

Tyler Neill *PhD, Sanskritist and Software Engineer*

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Summary

Experienced Sanskrit philologist and software engineer with a proven track record of leveraging technology to curate data and create user-friendly software applications to support study and learning.

Skills

Technical: Python, JavaScript; Git, GitHub, GitLab; Digital Ocean, Nginx; SQL, MongoDB.

Languages Spoken: English (*mother tongue*), German (*fluent*), Sanskrit (*expert*), Italian (*elementary*).

Other Languages Studied: French, Hindi, Tibetan, Japanese; Pali, Prakrit; Ancient Greek, Latin, Old English.

Teaching: Harvard University Derek Bok Center Teaching Certificate (May 2015), Certificate of Distinction x5.

Digital Sanskrit Projects

Pramāṇa NLP: Corpus of structurally annotated Sanskrit philosophy texts.

Vātāyana: Interactive tool for identifying textual parallels within Pramāṇa NLP corpus.

Skrutable: Toolkit for Sanskrit transliteration, metrical analysis, and word segmentation.

Pāṇḍitya: Tool for visually exploring networks of works and authors in the Pandit Project database.

Work Experience

Abnormal Security

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (REMOTE)

Software Engineer 1 (IC3)

July 2024 - January 2025

- Used Python, Django, Golang, Kafka, and GitHub to maintain cybersecurity data ingestion system.

BenevolentAI

NEW YORK, NY

Advanced Software Engineer (IC3)

April 2022 - May 2024

- Used Python, FastAPI, Kubernetes, Neo4j, and GitLab to maintain biotechnology data pipeline and API.
- Led “HackerHour” knowledge sharing group for engineers, onboarded several coworkers onto products.

Leipzig University

LEIPZIG, GERMANY

PhD Research Associate

April 2017 - December 2020

- Assisted Digital Nyāyabhāṣya team with manuscript transcription, data curation, and software development.
- Created open-source libraries and web-based tools for Sanskrit community as part of dissertation research.

Harvard University

CAMBRIDGE, MA

Sanskrit Librarian

August 2015 - September 2016

- Renovated Widener Library Sanskrit Reading Room, including physical overhaul, curation, and cataloging.

Graduate Student Teaching Fellow

September 2013 – May 2015

- Designed and taught beginning and intermediate Sanskrit classes, created new pedagogical materials, led analytical group reading, and orchestrated homework self-correction system.

Graduate Student Teaching Fellow

September 2013 - May 2015

- Mentored Harvard undergrads and grad students in self-designed Sanskrit classes.

Education

Leipzig University

LEIPZIG, GERMANY

Doctor of Philosophy, Sanskrit and Digital Humanities

2017 - 2022

Harvard University

CAMBRIDGE, MA

Master of Arts, Sanskrit and Indian Studies

2011 - 2015

Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Science and Public Policy

2003 - 2008

Scholarly Writings and Presentations

Hiroko Matsuoka, Shinya Moriyama, Tyler Neill (eds.). 2023. To the Heart of Truth: Felicitation Volume for Eli Franco on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday. 2 vols. Wiener Studien zur Tibetologie und Buddhismuskunde 104. Wien: Arbeitskreis für Tibetische und Buddhistische Studien Universität Wien, 2023. (xliii + 806 p.).

Neill, Tyler. 2023. "Vātāyana: A window onto the Pramāṇa NLP corpus". Presented at the Advanced Computational Methods for Studying Buddhist Texts symposium, April 27–28, 2023, University of Vienna.

———. 2022. "Intertextual Readings of the Nyāyabhūṣāṇa on Buddhist Anti-Realism". Doctoral dissertation, Leipzig University. <https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:15-qucosa2-826296>

———. 2022. "Skrutable: Another Step Toward Effective Sanskrit Meter Identification." In Proceedings of the Computational Sanskrit & Digital Humanities: Selected papers presented at the 18th World Sanskrit Conference, pages 97–112, Canberra, Australia (Online mode). Association for Computational Linguistics.

———. 2021. "LDA Topic Modeling in Sanskrit with ToPāṇ and Metallō." Presented at The Digital Orientalist's Virtual Workshop and Conference, June 26, 2021. Video at: <https://youtu.be/eQSbteKN-FA>.

———. 2019. "LDA Topic Modeling for Pramāṇa Texts: A Case Study in Sanskrit NLP Corpus Building." Proceedings of the 6th International Sanskrit Computational Linguistics Symposium, pages 52–67, IIT Kharagpur, India. Association for Computational Linguistics.

———. 2017. "Sanskrit Text Corpora and the Nyāyabhāṣya Digital Critical Edition." Presented at Florilegia: Big Textual Data Workshop, July 10-11, 2017, Leipzig University.
