Abstract
The Historical Rhythms of the Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika Knowledge System
Parimal G. Patil

In this paper, I attempt to chart the historical rhythms of the Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika knowledge system, by providing a critical analysis of a recent proposal by Sheldon Pollock regarding the rise and fall of Sanskrit knowledge systems more generally. By appealing to the concept of a "text-tradition," I hope to show, more specifically, that when applied to the Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika knowledge system, Pollock's criteria for detecting the rise and fall of Sanskrit knowledge systems reveal a history that is different than he suggests. The paper concludes by suggesting an alternative set of criteria for understanding the history of the Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika knowledge system in late pre-modern and early modern India.