EDITORIAL

The French Institute of Pondicherry, aims to establish, for the coming years, a Man-Environment International Observatory (OHMI) in North East India (States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh), in order to study ecological and social processes in this area. This observatory will be set up under the framework proposed by the French Institute for Ecology and Environment (INEE) of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) as an OHMI (Observatoire Homme-Milieux International). The IFP is currently in the pre-configuration phase of this model, which must be validated by the INEE. A mission was scheduled in Guwahati in November 2010 with an objective to visit the sites (Kaziranga National Park), and another mission is planned in the State of Arunachal Pradesh in the first trimester of 2011. The objective of the mission was to define with our Indian partners, the programme and the objectives for this observatory. The French Institute of Pondicherry will host a research programme entitled VIKARA (Change, Resilience and Vulnerability in the Upper Brahmaputra Valley). This project will give scientific coherence to all the research activities that will be led in this region by our partner institutions on different projects. These projects, which are sub-components of a global programme, will contribute to the understanding of the ecological and social system in the Upper Brahmaputra Valley, and will explore the links between resilience and vulnerability of a localized ecological and social system, following a change in regime.

The OHMI is the first component to be identified of the VIKARA programme. It will study the impact of the development of infrastructures (road networks and hydraulic dams) on the Upper Brahmaputra Valley region (from the Kaziranga National Park to the Kahao pass in Arunachal Pradesh).

- The length of the transect offers a good flexibility, which will allow us to adapt on the long term, whatever the changes in the local political situation.
- The importance of the relationships with China in the original proposal, has been diminished, in order to reduce the risks of the project.
- The themes of the project include the impact of the opening of the road and the construction of dams on: i) The land cover and its usage; ii) The management of water resources; iii) The biodiversity and forest dynamics all along the transect; iv) The usage of natural resources by local communities and the passage to the market.

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FOCUS

➢ SUBURBIN: Subaltern Urbanisation in India

This research programme is funded by The French National Research Agency (ANR) and will be conducted from January 2011 till December 2013.

The SUBURBIN project questions both the scholarly representation and the measurement of the ongoing process of urban shift from rural to urban population. It seeks to counter a vision of urbanisation as reduced to a process of agglomeration and a competition between global cities. The project’s hypothesis is that there exists a diversity of trajectories of urbanisation, which it seeks to understand with a focus on India’s small towns. It aims at bringing these marginal small agglomerations to the forefront of the analysis of urbanisation dynamics, which are more complex than what is often presented: beyond the ongoing growth of megacities, a double process of slowing down of residential migration and an increase in the number of small towns coexist.

The principal research questions are: (i) What are the characteristics of these small towns or “grey spaces”, which are both recipients and motors of economic change? (ii) What are their contemporary economic dynamics? (iii) How does land get used and how is land ownership transferred? What are the growing non-agricultural uses of land? How are these changes spatially located? (iv) How is the distribution of public goods in emerging towns shaped and what are the main explanatory factors behind the existing distribution?

The project proposes to combine quantitative and qualitative analyses. The quantitative dimension will enrich a geo-localised and rich database comprised of cities with more than
10,000 inhabitants into which existing statistical data will be fed (e-Geopolis programme). The qualitative dimension is based on fieldwork observation, using detailed case-studies regarding access to and distribution of land, socio-spatial distribution of basic services, and economic activities.

SUBURBIN is a joint project of IFP and CSH, under the responsibility of Eric Denis and Marie-Hélène Zérah. It brings together a team of scholars from various disciplinary backgrounds (economics, geography, urban studies and, anthropology). It is based on collaboration with several Indian partner institutions: The Center for Policy Research (Delhi), the Center for the Study of Regional Development (JNU, Delhi), the School of Planning and Architecture (Delhi), Department of Geography (Burdwan University), the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (Mumbai), and the Urban Research & Policy Program (NIAS, Bangalore).

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Urban Chances – City growth and the sustainability challenge

CSH and IFP are collaborating with the CEIAS (Centre for South Asian Studies, CNRS-EHESS, Paris) and the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi in the European Commission-FP7 funded “Chance2Sustain” research project, comparing ten cities in four countries (Brazil, India, Peru and South Africa). The Amsterdam Institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam, is the overall scientific coordinator of the project. (Cf. http://www.chance2sustain.eu).

Chance2Sustain addresses how governments and citizens in cities with differing patterns of economic growth make use of participatory spatial knowledge management to direct urban governance towards more sustainable development. A focus on the politics of knowledge generation and sharing and the forms of knowledge that are used or ignored in urban policy-making provide an innovative prism through which to approach urban governance.

The analytical framework combines five thematic areas: large-scale economic and infrastructure projects; policies and politics to address urban inequality and informal settlements; environmental risk assessment and inclusive scenario building for reducing costs; participatory spatial knowledge models in metropolitan governance networks; fiscal decentralization and participatory budgeting for promoting inclusive development.

At CSH and IFP, research will focus on the articulation between governance patterns and large-scale projects, and on assessing social and spatial impacts of the latter on the basis of case-studies in Delhi, Chennai and Kalyan. Proceeding on the assumption that mega-projects are concrete manifestations of a strategy of international competition to attract investment, research will analyse the agenda-setting process, the main actors and the explicit or implicit vision driving urban development. It is further assumed that such mega-projects are shaping the future of large cities through changes in land use, dislocation of people, changes in employment and local economies, distribution of environmental costs, and as such they are influencing the resilience of cities, their future capacity to resist or recover from exogenous shocks. Assessing the impacts will include analysis of settlement dynamics related to project establishment (e.g., slum demolitions, displacement of local population) and outcomes (e.g., specialised infrastructure, production platforms, mixed-use residential territories), raising the crucial issue of how urban scales are articulated from the metropolis to the scale of the project, the neighbourhood or the building.

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RESEARCH

CSH

Delhi’s waste waterscapes: understanding everyday governance with Michel Foucault

In Delhi, while a lot of work has been done to understand especially poor people’s access to water, relatively little is known about the governance of waste water. This PhD addresses this research gap and investigates waste water related governance processes in a JJ cluster as well as an Unauthorised (unregularised) Colony (UAC). A distinction is made between governance at city-level and ‘everyday governance’ in the wards in order to identify overlaps and contradictions between the state’s approaches at these two scales. Governance practices are then analysed with the help of Foucault’s concept of governmentality. The broad questions address issues of differential visibility of waste water, and the knowledge that citizens and state representatives form about it; they further aim at identifying through which subjectivities and technologies of government waste water governance works in the
wards. By analysing these two case-studies, the project seeks to compare the different ways inhabitants of JJ clusters and UACs are governed, and the distinct ways in which they struggle for public infrastructure as well as service provision. Initial conclusions point towards the fact that Delhi’s waste waterscape can only be understood as a highly diversified and dynamic space in which governance does not work in the same way for all. This PhD is funded by the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation.

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The Role of the Apex Courts in Urban Governance: A Delhi-Johannesburg Comparison

There are indications that the apex courts (Supreme Court in India and the Constitutional Court in South Africa) have become increasingly involved in the decision-making and policy-making functions of their states at both the metropolitan and national scales. Much of their intervention has been around the implementation and content of socio-economic rights mentioned in the SA and Indian Constitutions. However, these institutions have also intervened around a range of other issues, which have brought the various branches of the state into direct conflict. This study aims to examine, through the use of the case-study methodology, exactly what role the courts have been playing in policy and decision-making, how their judgments and interventions have been received or resisted by other organs of the state and then provides some thoughts on the consequences of these interventions.

In the South African case-study, the San Jose, Olivia Road case of evictions and housing rights will be examined to see how the courts have been used as a channel and mechanism of the poor to access socio-economic rights and what this has meant for the governance systems and practices that exist within the city of Johannesburg, whilst in Delhi the “sealings” case of 2005/2006 will be examined. The sealings case offers a very different kind of insight into the manner in which various branches of the state protect and defend their territory and how interest-groups utilise the political institutions for their own ends. In order to construct these cases, archives, court documents and media records have been examined and analysed and a series of qualitative interviews with a range of stakeholders have been undertaken in order to construct a full narrative of the cases.

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The Indian diaspora in the Reunion island: history, trajectories and mobilisations between France and India

Encouraged by the Indian government’s recent recognition of the diaspora, and by the vigorous transnational mobilisation of their neighbours from Mauritius, the persons of Indian origin in the Réunion Island, a French territory, are reviving their ancestral identity and trying to trace their roots in the subcontinent. In doing so, these people, known as ‘Malbars’, question the French republican model of assimilation. The recent interest of the Indo-Reunionese for their heritage, and their efforts to re-connect with India, are particularly visible through their public re-claiming of ‘Indianness’ and their call for eligibility to the PIO (Person of Indian Origin) card, an official document given by the Indian authorities which limits Indian origins to the fourth generation of migrants.

In spite of their activism, they are not yet fully acknowledged by either New Delhi or Paris. This lack of recognition not only results in a growing frustration for the ‘FIO’ (Francophones of Indian Origin), but also constitutes a missed opportunity for India and France, who could draw on the diaspora to strengthen their influence in the Indian Ocean and tighten their bilateral relations.

This study of the trajectories and mobilisations of the Indo-Reunionese is two-fold. It first seeks to provide a historical account of the peculiar history of the Indians in La Réunion, from indentured labourers to Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awardees. It then explores the economic, political and geo-strategic potential of the Indo-Reunionese, for both France and India. This project aims at better understanding the role of the diaspora as an ethnic lobby, as business facilitators, as a strength in bilateral relations, and, more generally, as an instrument of ‘soft power’ for both the Indian and the French states.

Based on interviews and extensive field work in India and La Réunion, this study seeks to contribute to the disciplines of International Relations, History and Political Science, and to the understanding of the insular, diasporic societies of the Indian Ocean. It will also take part in the building of a research network on the Indian diaspora in the Indian Ocean.

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IFP

Western Ghats
Biodiversity Open Collaborative Information System

Over the last few decades there has been an explosion of studies to assess
the past and present status of species and ecosystems of the Western Ghats. But a primary impediment for any comprehensive biodiversity conservation effort is the awareness about the availability of multitude of datasets and access to them. Lack of a good social network among the stakeholders and the lack of a one-stop information access point also compounds the problem. Addressing these impediments, French Institute of Pondicherry, along with partner organisations, has initiated the Western Ghats Biodiversity Open Collaborative Information System or shortly Western Ghats Portal (WGP), which will be initially funded by CEPF (www.cepf.net). Strand Life Sciences on behalf of India Biodiversity Portal (www.indiabiodiversity.org) will lead the technology implementation of the portal.

WGP will be a collaborative information system that will aggregate and integrate an array of biodiversity knowledge (eg. datasets, analysis tools and published works) available with several entities in order to identify and prioritize conservation of biodiversity in the Western Ghats. The WGP portal intends to aggregate biodiversity information for public good, by leveraging Web 2.0 technology to aggregate data and publish it on a portal with the objective of “connect, share, disseminate”. All data on the portal will be freely and openly available to the public over the Internet and distributed under the Creative Commons (CC) licenses. WGP will evolve as a public knowledge base on Western Ghats biodiversity as it will be, a) a community initiative, b) a knowledge sharing and social networking platform and c) a portal of high standards interacting with other global biodiversity informatics initiatives.

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➢ Ecology project funded by the CEFIPRA

The Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA) has just granted funding over a three year period of a project entitled “Controlling for upscaling uncertainty in assessment of forest aboveground biomass in the Western Ghats of India”.

This project is jointly led by the UMR AMAP, Montpellier and the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, in collaboration with the Department of Ecology and the Laboratory of Applied Informatics and Geomatics of the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP). The objective of this project is to assess uncertainty in the evaluation of forest aboveground biomass at critical steps of the upscaling process from local forest data to regional extrapolations, in order to improve large-scale biomass and carbon stock assessments. It focuses on the humid forests of the Western Ghats of India, for which field data, satellite images and detailed vegetation maps are available. This project is an accompanying research of the National Carbon Project (NCP) leaded by the Indian Principal Collaborator. It is also part of a research programme of the French Principal Collaborator, which searches for a pertinent integration of the allometric theory of plants with 3D simulations of forest stand dynamics and canopy texture analysis in order to predict properties of forest stands at multiple spatial scales. The project has great potential applications within the framework of NCP and more generally within the UN-REDD programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. This project, led jointly by Dr. Pierre Couteron (UMR AMAP) and Dr. V. K. Dadhwal (IIRS), should begin by mid-2011.

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ANDROMAQUE
Anthropology of law in the African and Asian Muslim Worlds

This programme was selected by and is funded by The French National Research Agency (Call Suds II) 2011-2013. It is a joint project associating two UMIFRE: the IFP and the Centre Jacques Berques in Morocco. The ANDROMAQUE program wishes to conduct an anthropological study of the law in societies wholly or partly Muslim. It seeks first to question the relationship between law and Islam, while re-specifying the answer that was given to it. It starts from a series of observations on the established legal anthropology, but also on the lack of attention given to the question of legal practices. To make up for this deficit, it proposes to substitute the anthropology of Muslim law with a legal anthropology of the Muslim worlds (which includes situations where Islam is in the minority). It gives itself a precise object of study, at the core of the law: ownership, the contract which relates to it and its transmission; it starts from a privileged point of observation, that of the conflict resolution bodies. Finally, it is methodologically combined with an ethnography of practices, a linguistic anthropology and a praxiological study of the reference rules. The ANDROMAQUE Program pursues a double objective: i) On the one hand, it is a question of building and carrying out a praxiologic anthropology of property law and its transfer, with the identification of the orientation in context and action of the people involved in the activities which are related to it; ii) it wants to show that Islam is occasionally referred to and that the dynamics of the law are not subordinated to it overall. Researches are conducted.
by different teams in India, Indonesia, Morocco and Sudan.

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EVENTS

SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS / ROUND TABLES / LECTURES
(For more information, please consult our respective websites)

CSH

Four workshops were held in the CSH-CPR Urban Workshop Series from September till December 2010. This series is a collaborative effort between the Urban Dynamics division of the CSH and the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi, and the workshops are held every last Tuesday of each month.

The eighth workshop in the series was held on 28 September on Urban Poor's Claim to the City by Bhuvaneswari Raman. Conflicts to claim space and to shape its use have intensified since the nineties, particularly between the poor and the city. This presentation dealt with one such conflict, drawing on an ethnographic research on street traders in the city of Bangalore.

The ninth workshop was held on 26 October on Mundka in the Time of 'Development' and Change: The Pressure to Relocate 'Polluting' and 'Non-Conforming' Industries by Kaveri Gill. The paper documented the impact on, and the means of resistance of, the informal plastic recycling market located in Mundka to the Supreme Court industrial relocation order of 1999-2000.

The tenth workshop, entitled Working with the Market: a New Approach to reducing Slums in India, was presented by Patricia Clarke Annez on 30 November. Written jointly with Alain Bertaud, Bimal Patel and V.K. Phatak, the presentation examined the policy options for India as it seeks to improve living conditions of the poor on a large scale and reduce the population in slums.

The last workshop of the year 2010 was delivered on 28 December by Arundhati Maiti and Bhanu Joshi on Facts and Figures of Election in Urban India. This was a sharing of work in progress on electoral outcomes in urban India: state legislature and parliamentary elections in urban Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka; as also local body elections in Bangalore, Hyderabad, Vasai Virar and Navi Mumbai. It analysed the nature of electoral participation and the congruence and divergence of electoral outcomes.

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Lecture by Luke Sinwell, Post-doctoral fellow, University of Johannesburg and part of the India-South Africa (ISA) research programme team, on A Preliminary comparative analysis of the role of "outsiders" in community-based movements: Johannesburg and Kolkata at the CSH on 21 September 2010.

International conference on Shrines, Pilgrimages and Wanderers in Muslim South Asia, co-organised by Rémy Delage (CNRS-CEIAS/CSH) and Michel Boivin (CNRS-CEIAS) on 23-24 September 2010 at the EHESS in Paris. This symposium not only proposed to draw up an inventory of various forms of religious circulation in, around (especially Central Asia) and beyond South Asia (transnational religious networks); it also aimed at exploring other forms of devotional practices than those produced within Sufism and which are found, for instance, in various branches of Shi’ism and types of wandering ascetics. The event thus provided the opportunity to revisit leading theories in social sciences regarding the study of pilgrimage in particular, but also of several forms of religious circulation.

The conference was co-organised by the Centre for South Asian Studies in Paris (CEIAS) and the CSH in New Delhi, and mainly funded by the CNRS (INSHS department), but also by the CEIAS and the CSH.

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Panel discussion on Dissent and Debate at a time of Rapid Change: Experiences from Indian cities, organised by CSH on 29 October 2010, as part of the Delhi Urban Platform, a series of symposiums put together in collaboration with different academic and non-academic institutions on urbanism in Delhi. Participants in the panel included Véronique Dupont, Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal, Marie-Hélène Zéra, Solomon Benjamin and Diya Mehra. Participants were asked to consider the issues of dissent and debate in contemporary urban development from a number of different perspectives - including when and where dissent and debate have been visible in current urban transformation, what forms and discourses they have taken, whether dissent and debate constitute an effective politics and how governance strategies and policies have responded to efforts at dissenting and debating? Scholars who spoke on the panel had long-standing experience with different Indian cities, and could, therefore, articulate comparative experiences and analysis on the topic.

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International seminar The Globalization of Production Models and Innovation
in Emerging Economies: Comparative Research on Subnational Industrial Policies in India and China, held on 19-20 November 2010 at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) in New Delhi.

It was jointly organised by the CSH (coor. L. Kennedy), the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China, Hong Kong & Taipei (CEFC, coor. J.-F. Huchet) and the ISID (coor. Sunanda Sen), with generous support from the French Ministry of External Affairs. In addition to strengthening collaboration across French institutes in Asia, the seminar aimed at addressing the gap in comparative research in this understudied area and building up a research network. 16 papers were presented in this rich seminar, which included sessions on upgrading regional industries, local & global dimensions of firm strategies, articulations between FDI and subnational industrial policies and social dimensions of regional industrial performance.

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International seminar on The Politics of Ethnicity on the Margins of the State: Janjatis/adivasis in India and Nepal, co-organised by the CSH, New Delhi, the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, and Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme (FMSH), Paris on 7-9 December 2010 at the India International Centre, Delhi.

The main concern was to analyse the reshaping of tribal and ethnic group identities at different levels in the two countries in the contemporary period. How have the modern identities of the indigenous peoples of India and Nepal been generated between official and subaltern legacies? What impact have the overwhelming changes over the last decades had on the cultures, the societies and the resources of these communities? The question is of particular importance at present, since those regions of Central India which have large indigenous populations are faced with instability marked by the rise of the extreme left, a situation which has provoked political crisis in the governments of several states (Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh) and led to the introduction of President’s rule. Related questions have also marked the political developments of Nepal in the last few years. It seems crucial, therefore, to reconsider the issues facing the population of these regions, and in particular the indigenous peoples, whose survival is threatened by the present political crisis.

Nearly thirty scholars from different academic disciplines (anthropology, sociology, history and political science) from France, Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, India and Nepal participated in the workshop to make it stimulating and instructive.

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Lecture by Sumit Ganguly, Rabindranath Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilisations and Professor of Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington on Conflict Escalation and De-Escalation in Indo-Pakistani Relations, at the CSH on 17 December 2010.


The object of the panel discussion was to analyse India’s macro-economic prospects and problems, in particular, the arguments for and against full convertibility of the rupee, FDI flows, the constraints of creating labour-intensive and inclusive growth, and the problems in controlling the pace of globalisation through national and international regulatory agencies. This discussion was moderated by Basudeb Chaudhuri (CSH) and the panelists were Subir Gokarn (RBI, Deputy Governor), Partha Sen (Delhi School of Economics), Renu Kohli (Ex IMF and RBI), and Indira Rajaraman (ISI, Delhi).

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Lecture by Malvika Maheshwari, doctoral candidate at CERI-Sciences Po, Paris, on Iconoclasm and the Search for Exemplarity in India: Identities and Accounts in the Research Interview, at the CSH on 10 January 2011.

Lecture by Dr. Melanie Vandenhelsken, Institute for Social Anthropology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, on The construction of ethnicity in Sikkim today, or “tribalisation” at work, at the CSH on 18 January 2011.

IFP

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

Lecture by Dr. Cédric GAUCHEREL on The Indian endemism: A proposed program, at the IFP on 7 October 2010.

A Commemorative programme and Multidisciplinary Training Workshop POLTRAIN 2010 was organised by the IFP as part of the Golden jubilee celebrations of the Laboratory of Palynology, IFP and was held from 7-10 December 2010.
The training programme provided an introduction to the basics of aspects of Geology, Ecology, and History & Archeology as applied to Paleoenvironmental reconstructions of southern (peninsular) India and to hands-on training in quantitative Palynology to around 15 trainees from different parts of India.

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**International seminar on Tamil and Tamil Akam at the Crossroads** organised by the IFP and the University of California at Davis, USA, and held at the IFP on 17-18 December 2010.

The objective of the conference was to examine Tamil Nadu as an example of a geographical space where multiple cultures met, exchanged, and absorbed from outside, while Tamil maintained until recent times its unique ancient traditions. The fourteen scholars participating in the event brought a range of disciplinary perspectives to the idea of Tamil and Tamil Akam as a crossroads of cultures and a locus of international exchange in both the arts and sciences.

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**International IGBP PAGES PHAROS workshop: Land-cover reconstructions in the monsoon affected Tropical world - pollen modeling approach and data synthesis** organised by the IFP and the IGBP-PAGES, Bern Switzerland, and held at the Hotel Atithi, Pondicherry, on 27-29 January 2010.

The aims of this workshop were:

1) Presentation of the first synthesis of pollen-inferred Holocene land-cover reconstructions in Europe, the LANDCLIM project (Gaillard et al., 2010).

2) Presentation of ongoing efforts to produce pollen-inferred Holocene land-cover reconstructions in other parts of the world, tropical Africa in particular.

3) Initiating land-cover reconstructions in the “tropical” areas using the methods widespread in Europe through the POLLANDCAL and LANDCLIM networks (e.g. Gaillard et al. 2008, 2010).

4) Initiating a synthesis of relevant historical and archeological data available in most of the “tropical” areas with the aim to get additional information on past anthropogenic land-cover.

5) Position the above in the context of studies of past regional to global land cover-climate feedbacks, which is an essential part in the development of climate models (e.g. Kaplan et al., 2009; Gaillard et al., 2010).

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**International symposium on India and Europe: from Barlaam to Brecht** organised by the Centre d’Etudes Médiévales, Université Jules Verne, Amiens, France and the IFP, and held at the IFP on 27 January 2010.

This Symposium was a follow-up to an international Conference on “Western looks upon India” (Amiens, 2007) dealing with the image of India built since the birth of Europe in the Middle-Ages, and with its expression by musicians, writers, and other creators. The aim of the Symposium was to go deeper on the creative power of those phenomena, engaging in a multilevel debate on a few sample studies. Papers first dealt with European Middle-Ages, when India radiated through classical sources linked with Alexander (B. DAGENS, I. WEILL) and more recent inputs: “Barlaam and Josaphat” stories (D. BUSCHINGER) or Marco Polo’s narrative (M. DE VISSER-VAN TERWISGA). Then Salman Rushdie leads to Renaissance and Medicis’ or Moghuls’ courts (J. KÜHNEL) while Brecht’s “Caucasian Chalk Circle” appears as an invaluable transmitter of Indian theatrical technique (R. ULLRICH).

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**EFEO**

**Workshop on The “Dark Period” (3rd to 6th centuries): a transition between “Ancient” to “Medieval” epochs in South India?** held on 20 December 2010.

Defined as “a long historical night” or “the dark period” by Nilakantha Sastri in his History of South India, the period which extends from the 3rd century A.D. to the 6th century A.D. in South India offers indeed little epigraphical or archaeological evidence. And there is little in the way of literature that is firmly and unanimously dated to that period. The reasons for this scarcity of data may be multiple. Nilakantha Sastri, followed by numerous historians, impute this absence of data to the Kalabhra interregnum. The Kalabhras are referred to in Pāṇḍya, Pallava and Cālukya copper-plate inscriptions, which allude to their subjugation. But of these “evil rulers”, who are referred to in Pāṇḍya, Pallava and Kalabhras interregnum. The Kaḷabhras may be multiple. Nilakantha Sastri, followed by numerous historians, impute this absence of data to the Kalabhra interregnum. The Kalabhras are referred to in Pāṇḍya, Pallava and Cālukya copper-plate inscriptions, which allude to their subjugation. But of these “evil rulers”, who are referred to in Pāṇḍya, Pallava and Kalabhras interregnum. The Kalabhras may be multiple. Nilakantha Sastri, followed by numerous historians, impute this absence of data to the Kalabhra interregnum. The Kalabhras are referred to in Pāṇḍya, Pallava and Cālukya copper-plate inscriptions, which allude to their subjugation. But of these “evil rulers”, who are referred to in Pāṇḍya, Pallava and Kalabhras interregnum. The Kalabhras may be multiple.

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three major southern dynasties of the 7th century might not be a fabrication for the purposes of self-legitimation, as the historian K. Veluthat has suggested (“Into the ‘Medieval’ - and out of it”, pp. 37–38). The latter questions the existence of these Kalabhras, and justifies the absence of data which lead many historians to call this period “mysterious” by the fact that it is a transitional process between a “period of chieftdom-level organisations” and a “state society”. Although scarce, data from this period are available. Historians, epigraphists, archaeologists and philologists were invited to the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO to present evidence of prolific activity during this period.

The following communications were presented: “The Dark Period: Myth or Reality?” (Valérie Gillet, EFEO); “What can the Raghuvaṃśa tell us about South India” (Dominic Goodall, EFEO); “Is the Kalabhras’ Epoch A Dark Age” (Dr. D. Dayalan, Superintendent Archaeologist of the Temple Survey Project, ASI Chennai); “Deconstructing the Dark Age of Tamil Nadu” (Dr. V. Selvakumar, Department of Epigraphy and Archaeology, Tamil University, Thanjavur); “Locating Literature in Historical Contexts: Setting a date for Manikkavācakar” (Leah Comeau, Doctoral Student, Pennsylvania); “Towards a history of Tamil historiography: looking for the ‘Kalabhras’” (Jean-Luc Chevillard, CNRS/EFEO). Dr. O.P. Mishra (Department of Archaeology, Museums and Archives in Bhopal, MP) also presented the current state of archaeological research in Madhya Pradesh. The day was concluded with a round-table discussion chaired by Dr. G. Vijayavenugopal (EFEO).

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Lecture by Fanny Dutilleux on Sculptures of Himachal Pradesh at the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO on 10 December 2010.

The administrative state of Himachal Pradesh covers the vast area known as the Western Himalayas. This mountainous terrain was, as far as we know, divided into many chiefly states and kingdoms that ruled over the valleys and fought to control the passes. The numerous temples of this area can be divided into two principal categories, the “classical” stone temples and the so-called “folk” wooden temples, each of them having their own type of sculptures. But to these should be added temples with metal images and idols. The study of this abundant corpus reveals the influences of the neighbouring regions of Kashmir, Tibet, Gandhara and the Gangetic plain. The first sculptures to appear in the Chamba valley, in the western part of Himachal, display a marked resemblance to Gupta and Kashmirian ones, but also possess unique stylistic and iconographic features that would, in turn, influence the following sculptors of other valleys of the region. They reflect a good knowledge of the Sanskritic cosmos of the Gangetic valley and the probable desire of the various persons engaged with the production or the consecration of images to conform to the canons of this cosmos. Other sculptures discovered in the rest of Himachal from the seventh and eighth centuries somewhat confirm this theory. In the numerous temples constructed in the region during the following centuries (9th - 11th), a period which also sees the excavation of the big monolithic complex of Masur, we note a return to local particularisms in many cases. The third part of this study focuses on the so-called village temples or folk sculptures. The strong and unifying political powers that had probably permitted the efflorescence of arts during the previous centuries seem to crumble and cause each valley to turn inwards.

In this lecture the three above-mentioned phases were presented, as well as the various problems that have arisen while studying the corpus.

Contact:
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…at the CSH

Annick RAVET, Finance Officer, joined on 22 September 2010.

Anouck CARSIGNOL, Graduate Institute of Geneva joined as Visiting Researcher from 29 October 2010 till 28 January 2011 (see RESEARCH).

Berenice BON, Université de Nanterre, joined as affiliated PhD student on 29 November 2010 (see FOCUS).

Margot RUBIN, PhD student from University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, joined the ISA project from 2 December 2010 to 18 March 2011 (see RESEARCH).

Nathalie PONS, ENSAE, joined as intern from 7 January 2011 till 15 August 2011.

Folashadé A. SOULE-KOHNDOU, PhD student from CERI Sciences Po, joined as visiting research student in January 2011.

…at the IFP

Catherine DEROCK joined the Institute from 19 October 2010 to 18 March 2011, to work as a temporary replacement Accounts Manager,
under the supervision of the Secretary General, Yvan Prikhodiko.

Cédric VEGA took up his post at the IFP on 27 October 2010, for a two-year period, as the new Head of the Laboratory of Applied Informatics and Geomatics (LIAG). Cédric Vega holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences from the University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada. He was previously working as a researcher at the CEMAGREF in France, in the TETIS (“Territories, Environment, Remote sensing and Spatial information”) Mixed Research Unit. His area of specialisation is in remote sensing of forest ecosystems, particularly using lidar, photogrammetry and very high resolution optical imagery. He is particularly focusing on developing methods for both monitoring forest structure and dynamics, and estimating forest biophysical parameters such as biomass.

...at the EFEO

Csaba DEZSŐ, Sanskrit lecturer at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, spent January in the Centre working on completing a collaborative project with Dominic Goodall, namely a new critical edition and first English translation of an eighth-century Sanskrit novel in verse: ‘The Bawd’s Counsel’, the Kuttianimata of Dāmodaragupta.

Csaba KISS, post-doctoral researcher in the project “Early Tantra: Discovering the Interrelationships and Common Ritual Syntax of the Śaiva, Buddhist, Vaiṣṇava and Saura traditions”, passed a month at the Centre in continuation of his research on the Brahmayāmalatantra. Dominic Goodall and Harunaga Isaacson co-direct this Franco-German project, which is co-financed by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. http://www.tantric-studies.org/projects/early-tantra/

Harunaga ISAACSON, Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Hamburg, visited the EFEO in December 2010 and January 2011 to work on our project “Early Tantra: Discovering the Interrelationships and Common Ritual Syntax of the Śaiva, Buddhist, Vaiṣṇava and Saura tradition”. Dominic Goodall and Harunaga Isaacson co-direct this Franco-German project, which is co-financed by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. http://www.tantric-studies.org/projects/early-tantra/

Alex WATSON returned to the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO to continue work with Dominic Goodall and S. L. P. Anjaneya Sarma on their joint project on rival notions of salvation as presented in a tenth-century Sanskrit treatise by the Kashmirian theologian Rāmakanṭha, the Paramokṣanirāsakā rikvṛtti (“Commentary on the verses rejecting others' views of liberation”).

Leah E. COMEAU, a US Fulbright researcher will be affiliated to the Pondicherry Centre of the Ecole française d’Extrême-Orient for several months to pursue research work on the theme “Between Love and God: Revising Social Histories and Literary Landscapes in Medieval South India”. She will be conducting her research work under Dr. G. Vijayavenugopal.

Elaine FISHER, doctoral student from the University of Columbia, has received a Fulbright research grant to come to Pondicherry and be affiliated to the Pondicherry Centre of the Ecole française d’Extrême-Orient for several months to work on her research project “Beyond the Agraharam: Sanskrit Public Intellectuals in Early Modern South India”.

Manjunath BHAT, 3rd-year doctoral student of Mimāṃsā (Vedic exegesis) at the Samskṛta Vidyāpīṭha, Tirupati, passed the month of December in the Centre, where he transcribed part of the unpublished twelfth-century commentary of Aghoraśiva on the Sarvajñānottara-tantra, as part of the Centre’s programme of work on Śaiva intellectual history.

GOODBYE

...at the CSH

Dalal BENBABAALI, affiliated PhD student from Université de Paris Ouest-Nanterre-La Défense, left on 15 November 2010.

Berenece GIRARD, intern from Sciences Po-Rennes, left on 25 October 2010.

...at the IFP

MUTHUKUMAR V., who had been working as Manuscript Conservator at the IFP since February 2007, left on 15 October 2010.

Pierre PLOTON, Agricultural engineer from the Ecole Supérieure d’Agriculture d’Angers, France, who had joined the Dynamics of Forest Diversity project on 1 October 2010, as a trainee, to work on Textural analysis of very high resolution images, under the supervision of Dr. Cédric GAUCHEREL left on 19 November 2010.

Philippe CHARLOT, PhD candidate from the GREQAM and Aix-Marseille University, France, who had joined the Social Sciences Department on 6 November 2010, to work on Hierarchical Models, Risk and Dynamic Correlations in the framework of the “International Project of Scientific Cooperation” (PICS) and under the supervision of Prof. Velayoudom MARIMOUTOU, left on 20 November 2010.

JEYAKUMAR S., a Masters student in Botany from the VHNN College, who had joined the Institute on 15
November 2010, as a trainee, to work in the framework of the Pl@ntnet and Dynamics of Forest Diversity projects, on *Tree diversity of tropical evergreen forests* under the supervision of Dr. N. AYAPPAN, left on 3 December 2010.

Antoni RAJ A., who has a B.A Degree in Economics and who had joined the Google e-Geopolis n° 238 project on 1 July 2010, to enter historical data on tax qualification collected in New Delhi, under the supervision of Dr. Eric DENIS, left on 31 December 2010.

**RANIKRISHNA L.**, associated to the Centre for Earth Sciences Studies, Kerala, India, who had joined the Biological Archives of Climatic Changes and Vegetation project on 21 October 2010, as a trainee, to work on *Tropical Freshwater Myristica Swamps of Kerala and its evolutionary significance through Pollen analyses* under the supervision of Dr. K. ANUPAMA, left on 31 December 2010.

Anilkumar ACHARYA, who received a doctorate in Sanskrit from the Pondicherry University in 2010, and who had been working as a Cataloguing Assistant in the project of Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts at the IFP since mid-2006 under the supervision of Dr. T. Ganesan, left on 31 December 2010.

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**MILESTONES**

**IFP**

- **Digitisation of the IFP’s palm-leaf manuscripts**

One of the richest collections of Indian palm-leaf manuscripts numbering 8400 bundles is preserved in the French Institute of Pondicherry. This collection, a major part of which comprises the Saiva Agamic texts, has been deemed a *UNESCO “Memory of the World”* Collection in the year 2005. This entire collection has been taken up for digitisation by the Chennai-based San Marga Trust managed by the Himalayan Academy, Kauai’s Hindu Monastery, Hawaii, USA, in December, 2008. This enormous task has been completed in December, 2010. It is planned that along with the descriptive catalogue of these manuscripts, which project is under way, the digital images of all the manuscripts will be made accessible through the web interface that will allow for easy searching and viewing of the collection.

Once the project is achieved, it will definitely be the first such comprehensive database along with the images of a manuscript collection in India.

Contact: Dr. T. Ganesan
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**Doctoral Thesis of Mr. Champak Beeravolu Reddy**

Mr. Champak Beeravolu Reddy successfully defended on 9 December 2010, at the University of Montpellier 2, France, his doctoral thesis titled *Neutral community ecology: Inferring model parameters from species composition data with reference to tropical forests*. This thesis was funded from 2007 to 2009 by the doctoral scholarship of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France, on a principle of alternation between the IFP and the UMR AMAP in Montpellier, France.


**The IFP participates in the World Sanskrit Book Fair**

The French Institute of Pondicherry participated in the World Sanskrit Book Fair organised in Bangalore from 7 to 10 January 2011. The publications of the Indology Department of the IFP were exhibited and displayed at the stall. Catalogues were distributed and the IFP’s website was widely publicised. The fair was attended in very large numbers among whom were many Sanskrit researchers, academics and students. During this event, the productions of the Institute had a great success (healthy sales) with all the public.

**EFEO**

Jean-Luc Chevillard, who currently heads the Tamil section of the EFEO’s Pondicherry Centre, has been nominated as one of the 14 members of the General Council of the “Ulakat Tamil Cemmoḻit Tolkāppiyar Pēravai” (Tholkappiyar World Classical Tamil Sangam) to represent the EFEO (pireñcu āciyaviyal āyvup paḷḷi) by the Government of Tamil Nadu. See: Government Order N° 415 dated 21.10.2010 (http://www.tn.gov.in/tamiltngov/gosdb/gos/tamil_t_415_2010.pdf). The Council comprises four non-native Tamil speakers in all, the three others being from the USA, Germany and Finland.

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**PUBLICATIONS**

**CSH/IFP**

*New USR 3330 “Savoirs et Mondes Indiens” Working Paper Series*

*Hierarchical Hidden Markov Structure for Dynamic Correlations: The Hierarchical RSDC Models*

This paper presents a new multivariate GARCH model with time-varying conditional correlation structure, which is a special case of the Regime Switching Dynamic Correlation (RSDC) of D. Pelletier (2006). This model, have named hierarchical RSDC (HRSDC), has been built with the hierarchical generalization of the hidden Markov model introduced by S. Fine et. al. (1998). This can be viewed graphically as a tree-structure with different types of states. The former are called production states, and they can emit observations, as in the class of Markov-Switching approach. The later are called “abstract” states. They can’t emit observations but establish vertical and horizontal probabilities that define the dynamic of the hidden hierarchical structure. The main advantage of this approach, comparable to the classical Markov-Switching model is that it improves the granularity of the regimes. Our model is also comparable to the new Double Smooth Transition Conditional Correlation GARCH model (DSTCC), a STAR approach for dynamic correlations proposed by A. Silvennoinen & T. Teräsvirta (2009). The reason is that, under certain assumptions, the DSTCC and our model represent two classical competing approaches to modeling regime switching. We performed, Monte-Carlo simulations, and we applied the model to two empirical applications in studying the conditional correlations of selected stock returns. Results show that the HRSDC provides a good measure of the correlations, and possesses an interesting explanatory power.

URL: http://www.ifpindia.org/ecrire/upload/working_papers/wp1_hrdc_aoas.pdf

Toward a Better Appraisal of Urbanization in India: A fresh look at the landscape of morphological agglomerates


Language: English

Up until now, studies of urbanisation in India have been based only on official urban figures as provided by the Census Surveys. This approach has inevitably introduced several avoidable biases into the picture, distortions further compounded by numerous regional inter-Census adjustments.

A much sounder option is now available in the Geopolis approach [www.geopolis.eu], which follows the United Nations system of classifying as urban all physical agglomerates, no matter where, with at least 10,000 inhabitants. Looked at from this standpoint, the Indian scenario exhibits all signs that, far from a major demographic polarisation led by mega-cities (as is commonly believed), what the country has been experiencing is a much-diffused process of urbanisation. While 3,279 units were officially categorised as urban, the Geopolis criterion has identified 6,467 units—about twice as many—with at least 10,000 inhabitants. Again, in the matter of the annual rate of urbanisation, the Geopolis yardstick places the figure at 37% for 2001, 10 percentage points above the official estimate. In absolute terms, that difference accounts for 100 million inhabitants.

Apart from this fact, brought to light by both physical identification and gradation of the census units of all localities, and a study of the morphological profiles of individual agglomerates, a major finding relates to the greater spread of the country’s metro and secondary cities than had been believed until now. Yet another revelation thrown up by this study is that statistical and political considerations have obscured the emergence of small agglomerations of between 10,000 and 20,000 inhabitants. This omission can only be seen as a gap in the national policy on planning and urban development. In other words, the country seems to be firmly headed toward an extended process of metropolisation alongside diffused combinations of localised socio-economic opportunities, clusters, cottage industries, and market towns partially interlinked by developmental corridors.

It appears that, on the very wide and diverse Indian subcontinent, there have come into existence many sub-regional settings, which converge, overlap, and diverge, far indeed from a dual model of modern versus traditional, urban versus rural, metro city versus small town. This study of the distribution of today’s agglomerations and those emerging challenges the pertinence of the urban/rural divide as perceived through official eyes.

URL: http://www.ifpindia.org/ecrire/upload/working_papers/wp2_urbanization_india.pdf

CSH

China and India in Central Asia: A New Great Game?


Language: English $85
Chinese and Indian growing interests in Central Asia disrupt the traditional Russian-U.S. “Great Game” at the heart of the old continent. Though for the moment India is unable to equally compete against the Chinese presence in post-Soviet Central Asia, New Delhi is well-established in Afghanistan and has begun to cast its eyes toward the north to the shores of the Caspian Sea. In the years to come, both Asian powers are looking to redeploy their rivalry on the Central Asian and Afghan theaters on a geopolitical, but also political and economic level.

This book is the outcome of an international seminar co-organised by the CSH, the IFEAC-Tashkent and the CEFC-Hong Kong in 2009.

Sources of Heterogeneity in the Efficiency of Indian Pharmaceutical Firms


Language: English
ISSN: 0972-3579

Using the non-parametric approach of Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) this paper examines the input and output efficiencies of the Indian pharmaceutical firms for the period 1991 to 2005. The analysis establishes that although the output efficiency level of firms reveals a declining trend, firms have been able to make efficient use of labour and raw material inputs. An analysis carried out to identify the determinants of output efficiency reveals that firms can attain higher efficiency by integrating with down-stream raw-material industry. We also find that increased spending in R&D related outlay is a possible strategic option for firms to gain higher efficiency but it is applicable only to large-sized firms.

Keywords: Pharmaceutical, Efficiency, Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), Non-Radial
JEL Classification: C14, C61, D21 L6

The French Nuclear Energy Experience: Lessons for India


Language: English
ISSN: 0972-3579

In September 2008, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) granted a waiver to India for allowing nuclear commerce with the country without its having to accept full-scope safeguards on its nuclear programme. In October 2008, President Obama signed the 123 agreement. A few months later, India and the IAEA concluded the India Specific Safeguards Agreement (ISSA). With the conclusion of these three steps, India became an equal opportunity partner in international nuclear commerce after suffering from a long period of technology denial regimes.

Over the last two years, since the opening up of the opportunity, India has reached out to many countries for nuclear fuel and reactors. Amongst these, France stands out for several reasons. For one, France is today a nation that is generating a large share of its electricity from nuclear reactors, having embarked on an ambitious nuclear power programme after the oil crisis in the early 1970s in order to substantially reduce its dependence on imported energy sources. Nearly 80 per cent of French electricity needs are presently being met from nuclear power plants. Secondly, France is an active exporter of all nuclear activities and materials and has a lot to offer to an India that strives to put its nuclear energy generation on the fast track. Thirdly, India has a long-standing and largely cordial nuclear relationship with France.

The French tryst with nuclear energy holds several relevant lessons for India. The trigger for their nuclear programme, the manner in which it was pursued, the policy initiatives that made the rapid establishment possible, the kind of a role that the government played in the process, the nature of public-private relationship etc. are some of the questions that are of great relevance to India. This study seeks to derive lessons from the French nuclear energy experience that can be used to guide the Indian programme as it steps on the pedal to fast track nuclear expansion.

Keywords: Nuclear energy programme, India, France, nuclear cooperation, PHWR, FBR, nuclear waste management

Voluntary Contribution in the Field: An Experiment in the Indian Himalayas

The public goods problem (Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons, 1968), either viewed as a problem of extraction and optimal use of a resource, or that of shared contributions to the cost of a resource, has had a long history in the social sciences. Our experimental design, using methods in experimental economics, uses a standard Voluntary Contributions Mechanism (VCM) game with a moderately large group of ten and face-to-face communication between the participants. The subjects, who are villagers in the Gori-Ganga Basin of the Central Himalayas, are not re-matched every period. Our results are somewhat different from laboratory experiments using a similar design such as Isaac and Walker (1988a, 1988b). A noteworthy general observation is that even with a relatively low Marginal Per Capita Return (MPCR = 0.2) and a large group we find a steady contribution rate of around 55 per cent which diminishes slightly at the end of the session to around 50 per cent. We also delve into the demographic characteristics of our subject pool and find that individual contribution to the common pool is determined by gender, age, caste, literacy and the history of cooperation in the experiment. However, face-to-face communication is not seen to increase average individual contribution to the common pool.

Keywords: Voluntary contributions mechanism, field experiments, gender, caste, minority

JEL: C93; C72, H41; Q23


Nouveau Voyage aux Indes Orientales (1786-1813)


Language: French. 750 Rs (32 €)

In this New Journey to East India, begun in 1786 and completed in 1813, Sonnerat sets out to furnish his readers with the information that he has gleaned through years of travel and research in that country and at the same time to gather together contemporary European knowledge about India. A stimulator of ideas, he makes a contribution of his own to knowledge about natural history, and opens the way for the study of physical geography (morphology, climatology, soil survey, hydrography) and human geography. In doing so, he describes the relationship of Indian people with their surroundings by studying the agricultural, industrial and commercial resources of the areas they inhabit and the benefits that they draw from them.

The manuscript of this text, which has been untraceable since 1816, was found recently at the Mitchell Library in Sydney, Australia.

Keywords: India, travels, natural history, geography

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Social Sciences


C HAPTERS IN BOOKS

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ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

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Ecology

RAMESH B. R., SWAMINATH M. H., PATIL S. V., DASAPPA, PÉLISSIER R., VENUGOPAL P. D., ARAVAJY S., ÉLOUARD C., RAMALINGAM S., ‘Forest stand structure and composition in 96 sites along environmental gradients in the central Western Ghats of India’, Ecology,
Social Sciences


EFEO


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