

## MEDICINES, HEALTH AND SOCIETIES / MÉDECINES, SANTÉ ET SOCIÉTÉ

### ***Food practices and traditional medicine among the Muslims of Hyderabad.***

*Delphine Roger, 1991, 32 p. (PPSS n° 8)*

*Language: English. 70 Rs (4 €)*



The study explores the relations between culinary art and medicinal practices amongst the Muslim community in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. The discourses and practices surveyed illustrate some 'distorted' aspects of the ancient theories of Galien and Hippocrates promulgated by Avicenne and retained by the Hakims of Hyderabad.

These practitioners of medicine are reputed for their culinary skills. They also served as cooks par excellence under Muslim rulers in India because the health of the princes, indispensable individuals, was of as much importance as their delight in the pleasures of the palate. Today this tradition is declining in Hyderabad where Muslim power and influence no longer dominate. It occupies a symbolic place in their cultural battle.

**Keywords:** Hyderabad, food, traditional medicine, Islam

### ***Sickness and health in the village. An assessment of health conditions in South India (Coimbatore District).***

*Frédéric Bourdier, 1995, 70 p. (PPSS n°17)*

*Language: English. 200 Rs (9 €) ISBN: 978-81-8470-071-8*



Classic data about health takes almost no account of varying geo-ecological, socio-cultural and politico-economic contexts. A small-scale local study based on previous knowledge of the society concerned is on the other hand able to relate the multiple components involved which affect and to a large extent determine the state of health of a particular population. First the traditional indicators are reviewed, with an analysis of the rationales of those who compile them, from health staff to Government officials.

A critical analysis shows both the limitations of the official data and its inadequacy in reflecting the way in which individuals "manage" their health problems within their daily survival strategies. Then a positive (or global) health index is sought for.

**Keywords:** integrated health issues, medical anthropology, identification of measurement

### ***Leprosy in South India. Stigma and strategies of coping.***

**Hanne M. de Bruin**, 1996, 103 p. (PPSS n°22)

Language: English. **230 Rs (10 €)** ISBN: 978-81-8470-074-9



The essay explores the stigma attached to leprosy in northern Tamilnadu. Leprosy's impact on the body aesthetics of its victims accounts in part for the stigma. Stigma arises also out of the moral implications that attach themselves to those in whom signs of the illness become manifest. For popular opinion attributes leprosy to the transgression of a social or sexual norm for which the transgressor is held responsible. This conceptualisation of the disease appears to make leprosy's stigma a device aimed at

regulating and maintaining established social order. The allopathic view of leprosy, on the other hand, offers leprosy patients ways to underplay its stigma by substituting the indigenous etiology of leprosy by allopathic causes of disease.

**Keywords:** leprosy, stigma, Tamilnadu

### ***Of research and action. Contribution of non governmental organizations and social scientists in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India.***

Out of print /  
Epuisé

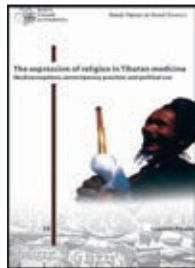
Edited by **Frédéric Bourdier**, IFP/Agence Nationale de Recherche sur le SIDA/Sociétés, Santé, Développement, 1998, 461 p.

Language: English.

### ***The expression of religion in Tibetan medicine. Ideal conceptions, contemporary practices and political use.***

**Laurent Pordié**, 2003, 83 p. (PPSS n°29)

Language: English. **200 Rs (9 €)** ISBN: 978-81-8470-110-4



What place does religion today assume in the lives of the Ladakhi practitioners of Tibetan medicine (amchi)? And, how does medicine, as a social institution, negotiate its relationship to religion? The author addresses these questions by singling out two vantages of observation: institutionalization and the voluntary sector, after having defined the ideal religious frame putatively surrounding medicine according to the amchi's representations. Contrasting the desire for scientificity that characterizes Tibetan medicine institutions and the political use of religion by

healers' associations, this volume sheds light on central aspects of the contemporary construction of Tibetan medicine in Ladakh.

**Keywords:** anthropology, Tibetan medicine, religion, science, development

### ***Aids and maternity in India. From public health to social sciences perspectives. Emerging themes and debates.***

Edited by **Patrice Cohen & Suniti Solomon**, 2004, 279 p. (PDSS n°8)

Language: English. **400 Rs (18 €)** ISBN: 978-81-8470-122-7



This collective book – with contributions from Indian and French specialists – seeks to define and shape the role of the social sciences in studying HIV/AIDS transmission from the mother to the child in India. The prevention of this transmission is a priority of the Indian public health policy and of international organisations. This issue is explored here through the understanding of medical, public health and social sciences perspectives.

Based on the status of maternity and its behaviour - pregnancy, delivery and breast-feeding are routes of

transmission – the understanding of this transmission and its prevention is built here on a progressive and multidisciplinary exploration of the issue.

**Keywords:** AIDS, maternity, social sciences, anthropology, delivery, breast-feeding

### ***Les rondes de saint Antoine. Culte, possession et affliction en Inde du Sud.***

**Brigitte Sebastia**, Aux Lieux d'Etre, 2007, 352 p. (Published with the support of the IFP / Publié avec le soutien de l'IFP)

Language: French. **600 Rs**



In India, psychiatry does not enjoy a good reputation, in spite of the reforms to acclimatize it to the situation and to the Indian sensibility. Though recourse to psychiatry is not negligible, its failures do not inspire confidence, nor allay apprehension of psychic disorders. This leaves a large place for religious therapy. Patients and their families pin their last hope in it for the cure of disorders thought to be of supernatural origin.

Brigitte Sébastia has conducted research on a Catholic shrine dedicated to Saint Antony of Padua, venerated for his healing and exorcist powers, where impressive scenes of possession take place. Through a very precise study, the author explores problems within Indian society, the place of Catholicism and its acclimatization to Hinduism, the therapeutic systems available in the country, the representations of mental illnesses and the impact of the social and familial context on the emergence of psychic disorders.

**Keywords:** Catholicism, Indianisation, medical pluralism, possession