

## ABSTRACT

### **The Tranquebar Connection: Encounters of medicine and science in the Danish East-Indies, 1700-1850**

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From its inception in the 17th century the medical corps was an important element in the Danish East India Company and in the company's main colony in South India, Tranquebar. In the 18th and first half of the 19th century the medical world of Tranquebar consisted of three groups: the surgeons employed by the company; the medical doctors of the protestant Danish-Halle mission; and the practitioners of traditional Indian medicine. This project will investigate the encounters and interactions between these groups of European and Indian doctors; between the doctors and the various groups in Tranquebarian society; and between their diverse forms of healing and perceptions of illness (suffering) and sickness (disease).

Investigating these encounters the project will provide significant information about living conditions and health problems in colonial South India as well as about the indigenous forms of healing, for instance Siddha medicine. It will also shed light on the scientific achievements of the doctors in Tranquebar, many of whom were doing research in the natural sciences. Through their connections to Indian doctors, princes, and scientist of other colonial nations on the subcontinent and in colonies around the world, Tranquebar became a hub of science. It can be styled *The Tranquebar Connection*.