

A conference about

RELIGION AND SCIENCE

by His Eminence

**Geshe Lharampa Javzandorj
Dulamragchaa**



28/10/2025 h 10:00

Dip. SAGAS, SALA D'ERCOLE

VIA SAN GALLO 10, FIRENZE

Scientific and Organizing Committee

Nadia BREDA: Associate professor of Cultural Anthropology at the University of Florence and Director of *naMec*-Mongolian Culture Center. She coordinates Scientific and Cultural Agreements between University of Florence, Mongolian State University, and IISNC-Unesco (Ulaanbaatar), with focus on Asian, Nomadic Cultures, Mobility and Environment Study. She teaches the first Italian course of *Anthropology of Mongolia* at the University of Florence.

Diego CUCINELLI: Associate professor of Japanese Language and Literature at the University of Florence. He has been studying Japanese demonology and Japanese folklore for years and has published extensively in these fields.

Isabella GAGLIARDI: Full Professor of History of Christianity at the University of Florence. Her research topics are history of religious movements in the Euro-Mediterranean area using the gender history perspective; the relationships between Religion and Sciences which she is Director of *Religion et science: les religieuses et les connaissances en matière de santé*, Project at Laboratoire d'études sur les monothéismes CNRS (Paris).

Discussants

Duccio CAVALIERI: Biologist, Professor at the Department of Biology, PhD in Genetic Sciences, University of Pavia. Duccio Cavalieri has conducted scientific and research activities primarily in the field of microbial genetics and cell biology. He has particularly distinguished himself nationally and internationally for the application of integrated genomics and metagenomics methods to the study of the evolution of microbial and fungal genomes. E' Coordinatore del Dottorato di Ricerca in Ecologia e Biologia Evoluzionistica.

Chiara GHIDINI: Associate Professor of East Asian Religions and Philosophies at the University of Naples L'Orientale. Her research focuses on Japanese cultural and intellectual history, Buddhist philosophy and aesthetics, and the intercultural dialogue between East Asia and the Mediterranean.

Cristiano GIOMETTI: Associate Professor of Modern Art History. Scientific Coordinator of the project "Peripheral Baroque Sculpture 1630-1750: knowledge and engagement. Census and Digital Atlas of the Lazio provinces and the border areas," funded by the PRIN 2022 call for proposals from the Ministry of Education, University and Research. From January 2019 to April 2021, he was Director of the School of Specialization in Historical and Artistic Heritage and Director of the School of Specialization in Historical and Artistic Heritage at the University of Florence.

Paolo LIVERANI: Professor of the Topography of Ancient Italy at the University of Florence and Director of the Department SAGAS. His main research interests include the ancient topography of Rome, Latium, and Etruria, as well as the polychromy of ancient Roman sculpture.

Matteo MIELE: Associate Professor of Asian History and Institutions at the University of Florence and Affiliated Associate Professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University. His research focuses on the political history of Bhutan, the Great Game in High Asia, and the history, trading activities, and networks of Parsi communities between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Lorenzo PUBBLICI: Associate Professor of *History and Cultures of Premodern Central Asia* and of the *History of Eurasian Nomads* at the University of Naples L'Orientale. His research explores the medieval steppes, with a particular focus on the complex interactions and exchanges between nomadic and sedentary societies.

Sabrina TOSI CAMBINI: Associate Professor in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Parma. She has been studying mobility, nomadism and itinerancy for years, and she is Vice Director of the Inter-university Research Center *naMec*.

Aleksandra WENTA: Associate Professor of Indology and Tibetology at the University of Florence. She researches history and ritual literature of tantric Buddhism and Śaivism in medieval India and in pre-modern Tibet

His Eminence

Geshe Lharampa Javzandorj Dulamra

His Eminence Geshe Lharampa Javzandorj Dulamragchaa, the 30th Khamba Nomun Khan, Supreme Abbot and Head of Gandantegchenling Monastery, the Centre of Mongolian Buddhists, entered the monastic life at the age of eleven at Erdenemandal Monastery, where he received his initial training in the Vinaya and the fundamentals of Buddhist doctrine. He continued his formal education in Buddhist philosophy at Gandantegchenling Monastery, and later pursued advanced studies at Drepung Gomang Dratsang in India, one of the principal seats of the Gelug tradition.

After more than two decades of intensive study, debate, and meditation, he was awarded the degree of Geshe Lharampa in 2018 with highest honours, becoming the first Mongolian monk to attain this distinction. Following this, he was invited to teach Buddhist philosophy at Drepung Gomang Dratsang, thereby contributing to the transmission of the profound Nalanda tradition.

Since 2020 until now, His Eminence has also served as a teacher at the Zanabazar Buddhist University of Ulaanbaatar, guiding successive generations of monks and lay students in the study of Madhyamaka, Pramāṇa, Abhidharma, and other major fields of Mahāyāna philosophy and practice.

In November 2023, he was formally enthroned as the 30th Khamba Nomun Khan, Supreme Abbot and Head of Gandantegchenling Monastery, the Centre of Mongolian Buddhists — the highest spiritual authority of Mongolian Buddhism, inheriting a lineage of great incarnations recognised within the Gelug tradition.

Under his leadership, Gandantegchenling Monastery has entered a new era of revitalisation, safeguarding the authenticity of the Buddhadharma while strengthening the education and training of the sangha, fostering opportunities for advanced study of Mongolian Buddhist heritage, and greatly expanding academic and spiritual collaborations with institutions worldwide.

Deeply committed to the flourishing of the Mahāyāna path, His Eminence continues to transmit the Dharma both within Mongolia and internationally, offering teachings, empowerments, and guidance at Buddhist centres and to communities of devotees across Asia and Europe, including Japan, France, Germany, Austria, and Belgium. His work embodies the dual role of scholar and spiritual guide, uniting rigorous intellectual training with compassionate service for the benefit of all sentient beings



The **naMec** interuniversity research center, **Asian, Nomadic Cultures, Mobility and Environment Study Center – Mongolian Culture Center**, is born from a collaboration between the University of Florence (SAGAS Department) and the University of Parma (DUSIC Department). It is the first Italian center with a specific focus on the interdisciplinary study of Mongolia, nomadic cultures, and related to the themes of mobility and the environment. Established at the end of 2023 and inaugurated in Florence in April 2024, **naMec** consolidates a relationship begun in 2016 between the University of Florence and the Mongolian State University of Arts and Culture, and continued in collaboration with the University of Parma, the International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations (IISNC-UNESCO) in Ulaanbaatar, and the Government of Mongolia.
<https://www.namec.unifi.it/>

Under the auspices of the **naMec** Center and the School of Humanities at the University of Florence, the first course in ***Anthropology of Mongolia, Nomad Cultures and Mobility and the Environment in Asian Areas*** has been launched in Italy (a. a. 2025-2026). Taught by Professor Nadia Breda, it forms part of the master's degree Program in Languages and Civilizations of Asia and Africa.

The **naMec** Center at the University of Parma has launched in 2025-2026 the project **Parma and Elsewhere. Ancient Roads Today** which focus on initiatives related to Mongolia.
<https://www.unipr.it/parma-e-laltrove-le-vie-antiche-oggi-0>

Hall of Hercules (sala d'Ercole), Palazzo Fenzi, Firenze

The decoration of the monumental apartments on the ground floor of Palazzo Marucelli Fenzi is the work of Roberto Marucelli (born 1674), who, thanks to his artistic sensibility, promoted the creation of a decorative cycle that was truly unique in early 18th-century Florence for its harmonious blend of painting and sculpture. The execution of the works was entrusted to two foreign masters: the Belluno painter Sebastiano Ricci and the Carrara sculptor Giovanni Baratta. In 1705, the two masters worked on the decoration of the first room of the cycle, the Hall of the Golden Age or the Defeat of Mars, and then continued the following year in the Hall of Youth at the Crossroads. Sebastiano Ricci alone then frescoed the Hall of Hercules, with scenes of Hercules at the Crossroads, Hercules and Cacus, and Hercules and Nessus: here the stucco is replaced by trompe l'oeil architectural structures created by the Florentine Giuseppe Tonelli, and by a rich array of painted sculptures that sometimes recall the Barattesque figures of the Hall of Mars or echo some masterpieces of Tuscan Mannerist sculpture.

