

## ŚAIVA NAMING CONVENTIONS IN THEORY AND IN PRACTICE

The present paper will gather together recently published information about Śaiva naming conventions (scattered, for instance, amongst entries in the *Tāntrikābhidhānaśāstra* of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and in recent articles of Alexis SANDERSON and Arlo GRIFFITHS), particularly conventions governing names conferred in the course of Śaiva initiation, and it will then compare these with epigraphical data from the subcontinent and beyond. The aim of doing so will be to present together and in one place an up-to-date and somewhat more nuanced picture, and in certain respects a clearer one, than is to be found in the pioneering work of 1960 that tackles this subject: V. S. PATHAK's *History of Śaiva Cults in Northern Indian from Inscriptions (700 A.D. to 1200 A.D.)*.

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