



— EFEO —
École française d'Extrême-Orient



Institut Français de Pondichéry

BREAKDOWNS AND RUPTURES IN TEMPLE LIFE

International Workshop

7, 8, 9 December, 2016
In Pondicherry

Venue

At the EFEO Centre of Pondicherry
Library Hall,
19 Dumas Street, Pondicherry, 605 001

Organised by

Anne Casile (IRD, currently based at IFP) & Valérie Gillet (EFE)



French National Research Institute — Sustainable Development



RESEARCH UNIVERSITY PARIS



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Anchored in various contexts of the built and natural environment, temples play a crucial historical role in the making of cultural landscapes in the South and South-East Asian worlds of pre-modern times. The study of temple-life, along with its breakdowns and ruptures, is therefore a way to enhance our understanding of past societies, dynamics and changes.

Breakdowns and ruptures, whether structural, physical, ideological, doctrinal, religious, socioeconomic, or political, may have a significant – potentially transformative – impact, not only on the functioning of religious places, but also on various spheres of activity around them. Man-induced or haphazard, subject to natural forces (including climate and environmental disturbances, such as earthquake, floods), the origins, extent and scope of breakdowns and ruptures can be multiple. Some have left directly visible traces; some are marked in memory, inscribed in stone, or recorded in texts and other types of archives; others are invisible, but perceptible through their aftermath only, and are to be theoretically apprehended.

The facets and possibilities of analysis of breakdowns and ruptures in temple life are numerous. In this workshop, we intend to gather scholars who have a story to tell about such events, ranging from slight divergences to thunderous fractures, in the 'biographies' of religious places (whether Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Islamic or Jain).

Each presentation will address a case-study or particular approaches in the analysis of breakdowns and ruptures, exploring their traces, dissecting their possible causes and potential effects. A localized breakdown may not say much in itself, but when added to others, situated in a larger context full of similar (or meaningfully dissimilar) instances, it may be seen in another light. Through diverse examples situated in various regional, historical and religious contexts, we hope to examine how breakdowns and ruptures have helped shape the religious landscape; and to provide some material for reflection on different temporalities of events in historical time.

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TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Wednesday 7th December 2016

9-9.30 am	<i>Welcome address and introduction to the workshop</i> Anne Casile (IRD/IFP) & Valérie Gillet (EFEO)
9.30-10.15 am	<i>Landscapes of faith and power: The lives of temples in Campa, Vietnam</i> Parul Pandya Dhar (University of Delhi)
10.15-11 am	<i>Temples life span in Angkor</i> Christophe Pottier (EFEO)
11-11.30 am	<i>Tea break</i>
11.30-12.15 am	<i>Biography of the Monastic site of Somapura (Bangladesh): Looking for rupture/s</i> Suchandra Ghosh (University of Calcutta)
12.15-1 pm	<i>Archaeological and historical significance of Devara settlements of the lower Kaveri valley: excavations at Ambal, Nagapattinam district</i> Selva Kumar (Tanjavur University)
1-2.30 pm	<i>Lunch at the EFEO</i>
2.30-3.15pm	<i>Biography of the Baslesvara campus: reading the undercurrents</i> Susmita Basu Mamjumdar (University of Calcutta)
3.15-4 pm	<i>When Trauma Strikes God: what do different agamas teach?</i> Dominic Goodall (EFEO) and S.A.S. Sarma (EFEO)
4-4.30 pm	<i>Tea break</i>
4.30-5.15 pm	<i>Changing religious idioms and the impact on temple life: a case study of Bishnupura groups of temple</i> Sharshmita Chatterjee(University of Calcutta)
5.15-6 pm	<i>Ruptures and synthesis: a study of the formation of the syncretic Bhagavati cult of Kerala</i> Shela Mary Varghese (JNU)

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Thursday 8th December 2016

9-9.30 am	<i>Welcome tea and coffee</i>
9.30-10.15 am	<i>The Sondni monument: traces of sovereignty and the temporality of landscapes</i> Liz Cecil (British Museum)
10.15-11 am	<i>What was Mamallapuram: peeling at the archaeological landscape</i> Divya Kumar (University of Pennsylvania)
11-11.30 am	<i>Tea break</i>
11.30-12.15 am	<i>Submerged histories: A history of Nagarjunakonda through inscriptions</i> Mekhola Gomez (JNU)
12.15-1 pm	<i>Reuse of a landscape: the Chalukyas of Badami</i> Niharika K. Sankrityayan (IIT Mandi)
1-2.30 pm	<i>Lunch at the EFEO</i>
2.30-3.15pm	<i>Patronage in a time of conflict; warring kings and Buddhist monasteries in the early historic Deccan</i> Meera Vishvanadan (Shiv Nadar University)
3.15-4 pm	<i>The large scale spoliation of temples by king Harsha of Kashmir: a reassessment</i> Nicolas Dejenne (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris III/IFP)
4-4.30 pm	<i>Tea break</i>
4.30-5.15 pm	<i>From divine child to divine prince: narratives of Skanda and their ruptures in Tamil temple art</i> Richard Mann (Carleton University)
5.15-6 pm	<i>Land, revenue, tax: breakdown in 13th-century Tirumeyyam</i> Valérie Gillet (EFEO)

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Friday 9th December 2016

9-9.30 am	<i>Welcome tea and coffee</i>
9.30-10.15 am	<i>Evicting Siddha Yogesvari: a case study in the dismantling of the Saiva age and the universalising of Hindu Dharma</i> Jason Schwartz (University of California)
10.15-11 am	<i>Local ruptures and trans-regional reverberations: The case of the Virasaiva networks at Srisaila</i> Elaine Fisher (Stanford University)
11-11.30 am	<i>Tea break</i>
11.30-12.15 am	<i>Monuments and Memory: Rise of a Saiva Pilgrim Centre in Pre-colonial Southern Bengal</i> Rajat Sanyal(University of Calcutta)
12.15-1 pm	<i>Landscapes of broken dams: contribution to an archaeology of disaster</i> Anne Casile (IRD/IFP)
1-2.30 pm	<i>Lunch at the EFEO</i>
2.30-4 pm	Round table
4-4.30 pm	<i>Tea break</i>
5-6 pm	At the French Institute of Pondicherry <i>Uncovering Ancient Landscapes in Cambodia: From remote sensing to Airborne Laser Scanning</i> Christophe Pottier (EFEO)
7.30 pm	<i>Private dinner with the participants</i>