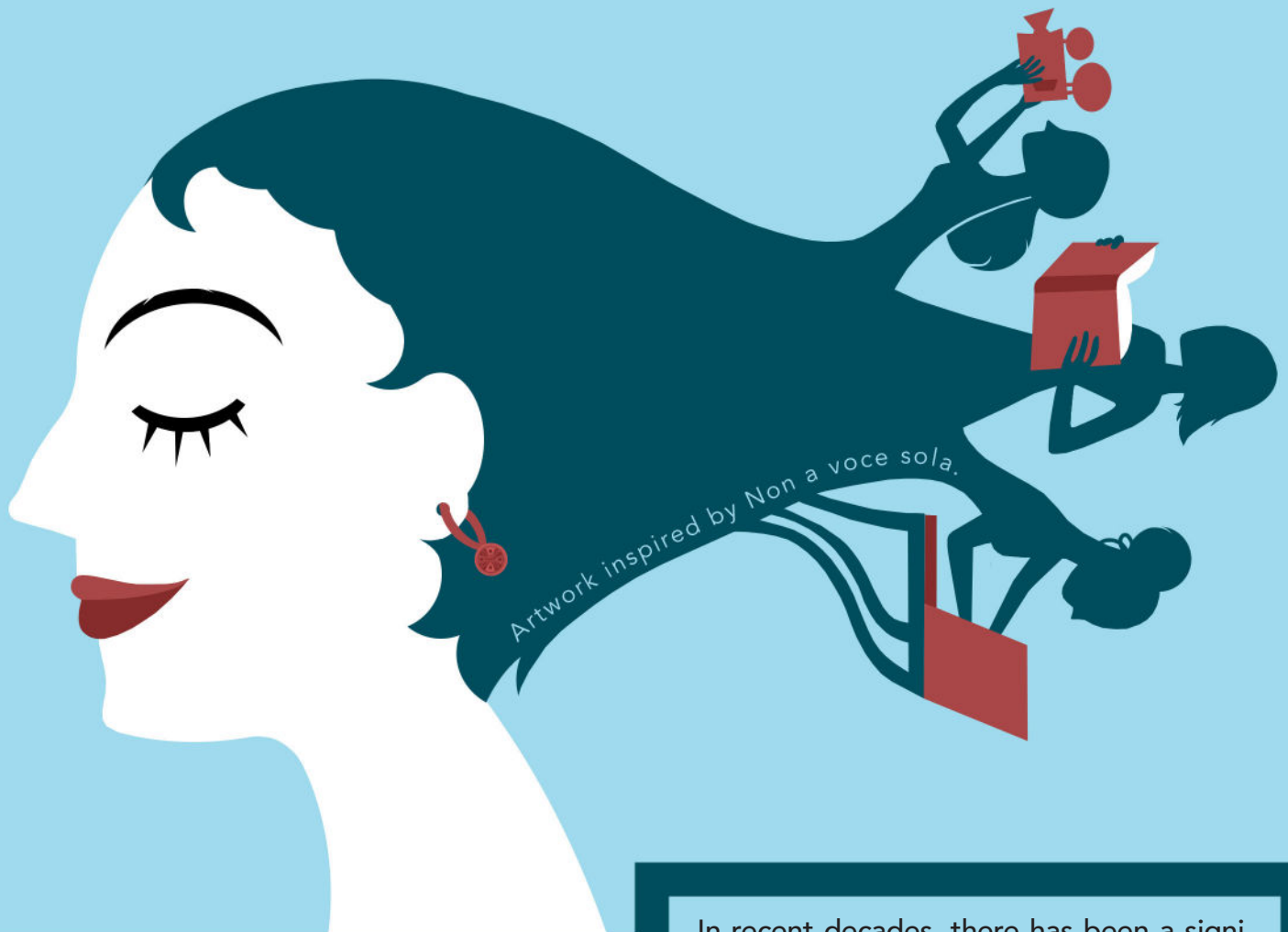


Telling Her Story Telling Herstory

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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

Exploring Tibetan Buddhist Cultures Through the Prism of Women's History



International Workshop 14.–15. November 2025

Organised by Dolores Zoé Bertschinger
& Chandra Chiara Ehm

University of Bern
Unit for Religious Studies
Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern
Room S 113

Please register until 08.11.2025:
dolores.bertschinger@unibe.ch

In recent decades, there has been a significant shift toward critical social and historical studies of Tibetan Buddhist cultures. This transformation has been especially notable in the fields of women's and gender studies. While gender studies have played a crucial role in diversifying approaches, replies to the persistent questions concerning women's histories and lived realities remain a desideratum.

In today's multifaceted discourse, fundamental feminist queries invite for renewed reflection: Who speaks for whom and why? Who tells women's history – and how, precisely, can we tell women's history today?

Workshop Program

Friday, 14. November 2025

PANEL I: AN EXCITING FIELD OF RESEARCH

09:15–10:30

Conversation with Prof. em. Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz (University of Bern)

Creating New Paths. Opportunities and Challenges of Interdisciplinary Collaboration

11:00–12:30

Lou-Salomé Heer and Bettina Stehli

Women Telling Their Lives: About Listening and Writing

PANEL II: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

13:30–15:30

Moderator: Chandra Chiara Ehm

Marlene Erschbamer (Independent Scholar, Bozen)

Another Memory, Another Perspective? When Women Preserve History

Gurmeet Kaur (Panjab University / University of Aix Marseille)

Negotiating Voice and Authority. Tibetan Women's Lives and the Construction of Herstory

Dolores Zoé Bertschinger (University of Bern)

There Were (no) Female Artists in Tibet. Tibetan Art History from a Women's Studies Perspective

PANEL III: INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

16:00–17:30

Moderator: Michaela Wisler

Renee L. Ford (Ruhr University Bochum)

Girl Power: Nuns' Proclamations of Self-Empowerment at Tekcholing Nunnery, Nepal

Chandra Chiara Ehm (French School of Asian Studies / CRCAO Paris)

Inner and Outer Perspectives: Negotiating Voice and Agency in the Study of Tibetan Buddhist Nuns in the Diaspora

Saturday, 15. November 2025

PANEL IV: MEDIATING PERSPECTIVES

08:30–10:30

Moderator: Dolores Zoé Bertschinger

Anne Kukuczka (University of Zurich)

The Joys and Perils of Educational Mobility: Young Women & Ethical Self-Fashioning in Lhasa, Tibet

Dawa Lokitsang (University of Colorado Boulder / Leiden University)

Ethnographic Sensibilities and the Challenge of Hearing Tibetan Women

Michaela Wisler (University of Bern)

Miscarriages, Personal Beliefs, and Life as a Woman in Mongolia. A Study of Women Artists in Contemporary Mongolia and Their Art and Lives in Relation to Gender

