



© Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, India

Why Should The Gods Love Obscure (Parokṣa) Language? Late Vedic Speculations on Language and Reality

Guest Speaker: **Maria Piera Candotti** (University of Pisa)

Monday, 8th June 2026 || 18:00-20:00 hrs

Venue: Room 3.08 Nauklerstr. 35

The passage in the Śatapatha Brahmana (6.1.1.2) which states that the gods love that which is parokṣa (lit. 'out of perception') is as well-known as it is frequently misunderstood. The term parokṣa, however, has a precise technical meaning that highlights the fundamental opposition between the analytical and synthetic dimensions of language. Reconstructing this precise meaning as developed by the late-Vedic exegetical and grammatical schools is a way to further point out the Vedic Indians' awareness of the polysemic potential of language, which makes it a suitable tool for attempting to express the inexpressible.

About the Speaker: Maria Piera Candotti has been working at the Institute for Civilizations and Forms of Knowledge at the University of Pisa since 2017, initially as a fixed-term researcher and, since 2020, as an associate professor. Prior to this, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the École Pratique des Hautes Études. Her teaching and research focus is on Indology, particularly Vedic linguistics, Indian philology and the Pāṇinian grammatical tradition.

