“What is an Archive in India and Europe?” #2:

Archiving the Contemporary:
Memory, Technology and People

Indian Institute of Technology Madras

6 – 8 April 2022

Day 1 – Wednesday 6 April 2022

Venue: IC&SR Hall III

Inaugural Ceremony 9:15 to 10:30 am

9:15 Tamizthai Vaazhthu [Tamil Anthem]

9:20 Welcome Address – Roland Wittje, IIT Madras

9:30 Introductory Remarks - Blandine Ripert (Director, IFP Pondicherry), Benedetta Zaccarello (CNRS/AITIA Project) and Ponnarasu S (IIT Madras)

9:45 Opening Address by Jyotirmaya Tripathy, Professor and Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras

9:50 Inaugural Address by V. Kamakoti, Professor and Director, IIT Madras

10:05 Chief Guest’s Address by Thiru. Har Sahay Meena, I.A.S., Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research, Government of Tamil Nadu, Egmore, Chennai

10:20 Vote of Thanks – John Bosco Lourdusamy, IIT Madras

10:25 National Anthem

Tea/Coffee Break (10:30 – 11:00)
Day 1 – Wednesday 6 April 2022
Theme – Archives, Science and Technology
Venue: IC&SR Hall III

Session 1 Chairperson Kannan M, Researcher, Department of Social Sciences, French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry
11:00 – 12:30
Senthil Babu, Researcher, French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry
Mathematics as Work: Rebuilding Archives and Rewriting Histories in India
Kumaran Sathasivam, Heritage Centre, IIT Madras
Describe the Picture: Annotating Photographs at the Heritage Centre, IIT Madras
Vanessa Caru, Co-director of the CEIAS (CNRS-EHESS), France
Writing a Social History of Technology: Private Archives of Public Works Department Engineers (1860-1960)

Lunch Break (12:30 – 14:00)

Session 2 Chairperson Santhosh Abraham, Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras
14:00 – 15:30
Blandine Ripert, Director, French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry
Collections of the French Institute of Pondicherry
Bharat Sundararajan, Archivist, French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry
Reimagining the IFP Archives: Methodologies and Processes
Sébastien Soubiran, Director of the Jardin des sciences, University of Strasbourg, France and President of the European University Heritage Network UNIVERSEUM
STS and the Raising Concern with Archiving Science in France, 1980 – 2010

Tea/Coffee Break (15:30 – 16:00)

16:00 – 17:00
Sofia Talas, Curator, Museum of the History of Physics, University of Padua, Italy
Marta Lourenço, Director of the Museum of Natural History and Science, University of Lisbon, Portugal and President of UMAC (Committee for University Museums of ICOM),
The History of Recent Science in the Portuguese Research Infrastructure of Scientific Collections

17:00 – 17.30
Concluding remarks (Round Table)

17:30– 18:30
Visit to the Heritage Centre Exhibition at IC&SR Exhibition Hall with refreshment
Day 2 – Thursday 7 April 2022
Theme – Archives, People and Memory
Venue: IC&SR Hall II

Session 3 Chairperson Delphine Thivet, Head of the Social Sciences Department, French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry
9:30 – 11:00
Maya Dodd, Associate Professor, FLAME University, Pune
What’s Missing: Making History Public in India
Venkat Srinivasan, Archives at NCBS, Bangalore
The Lives of Others and the Right to be (In) Visible
Aparna Vaidik, Associate Professor of History, Ashoka University, Haryana
The Practice of Public History: A Historian’s View

Tea/Coffee Break (11:00 – 11:30)

11:30 – 12:30
Sundar G, Director, Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai
Archives and Collective Memory
Amil Varghese, Research Scholar, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras
Archiving the Labour: Documenting the Life Experiences of Tea Plantation Workers

Lunch Break (12:30 – 14:00)

Session 4 Chairperson Maya Dodd, Associate Professor, FLAME University, Pune
14:00 – 15:30
Sukanta Chaudhuri, Fellow of the British Academy, founder of the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
Shabdakalpa: A History of Language, A Vision of Words
Zoe E. Headley, Co-director of the CEIAS (CNRS-EHESS) France, and Ponnarasu S, Archive Project Leader, IIT Madras
Documentary Evidence and Digital Dilemmas. A View from the Village
Shalom Gauri and Siddarth Ganesh, QAMRA Archival Project at NLSIU, Bengaluru
Digital Fever: Reflections of a Queer Archive

Tea/coffee Break (15:30 – 16:00)

16:00 – 17:00
Thamarai Selvan, Research Scholar, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras
Memory and Practice of Musical Instrument Making

Madhu Narayanan, Research Scholar, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras
Archiving Bamboo Basket Making Practices in South India

17:00 – 18:00
Concluding remarks (Round Table)
Day 3 – Friday 8 April 2022
Theme – Archives, Communities and Society
Venue: IC&SR Hall II

Session 5 Chairperson Aparna Vaidik, Associate Professor of History, Ashoka University, Haryana
9:30 – 11:00
Srijan Sandip Mandal, Head of Studies, Center for Public History, Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bengaluru
Curating a Contemporary Archive: The Construction of the Published Record on Constitution-Making in India
Albert Varghese, Research Scholar, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras
Documenting Histories of Science for Social Change: The Archives of Kerala Sasthra Sahitya Parishad
Roland Wittje, Associate Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras
Indian and German Archives in Contemporary Science and Technology

Tea/Coffee Break (11:00 – 11:30)

11:30 – 12:30
Benedetta Zaccarello, Senior Researcher at the Institut des Textes et Manuscrits Modernes, (ITEM, CNRS/Ecole Normale Supérieure), France; Head of the “Archives of International Theory” project (AITIA)
An Intercultural, Transnational, Contemporary Archive: The Sri Aurobindo Ashram Collections
Jayaprabha Ravindran, Assistant Director (Retd.), National Archive of India, New Delhi
In Search of Unsung Heroes/ Freedom Fighters in India’s Struggle for Freedom: Exploring Records in the National Archives of India, with Special Reference to the Indian National Army

Lunch Break (12:30 – 14:00)

Session 6
Chairperson John Bosco Lourdusamy, Associate Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras
14:00 – 15:30
Madhucchanda Sen, Professor of Philosophy, School of Cultural Texts and Records Jadavpur University, Kolkata
Re-Interpretation of Classical Indian Texts by 19th-20th Century Anglophone Indian Scholars in Colonial India
Albert Dichy, Literary Collections Supervisor, Institut Mémoires de l’Edition Contemporaine, Caen, France
Networks, Movements, Interactions: The Collective Making of the Archives
Ravi Ahuja, Professor, Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen, Germany
Modern India in German Archives

Tea/Coffee Break (15:30 – 16:00)

16:00 – 17:00
Round Table - Way forward - Concluding remarks