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The Dharma Project Grand Finale

**Concluding Workshop of the ERC-Synergy Grant Project
'The Domestication of "Hindu" Asceticism and the Religious
Making of South and Southeast Asia' (2018–2026)**

**Università di Napoli L'Orientale
June 3rd–6th, 2026**

**Organizing committee: Florinda De Simini,
Antonella Santoro, Luca Piscopo**





DAY 1 (June 3rd)

Salone delle Conferenze (2nd floor), Palazzo Corigliano.
L'Orientale University of Naples

09:00–9:30

Coffee and welcome

09:30–10:00

Tamil Inscriptions encoded by the DHARMA project
Emmanuel Francis (CNRS, CESA, Paris)

10:00–10:30

Becoming Māṇikkavācakar: The canonisation of a Tamil Śaiva saint
Renato Dávalos (CNRS, CESA, Paris)

Coffee break

11:00–11:30

When monasteries dictate temple worship. A study of the monastic network around Cīrkālī from the 12th century to the present day
Uthaya Veluppillai (INALCO, Paris)

11:30–12:00

From the Kaveri Delta to the Deep South: The institutional reach of the Tiruvāvaṭuturai ātīṇam (17th-18th centuries)
Margherita Trento (EHESS, Paris)

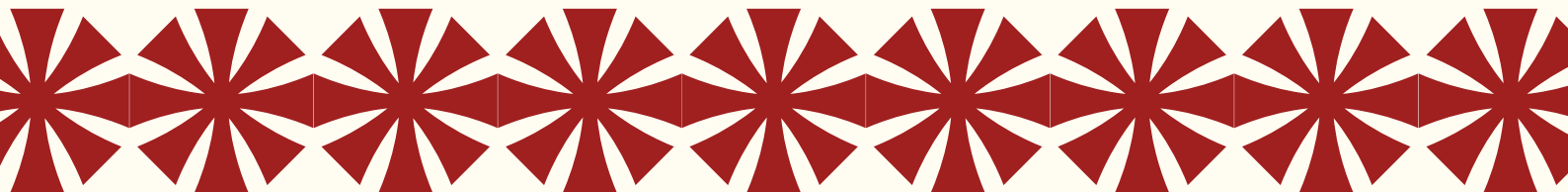
12:00–12:30

History of the Ulakaḷanta Perumāḷ Temple in Kanchipuram through its Inscriptions
Yunheng Xu (University of Heidelberg)

Lunch break

14:00–14:30

Appraisal of 6 years of research in Mahasthangarh (Bangladesh) and its surroundings
Coline Lefrancq (CNRS, Paris—UMR 7041 ArScAn)
Vincent Lefèvre (Prof. Sorbonne Université—UMR 8150
Centre André Chastel, dir. mission Mahasthan)
Yohan Chabot (GéoArchéon, CNRS, Paris—UMR 8591 LGP)



14:30–15:00

An interdisciplinary project on Narttamalai (South India)

Valérie Gillet (EFEO, Paris)

Yohan Chabot (GéoArchéon, CNRS, Paris— UMR 8591 LGP)

Coline Lefrancq (CNRS, Paris—UMR 7041 ArScAn)

15:00–15:30

Hermits at the margins? Rethinking eremitic presence in ancient Cambodia (7th–13th centuries)

Chloé Chollet (EPHE-PSL/EFEO, Paris)

18:00

Aperitif at Spazio Nea





DAY 2 (June 4th)

Fondazione San Bonaventura, Complesso Monumentale di San Lorenzo Maggiore, library (first floor)

09:30–10:00 *The First Brahmadeyas: Property and State Formation in the Early Medieval Deccan*
Mekhola Gomes (Amherst College)

10:00–10:30 *The Dharmasetu Reversal from Buddhism to Viṣṇuism: Mapping the Use of the Compound dharmasetu in Epigraphic and Purāṇic Sources*
Amandine Wattelier-Bricout (CNRS, CESA, Paris)

Coffee break

11:00–11:30 *Early Female Ascetics of the Tamil Country: An Epigraphical and Archaeological Exploration*
Charlotte Schmid (EFEO, Paris)

11:30–12:00 *A “Tamil Monastery” in Magadha? Remarks on Kurkihār in the Pāla Period*
Vincent Tournier (LMU, Munich)

12:00–12:30 *On Pūrṇa and Candana: Buddhism, Fragrant Substances, and Networks of Exchange*
Pia Brancaccio (L'Orientale, Naples)

Lunch break

14:00–14:30 *The progress of BRIN (National Research and Innovation Agency) and EFEO epigraphic collaboration during the DHARMA Project*

Titi Surti Nastiti (BRIN)
Arlo Griffiths (EFEO, Jakarta)

14:30–15:00 *Tracing Territorial Boundaries in Ancient Bali through Inscriptions from the 9th to 14th Century*
Hedwi Prihatmoko (EPHE-PSL – BRIN)

15:00–15:30 *Visual documentation for the DHARMA project*
Adeline Levivier (EFEO, Paris)



DAY 3 (June 5th)

09:00–12:00

Visit to the Herculaneum papyri collection at the **National Library of Naples** in the **Royal Palace**, led by Prof. Federica Nicolardi

(ERC Project UnLost)

Lunch break (at the venue)



Fondazione San Bonaventura, Complesso Monumentale di San Lorenzo Maggiore, library (first floor)

13:30–14:00

*What have we learned from our study of the **Brahmaśambhu's Naimittikriyānusandhāna**, part of the earliest surviving Śaiva manual of rites (dated 938 CE)?*

Dominic Goodall (EFEO, Pondicherry)

14:00–14:30

*Difficulties and Unsolved Problems—Editing the **Vṛṣasārasaṃgraha***

Csaba Kiss (L'Orientale, Naples)

14:30–15:00

Memorializing Bhoja at Dhar

Andrew Ollett (University of Chicago) **Saarthak Singh**
(EFEO, Paris)

Coffee break

15:30–16:00

The Laws of Manu in Java and Bali (Project Status Report)

Timothy Lubin (Washington & Lee University)

16:00–16:30

*Some Śaiva Sermons in the Old Javanese **Pārthayajña**—
On True and False Ascetics*

Andrea Acri (EPHE-PSL, Paris)

16:30–17:00

The Precarious Past in Premodern Java

Wayan Jarrah Sastrawan (The Australian National
University, Canberra)



DAY 4 (June 6th)

Università L'Orientale, Rettorato, Palazzo Du Mesnil

10:00–10:30

Evidence for Grammatical Schools from South Indian Inscriptions

Victor D'Avella (University of Oxford)

10:30–11:00

Preceptors and Pupils on the Stage: Hermitage, Hierarchy, and Pedagogy in Classical Indian Drama

Csaba Dezső (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

Coffee break

11:30–12:00

How a parama-māheśvara King Endows a Jain Temple: The Peddāpurappāḍu Charters of Viṣṇuvardhana II

Dániel Balogh (Humboldt University, Berlin)

12:00–12:30

From Sanskrit to Portuguese: The Life and Afterlife of a 14th-Century Copper-Plate Charter in 16th-Century Goa

Annette Schmiedchen (Humboldt University, Berlin)

Roger Lee de Jesus (Leibniz University, Hannover)

12:30–13:00

Humā fields and royal territory: land endowments and agricultural conceptions in Campā

Salomé Pichon (EFEQ, Paris)

Lunch break

14:00–14:30

Revisiting Attimabbe and the Idioms of Jaina Lay Devotion

Samana Gururaja (Humboldt University, Berlin)

14:30–15:00

Reading Sūḍi through Inscriptions: Exploring Power, Social Orders, and Sacred Networks

Antonella Santoro (L'Orientale, Naples)

15:00–15:30

On mending cracks and splits: further remarks on khaṇḍa-sphuṭita-saṃskāra and the Śivadharmā

Florinda De Simini (L'Orientale, Naples)

Concluding remarks and drinks

