782855396668].
- (2007) “*Atammayatā* in the Pāli Nikāyas”. *Annali dell’Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli* 67.1-4: 157-169 [ISSN 0393-3180].
- (2008) (In collaboration with Birgit Kellner) “A Palm-leaf Manuscript of Dharmakīrti’s *Pramāṇavārttika* from the Collection kept by the Nepalese *rājaḡuru* Hemarāja Śarman”. In: F. Sferra (ed.), *Sanskrit Texts from Giuseppe Tucci’s Collection. Part I. Serie Orientale Roma CIV, Manuscripta Buddhica Series 1*, IsIAO, Rome, pp. 423-483 [ISBN 978-88-6323-292-9].

- (2008) “Sanskrit Manuscripts and Photos of Sanskrit Manuscripts in Giuseppe Tucci’s Collection”. In: F. Sferra (ed.), *Sanskrit Texts from Giuseppe Tucci’s Collection. Part I. Serie Orientale Roma CIV, Manuscripta Buddhica Series 1*, IsIAO, Rome, pp. 15-78 [Enlarged and thoroughly revised edition of Sferra 2000] [ISBN 978-88-6323-292-9].
- (2009) “The *Manuscripta Buddhica* Project. Alphabetical List of Sanskrit Manuscripts and Photographs of Sanskrit Manuscripts in Giuseppe Tucci’s Collection”. In: Ernst Steinkellner (ed.) in cooperation with Duan Qing, Helmut Krasser, *Sanskrit manuscripts in China. Proceedings of a panel at the 2008 Beijing Seminar on Tibetan Studies. October 13 to 17*, China Tibetology Publishing House, Beijing, pp. 259-278 [ISBN 978-7-80253-226-7].
- (2009) “The Elucidation of True Reality. The Kālacakra Commentary by Vajragrabha on the *Tattvapaṭala* of the *Hevajratāntra*”. In: Edward A. Arnold (ed.) *As Long As Space Endures: Essays on the Kalachakra Tantra in Honor of H.H. the Dalai Lama*, with a foreword by Robert A.F. Thurman Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications, pp. 93-126 [ISBN 978-1-55939-330-0].
- (2009) “The *Laud of the Chosen Deity*, the First Chapter of the *Hevajratāntrapiṇḍārthaṭīkā* by Vajragrabha”. In: Shingo Einoo (ed.) *Genesis and Development of Tantrism*, University of Tokyo, Institute of Oriental Culture Special Series 23, Tokyo, pp. 435-468 [ISBN 978-4-903235-08-0].
- (2010) “Introduzione generale”. In: F. Sferra (ed.), *Hinduismo antico. Dalle origini vediche ai Purāṇa*, I Meridiani. Classici dello Spirito, Arnoldo Mondadori Editore, Milano, pp. VIII-L [ISBN 978-88-04-59417-8].
- (2010) “La figura del Buddha e il suo insegnamento”. In: Stefano Piano (ed.), *Le grandi religioni dell’Asia. Orizzonti per il dialogo*, Edizioni Paoline, Milano, pp. 165-178 [reprint with a few changes of “La figura del Buddha e il suo insegnamento”, Torino 2005] [ISBN 978-88-315-3868-8].
- (2010) “La *Anuttarāṣṭikā*. Testo e traduzione”. In: Pinuccia Caracchi, Antonella Serena Comba, Alessandra Consolaro, Alberto Pelissero (eds), *Tīrthayātrā. Essays in Honour of Stefano Piano*, Edizioni dell’Orso, Alessandria, pp. 425-433 [ISBN 978-88-6274-204-7].
- (2010) “The *Nāda* Theory of Language. A Śaivasiddhānta Perspective on Verbal Communication”. In Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty (ed.), *Language, Thought and Reality*, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, pp. 308-358 [revised and enlarged edition of Sferra 1991] [ISBN 81-86438-96-3].
- (2011) “Tecniche di composizione del canone pāli. Trasmissione e costruzione del sapere nel buddhismo Theravāda”. In: Amneris Roselli and Roberto Velardi (eds), *L’insegnamento delle *technai* nelle culture antiche. Atti del Convegno, Ercolano*

- 23-24 marzo 2009, Pisa-Roma 2010 (AION Filol Quad. 15), pp. 95-107 [ISBN 978-88-6227-319-0].
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