

Patrika

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Complementary to the tasks of cataloguing and digitizing the UNESCO "Memory of the World" collection known as *The Shaiva Manuscripts of Pondicherry* is the task of studying what those manuscripts contain.

Starting from about the 6th century CE, initiatory religions – claiming authority for scriptures called *Tantras* or *Agamas*, and promising liberation as well as the means to various worldly and supernatural goals – came to the fore in South Asia. That these tantric traditions were not marginal can be seen not just from the huge quantity of textual material their followers produced but also, for instance, from the important role tantric gurus played in the life of kings and of the court. Nor did they remain confined to the subcontinent: among the Indian religious traditions that spread across Indonesia and the Southeast Asian peninsula, it was particularly the tantric forms of Buddhism and of the theistic schools of Shaivism and Vaishnavism that predominated. Among the Shaiva traditions, the most important was the *Shaiva Siddhanta*, for the study of which the Pondicherry manuscripts are a crucial resource.

At the other end of the subcontinent, the cool climate of Nepal has preserved ancient manuscripts of texts of virtually every branch of Indian learning, even those which have not been actively studied and transmitted in recent centuries. Much of the early history of tantrism is thus preserved in the vast archive of Nepalese manuscripts microfilmed over more than three decades by the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project (NGMPP). The latter project has given place to the Nepalese German Manuscript Cataloguing Project (NGMCP), run from Hamburg and the NGMCP's base in Kathmandu, the Nepal Research Centre (NRC), under the direction of Prof. Harunaga Isaacson.

Though the individual traditions of Shaiva, Vaishnava and Buddhist *tantra* have each received by now some attention from scholars, they are usually studied in what the Sinologist Michel Strickmann called "hermetic isolation". Strickmann called for specialists in Buddhism to make use in their studies of the body of Shaiva tantric literature available in Sanskrit, but his prediction that those specialists would resist doing so, preferring to remain within the confines of what they defined as Buddhist, has by and large proved correct. The value of a broad approach, studying tantric Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Buddhism together, has been shown in exemplary fashion in trail-blazing articles by Alexis Sanderson, one of which, published from Pondicherry in 2001, bears the following self-explanatory title: "History through Textual Criticism in the study of Shaivism, the *Pancaratra* and the Buddhist *Yoginitantras*".

Taking this title as an inspiration, Dr. Dominic Goodall and Dr. Isaacson conceived a Franco-German project – co-financed by the *Agence Nationale de Recherche* (ANR) and the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) – entitled *Early Tantra*, as was briefly announced in the last issue. In addition to studying the historical interactions between these religious traditions, we aim also to contribute to a better understanding of their common ritual syntax. The project is now launched and the first of its 3 two-week international workshops is to be held in Kathmandu in the second half of September. This programme constitutes an activity of the recently formed European Consortium for Asian Field Study (ECAF). It marks the beginning not only of a new Franco-German collaboration involving the *Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient* (EFO) and the *Asien-Afrika-Institut* of the University of Hamburg, but of one between the EFO Centre in Pondicherry and the Nepal Research Centre in Kathmandu, two facilities of the ECAF network in Asia (www.efeo.fr/ECAF/index_eng.html).

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FOCUS

➤ Palanpur, India's economic "revolution": A perspective from six decades of economic development in a North Indian village

A key element of recent debates on economic development in India, and beyond, focuses on the meaning and achievability of inclusive growth. India's significant participation in the rapidly evolving global economy provides an essential backdrop against which to examine the transition from reliance on agriculture towards a more diversified economy.

The Palanpur study occupies a fairly unique place in development literature. The village of Palanpur, in Moradabad District, Uttar Pradesh, has been the subject of regular study by economists since the late 1950s. Significant analysis has been carried out on detailed field level data collected in previous studies. The unique nature of the Palanpur study offers an important opportunity to examine these questions anew, at a very detailed, micro-level. However, the current data stops at 1993 and the last 15 years have been of great importance for both growth and changing structures of poverty and inequality in India.

Some of these questions are sought to be examined in greater detail by returning to Palanpur in 2008-09 and undertaking a resurvey, in a way that maximizes comparability with data collected in earlier rounds. This round, the sixth survey of Palanpur, is a collaborative effort of the London School of Economics (LSE) and the *Centre de Sciences Humaines* (CSH) for the next two years. The research team at LSE is headed by Prof. Nicolas Stern and the team at CSH by Dr. Himanshu. The CSH team consists of six Indian researchers. Two French interns from *Ecole Polytechnique* worked on the project for three months. This survey proposes to pursue questions surrounding the income, standard of living and activities of different groups and individuals of the village.

The field work model applied in the earlier rounds involved prolonged stays in Palanpur, extensive cross-checking of responses and open-ended interviews and discussions with villagers. The goal is to match these earlier rounds of data collection in terms of accuracy and comprehensiveness.

The research outputs will be a characterization of social and economic change in the village as a whole, and among different groups, considering a variety of dimensions of standard of living; a characterization of drivers of growth and change including inclusion, empowerment and distribution; and their implications for policy development.

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➤ **Water resource in South India and global climate changes**

The French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP) and the CSH in New Delhi are associated in a new project of the French National Agency for Research (ANR). Led by the Bureau for Geological and Mining Researches (BRGM), this project will allow a multidisciplinary and integrative approach to the *Socio-economic evaluation of the rural vulnerability of water-users under the effect of global changes in the platform zone of South India* (acronym SHIVA).

The IFP will be in charge of the cartographic representations, and the CSH will study the socio-economic impacts. The other main partners are, in France, the Laboratory of Mechanisms and Transfers in Geology (Mixed Research Unit - National Centre for Scientific Research [CNRS], Institute of Research for Development [IRD], Universities, Observatories) and, in India, the National Geophysical Institute (NGRI, Hyderabad), the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS, Hyderabad) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc, Bangalore).

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RESEARCH

CSH

➤ **Nuclear deterrence in second-tier Nuclear Weapon States: A case study of India**

Nuclear deterrence today anchors the national security of second-tier nuclear weapon states such as India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. Certain principles or requirements of nuclear deterrence are the same for all countries, for instance, the ability to threaten 'unacceptable damage', or the ability to 'raise the costs' of an action taken so that it does not seem worthwhile. But must every nuclear nation indulge in an exercise of large-scale warhead accumulation or yield refinements through nuclear testing, or creation of elaborate nuclear war fighting plans in order to claim credible deterrence? Can the practice of deterrence in the second-tier states follow a different course?

The study examines the manner in which India is engaged in constructing a credible and stable deterrence relationship with two of its nuclear armed adversaries, Pakistan and China, with an arsenal much smaller and command and control structures far simpler than in any of the other P-5 nations. Does this difference impact the nature of its nuclear deterrence? In its efforts to create and sustain credible nuclear deterrence, should it necessarily be expected to follow the same path and rules as those of the other P-5? Would it be

compelled to build hundreds of warheads and a huge weapons infrastructure? Would deterrence based on anything less not be credible or stable?

This study, as part of the CSH's International Relations division, intends to examine India's nuclear strategy as it finds its own route to effective practice of nuclear deterrence.

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➤ **Measuring cooperation in public goods: Using experimental economics and empirical methods**

The objective of this new project is to open up the discussion on collective action (cooperation) in public goods through an empirical case in India, on the basis of experiments conducted in the field. Field-based research in the state of Uttaranchal was launched in May-July 2008 in collaboration with E. Somanathan and S. Chakravorty. The research seeks to understand the reasons why collective action in some public goods appears to work better than others and to examine the effect of variation in pre-existing cooperation on tendencies to cooperate, the latter to be measured by cooperation in a field experiment where the stakes are real money provided by the investigators.

First, a field survey of a sample of approximately 24 villages chosen from an existing data set around the Gori River (north-east part of Uttaranchal) helped determine which are working well in terms of cooperation and why, in the perception of the villagers themselves. On the basis of a carefully designed questionnaire on cooperation in natural resource management (forestry, agriculture) and about public goods efficiency (such as construction of a bridge or school, maintenance of good paths), a sample of 20 villages was selected and ranked by level of cooperation (low/medium/high). Second, after analyzing data from the questionnaires, the experiment was conducted in the field. The protocol was to play exactly the same public goods game (i.e. experiment) in villages, and observe the differences, if any, in terms of cooperation. The main objective is to see if cooperation in the field, in a real world situation, predicts a general tendency to cooperate, as measured by the experiments.

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➤ **Democracy in South Asia: Historical and comparative analysis of Indian and Pakistani political trajectories since 1947**

This study is being conducted as a PhD thesis within the CSH's *Political Dynamics, Institutional Set Up and Social Change* research programme. Dealing with both divergences and similarities between the democratization processes in India and Pakistan, three articles have recently been published:

« *La famille Bhutto ou les 'martyrs de la démocratie'*

au Pakistan » *EchoGéo*, *Sur le vif* 2008, online: 7th April 2008. URL:

<http://echogeo.revues.org/index2663.html>

"Thematic Chronology of Mass Violence in Pakistan 1947-2007" in Sémelin Jacques (ed), *Online Encyclopedia of Mass Violence*, April 2008, <http://www.massviolence.org/+Pakistan>

« *Entre l'Inde et le Pakistan: Mémoires de la Partition et partition de la mémoire* » in *Transcontinentales*, Paris, Armand Colin, 1^{er} semestre 2008, n°6, pp. 73-91.

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➤ **Urban basic services in small towns: case studies in eastern Uttar Pradesh**

This new research programme, conducted as part of the CSH's Urban Dynamics division, is a PhD project aiming to assess the impact of urban governance reforms on small towns, especially regarding improvement of basic public services. Various research projects have dealt with these subjects in rural areas and large metropolises but little attention has been paid to the same issues in these specific urban settlements, not yet fully "urban" and yet not completely "rural". Hence, the objective of this research is to assess the actual impact and suitability of various reforms on small towns: have reforms led to better service delivery or have they lowered the level of public facilities? How are urban basic services managed today?

A sample survey is to be conducted in a few selected towns comprising around 20,000 inhabitants in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Fieldwork will focus on urban local bodies and interviews will be conducted with political leaders, government officials and engineers. Other interviews will be conducted with citizens as users in order to understand what their relationships with elected public servants and service providers are. The PhD supervisor is Dr. Sylvie Jaglin, Prof. of Geography at the University of Nantes and researcher at the *Laboratoire techniques, territoires et sociétés* (LATTs), *Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées* (ENPC), in Paris. At the CSH, Dr. Marie-Hélène Zerah, researcher at the *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD) deputed to the CSH, will co-coordinate the research work.

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➤ **Internships on current economic issues**

Four students from the *Ecole Polytechnique*, Paris, conducted internships at the CSH between April and July 2008.

Under the supervision of Dr. Himanshu, Loïc Watine and Florian Bersier participated in the joint research project conducted by the London School of

Economics (LSE) and the CSH entitled *Palanpur: India's economic 'revolution': A perspective from six decades of economic development in a North Indian village* (see **Focus**). In the framework of this project, the interns were involved in various tasks among which putting in order and cleaning data from the 1993 surveys, helping to prepare the first round of the 2008-09 survey, overseeing the field survey and entering data from the survey. In addition, each intern chose a specific topic for further study drawing on the survey: F. Bersier analyzed data on education and L. Watine examined fertility behaviour.

Camille Blaudin de Thé conducted her internship on "Regional disparities in India in the post-reform period: Reflections on the role played by institutions and econometric analysis". After familiarizing herself with the literature on regional disparities, she defined her hypotheses and built a model for testing the factors that determine state domestic product. She compiled panel data covering 16 states over an 8 year period (1998-2005) that included variables measuring infrastructure, human capital and state-level public finances. The internship was conducted under the joint supervision of Dr. Aradhna Aggarwal (University of Delhi) and Dr. Loraine Kennedy (head, Economics division of the CSH).

Marc Flepp's internship dealt with India's energy requirements and energy security. It involved collecting documentation on India's energy needs (including modelling aspects), on the sustainability of its energy consumption, the supply scenario for current and future energy requirements, and the strategic and political aspects of the country's energy policy. It was conducted under the joint supervision of Dr. Basudeb Chaudhuri, Director of the CSH, and Prof. M.R. Saluja of the India Development Foundation.

This is the third consecutive year that the CSH has welcomed students from the *Ecole Polytechnique*.

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IFP

➤ Launching of a digital database on the website of the IFP

The IFP officially posted a digital database on its website on 12th August, 2008, in the presence of the Minister for Education of the Government of Pondicherry, the Consul General of France in Pondicherry and Chennai and numerous invitees (researchers, academics, members of cultural institutions, etc). This database contains all computer applications developed at the Institute since 2003. The aim is, on the one hand, to archive all these applications in the same address and, on the other, to allow a wide audience to freely access these resources.

This base, which will be progressively completed, comprises notably:

- Applications (software) conceived for online usage ("Historical Atlas of South India", "Identification of weed species of North India's paddy fields", etc.)
- CD-ROMs, in a form adapted to WEB consultation
- Interactive maps ("Webmapping") of the vegetation of the Western Ghats

Access to the database:

<http://www.ifpindia.org/-Digital-Database-.html>

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➤ Preparation of a project on the management of forest fires in India

Following a seminar organized in Madurai in February 2007 by the Indian non-governmental organization (NGO), Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), and the Institute of Silviculture of the University of Freiburg, the German Ministry for economic cooperation and development (BMZ) has decided to back a project on forest fires in India.

The IFP is involved in this initiative through Dr. B.R. Ramesh, who has been appointed member of the Scientific Council of the project, as well as representative of the IFP as a potential partner. The meeting held in Delhi last April enabled consultation with other potential partners, such as the Indian remote-sensing agency (NRSA) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEF).

An agenda has been defined for the finalization of a large-scale proposal by 2009 on *Management of forest fires in India: integration of the ecological and cultural context, and consequences*.

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EVENTS

Lectures/Seminars/Round Tables/Workshops

(For more information, please consult our respective websites)

CSH

Monthly seminar held at the CSH on 28th May, 2008, on *Corporate Social Responsibility in French multinational companies operating in India*. The presentation was made by Damien Krichewsky, PhD student at the Centre for Sociology of Organizations (Sciences-Po Paris/CNRS), recently affiliated to the CSH. Triggered by a series of scandals about the "irresponsible" behaviour of major multinational companies (Nike, Shell etc), Corporate Social Responsibility, or CSR in short, emerged as a major managerial phenomenon in the mid-1990s. CSR soon became a new field of action for companies to

showcase their ethical and responsible behaviour, as well as their commitment to fostering sustainable development. With a critical theoretical standpoint on the very notion of CSR, this research project aims at studying the behaviour of French MNCs regarding social and environmental issues in their relationships with Indian "stakeholders". The presentation covered both the theoretical framework of the research and the preliminary findings derived from fieldwork in Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

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IFP

For more details, please consult our website:
<http://www.ifpindia.org/-Seminars-.html>

International Seminar on *Medicine and religion in South Asia. Interactions between scholarly traditions and local practices*, at the *Maison Suger*, Paris, on 20th May, 2008. The IFP partnered the Institute for Advanced Studies (IEA, Paris) and the *Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud* (CEIAS/CNRS/EHESS [Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales]), France, in organizing the conference. The seminar brought together anthropologists as well as specialists in classical textual sources – Sanskrit and Persian – in order to examine the way in which medical doctrines and religious traditions meet and interact in South Asia. The works presented were related to different bodies of knowledge such as Ayurvedic and Tibetan medicine, demonology, Hindu astrology and Muslim onirology.

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Lecture on *Tropical forest recovery in a sacred grove*, at the IFP on 25th April, 2008. Sacred groves are patches of forest protected for their religious significance, though it remains unknown since when. In Kodagu district in the Western Ghats of India, they are believed to be home to ancestral spirits and hence protected by generations of Kodava people. The documented history of many sacred groves goes back to c. 200 years from British colonial records. In order to unravel the history beyond this time period, palaeoecological studies are needed. Such studies provide information that allows reconstruction of vegetation, human activity, land use and climate change. A sediment core was obtained from a sacred grove in Kodagu and analyses of fossil pollen as well as microfossil charcoal were carried out. Based on these analyses, it is speculated when religious forest conservation might have started in this sacred grove. Initial results from this study were outlined in the presentation.

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Lecture on *Social Drama in Bangladesh and Plural Reflexivity in the Urban Theatre*, at the IFP on 12th June, 2008. This talk attempted to analyze urban theatre in Bangladesh with the help of Victor Turner's anthropological tool of "Social Drama". It argued that Bangladesh's urban theatre may be best understood as a plural reflexive tool: that is, "the ways in which [a community or a people] tries to scrutinize, portray, understand and then act on itself". The lecture proceeded in three parts. The first mapped out the context by providing a brief overview of the country and key moments of its history in the second half of the 20th century. The second part pointed to a few notable moments in the history of theatre in Bangladesh, outlined major contemporary trends and identified major themes to be found in the country's urban theatre. The third part analyzed these themes and showed that the plural reflexivity articulated by means of these performances is generated out of the 'social drama' currently being enacted in Bangladesh.

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Lecture on *Calibration of a forest simulator. SEXI-FS calibration on a tropical heterogeneous forest tree population*, at the IFP on 4th July, 2008. The SEXI forest simulator is a 3D Spatial Explicit Individual-based forest model where tree establishment, growth, geometry and mortality are estimated according to tree-tree interaction. This model, initially developed for usage in agro forestry systems, was calibrated and extended to suit the Uppangala permanent sample plot data. This plot is a 28-ha experimental station established in 1990 by the IFP in an undisturbed dense wet evergreen forest, in the Western Ghats of India. The aim was to construct a light interception model and to investigate the light environment preference for establishment of four common species found at this site. Photogrammetry and image analysis were used to describe crown permeability to light according to the DBH for each species. Hemispherical photography was used to describe saplings light environment. Statistical Models were constructed and calibrated in order to predict the species crown porosity, and its impact on regeneration.

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Lecture on *India, Occultism and the American Comic Book. The Origin of the American Superhero (1922-1966)* at the IFP on 28th July, 2008. This presentation examined the origin stories of a range of American superheroes that appear in comics, pulps and radio serials over a 40 year period (1922-1966). The lecture traced the formation of the popular mystic hero motif from Theosophical constructions of South Asian religion reflected in Victorian occult novels and early French pulps of the 1800s to demonstrate that the 'Hero' for the new century is created in an

active dialogue between European Occultists in India and their Hindu informants. This motif of heroes trained by Himalayan adepts comes to pervade all forms of American popular media in the 1930s and 1940s, but in addition to the mainly spurious and fantastic representations of Hinduism and Buddhism in these narratives.

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Lecture on *Patterns in the floristic composition and structure of forests in the Western Ghats*, at the IFP on 30th July, 2008. Data from mesoscale plots (total of 96 plots, each 1 Ha in size) spread across a large area (ca 30,000km²) and climatic gradients in Karnataka's Western Ghats, was used to document the variations in tree species' richness and composition. Based on the floristic composition, forests were categorized into different vegetation types and the variation in the forest stand structure was analyzed. An attempt was made to explain the observed patterns, in the light of the ecological amplitude of the tree species. Finally, the influence of bioclimatic, soil and disturbance variables on the observed patterns of species distribution was discussed.

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EFEO

One-day workshop on non-dualist *Vedanta* on 1st July, 2008. Manidravida Sastrikal, Professor of Sanskrit in Madras Sanskrit College came to the EFEO for the workshop. The focus was the topic of sentence-interpretation (*Akhandarthavada*).

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...At the CSH

Damien KRICHEWSKY, PhD student at the Centre for the Sociology of Organizations (CSO-Sciences-Po Paris/CNRS), joined the CSH as a research associate in May 2008 (See **Events**).

Diego A. ZAMUNER, student at Sciences Po, Paris, joined the CSH in August for a six-month internship in the Economics division.

Ridhima SHARMA joined the CSH as Librarian-Documentalist in May 2008.

...at the IFP

Prayan Paramita MAHAPATRA, PhD student from the Department of Earth Sciences, Pondicherry University, is affiliated to the *Palaeoenvironments in South India* project from 15th April, 2008 to 31st December, 2009, as part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2006 between IFP and the Pondicherry University. She is carrying

out the palynological component of her ongoing PhD research, *Drill core analyses of the Cauvery Basin: Geochemistry and palaeoclimate studies*, under the supervision of Dr. Anupama K.

Lipi DAS, teacher and researcher at the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, Pondicherry, joined the *Palaeoenvironments in South India* project from 15th April, 2008 to 31st March, 2009, to work on the *Melissopalynological approach to bee ecology with application to biodiversity restoration* along with Dr. Anupama K.

Quentin RENARD, bio-engineer from the University of Gembloux, Belgium, joined the *Dynamics of Forest Diversity* project from 1st June to 30th September, 2008, to study *Cases of forest fires in the Western Ghats*, under the supervision of Dr. Raphaël Pelissier.

Dr. Thanuja MUMMIDI joined the *Rural microfinance and employment* project from 1st July, 2008 to 30th June, 2009, to work on the finalization of a book submitted to the Oxford University Press, organization of field enquiries, writing of articles, organization of seminars and strengthening of partnerships with Indian universities, under the supervision of Dr. Marc Roesch.

...at the EFEO

Dr. Charlotte SCHMID came to Pondicherry on 26th June, 2008, for 2 months to continue her research on Pallava and Chola temples. She read Tamil inscriptions with Dr. Vijayavenugopal and devotional Vaishnava hymns with R. Varada Desikan.

Emmanuel FRANCIS received a scholarship from the EFEO and arrived in Pondicherry in August 2008 to spend 2 months working on the Kailasanatha project and to go on a field-trip in the Krishna Valley to visit the cave temples there.

Dr. Perrine ESTIENNE came to Pondicherry on a one-month EFEO scholarship in August to continue her work on the Sanskrit inscriptions of the Chalukyas of Vengi (7th to 12th centuries), which were the subject of her doctoral thesis.

Dalal BENBABAALI, a doctoral student of geography at the University of Paris X, arrived in August 2008 on a scholarship from the EFEO to study the Kamma community in Tamil Nadu as part of her study on socio-spatial mobility among the Kammass.

Hamsa STANTON, a graduate student in the religion department at Columbia University in New York, USA, visited the EFEO in August 2008 and participated in sessions of the Saiva reading group.

Brice VINCENT, a doctoral student at Paris III studying the ancient surviving bronze sculptures of Cambodia, came to Pondicherry in June 2008, in part to be able to learn about bronze-casting in contemporary South India.

Andrea ACRI, a doctoral student of the University of

Leiden studying the Shaiva Tuttur literature of Indonesia, arrived in Pondicherry to pursue his studies on Shaivism and to participate in the Shaiva reading group at the EFEO.

Dr. Thomas LEHMANN, specialist of Tamil from the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg, joined the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO as a visiting scholar from 1st September 2008 for a period of one year. He was appointed in the framework of academic exchanges between the members of the European Consortium for Asian Field Study (ECAFS). He will manage the international project *Sangam* and will supervise the ongoing search for manuscripts of the oldest phase of Tamil literature.

GOODBYE

...At the CSH

Dr. Carine SEBI, who recently completed her doctorate in economics from the University of Grenoble, France, was researcher at the CSH on a one-year fellowship to work on common pool resource (CPR) management. She left the Centre in August 2008 (See **Research**).

Marc FLEPP, **Camille BLAUDIN DE THE**, **Loïc WATINE** and **Florian BERSIER**, students, *Ecole Polytechnique*, and CSH interns, left the Centre in July 2008 (See **Research**).

Nidhi CHAWLA, assistant to the Secretary-General and Financial Officer, left the CSH in August 2008.

...at the IFP

Quentin GARDE, final year student at the *Institut Supérieur de la Communication, de la Presse et de l'Audiovisuel* (ISCPA), France, had joined the Laboratory of Applied Informatics and Geomatics as a trainee, to work on corporate communication-related activities, under the supervision of Anand Pakiam and Dr. Frédéric Borne. He left on 25th July, 2008.

Dilip VENUGOPAL, assistant engineer with an M.S. in Ecology, was part of the *Dynamics of Forest Diversity* project from 10th March to 9th August, 2008, and worked on the *Analysis of bioclimatic factors that influence plant biodiversity*, under the supervision of Dr. Raphaël Pelissier.

Jean-Michel CREISMEAS, doctoral student at the University of Paris III, France, had joined the Sukshmagama project team to work on activities related to the *ARCUS* project, under the supervision of Pandit S. Sambandan. He left on 14th August, 2008.

...at the EFEO

Dr. Emilie AUSSANT (CNRS) left for France after spending a month in Pondicherry on an EFEO scholarship, reading grammatical texts with V. Venkataraja Sarma.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Recruitment for India Economy Chair: Spring Semester (February-June 2009)

Sciences Po is recruiting an economist for its India Economy Chair for the Spring Semester of the 2008-2009 academic year (end of February to end of June, 2009). Deadline for application: 15th September, 2008.

The Chairholder will be a full-time professor at Sciences Po and is required to:

- deliver an inaugural lesson;
- teach two regular courses during the academic semester (fourteen weeks) at the undergraduate and graduate/post-graduate levels;
- organize a research seminar;
- write a final report.

Applicants must be of Indian nationality, hold a doctoral degree in Social Sciences and be less than 65 years of age at the time of recruitment.

Provisions: remuneration by ICCR (11 000 USD), accommodation in Paris (2 room apt.), International transport.

Information on selection procedure:

http://asia-centre.sciences-po.fr/academics/indian_chair.html

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The India Economy Chair is supported by the ICCR and Chanel.

PUBLICATIONS

CSH

Milices armées d'Asie du Sud : Privatisation de la violence et implication des États

Edited by Laurent Gayer & Christophe Jaffrelot
Collection Académique – Domaine Mondes, Paris : Presses de Sciences Po, 2008, 304 p, 24 €



There seems to be no end to the growing number of victims of civil war, guerrilla warfare and military repression on the Indian subcontinent, despite the absence of interstate wars over the past 10 years. These conflicts involve militia of the paramilitary kind, whose ideology, sociology and strategies this book undertakes to unveil.

Very influential in India and Nepal, Maoist organizations claim to be revolutionary. But the people they aspire to liberate are more often than not made up of lower castes and tribes, with the result that their guerrilla appear more ethnic than universalist. They resemble in this aspect national liberation movements whose goal is the political independence of linguistic, religious and tribal communities. However, in Sri Lanka, Kashmir or Myanmar, these groups are also part of movements of national oppression. This again is the case with nationalist or religious movements in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, where Islamist militia, Hindu nationalists or Sikh militants exercise brutal control over their respective communities by means of a veritable cultural police.

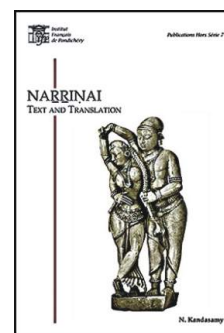
Militia and states share a complex relationship. At times on the way to becoming true states within a State, these militia may equally be instrumentalized by the powers-that-be in order to enforce their authority at the local level.

Keywords: armed militia, South Asia, violence, state involvement

IFP

Narrinai: text and translation

Translated by N. Kandasamy Pillai; presented by V. Arasu, Kannan M., IFP - Publications Hors série n° 7, 2008, xxxii, 284 p. ISBN: 978-81-8470-165-4
Language: Tamil, English. Rs 520 (19 €)

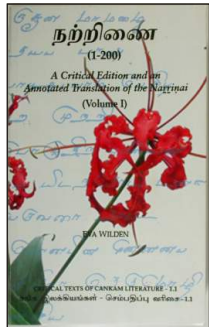


This English translation of a classical Tamil Cankam text by a Tamil scholar who worked at the Indology Department of the IFP from 1962 to 1967 is a rare example of a "linguistic" translation meant for beginners and foreign students. A true Tamil scholar, the author does not conceal the actual obscurities in the text, but puts forward new readings and original suggestions. A few notes underline his musical fervour and his empathy for the region of Tanjavur where he situates certain poems. This publication gives occasion, moreover, for the publishers to pay homage not only to N. Kandasamy Pillai himself but also to a generation of Tamil scholars who were not professional Tamil Pulavars and had other occupations but who, nevertheless, shared a genuine passion for the language and its literary monuments, amongst whom N. Kandasamy Pillai was one of the most versatile.

Keywords: classical Tamil, Cankam, *Narrinai*, English translation

Narrinai. A Critical Edition and an Annotated Translation of the Narrinai. 3 volumes. Critical Texts of Cankam Literature 1.1, 1.2, 1.3.

Eva Wilden, Pondicherry / Chennai: Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient / Tamilmann Patippakam. (ISBN 9782855396729).



The earliest anthologies of classical Tamil poetry have known learned editions, but never critical ones, that is to say, never editions which present all the evidence on which they are based. This new series, launched with the *Narrinai*, aims to meet this need. Each poem is printed with an apparatus recording the variants of all surviving manuscripts and of the hundreds of quotations found in grammatical literature. A complete annotated

English translation is furnished, the purpose of which is not to offer a polished version that brushes over awkwardnesses, but rather a tool that lays open the difficulties of interpretation. This new venture is thus intended to serve all students of old Tamil literature and its transmission, whatever their interests.

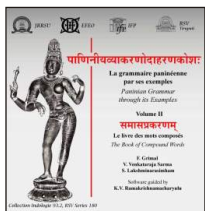
Keywords: *Narrinai*, classical Tamil poetry, critical edition, annotated translation

IFP / EFEO

Paniniyavyakaranodaharanakosah. La grammaire paninéenne par ses exemples. The Paninian grammar through its examples. Vol. 2. Samasaparakaranam. Le livre des mots composés. The book of compound words. [CD-ROM]

F. Grimal, V. Venkataraja Sarma, S. Lakshminarasimham, *Collection Indologie no 93.2; RSV Series no 180, JRRSU/EFEO/IFP/RSV, Tirupati, 2008. ISBN: 978-81-8470-164-7 (IFP); 978-2-85539-002-4 (EFEO)*

Language: Sanskrit. Rs 400 (14 €)



This second volume of *Paninian Grammar through its Examples* is dedicated to compound words. Following the plan of the *Siddhantakaumudi*, it gives the examples provided by Bhattoji Diksita in his *Samasaparakarana*, plus a choice of other examples from the

Mahabhasya, the *Kasikavrtti* and the *Bhasavrtti*. These examples constitute the entries of this dictionary. Each article comprises the references, the analytical formulation in Sanskrit, the French and English translations of the example, the sequence of all the operations to be successively carried out to cover the formation of the compound up to its final inflected form and, lastly notes. Four indices are those of the *sutra*-s with reference to their examples, of the *vartika*-s, of the Paninian and traditional Indian terminology used in this *Samasaparakarana*, and of all the examples given in the three other commentaries and not retained.

Keywords: Sanskrit, dictionary, examples, grammar, Paninian grammar

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