

## Panel: On the Historiography and Periodization of Indian Philosophy

Reading various histories of Indian philosophies published over the last hundred years or so, one may be reminded of the story about the elephant and the six blind men trying to describe it. There is no consensus even about the broad outline of the historical development of Indian thought as reflected in the diverse divisions into periods. Ever since Paul Deussen published his monumental general History of Philosophy (1894-), in which the history of Indian philosophy was integrated into the history of philosophy in general, several attempts have been made to periodize the history of Indian thought. However, no agreement has been reached on this point, indeed could not be reached in view of the various points of view adapted by scholars of Indian philosophy. The panel will attempt to address this question and related issues anew not from a holistic point of view, but from the perspective of the various traditions that compose the fabric of Indian philosophy. We will attempt, so to speak, to unfold the story of the elephant and the blind men in reverse. Each of us will start with the examination of a specific tradition within the philosophical spectrum (Nyāya, Mīmāṃsā, Sāṃkhya, Vedānta, various schools of Buddhism, the Grammatical tradition and Shaivism), and only then we will see whether the results can form a whole elephant or whether we will end up with the camel that is proverbially known to be an elephant designed by a committee.

Eli Franco