

MOSS#6 - Making of Social Sciences
French Institute of Pondicherry & Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient

Quentin DEVERS - CNRS
A history of Ladakh through its heritage

Date: December 16th, 2020

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Place: French Institute of Pondicherry,
Nehru Conference hall



Ladakh shelters a rich yet forgotten heritage. Its valleys are defended by inaccessible **fortresses** built atop majestic reliefs, its villages shelter countless **temple ruins** and are adorned by magnificent **rock cut Buddhas**, its gorges and plateaux are scattered with dense **millennia-old rock art** sites and long-abandoned gold mines, etc.

Far from being obstacles cutting the region off from the rest of the world, the high mountains of Ladakh have since immemorial times represented fantastic corridors travelled by merchants, bandits and armies from all origins - Tibetans, Turks, Mongols, Mons, Dards, Kashmiris, etc. fought battles in these lands, in a struggle to control their rich trade routes and their precious resources.

Dr. Quentin Devers is a permanent researcher at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), in the Research Centre for East Asian Civilisations (CRCAO, Paris). He has been researching the heritage of Ladakh since 2009, surveying well over a thousand historical sites. In this presentation, he will show the latest discoveries made in the course of the comprehensive documentation that he is conducting in partnership with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).