



ABSTRACTS

(alphabetically arranged according to researcher)

Research Theme: Saiva ritual and doctrine in puranic context

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Research Project: Rama Jamadagnya, better known as Parasurama (" Rama with the axe "), is a complex figure of the great Sanskrit epic, the Mahabharata - a Brahmin warrior who is both an avatar of Visnu and a devotee of Siva. Through the study of this character, the present research seeks to illustrate the complex relations of assimilation or rejection in the " great " pan-Indian Sanskrit tradition and the " little " local traditions that have become the subject of active Indological research for the last twenty years.

The project subsequently deals with the collation and analysis of the diverse modifications undergone by this epic myth in the context of two carefully selected geographical locations : mostly Kerala, the "country of Parasurama " (Parasurama-ksetra), where the traditions linked to him are especially rich, and secondly the region of the Mahendragiri mountains (south-east of Orissa), place of penance of Parasurama in the Sanskrit texts.