

ABSTRACT

Research Theme: Social history of mathematics in Tamil culture

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Research Project: We are used to think of mathematics as an intellectual and scholarly activity practiced within institutions. This is probably why so little research has been produced in the field of ethnomathematics. Our project would like to overcome our ignorance in this field by creating a group involving anthropologists, mathematicians, historians and historians of mathematics to explore mathematical practices observed outside of the field of scholarly and institutional activity, and outside of the much studied territories of Europe and the United States. We intend to do field work on specific localized territories, with well defined themes, that would include the Arctic, Papua New Guinea and South India. The South Indian part of the project will be coordinated by the French Institute of Pondicherry and field work will be done in the districts of the Kaveri Delta region.