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DE PONDICHÉRY

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D'EXTRÊME-ORIENT

CENTRE DE



SCIENCES HUMAINES

CSH and IFP, over the years, have both strived to acquire international visibility and a scientific reputation in different disciplines of the social sciences, and for the IFP, also in the disciplines of Indology and Ecology. Even though the two institutes are unequal in size and their historical evolution, both are committed to positioning themselves in their research activities in terms of academic excellence, strong partnerships with major academic institutions in India and abroad, and also developing a strategic understanding and analysis of the role of higher education, research and knowledge creation in India and Asia in general, in the context of current trends in globalization.

With the help of the heads of the different departments at the two centres, our colleagues and doctoral students, we are pursuing the following medium- and long-term objectives:

- 1) To develop an academic culture of in-depth interdisciplinary approaches to scientific projects on all major subjects of contemporary and classical relevance such as, Sanskrit and Tamil studies, linguistics, sustainable development, health in society, poverty, energy and natural resources management (forest conservation, water preservation), traditional medicines, federalism, urbanization, conflict and international relations, public and macroeconomic policies, politics and society, language studies, and so on. In our research centres, we encourage all new research projects to engage at least two departments and several disciplinary areas, and to collaborate with other French research institutes abroad (IFRE) as well as with other institutions, in both theoretical and methodological debates. In this approach, French public research institutions such as CNRS, INRA, INSERM, INRIA and many universities have a long tradition of such interdisciplinary teamwork. India's best public institutions have shown appreciation of this approach of French institutions and this can be a major thrust of our collaboration with Indian centres of excellence.
- 2) To engage continuously, in the face of current financial crisis and reduction in budget, in the search for external research funds from public agencies, international and national institutions, including the development of public-private partnerships.
- 3) To systematically conceive and develop research projects that will strengthen our relationships with Indian institutions and scholars, help capacity building among young scholars who want to work with us, and thus increase over time our 'embeddedness' in India. This will bring an important value added to the French and European understanding of India in all its complexity.

Contact: Dr. Basudeb Chaudhuri
basudeb.chaudhuri@csh-delhi.com
Director of the Centre de Sciences Humaines

Prof. Velayoudom Marimoutou
ifpdir@ifpindia.org
Director of the Institut Français de Pondichéry

FOCUS

➤ Socio-economic Assessment of the Rural Vulnerability of Water Users under Stressors of Global Changes in the Hard Rock Area of South India (SHIVA)

Global climate changes are already affecting water resources around the world and this impact will increase significantly in the near future especially in developing countries. The SHIVA project will be carried out in South India as it represents a water-stressed region where climate change, together with current large-scale and rapid social and economic changes, are likely to affect the region in a significant manner. The project is financed by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) of France.

The principal novelties of this project are: (1) the development, comparison and mapping of two vulnerability indicators, one to climate changes and the other to economic changes in order to identify winners and losers; (2) the social and economic evaluation of rural vulnerability impacts; and (3) the development of a methodology allowing for realistic water budgeting at the scale of the watershed. The final objective is to determine what could be done now to reduce rural vulnerability and take advantage of global changes.

Case studies will be conducted in watersheds in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh that are representative of both hydrological and socioeconomic dynamics of the hard rocks areas of southern India and of the impact of global changes. These studies will be used to develop hydrologic models allowing for impact simulation. Subsequently, these results at the watershed level will be up-scaled to the appropriate level? at which socio-economic approaches are carried out. The up-scaling methodology will rely on the integration of remote sensing data within hydrological approaches. Uncertainties, particularly those associated with the up-scaling will be thoroughly evaluated and reflected into the socio-economic approaches, which in turn, will be consistent with the hypotheses made in the IPCC Special Report on Emissions Scenarios at the global level.

In view of ensuring methodological robustness, contextual relevance, technical feasibility and development of the approaches and derived tools, the project mobilizes Indian and French partners providing complementary expertise and skills in the domains of climate change, agriculture prospective, social sciences (geography, sociology and economics), GIS, hydrology and hydrogeology. *Bureau de recherches géologiques et minières* (BRGM), France leads the consortium, in which IFP and CSH are partners, and National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore are the main Indian partners.

Contact: Dr. Frédéric Borne
borne@ifpindia.org
Dr. Basudeb Chaudhuri
basudeb.chaudhuri@csh-delhi.com

➤ **ASIA-EUROPE FORUM ON FIELD STUDY, Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO, 7 and 8 January 2009.**

The Asia-Europe Forum on Field studies was co-organized by the European Consortium for Asian Field Study (ECAAF, www.ecafconsortium.com) and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), a Singapore-based organization that promotes cultural exchange between Asia and Europe (www.asef.org). Overall, the Forum aimed to promote cooperation and reinforce capacity for joint Asia-Europe research programmes, as well as contribute to the communication of high-quality information on Asian civilizations to the European research community.

The Forum commenced with a presentation of current ECAF projects and European research in South Asia, with the objective of inspiring similar developments amongst the broader ECAF network. This was followed by a Round-table discussion that touched on the ethical, political and economic challenges of field work and heritage conservation. This event was co-sponsored by the ECAF Consortium and the ASEF.

His Excellency Mr. Jérôme Bonnafont, the Ambassador of France to India, inaugurated the forum. He opened his address on the importance of the work of institutions like the EFEO and the IFP. He stressed that the French government's financial support to the two centres was no futile expenditure; it was a vital investment in broadening knowledge. Intellectual curiosity first drove Europeans outside their territory to explore the world; the discovery of civilizations such as those of China and India led to dramatic shifts in European perceptions and the eventual transformation of the world. Reiterating the conviction of the French orientalist Sylvain Lévi, Mr. Bonnafont emphasized that broad knowledge needed to be developed into scientific research, and that it was essential for Europeans to coordinate their research on Asia.

On the need for parity and complementarity in EU-Asian efforts, Mr. Bonnafont emphasized the importance of Asia-Europe cooperation in response to globalization, and also as a step against fast-paced, quick-profit commercial enterprises. In order to understand Asian societies today, historical research is needed to understand the origins of Asian civilizations. Overall, without investment in scientific research, Mr. Bonnafont pointed out, Europe would not survive.

Contact: Dr. Dominic Goodall
dominicgoodall@efeo-pondicherry.org

➤ **12th workshop of AJEI "Public Policies in India: what are their specific features?"**

The AJEI (Association Jeunes Etudes Indiennes/Association of Young Indian Studies) is a forum for young researchers in social sciences. It draws its members from the postgraduate student community (from Masters to post-doctoral level) working on South Asia. Every year, the Association organizes a workshop in India to give young researchers an opportunity to present papers on their ongoing work, which are then discussed by senior scholars.

The 12th Workshop of the AJEI took place in collaboration with the Benaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi from 15 to 20 February 2009. The *Ecole doctorale Milieux, cultures et sociétés du passé et du présent* (ED 395, Paris X), the *Centre de recherche de géographie comparée des Suds et des Nords* (GECKO, Paris X), the CSH, the IFP, the *Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme* (FMSH, Paris), and the *Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud* (CEIAS, Paris) were the institutional funders of the workshop. CSH strongly reaffirmed its support to this endeavour by not only providing financial assistance but also scientific support, in terms of participation in paper presentations and discussions by young and senior CSH scholars.

The 2009 Workshop was on *Public Policies in India* and aimed to discuss the policy process, its nature, significance and implications for evolution of the State in India. For this purpose, a focus on sectoral policies (for example, environmental, territorial, town-planning, and tourism-related policies) led to joint discussions on the definition of the State's authority in relation to Indian society. The workshop organizers advocated an approach to the theme that is both multidisciplinary (including administrative and political sciences, history, geography, anthropology, sociology, economics, etc.) and multi-level (local, national and regional levels).

Contact: Rémi de Bercegol
remi.debercegol@csh-delhi.com
Website: <http://ajei.org/>

RESEARCH

CSH

➤ **The voice of city dwellers in urban governance. Participation, mobilization and local democracy – Comparing Indian / South African debates**

A workshop organized by Mumbai University, the Centre de Sciences Humaines (New Delhi), the Institute of Research for Development

(Paris) and the Center for the Urban and Built Environment Studies (Wits University, Johannesburg).

This workshop, which took place in Mumbai University on 12, 13, 14 January 2009, concluded the first year of the project "Democracy and governance in India and South Africa: a comparative study of the role of political participation in the governance of megacities", coordinated by Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal and Marie-Hélène Zerah, in India, and by Claire Bénit-Gbaffou in South Africa. The main objective of the project is to observe how political participation (in its various forms, conventional or not, institutionalized or not) has an impact on the current reshaping of cities. Through the study of a series of mobilizations, this research aims to identify the modes of operation of the democratic principle (i.e. the actual forms of democratic control, accountability and legitimacy) in the governance of six Indian and South African cities (Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata; Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town).

The specific objectives of this workshop were: (i) to discuss a common theoretical framework; (ii) to raise awareness about differing understandings on terms and concepts; (iii) to plan common work and build partnerships. Thus 20 papers were presented and discussed, and 5 thematic teams were formed. These teams will start the comparative work in 2009.

Contact: Dr. Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal
tawalama@ehess.fr
Dr. Marie-Hélène Zerah
zerah@ird.fr

➤ **In quest of a new social compromise on corporate capitalism in India**

In the context of a changing Indian corporate capitalism, this research looks at the role of various forms of social and environmental regulations of companies in the construction of the relationships between private companies, the State and society. The main hypothesis of this research is that a minimum social consensus on capitalism is required for companies to operate in a legitimate fashion. With the transformation of Indian corporate capitalism since the 1980s-90s, the prevailing social consensus has been shaken, the result being an increase of social conflicts related to economic activity. Using a systemic analysis of the economic and socio-political exchanges between companies and their stakeholders (public bodies, trade unions, civil society organizations, etc.), this research explores how a new social consensus is being negotiated and crafted through the social and environmental regulation of private companies in India. To do so, we have been proceeding at various interrelated levels:

1. A historical analysis of the changes of Indian corporate capitalism, from a political economy perspective, as well as a study on the consequences of those changes regarding the social and environmental externalities of business.
2. An analysis of the dynamics of social and environmental regulation of companies in India – public regulation by the State, civil regulation by trade unions and civil society organizations, and self-regulation with the development of new forms of corporate social responsibility.
3. Various in-depth case studies have been carried out in the cement sector, so as to analyse the fabric of a social consensus on industrial activity at a local scale.

The various investigations consist of about 180 qualitative interviews, a field survey with about 180 quantitative interviews, and a wide range of secondary data.

Contact: Damien Krichewsky
damien.krichewsky@sciences-po.org

➤ **Migration, economic transition and dominance in Andhra Pradesh: a study of a dominant caste's social and spatial mobility in the era of reforms**

This study is part of an ongoing research project at the CSH called “Economic reforms, regional economies and evolving federal governance”, directed by Dr. Loraine Kennedy. It is also part of a PhD research in geography, which covers a larger period and a broader theme than the reforms, but which puts a special emphasis on them. This research on the migration and upward mobility of the Kammas in Andhra Pradesh highlights the territorial dimension of caste dominance, which manifests itself on different scales, in rural as well as urban areas. Kammas' socio-professional mobility is also analyzed in the context of the transition observed in Andhra Pradesh from an economy dominated by agriculture to a service-oriented economy. Kammas' socio-spatial trajectory follows this evolution, since the members of this agrarian caste have diversified their activities while migrating to the cities.

Though this phenomenon is not new, it has intensified since the implementation of economic reforms in Andhra Pradesh by the Telugu Desam Party, in which Kammas occupy the key positions. Between 1995 and 2004, Chandrababu Naidu's regime tried to create an attractive environment for investors. As a new entrepreneurial class, Kammas are not only active agents of the liberalization process in Andhra Pradesh, but they seem to be also its main beneficiaries. One of the objectives of the research is to ascertain whether they benefitted from political backing and from a privileged

access to information through caste favouritism.

Contact: Dalal Benbabaali
dalal.benbabaali@csd-delhi.com

IFP

➤ **Western Ghats Forest Biodiversity portal**

The Western Ghats Forest Biodiversity portal was recently launched at the official website of the IFP. It is a portal of research applications and databases on forests and trees of the Western Ghats. The information in the portal is the culmination of several biodiversity projects carried out in the Ecology Department of the IFP, under the program “Environment and sustainable development”. The portal has been developed using web mapping technology, open source software tools and shared databases.

The current version of the portal comprises of the following resources: vegetation maps, endemic tree species, tree identification system, agroforestry trees, ecological databases, map archives and publications.

For access to this portal:
<http://www.ifpindia.org/biodiversityportal/index.php?lang=en>

Contact: Dr. Raphaël Pélissier
raphael.pelissier@ifpindia.org

EVENTS
Lectures/Seminars/Round Tables/Workshops

(For more information, please consult our respective websites)

CSH

International Seminar on *The Indian Judge and International Law*, co-organized by HEC, the French Business School, the CSH and the Indian Society of International Law (ISIL), New Delhi, at ISIL, on 13 & 14 December, 2008. International human rights law is getting local where the national judge is becoming the main actor of the harmonization and diffusion of an increasingly globalized system of norms and practices. Not so long ago, the overwhelming majority of domestic courts shared a common reluctance to refer to international and foreign law as these sources of law were often envisaged as legally inappropriate and politically hazardous. This situation has clearly evolved in the direction of a greater, if not systematic, use of international and foreign law by the domestic judge. While interested in these changes in western democratic regimes, the international legal doctrine has been unable or

unwilling to engage in the study of this unprecedented evolution within emerging and developing economies.

The seminar argued that this revolution in thought and practices, in which the domestic judge plays a central role, brings even more promises in emerging economies like those of the BRIC countries where international and foreign law are not only adapted or transformed into the domestic context, but also used as powerful instruments for empowering the national democratic process by shielding it from internal pressure while contributing to the reconciliation of the economic and political developments.

Contact: Dr. Basudeb Chaudhuri
basudeb.chaudhuri@csd-delhi.com

Panel discussion on *Affirmative Action* in the 4th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, Indian Statistical Institute, on 17-18 December, 2008 (http://www.isid.ac.in/~pu/dec_08_conf.html). This session took place on 18 December and the speakers were Satish Deshpande (Delhi School of Economics), Parikshit Ghosh (Delhi School of Economics) and Daniel Sabbagh (CERI, Sciences Po, Paris). The session was chaired by Ashwini Deshpande (Delhi School of Economics) and Basudeb Chaudhuri (CSH) and Velayoudom Marimoutou (IFP) were the discussants.

The objective of this session was to introduce an audience of extremely distinguished economists (the Indian Statistical Institute Conference is one of the most important and prestigious in India) to an interdisciplinary debate (political science, sociology, economics) on the question of affirmative action (or positive discrimination) as it is taking place in India, the United States, and France. The discussion focused around D. Sabbagh's paper comparing the United States and France (<http://www.isid.ac.in/%7Epu/conference/dec_08_conf/Papers/DanielSabbagh.doc>), P. Ghosh presented a series of theoretical models of discrimination from economics, S. Deshpande discussed the Indian context and the discussants and Chair commented on the presentations and engaged in a discussion with the audience.

Contact: Dr. Basudeb Chaudhuri
basudeb.chaudhuri@csd-delhi.com

Humanities in translation: An international transdisciplinary workshop, organized by CSH in collaboration with Université de Paris 8 at CSH, 20 January 2009. The CSH hosted this workshop, with the aim of supporting the development of research and academic relations between India and France. Claire Joubert (Université de Paris 8, English), Martin

Mégevand (Université de Paris 8, French Literature) and Emilienne Baneth-Nouailhetas (CNRS-NYU, CIRHUS, English, Anglo-Indian and postcolonial studies) (in absentia) presented and inaugurated their projects around humanities in translation, in a cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary perspective. Indian participants, like Balveer Arora (JNU, Political Science), Franson Manjali (JNU, Linguistics), Rukmini Bhaya Nair (IIT, Delhi, Linguistics & English), Ranjan Ghosh (North Bengal University, English), Anuradha Ghosh (Jamia Millia Islamia, English), Basudeb Chaudhuri (Director, CSH) and several MPhil students from Jamia Millia Islamia shared their research concerns and experience.

The workshop was organized as a roundtable on the issues of comparativism and cross-cultural exchanges on several levels:

- the recent disciplinary developments within the Humanities provoked by the circulation of concepts: from "theory" rooted in French poststructuralism, to its U.S./ U.K. reworking in "cultural studies" and "postcolonial theory"; and its Indian reworking as "Subaltern studies"
- the postcolonial redistribution of the academic world-map
- globalization and the corporatization of academia as well as the commodification of knowledge and the notion of "the global knowledge economy"

The objective of the roundtable was to map out the potential for French and Indian collaboration around these questions. Indian representatives of various institutions and disciplines were invited to present their current work on these issues, in the perspective of building long term collaborative programmes. Towards this end, the organizers intend to have the proceedings of the workshop published in France and in the United States under the form of "working-papers".

Contact: Dr. Basudeb Chaudhuri
basudeb.chaudhuri@csh-delhi.com



Book release of *Rise of the Plebeians? The Changing Face of Indian Legislative Assemblies* edited by Christophe Jaffrelot and Sanjay Kumar, co-organized by CSH, Routledge Books, New Delhi and India International Centre at IIC, 21 January 2009.

The findings of the book are based on a project that was sponsored by the Centre d'Etudes et de

Recherches Internationales (CERI, SciencesPo), the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), and the CSH. Professor Rajeev Bhargava, Director, CSDS, and Dr. Basudeb Chaudhuri, Director, CSH, chaired the discussion which was attended by about 80 people. The discussants were Dr. Yogendra Yadav, Senior Fellow, CSDS, and Professor Zoya Hasan, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and currently Member of the National Commission on Minorities.

There was a lively and animated discussion on how caste-based social diversity gets translated into politics in the context of various variables, such as occupation, gender, age and education. The discussion also touched upon the vital issue of the meaning and scope of democracy in the Indian context.

Contact: Dr. Basudeb Chaudhuri
basudeb.chaudhuri@csh-delhi.com

Lecture on *Social and territorial inequalities in Brazil, a multi-scale graphic approach* by Prof. Hervé Théry, (CNRS-CREDAL, Invited Professor at the Universidade de São Paulo-USP), organized by the CSH and India International Centre at IIC, 10 February 2009.

During the last twenty years, researchers have produced more and more thematic maps to analyze inequalities in Brazil at several scales: national, regional, urban/rural, intra-urban. One can now produce "good" maps of Brazil, i.e. maps revealing quite distinct zones, very marked contrasts. But one must also account for these contrasts, which call for historical, economic, and social explanations. The social processes, the actors, their logics do not appear on the map, but the maps reveal that they generally have a territorial dimension. The territorial disparities, which are one of the major characteristics of Brazilian society, and the way in which they interact with the social disparities, of which they are at the same time causes and consequences, are thus at the heart of our research.

Contact: Véronique Dupont
veronique.dupont@ird.fr

Research seminar on "Emerging Issues in Social Sciences: a Franco-Indian Perspective". This seminar, consisting of a series of dialogues between French and Indian scholars, aims to take stock of, and to publicize, recent evolutions in the theory and methodology of French and Indian social sciences (including political science, international relations, geography and socio-economics).

The fifth session of this seminar (20 February 2009), organized by Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal in collaboration with the Centre for the

Study of Law and Governance, JNU, focused on "Recent Trends in Public Policy Analysis in France and India" with presentations by Dr Olivier Giraud, CNRS, Centre Marc Bloch and Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, and Dr. Navdeep Mathur, IIM, Ahmedabad.

The sixth session (6 March 2009), organized by Laurent Gayer in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, Delhi University, focused on "The Politics of Categorization: a Reassessment" with presentations by Dr. François Buton (CNRS-CURAPP, Amiens), Prof. Neera Chandhoke (University of Delhi), Dr. Ashok Acharya (University of Delhi), and Dr. Prabhu Mohapatra (University of Delhi).

Contact: Dr. Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal
tawalama@ehess.fr
Dr. Laurent Gayer
laurent.gayer@gmail.com

A Workshop on the *Politics of India's Special Economic Zones* was held on 6 and 7 April at the Centre for Policy Research in Delhi. Participants from Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Delhi came together to discuss their on-going research in this comparative project covering 12 states. Using a common framework, the participants are examining a wide range of issues including: the policy process, with special attention to the responsiveness of state agencies to social movements and the role of the bureaucracy; the implementation of the SEZ policy on a project-wise basis, to take account of intra-state variations; the nature and composition of opposition movements and their links to political parties; the spatial impacts of SEZs and links to urbanization; the governance structure of SEZs, and their relationship to existing jurisdictions.

This project is coordinated by the CSH, in collaboration with the Centre for Policy Research, Delhi (P. Mukhopadhyay) and Hunter College, City University of New York (R. Jenkins), with support from the Ford Foundation, Delhi.

Contact: Loraine Kennedy
l.kennedy@csh-delhi.com

IFP

For more details on these events, please consult our website, at the following address:
<http://www.ifpindia.org/-Seminars-.html>

Lecture on *Contribution of a three-dimensional model of forest dynamics, in the understanding of the functioning of heterogeneous forest communities* at the IFP on 12 December 2008.

The study of long-term dynamics of a permanent forest plot at Uppangala, in the Western Ghats, is a core project of the IFP in ecology since 1990. Previous models, developed from monitoring of growth, mortality and recruitment of trees, pointed out the importance of competitive interactions between neighbours in emerging properties at the forest stand level. The present study focused on dynamics of coexistence of two closely related tree species, initiated in 2006. It aims at comparing species' growth strategies from individual development trajectories that result from the combination of intrinsic determinants related to individual or species characteristics, mediated by external factors. The main challenge here is to reconstruct complete development trajectories from field observations made on a short time-period compared to tree life span. This difficulty can be overcome using a spatially explicit individual-based three-dimensional simulator of forest dynamics.

Contact: Cécile Madelaine
cecile.madelaine@ifpindia.org

Lecture on *The minimality of Panini's Sivasutras* at the IFP on 9 January 2009. Panini's grammar of Sanskrit, acknowledged to be the culmination of ancient Indian grammar, starts with 14 sutras (Sivasutras) of which each one consists of a sequence of sounds ending in a marker consonant (anubandha) defining a linear order on the sounds. Panini uses sound-anubandha pairs (pratyaharas) to designate sound classes. Therefore the order of the Sivasutras must be such that a class of sounds needed to formulate a rule forms an interval ending immediately before an anubandha.

Since Panini invented and refined techniques to improve grammatical descriptions, for the longstanding debate on the Sivasutras it is commonly agreed that he aimed at minimizing their length. Based on a formal argument it is shown that there is no shorter solution than the Sivasutras to the problem of ordering the sounds of Sanskrit in a linear, by markers interrupted list with as few repeated sounds as possible representing a pratyahara. The argument is based on a strictly set-theoretical point of view.

Contact: Dr. Wiebke Petersen
petersew@uni-duesseldorf.de

Lecture on *Chandshi-r Chikitsa: A Nomadology of Subaltern Science* at the IFP on 13 January 2009.

Chandshi-r Chikitsa – a non-textual medical tradition practiced by a marginal group – was always much more vulnerable to the pressures of state-regulation, the medical-market and changing patterns of consumption. In

successfully negotiating with these pressures Chandshi had to maintain an extremely fluid identity. Its ideas about pathology, its practical methods, its repertoire of cures – everything became fluid and changeable. At different times or in different places Chandshi was completely different. How does one write a history of something which itself continuously defies a definition? The challenge for the historian of Chandshi then is to find a model capable of accommodating this rampant multiplicity within a single narrative.

Contact: Projit B Mukharji
projitmukharji@googlemail.com

Lecture on *Transmission of Local Ecological Knowledge in Coffee Agroforestry Systems in the Western Ghats* at the IFP on 16 January 2009. Article 8j from the Convention on Biological Diversity specifically acknowledges the role played by local ecological knowledge in the sustainable management of natural resources. This project aims to understand how individuals acquire ecological knowledge under a context of new public policies and how development and exclusion from the forest might affect its transfer to and thus its composition within the local communities.

The study area is located in Kodagu, in the Western Ghats, where the Jenu Kuruba community is traditionally associated with the forests and the collection of non-timber forest products, especially honey. As restrictions on harvesting resources in the forest increase, the Jenu Kuruba supplement subsistence on forest products with wage labour.

The lecture addressed issues like how individuals acquire traditional knowledge and how corresponding factors such as development, conservation management, or removal from the forest affect the depth and breadth of that knowledge.

Contact: Katie Demps
kedemps@ucdavis.edu

Lecture on *The Contribution of Natural Capital to Human Well-being. Case study among indigenous communities from Kodagu district (Karnataka), India*, at the IFP on 16 January 2009. Understanding how natural capital contributes to human well-being is a pivotal issue both for social development and for biological conservation. However, the scientific literature on the subject is scarce and often refers to human well-being as a single indicator more than a multidimensional concept.

The lecture attempted to evaluate the contribution of natural capital to human well-being among communities from Kodagu District (Karnataka, India) in the Western Ghats. It 1) assessed the relationship between access

to natural resources and the well-being of local people and 2) explored the contribution of natural capital to the various dimensions of human well-being. This would help to integrate the social and scientific policy agendas and contribute to theoretical and practical knowledge about the relationship between human well-being and natural capital.

Contact: Francisco Zorondo-Rodríguez
francisco.zorondo@gmail.com

International Seminar on *Policy Research Environment and Policy Research Institutes in South Asia* jointly organized by the IFP and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and held at the IFP on 24 & 25 January 2009.

The objective of this workshop, which brought together well-known institutions and participants, was to explore the place that policy research holds in South Asia and the different institutions that tackle this issue.

Contact: Katherine Hay
khay@idrc.org.in

National seminar on *Critical explanation and interpretation of Vivarana commentary on the Kumarasambhava of Kalidasa* organized by the IFP and held at the IFP from 29 to 30 January 2009. Prof. C.S. Radhakrishnan (Pondicherry University) discussed some of the critical issues appeared in the interpretative text of Narayanapandita, *Vivarana*, a late 16th century commentary on *Kumarasambhava* of Kalidasa. This included a discussion of important figures of speech used by the author, grammatical and semantic problems, the relation of the text with later literary theories, and explicating some Puranic references and their contextual place in the text and story of the *Kumarasambhava*.

Contact: Dr. Lakshminarasimham S.
slnarasimham@ifpindia.org

Lecture on *Afghan networks and medical tourism in Delhi* at the IFP on 2 February, 2009. This paper explored the unknown phenomenon of Afghan medical tourism in India, giving particular attention to the Afghan elite from Kabul and other main cities in Afghanistan, Afghan refugees living in Delhi for the past fifteen years, and Indian doctors and medical institutions of the capital city.

It examined: 1/ the "Afghan patients", their social background and the reason for which they become cross-border patients, and 2/ the role of the Afghan refugees who serve as intermediaries between the Afghan healthcare seekers and the Indian healthcare providers. In India, where refugees are not allowed to work, medical tourism gives them the opportunity to get a well-paid job. They are seen as perfect

guides as they are familiar with both cultures and they possess the needed administrative skills thanks to their refugee status. Based on ethnography of the phenomenon in Delhi, this study addressed trans-national dynamics and intercultural relations which emerge from this form of medical tourism.

Contact: Julie Baujard
julie.baujard@zazie.net

Lecture on *Ayurveda – Medical System or Wellness Commodity? Practice, Images, and Processes of 'Cultural Translation' in an Ayurvedic Health Resort in Kerala, South India*, at the IFP on 9 February 2009.

This paper addressed the transcultural production of Ayurvedic practice, knowledge and images in Ayurvedic spas as the result of processes of 'cultural' translation between guests, practitioners and the management. Guests of Ayurvedic Spas in India do not share the same perceptions of what Ayurveda is, and what its theoretical principles, its efficacy, or even its objectives are. Some of them seek Ayurvedic treatment for its therapeutic potential, and therefore look for medical recourse; others consider Ayurveda as a wellness treatment, with its range of relaxation and beauty-enhancing procedures. The paper explored research avenues to understand the historical, social and cultural reasons, among and between South Asian and European guests, which would explain differences in the way Ayurveda is perceived and expected to be. It also investigated how guests' expectations towards Ayurveda are met, if at all, by the practitioners and the management.

Contact: Christoph Cyranski
cyranski@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de

International workshop on *Knowledge Sharing on Debt Bondage in India* jointly organized by the International Labour Organisation and the IFP, and held in Sohna, Haryana on 19 & 20 February 2009. The objective of this workshop, which brought together academics, practitioners, trade unions and policy makers, was to share knowledge and to stimulate complementary action from and between different actors in order to determine the way forward in fighting debt bondage.

Contact: Dr. Isabelle Guérin
isabelle.guerin48@wanadoo.fr

Lecture on *Hierarchical Hidden Markov Structure for Dynamic Correlations: the Hierarchical RSDC Mode* at the IFP on 23 February 2009.

This paper presented a new multivariate GARCH model with time-varying conditional correlation

structure which is a generalization of the Regime Switching Dynamic Correlation (RSDC) of Pelletier (2006). This model, which we name Hierarchical RSDC, is building with the hierarchical generalization of the hidden Markov model introduced by Fine et al. (1998). This can be viewed graphically as a tree-structure with different types of states. The first are called production states and they can emit observations, as in the classical Markov-Switching approach. The second are called abstract states. They cannot emit observations but establish vertical and horizontal probabilities that define the dynamic of the hidden hierarchical structure. The main gain of this approach compared to the classical Markov-Switching model is to increase the granularity of the regimes.

Contact: Vélayoudom Marimoutou
ifpdir@ifpindia.org

Lecture on *Varmam, a South Indian healing/martial art between tradition and innovation* at the IFP on 10 March 2009.

Varmam or *varmakalai* is generally seen by practitioners and outsiders as a branch of the Siddha medical system of Tamil Nadu, while its origin remain uncertain. It is based on a theory of "vital spots" on the human or animal body, an injury to which can prove to be particularly dangerous, even leading to death. *Varmam* points are therefore the basis of medical and martial techniques. They are kept secret, being handed over to very few students. This lecture addressed the practitioners' perception of the body, presented technical terminology and relation to astrology. It showed the medical dimension of *Varmam* as an esoteric practice which finds itself confronted with medical registration, medical pluralism, new medical technologies, like CT- and X-ray scans, and changing modes of education. It also examined the social dimension of *Varmam* practices as it relates to the "power of secrecy", issues in apprenticeship and innovations in individual practices.

Contact: Roman Sieler
roman.sielier@web.de

Workshop on *Over-indebtedness and its effect on village economy of Pazhaverkadu region* jointly organized by the IFP and the Madras Social Service Society and held at the IFP on 23 March 2009.

This workshop sought to address the issue of over-indebtedness in 48 villages located in Tamil Nadu around Pulicat Lake. Among the topics that were discussed were the mechanisms of "taking out a loan in order to repay a loan", conflict between economic and

social priorities, "over-lending", overconfidence in the joint guarantee, and the question of employment and income to which indebtedness and over-indebtedness are directly correlated.

Contact: Dr. Marc Roesch
marc.roesch@cirad.fr

Lecture on *Fluid landscapes, fixed boundaries: British Expansion into Northern East Bengal in the 1820s* at the IFP on 24 March 2009.

The lecture explored the tense relationship between a fluid landscape and the fixed notions of boundaries, government control and politics held by the EIC and which they strove to implement into military and fiscal control in northern east Bengal in the early nineteenth century. The means and principles by which bureaucratic control was established formed the basis for a form of fiscal citizenship. In this specific ruler–subject relationship, the subject was acknowledged as a person with rights and was thereby in communication with government. Such control was intended for the former Nawab's territories which mainly consisted of plains and therefore landscapes that were aimed at becoming agrarian. When the neighbouring independent states and autonomous villages were brought under EIC rule, this was done by other means which in turn shaped different ruler–subject relations and eventually paved the way for the formation of dual politics under one government.

Contact: Dr. Gunnel Cederlöf
gunnel.cederlof@hist.uu.se

International Seminar on *Collection, Selection and Erudition: Reading practices and Textual culture in Classical Tamil* jointly organized by the IFP and the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai held at the IFP from 25 to 27 March 2009.

The main objectives of the 3-day Conference were to: i) analyze the sources and practices through which the classical Tamil corpus came to be collected and compiled during the first millennium of the Christian era and edited from the 19th century; ii) explore the avenues of manuscript tradition and textual culture in which the classical Tamil corpus was circulated and transmitted between the first millennium of the Christian era and the 19th century; iii) attempt to obtain a status report on the collections and libraries through which the classical Tamil corpus came to be "rediscovered" in the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century; and iv) explore the viability of applying the research methodology practised by, for example, Roger Chartier, Jean-Yves Mollier in their investigation of the History of the Book in Western Culture.

Contact: Kannan. M
kannan.m@ifindia.org

Lecture on *Identifying neutral processes from real world data* at the IFP on 31 March 2009.

It is well recognized that there are many ecological processes at play which structure species diversity in natural communities. However, since the introduction of chance events by Gleason (1926) there has been much debate on niche and stochastic processes in community ecology. Recently, under the framework of the Unified Neutral Theory of Biodiversity (Hubbell 2001) the role of stochastic events has been expanded. Hubbell (2001) essentially presented a sampling theory but under strict assumptions. Further work on neutral models and theory has resulted in complicated formulations or unrealistic parameter estimates whereby application to real world data has remained limited. The lecture tried to show how classical multivariate methods used in ecology are closely related to elements of neutral theory and can facilitate the application of neutral models to data.

Contact: Champak Beeravolu Reddy
champak.br@ifindia.org

WELCOME

...*At the CSH*

Cécile FANTON D'ANDON from Ecole Nationale de Statistique et Administration Economique (ENSAE), Paris joined the CSH as an Intern in February 2009 to work under the supervision of Dr. Basudeb Chaudhuri.

Pierre MEIGNAN, Institut d'études Politique, Toulouse, joined the CSH as Intern in February 2009 to work under the supervision of Dr. Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal.

Dr. Charlotte LEMANSKI, Lecturer, Department of Geography, University College London, was Visiting Fellow to CSH for 3 weeks in March 2009 to work with Dr. Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal. She is affiliated with the project 'Participation in urban governance in India and South Africa'.

Divya LEDUCQ, from the Geography Department, University of Sciences and Technologies of Lille, is in India to conduct fieldwork for her PhD thesis from 26 March to 25 May. She is affiliated with the project 'Political economy of state-level reforms', under the supervision of Dr. Loraine Kennedy.

Mainak MAZUMDAR, Post-doctoral Fellow in Economics, joined the CSH in April 2009.

Aditya KAWATRA from Ecole Polytechnique joined the CSH as Intern in the Palanpur project in April 2009.

Soline MINIERE from Ecole Polytechnique joined the CSH as Intern in the Palanpur project in April 2009.

Mikaela LE MEUR from Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Rennes joined the CSH in April 2009 as Intern in the research project 'Political and social embedding of water practices in slums – The case of Sanjay Colony in South Delhi' co-ordinated by Dr. Cyril Robin.

Frédéric LEMAIRE from Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Rennes joined the CSH in April 2009 as Intern in the research project 'Political and social embedding of water practices in slums – The case of Sanjay Colony in South Delhi' co-ordinated by Dr. Cyril Robin.

...*At the IFP*

Gina Vinoline YAGOU, student in "BTS - Assistant de Gestion PME-PMI", joined the IFP for a 6 month period, to work as a receptionist, under the supervision of Yvan Prikhodiko.

J. VARDARAJAN joined the **Cataloguing and Preservation of Manuscripts** project from 1 January to 31 May 2009, to work on different aspects of the cataloguing and preservation of manuscripts, under the supervision of Dr. T. Ganesan.

Kathryn DEMPS, Ph.D candidate from the University of California in Davis, joined the **Managing Biodiversity in Mountain Landscapes** project from 11 January to 1 December 2009, to work on the *Transmission of ecological knowledge in South India*, under the supervision of Dr. Claude Garcia.

Théo FLAVENOT, student with a certificate in general agronomy from AgroParisTech, France, joined the **Dynamics of Forest Diversity** project, as a trainee, from 12 January to 10 July 2009, to work on the *Estimation of organic biomass stored in the forests of the Western Ghats*, under the supervision of Dr. Raphaël Pellissier.

Pauline GIROD, Master 1 student in Geography from the University of Bordeaux III, France, joined the **Built-Up Areas in India (e-GEOPOLIS)** project from 27 January to 25 April 2009, as a trainee, to work on the *Process of decongestion and urban planning (Chennai & Maramalai Nagar)* under the supervision of Dr. Frédéric Borne.

Julien BORDAGI, Master 1 student in Geography from the University of Bordeaux III,

France, joined the **Built-Up Areas in India (e-GEOPOLIS)** project from 27 January to 25 April 2009, as a trainee, to work on *Comparative approach of urbanization between Kerala and Tamil Nadu* under the supervision of Dr. Frédéric Borne.

Krystelle BETAT, Master 1 student in Geography from the University of Bordeaux III, France, joined the **Societies and Medicines in South Asia** project from 27 January to 28 April 2009, as a trainee, to work on *Medical tourism and the role of ayurvedic medicine* under the supervision of Dr. Laurent Pordie.

Raphaël TIPAKA who has a Master Pro degree in conception and setup of projects, joined the Secretariat General from 28 January to 15 May 2009, to work on the reorganization of administrative archives, under the supervision of Yvan Prikhodiko.

Isabelle PELISSIER, who has a Post-graduate Degree in Management of Information Systems and Organizations, joined the Institute part time, from 9 March to 30 April 2009, to work on the reorganization of services planned by the Institute in 2009, under the supervision of the director, Velayoudom Marimoutou.

Quentin RENARD, bio-engineer from the University of Gembloux, Belgium, joined the IFP as an International Civil Volunteer (ICV) for one year, starting from 1 April 2009. He had previously joined the *Dynamics of Forest Diversity* project from 1 June to 30 September 2008, to study cases of forest fires in the Western Ghats

...*At the EFEO*

Dr. Zoe HEADLEY (CEIAS/EHESS), received an EFEO scholarship from December 2008 to February 2009 to pursue her research as part of a pilot project entitled *Rescuing Tamil Customary Law: Locating and Copying Endangered Records of the Nyaya Parkirra Panchayattu (1870-1940)*, a project that aims to locate unique and endangered written documents related to a traditional court of customary law in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Michel LEMEE, received a three-month EFEO scholarship to continue his research on *State, Society and the promotion of communal harmony in India*.

Samira BENAHMED (CEIAS/EHESS) has received a four-month scholarship from the EFEO to pursue her research on Algerian and Indian migrants and their descendants. She arrived at the Pondicherry Centre in March.

Dr. Marzena CZERNIAK-DROZDOWICZ (Jagellonian University of Cracow) visited the Pondicherry Centre in the month of February to participate in the daily sessions of the Shaiva reading group and continue her research on the Vaishnava Pancharatra tradition.

Marco FRANCESCHINI (University of Bologna) visited Pondicherry for four months from mid-January to study the *Padyacudamani* of Buddhaghosha, a poetic life of the Buddha, with Dr. H.N. Bhat (EFEO) and to continue his preparation of a study of Grantha script as used in manuscripts in recent centuries.

Dr. Eivind KAHRS and **Dr. Vincenzo VERGIANI**, both from the University of Cambridge, came to Pondicherry in March to read passages of Helaraja's Commentary on the *vakyapadiya* with Dr. S.L.P. Anjaneya Sarma (EFEO) and to read old Malayalam script with Dr. H.N. Bhat. Dr. Vincenzo Vergiani also studied Tamil with Dr. Thomas Lehmann while Dr. Eivind Kahrs took part in the sessions of the Saiva Reading Group conducted by Dr. Dominic Goodall.

Serena AUTIERA, a doctoral student from the "La Sapienza" University of Rome who is examining the relationships between South Arabia and South India during the early historic period, came to Pondicherry for a month to study inscriptions with Prof. G. Vijayavenugopal (EFEO) and to read Classical Tamil texts with Dr. Thomas Lehmann.

Dr. Claudia WEBER from the University of Muenster spent the month of March in Pondicherry, where she pursued her research on commentaries of the *Parasuramakalpasutra*, a manual of Shrividyā worship.

GOODBYE

...At the CSH

Diego ZAMUNER, Master 2 Student at Sciences Po, Paris and Intern at CSH, left the CSH in February 2009.

Sanjay Kumar PANDEY, Academic Consultant, CSH and Associate Professor, JNU, left the CSH in April 2009. He was awarded the Charles Wallace India Trust Visiting Fellowship 2009 to visit the University of Cambridge (21 April - 21 July 2009), which will help him complete his research project started at the CSH.

...At the IFP

Pascal DOUARD and **Guillaume CHAMPLONG**, both International Civil Volunteers who were involved in several projects of the *Laboratory of Applied*

Informatics and Geomatics, came to the end of their contracts on 31 January. A special get-together was organized at the IFP on 6 February for their departure.

Dr. Burton CLEETUS, Post Doctoral Fellow from the Jawaharlal Nehru University of New-Delhi, who had joined the *Societies and Medicines in South Asia* project on 1 December 2006, to work on his research project entitled *Institutionalisation of indigenous medicine in Kerala: problems and prospects*, left on 13 March 2009. He has been recruited as a Lecturer at the Department of History of the University of Calicut, India.

MILESTONES

IFP

"Palms Académiques" awarded to Pandit S. Sambandan

In recognition of his exemplary contribution to the development of research in Indology, notably at the IFP, Pandit S. Sambandan received the "Palms Académiques" award from His Excellency Mr. Jérôme Bonnafont, Ambassador of France in India, during a reception that was held on that occasion on 7 January 2009, at the French Consulate in Pondicherry.

Pandit S. Sambandan joined the IFP in 1969. Under the supervision of Pandit N.R. Bhatt, he contributed extensively to the collection and study of Saiva manuscripts on palm leaves preserved at the IFP and recently registered in the Memory of the World register of the UNESCO. He also, upon arrival, actively participated in the preparation of critical editions of the Saivagama-s, and he is currently in charge of the edition project of the *Suksmagama*.

PUBLICATIONS

CSH

Feeding India. The Spatial Parameters of Food Grain Policy

Frédéric Landy

Manohar-CSH, Delhi, 2009, 310 p., English, Rs. 775

ISBN 978-81-7304-796-1



With the support of numerous maps, this unique volume retells the spatial history of the Indian public food system: initially based on compulsory sales and imports, later graduating to agricultural support prices;

from a restricted number of only urban beneficiaries in the beginning, to its spread to rural areas; from an import-dependent State to a self-sufficient cereal producing State. A system that played its part in the success of the Green Revolution by guaranteeing outlets for farmers, which showed the way to an improvement in the calorie intake of the population, but seldom that of the nutritional situation and had significant pernicious effects in terms of its ecological consequences. A system that also contained obvious geopolitical dimensions which made the integration of the four corners of the Indian Union possible within the same structure.

The author argues that, if successive governments did not reduce the PDS' enormous spatial coverage, it was partly because of a concept of territorial integration and aggregation, developed in equal measure by Hindu nationalism and Nehruvian thought.

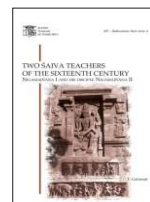
This book shall be of immense interest to scholars, students, decision makers and layman readers interested in the history, geography and political economy of food policy and food issues.

Keywords: food, agriculture, policy, spatial analysis

IFP

Two Saiva teachers of the sixteenth century. Nigamajana I and his disciple Nigamajana II.

T. Ganesan, IFP - Publications Hors série n° 9, 2009, xviii, 274 p., ISBN: 978-81-8470-169-2 Language: English. 600 Rs (22 Euro)



This book is a complete analytical study of all the *œuvres* of Nigamajana I and his nephew-cum-disciple Nigamajana II. This study aims at bringing to limelight the great contributions made by these two teachers in the

sixteenth century for the consolidation, elaboration and propagation of the *Saivasiddhanta* religious system and philosophical doctrines.

For the first time the contents of all the available texts of these two Saiva teachers in Sanskrit and Tamil, of which many are unpublished, are completely and critically analysed with a view to fully bring out the richness of these texts in their totality and their value in the propagation of *Saivasiddhanta* during one of the most crucial periods in Indian history.

Keywords: saivasiddhanta, ritual, compilation, agama

Sabdabodhamimamsa. An inquiry into Indian Theories of Verbal Cognition. Part IV Dhatvakhayarthavicaratmakah. Roots and Verbal Desinences: their Significance.

N.S. Ramanuja Tatacharya, *Collection Indologie n° 100.4, IFP/Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, 2008, 46, 433 p. ISBN: 978-81-8470-166-1*

Language: Sanskrit. (Distributed by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi) **250 Rs.**



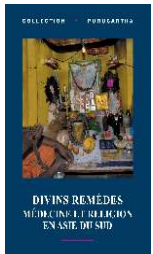
Following on from the three preceding volumes which successively dealt with the sentence and its meaning (volume I), nominal desinences and nominal stems (volumes II and III), the author, in this fourth volume examines the view-points of Logic (*Nyaya*), Grammar (*Vyakarana*), and Exegesis (*Purvamimamsa*) on roots and verbal desinences. He ends the volume with his own commentary, entitled *Tarkasamgrahasabdabodha*, on Annambhatta's *Tarkasamgraha*.

This volume completes the *Sabdabodhamimamsa*. (An Enquiry on Verbal Cognition), the work of Professor Ramanuja Tatacharya, an encyclopaedic work which examines, in 2623 pages, the different views expressed in more than 140 different ancient texts belonging to five sastra-s; to the three mentioned above are added *Vedanta* and Poetics (*Alamkarastra*).

Keywords: Indian philosophy, sastra-s, verbal cognition

Divins remèdes. Médecine et religion en Asie du Sud.

Edited by I. Zupanov and C. Guenzi. Paris : Editions de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, 2008, Collection Purusartha, 360 p. ISBN: 978-2-7132-2167-5
Language: French. **30 Euro**



This volume explores different forms of interaction between medicine and religion as seen both in scholarly traditions and local practices of South Asia. The objective of this interdisciplinary work is to focus on the intricate and sometimes conflicting

connections between medicines and cosmologies, healers and priests, remedies and rituals in different historical and regional contexts.

The studies composing the volume are based on a vast range of textual and ethnographic materials including medical and tantric treatises, missionary archives, dreams or ex-voto narratives, possession cults, astrological counselling, and healing rituals. By considering the religious and cosmological aspects of medical theories and practices, as well as the therapeutic aspects of devotional and ritual practices, the authors show how the different forms of interactions between medicine and religion reflect the complex systems of relationships between social groups in South Asia.

Keywords: medicine, religion, South Asia, scholarly traditions, local knowledge.

Figures contemporaines de la santé en Inde.

Edited by Patrice Cohen. Paris : L'Harmattan, 2009. 296 p. ISBN: 978-2-296-06991-6.
Language: French. **28,5 Euro**



This collective volume explores different levels individual, local, state, national of the Indian medical landscape. The first part examines the response given by India to the management of globalized health issues, such as HIV/AIDS. The book

follows by a series of enquiries on practitioners, specialized in bone-setting, "jaundice" and the barbers. It shows the relation between the body, health and the identity of the group, from Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh to the specific case of French Tamils in Pondicherry.

Keywords: folk healing, specialized practitioners, India, body and identity

India's unfree workforce: of bondage old and new.

Editor(s): Jan Breman, Isabelle Guerin and Aseem Prakash. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009, x, 399 p. ISBN: 9780195698466
Language: English. **895 Rs**



In the course of India's transformation to market capitalism, the use of unfree labour has increased dramatically. Hidden behind the glamour of accelerated growth in production, and visible signs of wealth, is the poverty and vulnerability of large segments of rural and urban workers.

This volume analyses the historical, social, economic, technical, and political fabric of bondage, while highlighting the continuity

between the past and the present. Based on an interdisciplinary perspective, the book is broadly divided into three sections—agrarian bondage in historical perspective; contemporary forms of bondage; and the urgent need for legal and global action. It argues that while the state gives absolute priority to the interests of formal and informal capital accumulation, it has abdicated its responsibility of providing basic security and protection to the people at the bottom of the economic and social hierarchy.

Keywords: labour, bondage, India

Every *Patrika* issue will now carry a list of chapters in books and articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals contributed by CSH, IFP and EFEO scholars in the period between two issues of *Patrika*. However, as a transition issue, the present issue is carrying the above-mentioned publications for the period September 2008 to May 2009.

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IFP

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INSTITUTES

CENTRE DE SCIENCES HUMAINES

2 Aurangzeb Road
New Delhi 110 011
Tel: (91) 11 3041 00 70
Fax: (011) 11 3041 00 79
info@csh-delhi.com
<http://www.csh-delhi.com>

+ (from France): CSH abs.
Valise Diplomatique pour
L'Ambassade de France en
Inde, 13 rue Louveau
92438 Chatillon Cedex

Director

Dr. Basudeb CHAUDHURI
basudeb.chaudhuri@csh-delhi.com

Administration

Jean-Luc GOURMELEN
secretary-general/financial officer
jean-luc.gourmelen@csh-delhi.com

Arpita MITRA
publications in-charge
publications@csh-delhi.com

Rémi DE BERCEGOL
scientific secretary
remi.debercegol@csh-delhi.com

Research Divisions

Dr. Loraine KENNEDY
head, economics division
kennedy@ehess.fr

Dr. Stéphanie TAWA LAMA-REWAL
head, political science division
tawalama@ehess.fr

ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE D'EXTRÊME ORIENT

Director: Prof. Franciscus VERELLEN
Secretary General: Valérie LIGER-BELAIR
(EFEQ, 22 avenue du Pdt. Wilson, F-75116)

The Pondicherry Centre

16 & 19 Dumas Street
Pondicherry 605 001
Tel: (91) 413 233 2504 / 233
4539 / 222 5689
Fax: (91) 413 233 0886 /
233 5538
administration@efeo-pondicherry.org
<http://www.efeo.fr>

The Pune Antenna

C/o Deccan College
Yerawada, Pune 6

Pondicherry Head

Dr. Dominic GOODALL
sanskrit, saivism
dominicgoodall@efeo-pondicherry.org

Administration

Prerana Sathi PATEL
executive assistant
preranapatel@efeo-pondicherry.org

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INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE PONDICHÉRY

11 Saint Louis Street
PB 33, Pondicherry 605001
Tel: (91) 413 2334168
Fax: (91) 413 2339534
<http://www.ifpindia.org>

Director

Prof. Velayoudom MARIMOUTOU
ifpdir@ifpindia.org

Administration

Yvan PRIKHODIKO
secretary general
yvan.prikhodiko@ifpindia.org
Anand PAKIAM
communications in-charge
ifpcom@ifpindia.org

Scientific Departments

Dr. Raphaël PELISSIER
head, dept of ecology
raphael.pelissier@ifpindia.org
Dr. Laurent PORDIE
head, dept of social sciences
laurent.pordie@ifpindia.org

Other services

Dr. Frédéric BORNE
head, Lab of Geomatics and Applied Informatics
borne@ifpindia.org

Anurupa NAIK
head, Centre for Documentary Resources
anurupa.n@ifpindia.org

For information on *Patrika* & Publications, please contact:

Arpita Mitra
publications@csh-delhi.com

Anand Pakiam
ifpcom@ifpindia.org