Dandin’s Mirror of Literature (Kāvyādarśa) is one of the most influential texts on poetics in world history. It was translated and adapted into a variety of languages in the southern regions of South Asia (Kannada, Sinhala, Pali, and Tamil), traveled to Southeast Asia (Burma, Thailand, and probably Indonesia), was translated into Tibetan and Mongolian, and may have even reached China and Japan. It also gained a large following within the Sanskrit tradition, where it survived in many manuscripts, attracted a sizable group of commentators very early on, and inspired thinkers as late as King Bhoja of Dhar (r. 1011-1055) and Appayya Dikshita (1520-1592). This talk will highlight one of the secrets to the Mirror’s Asia-wide success, namely its conscious ethos of openness and, in particular, its unique approach to new literary experiments and to literati of diverse denominations.

April 25, 5-7pm
S113, Paul Webley Wing, SOAS

Yigal Bronner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He teaches and writes about Sanskrit poetry and poetic theory and South Asian intellectual history. He is the author of Extreme Poetry: The South Asian Movement of Simultaneous Narration (Columbia University Press, 2010) and the coauthor or coeditor of several other books, including Innovations and Turning Points: Toward a History of Kāvya Literature (with David Shulman and Gary Tubb; Oxford University Press, 2014).

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