

All are Cordially Invited.

**Thursday, 22 June 2017, 11:00 am
National Museum Conference Room**



33rd Lecture-

National Museum in collaboration with National Museum Institute

Dr. Lauren Bausch

Assistant Professor
Dharma Realm Buddhist University
California

Sūrya Reliefs in Early Buddhist Art

Dr. Lauren Bausch is an assistant professor at Dharma Realm Buddhist University in California, where she teaches Sanskrit, Indian Classics, and Buddhism. She completed her Ph.D. in Sanskrit in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California at Berkeley in 2015. Her dissertation, *Kośalan Philosophy in the Kāṇva Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa and the Suttanipāta*, explored causality and modes of knowing in late Vedic and early Buddhist texts. Her areas of scholarly interest include early Indian literature and philosophy, with special attention to both Brāhmaṇa-texts and early Buddhism.

Brief about the talk:

in Sūrya: Iconographical Study of the Indian Sun God, Durga Prasad Pandey maintained that philosophy and religion arose when the poet wondered “whether the sun will rise again, and call him back to new life, stretching out his golden arms to bless the world and rescue it from the terrors of dark night.” Art historians have scrupulously documented two Sūrya reliefs carved purposefully into ancient Indian Buddhist sites—one in the railing at the Mahābodhi temple in Bihar and another in a cave at the Bhājā Vihāra in Maharashtra. Building on Pandey’s description of Sūrya in Vedic religion, this paper philosophically explores the Vedic conception of Sūrya triumphing over darkness and why it featured prominently in early Buddhist religious sites. The paper addresses such themes as: light covered over, dispelling the darkness of night, the single wheel prefiguring saṃsāra, and nonduality as a reintegration of the unmanifest with the manifest. The Sūrya images at these Buddhist sites serve as a reminder that awakening (bodhi) entails becoming aware of the unmanifest light that impels cognition.

For queries please call us at 23019272 (Ext 237), Suruchika Chawla, Young Museum Professional, National Museum, New Delhi