

# Raja-mandala: In the Kings' Circle



**Court Society as Paradigm in India**

**International Conference**

**June 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

June 8 | EHESS, 54 Boulevard Raspail 75006 Paris, salle 737

June 9 | musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, 75007 Paris, salle de cinéma

★ **MUSÉE DU QUAI BRANLY  
JACQUES CHIRAC**

centre d'études - Inde | Asie du Sud  
centre for South Asian studies

**ceias**

*Nadia Guerguadj*

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## Court Society as Paradigm in India

*A conference organized by Emmanuel Francis (CEIAS) and Raphaël Rousseleau (Université de Lausanne) with the support of the CEIAS and the musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac (département de la recherche et de l'enseignement).*

In Western perception, Indian Rajas often call to mind a faded luxury, while the Indian society continues to be grasped mostly through castes inequalities or the textual Hindu tradition. Hindu kingship has been abundantly investigated, notably the relationship between kings and Brahmins (Jan Heesterman), or, from a wider perspective, between political power and socio-religious institutions and values (Louis Dumont).

With the development of regional studies, the debate shifted towards the nature of the state in ancient India. Several models have been put forward: feudalism (R.S. Sharma), bureaucratic state (K.A.N. Sastri), segmentary state and ritual sovereignty (Burton Stein, Richard Fox), integrative state according to a processual model (B.D. Chattopadhyaya, Hermann Kulke), imperial formation (Ronald Inden). Moreover, as a counterpoint to structural perspectives, anthropological and ethno-historical researches stressed the pivotal role of kingship in Indian society (Nicholas Dirks, Jean-Claude Galey), by “rediscovering” the works of Arthur Maurice Hocart.

More recently, Daud Ali opened a new avenue for research, in testing the relevance of Norbert Elias' concept of *court society* to India while acknowledging Michel Foucault's contributions about the state apparatus. These have helped placing the research on Indian kingship “against wider historical processes, social, economic, and religious.”

The aim of the present conference is not to revive debate about the nature of kingship in India, but rather to approach the court society (beyond the king) as a set of relations and practices, in other words to consider kingship as a *civilisation model*.



**JUNE 8 | 54 BD RASPAIL 75006 PARIS, SALLE 737**

22<sup>e</sup> Journée du CEIAS

9 | *Welcome coffee*

9.30–10 | Welcome address by the CEIAS direction  
Introduction by the organizers

**1<sup>st</sup> session | Discussant: Arlo Griffiths**

10–10.45 | EMMANUEL FRANCIS (CEIAS)  
Usages of *Meykkīrttis* in Cōla Period (10<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> c.)

10.45–11.15 | *Coffee break*

11.15–12 | TIZIANA LEUCCI (CEIAS)  
Srī-Lakṣmī, Apsaras and the Indian Courtesans/Artists  
as Symbols of Royal Power, Prestige and Charisma

12–12.45 | GRÉGORY MIKAELIAN (Centre Asie du Sud-Est)  
Silhouette du *devarāja* après Angkor

12.45–14.30 | *CEIAS open buffet*

**2<sup>nd</sup> session | Discussant: Jean-Claude Galey**

14.30–15.15 | MARIE LECOMTE-TILOUINE (Laboratoire d'anthropologie sociale)  
Le roi démocrate, au Népal des Panchayat (1961-1990)

15.15–16 | UWE SKODA (Aarhus University)  
Deities, Alliances and the Power over Life and Death:  
Exploring Royal Sovereignty in a Former Princely State in Odisha

16–16.30 | *coffee break*

16.30–17.15 | RAPHAËL ROUSSELEAU (Université de Lausanne)  
“Forest Dwellers” Vs. Court Culture:  
The ‘Savages’ of Urban Indian Society

17.30 | *Cocktail*

**JUNE 9 | MUSÉE DU QUAI BRANLY – JACQUES CHIRAC**

9.45–10 — Welcome address by **JULIEN CLÉMENT**  
(adjoint au directeur du département de la recherche et de l'enseignement,  
musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac)

**1<sup>st</sup> session | Discussant: Pierre-Yves Manguin**

10–10.45 | **DAUD ALI** (University of Pennsylvania)  
**The Spread and Appropriation of Courtly Technologies in Medieval India**

*10.45–11.15 | Coffee break*

11.15–12 | **HERMANN KULKE** (University of Kiel)  
**Convergence of Kshatriyaization and Tribalization:  
Courtly Rituals in Odisha**

12–12.45 | **PREMINDA JACOB** (University of Maryland Baltimore County)  
**The Semiotics of Kingship in South India:  
Images of Jayalalithaa Jayaram as God Queen**

*12.45–14.30 | lunch break*

**2<sup>nd</sup> session | Discussant: Corinne Lefèvre**

14.30–15.15 | **ALI ANOOSHAHR** (UC Davis)  
**The King of Hearts:  
The Role of Emotions in the Early Mughal Empire**

15.15–16 | **BLAIN AUER** (Université de Lausanne)  
**A Culture of Royalty and the Image of the Persian King  
in the Delhi Sultanate**

*16–16.30 | coffee break*

16.30–17.15 | **AUDREY TRUSCHKE** (Rutgers University)  
**Prithviraja's Kingship on the Eve of the Indo-Muslim Rule**