

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Classification and periodisation of Indian philosophical traditions**

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The paper deals with some general theoretical issues concerning the pursuit of dividing Indian philosophical traditions into periods and its relation to alternative kinds of classification. It is suggested that with respect to Indian philosophies varieties of periodisation can exist that are both non-vacuous and empirically adequate, but on the other hand the issue of the significance and importance of dividing Indian philosophical traditions into historical periods in comparison with other types of classification is assessed as problematic. In this connection the circumstance is relevant that periodisation can be performed under a great number of different aspects so that the question of significance needs to be posed with respect to different varieties of periodisation separately. A major task of the paper consists in identifying at least some alternative types of periodization and presenting an outline of their potential importance under a comparative perspective.