

Dirk Schmidt

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Asian Languages & Cultures
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EDUCATION

- 2027 (*expected*) Ph.D. in Asian Languages & Cultures w/ a minor in Linguistics, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2008 M.A. in Asian & Comparative Studies, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA USA.
- 2004 B.A. in Philosophy, Rice University.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2024 Schmidt, Dirk. A comprehensive approach to Middle Tibetan: Developing reading comprehension & translation skills for ‘classical’ texts by speaking Tibetan. *Cahier du CLSL*, n°68, 2024, pp 115–139.
- 2024 Schmidt, Dirk. NLP for readability, graded literature, & materials development in Tibetan. *Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines*, no. 72, Juillet 2024, pp 70–85. [Link](#).
- 2021 Trinley, Ngawang, Tenzin, **Dirk Schmidt**, Helios Hiedt, & Tenzin Kaldan. Taming the wild etext: Managing, annotating, and sharing Tibetan corpora in open spaces. *ACM Transactions on Asian and Low-Resource Language Information Processing*, 20(2), pp 1–23. [Link](#).
- 2020 Schmidt, Dirk. Grading Tibetan children’s literature: A test case using the NLP readability tool “Dakje”. *ACM Transactions on Asian and Low-Resource Language Information Processing*, 19(6), pp 1–19. [Link](#).
- 2016 Schmidt, Dirk. Practical applications for corpora: The role of research-based linguistics in literacy and education for the Tibetan language. *Himalayan Linguistics*, 15(1), pp 167–185. [Link](#).

2014 **Schmidt, Dirk** (author) & Bora Sherab (translator). ལྷན་ཡིག་གི་ཕུང་པོ་དང་རྩོམ་རིག་གསལ་ཆའི་དཔུང་ཞིབ་ལ་བརྟེན་ནས་དམའ་རིམ་རྩོམ་རིག་གྲེལ་ཐབས། (Creating a spoken corpus for the Tibetan language: Utilizing spoken language research to propagate literacy & everyday Tibetan). *བོད་རིག་པ་ཞིབ་འཇུག་* (*Journal of Tibetan Studies*), pp 141–172.

Book Chapters

Forthcoming Schmidt, Dirk. Language(s) of the Tibetan diaspora: Non-standardized & unrecognized Tibetan varieties in the settlements of South Asia. In Eda Derhemi et al. (Eds.), *Endangered Languages and Diaspora*. Brill.

2022 Schmidt, Dirk. On the yak horns of a dilemma: Diverging standards in Diaspora Tibetan. In Gwendolyn Hyslop & Gerald Roche (Eds.), *Bordering Tibetan Languages—Making and Marking Languages in Transnational High Asia*. Amsterdam University Press. [Link](#).

Conference Proceedings

2021 Schmidt, Dirk. Diaspora Tibetan: A non-standardized & unrecognized variety of the Tibetic languages. Eda Derhemi (Ed.), *Endangered Languages and Diaspora (FEL XXV)*. QSPA: Tirana.

TRANSLATIONS

2020 **Gyatso**, Dirk Schmidt (co-translator). *The Great 14th: Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama in his own words*. Tibetan subtitles (EN > BO).

2020 **Virtue Network**, Pema Metok, & Dirk Schmidt. *A picture book on health and hygiene (a guide for young monastics)*. Esukhia. Grading, translation consultant, editing, online publishing. [Link](#).

2016– Esukhia. *Esukhia Standards (CEFR goals, Mission Plans, etc)*. Contributor (EN>BO / BO>EN).

2016 **Bora Sherab**, Dirk Schmidt (co-author [EN original], co-translator [EN>BO]). རྩོམ་རིག་གི་གནས་ཚུལ་ལ་གསྐྱེག་བྱེད་སྟངས། (Emergency preparedness plan).

2015 **Schmidt, Dirk** & Gyatso. *Translating Tibetan poetry: A case study of Gendun Chöphel’s Tibetan alphabet acrostic*. (BO>EN).

2014–2015 Schmidt, Dirk. A series of 22 translations of Buddhist Hagiographies for Treasury of Lives (BO>EN). [Link](#).

DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

- 2022– **Esukhia team.** Dirk Schmidt (Ed.). Database of Tibetan children’s literature. Esukhia. *Content editor, web design, grading.* [Link](#).
- 2021 **Esukhia team.** Jongdeb: Level A2 Tibetan textbook. Emily Kraus, Dirk Schmidt, Gyatso (Eds.). Esukhia. *Content editor, curriculum design.* [Link](#).
- 2020 **Esukhia team.** Jongdeb: Level A1 Tibetan textbook. Emily Kraus, Dirk Schmidt, Gyatso (Eds.). Esukhia. *Editor, curriculum design, & graphics.* [Link](#).
- 2018 **Esukhia team.** Jongdeb: Level A0 Tibetan textbook. Emily Kraus, Dirk Schmidt, Craig Muelens, Gyatso (Eds.). Esukhia. *Co-author, editor, curriculum design, graphics, & HTML programming.* [Link](#).
- 2015 Dirk Schmidt. སེའི་མེ་སྒྲུབ། (Teeth, mountain, fire, boy: A beginning reader for Tibetan). Esukhia. [Link](#).

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2020 Travel Award. *Tibetan lexicography on the web: Technologies and applications* at the Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022–2027 Graduate School Fellowship. University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- 2015–2022 Special Project Grant. Khyentse Foundation.

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 Schmidt, Dirk. སྐད་ཡིག་གི་ཁྲིད་ཐབས། (*Teaching a language*). Teacher-training workshop for teaching Tibetan to heritage speakers, London, UK.
- 2019 Schmidt, Dirk. *Why languages matter in education & literacy*. SOAS University, London, UK.
- 2018 Schmidt, Dirk. *Style & Substance: A brief look at the evolution of writing styles leading to Tibetic scripts*. Typomania: Ulan Ude, Russia.

2017 Schmidt, Dirk. *Esukhia: Learning Tibetan through immersion*. Tibetology Department, Buryat State University, Ulan Ude, Russia.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

- Upcoming (2024)* Schmidt, Dirk. *The diglossia of Tibetan children's stories in the diaspora*. American Association of Corpus Linguistics (AACL) at University of Oregon, USA.
- Upcoming (2024)* Schmidt, Dirk. *A Buddhist framework for understanding Linguistics*. International Seminar of Young Tibetologists (ISYT) at University of Oxford, England.
- 2023 Schmidt, Dirk. *A children's story database for readers of Tibetan*. 9th Annual Trans-Asia Graduate Student Conference (TAGS) at UW–Madison, WI, USA.
- 2022 Schmidt, Dirk. *NLP FTFY AFAIK: An NLP-based word processor for readability, education, & literacy*. Talk presented at the 16th International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS) Seminar, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2022 Schmidt, Dirk. *Bridging the gap between Modern & Classical Tibetan: Corpus linguistics in material development, curriculum design, and pedagogy*. DOT: Language Pedagogy of Modern and Ancient Languages of Asia, Deutscher Orientalistentag, Berlin, Germany.
- 2021 Schmidt, Dirk. *Diaspora Tibetan: A non-standardized & unrecognized variety of the Tibetic languages*. Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL) XXV: Endangered Languages and Diaspora, University of Tirana, Albania.
- 2020 Schmidt, Dirk. *The role of corpus analysis in materials development: Using frequency lists, concordancing, collocates, & more for designing Tibetan language-learning materials*. Tibetan Lexicography on the Web: Technologies and Applications at the Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany. (*Canceled due to COVID-19*).
- 2019 Schmidt, Dirk. *Hooked on sKad-yigs: Digital learning solutions for languages that play hard-to-get*. 15th International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS) Seminar, Paris, France.
- 2019 Schmidt, Dirk. *A practical application of corpus linguistics: Using frequency data in a beginning reader curriculum*. ICSTLL52: 52nd

International Conference of Sino-Tibetan Languages & Linguistics at the University of Sydney, Australia.

- 2019 Schmidt, Dirk. *A speech corpus of Dharamsala Tibetan*. HLS25: 25th Himalayan Languages Symposium at the University of Sydney, Australia.
- 2018 Schmidt, Dirk. *From speaking to reading: The role of spoken language in literacy & education*. 5th ISYT Seminar, Saint Petersburg, Russia.
- 2018 Schmidt, Dirk. *The paradox of a global Tibetan: Ruination and revival in standard forms of the Tibetan language*. 6th Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- 2017 Schmidt, Dirk. *Install updates for translating Tibetan?* Tsadra: Translation & Transmission, Boulder, CO, USA.
- 2016 Schmidt, Dirk. *Theory into practice: Toward a modern pedagogy for Tibetan as a second language*. 14th International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS) Seminar, Bergen, Norway.

Posters Presented

- 2024 Schmidt, Dirk. *Grammaticality judgments of spoken Tibetan*. Workshop in General Linguistics (WiGL), UW–Madison, WI, USA.
- 2023 Schmidt, Dirk. *NLP solutions to readability & literacy in Tibetan*. Information Insights: Shaping Futures with Data and Computing, 4th Annual Research Bazaar at UW–Madison, WI, USA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching

- 2019 SOAS University. Beginning Tibetan (online). Esukhia (Fall semester).
- 2015–2016 Introduction to Western Philosophy. Esukhia (Fall and Spring semester).

Teaching assistantships

- 2024 ASIAN100: *Asian Languages & Identity*. Supervised by Junko Mori. University of Wisconsin–Madison (Spring semester).
- 2023 ASIAN307: *A Survey of Tibetan Buddhism*. Supervised by Jampa Khedup. University of Wisconsin–Madison (Fall semester).

NATURAL LANGUAGES

Tibetan, spoken + literary (C1)

Sanskrit, Hindi, Russian, German (elementary)

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

Python (intermediate)

HTML (intermediate)

R (elementary)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2023– Trans-Asia Graduate Student Association (TAGS)

2023– Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL)

2019– International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS)