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Loyalty at the Age of Absolutism: Mirza Nathan's Memoirs at the Edge of Empire

8 juin 2017 | 14h à 18h, en salle AS1-23 (54 boulevard Raspail 75006 Paris)

Dans le cadre du séminaire de recherche *Royautés. Pouvoir et savoir en monarchie*

Mirza Nathan was a Mughal officer in the Bengal in the early seventeenth century. His memoirs reflect the condition of service when the imperial cult had reached its zenith under the emperor Jahangir. Cooperation with Rajputs, competition for prestige among officers, and high number of attempted suicides are all hallmarks of the conditions of service in this new order.

The King of Hearts: The Role of Emotions in the Early Mughal Empire

9 juin 2017 | Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac (37 quai Branly 75007 Paris, salle de cinéma)

Dans le cadre du colloque international *'Raja-mandala: In the Kings' Circle'*

This paper studies how the early Mughal Empire operated on the basis of intense emotional relationships among the elites and the emperor. Strong passions such as love, loyalty, honor, anger, and despair are portrayed by Indo-Persian chroniclers as central to the events and decisions made by the emperor, his immediate family, his extended family, and further down by chief commanders and even low level soldiers. My paper will investigate how successful kingship required the proper addressing of these emotions, while failure of course implied the incorrect approach to the emotions of one's allies and subjects.

The Autumn of the Middle Ages in Mughal India? Memoirs of Bayazid Bayat

13 juin 2017 | 13h30 à 16h30, salle A737 (54 boulevard Raspail 75006 Paris)

Dans le cadre du séminaire du CEIAS *Actualité de la recherche sur l'Asie du Sud*

The reign of the Mughal Emperor Akbar (1556-1605), particularly during its latter half, is seen as a period of "early modernity" in Indian history. This would of course imply that the middle decades of the century, from the reign of Akbar's father Humayun, constitute a transitional period where the Mughal state necessarily evolved out of pre-early-modern (hence medieval) phase. This paper will study this transition from the perspective a soldier and memoirist who was in the imperial service from the 1540's until his retirement in the 1580's to see if traces of such a transition have survived in the perspectives of an actual eyewitness and participant.

The Elephant in Early Mughal India

22 juin 2017 | 10h à 12h, salle A737 (54 boulevard Raspail 75006 Paris)

Dans le cadre de l'atelier thématique du CEIAS *Histoires de soi, histoires des autres*

This paper investigates the significance of the elephant as a symbol of sovereignty in early Mughal India. The use of the animal initially proved difficult and problematic until the reign of the emperor Akbar in the second half of the century. The Mughal use of the elephants will also be contrasted with similar practices in the sultanates of southern India.

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