

Smṛti in the Pātañjalayogaśāstra: Retention, recollection and the practice of self

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One of the distinctive features of early Buddhist meditation was the wide range of awareness or attention practices of *smṛti* (sati). There is also an important role for *smṛti* in the Pātañjalayogaśāstra, where it appears in a variety of semantic contexts, not only in the mundane cognitive function of memory, but as an applied meditation technique of correct and clear recollection of objects of attention. This paper argues that to analyse how *smṛti* functions in Patañjali's meditative formulas, we should consider Buddhist recollection practices such as affective conceptual/visual recollection (*anusmṛti*) and the four abiding awarenesses (*smṛtyupasthāna*) –since both categories of *smṛti* are mentioned in Patañjali's text.

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