The ENDS justify the means, they say...

projects and dissertations

Friday morning:

9.30 am  welcome, coffee, mini-reports  
10.00 am Nikolai Gordiychuk: Remembering Alexander Dubianski  
 (doctoral projects)  
10.45 am Ilona Kedzia: Medicine, Alchemy, and Yoga in Tamil Siddha Literature, with a Special Reference to the Text Vaittiya Kallāṭam  
11.30 am Neela Bhaskar: The Tiruvilaiyāṭal Purāṇam of the 19th century through the eyes of the vacaṅam and the carittiram

Friday afternoon:

2.00 pm Roland Ferenczi: Familiar Strangers in the South? Northern Indian Influences in the Patirṟuppattu  
 (postdoc/senior projects)  
2.45 pm Emmanuel Francis: DHARMA and TST projects: work in progress and further steps  
3.30 pm Erin McCann: The Linguistic and Material Aspects of Mixed Language Manuscripts in the Śrīvaiṣṇava Tradition
Saturday morning:

10.00 am  Jean-Luc Chevillard: Exploring Proença’s VTCSP (Vocabulario Tamulico Com a Significaçam Portugueza, Ambalacatta, 1679)
10.45 am  Jan Kucera: An Update on Unicode Developments Related to South India
11.30 am  Vinodh Rajan: Digital Representation of Manipravala

Saturday afternoon:

2.00 p.m.  Eva Wilden: Tamilex – Plans for a New Lexicon of Literary Tamil
2.45 p.m.  Elisa Ganser: Constructing Public Space through Artistic Performances in South India (1600-1900)
3.30 p.m.  final discussion and lookout

Abstracts:
Neela Bhaskar, PhD candidate Hamburg

The Tiruvilaiyāṭal Purāṇam of the 19th century through the eyes of the vacaṇam and the carittiram

Of the several prose genres of literature in the 19th century, this presentation discusses three vacaṇam and two carittiram versions of the Tiruvilaiyāṭal Purāṇam, the famous legend of Lord Shiva’s sports in Madurai. This legend, whose earliest extant version is a high-literary work from the 13th century, is transmitted through the 18th century and into modern day in the form of prose re-tellings, or vacaṇam-s, inscribed in palm-leaf manuscripts that were used in pedagogical and ritualistic situations. Such texts are, till date, easily available, and their earlier palm-leaf counterparts are numerous.

With the influence of British colonial rule seeping rapidly into traditional systems of education, we see the emergence of a new genre altogether — the carittiram or the chronology, composed by erstwhile scholars of Tamil who were charged under colonial employment with the task of extracting fact from legendary literatures. The resultant paper manuscripts that they created were integrated into the vast Mackenzie Collection. They possess several tell-tale signs of having been composed under the authority of colonial supervision — they, unlike the vacaṇam, attempt a more standardised and consistent form of writing, creating a ‘version’ of prose Tamil that certainly set the stage for the development of standardised prose Tamil as we know today. In this presentation, several vast topics will be dealt with briefly, with the objective of bringing out the thematic and linguistic complexity of ca. 19th century prose literatures — the vacaṇam as the predecessor of the carittiram, and the carittiram as the foundation for the standardisation of prose literature that followed, the socio-political factors around which they were created, the linguistic complexity of (particularly) the vacaṇam, and the advent of historiography in Tamil prose.

Jean-Luc Chevillard, Paris

Exploring Proença’s VTCSP (Vocabulario Tamulico Com a Significaçam Portugueza, Ambalacatta, 1679)
Pre-modern bilingual dictionaries of Tamil are an understudied doubly difficult field, for several reasons which reinforce each other. The most impressive inventory and preliminary study of this collection of texts is Gregory James [2000], which is an impressive piece of scholarship. This presentation will present some efforts which are underway for making the content of several of those dictionaries available to the general public, in a searchable form, and with a double set of entry points. This will be illustrated mainly, but not exclusively, on the basis of a comparison between several versions of Antam de Proença’s VTCSP (Vocabulario Tamulico Com a Significaçam Portugueza), namely (1) the 1679 posthumously printed version, (2) the 17th cent. MS versions preserved in Goa, which are earlier and more complete than the printed one, and (3) the later copies preserved in Paris at the BnF (indien 221 & indien 222).

Emmanuel Francis, Paris

**DHRAMA and TST projects: work in progress and further steps**

This presentation will underline progress, made in the framework of the DHRAMA project (ERC synergy grant) and of the TST project (ANR & DFG), that are relevant for Dravidian studies in general and for some research interests of ENDS members in particular. The focus will be on the development of authority lists (of the place names, personal names, etc. mentioned in Tamil inscriptions), on the future online glossary of South and Southeast Asian inscriptions and on the online editor for cataloguing and transcribing/transliterating Tamil manuscripts.

Roland Ferenczi, PhD candidate Budapest/Hamburg

**FAMILIAR STRANGERS IN THE SOUTH? Northern Indian Influences in the Patirṟuppattu**

The *Patirṟuppattu*, an Early Old Tamil anthology (2nd-4th c. A.D.?) composed for the ancient Čēra kings, offers a unique opportunity to examine the ancient literary universe of the southwestern regions of the Indian peninsula. The surviving eight decades (*pattu*) of eighty encomia together with the eight, probably later *patikams* of the *Patirṟuppattu* contain plenty of historical data that can be projected onto an uncertain but, in terms of its nature, chronological timeline. From the poems of the *Patirṟuppattu*, instead of the series of events, we are able to somewhat reconstruct a long durée of the southwestern Indian history around the first half of the first millennium A.D., in which, beyond the motionless natural environment, the slow-changing geographic factors, and the monotonous flow of everyday life, we can observe the long dynamics of political, economic-, cultural-, religious-, and social history. This paper aims to present one tiny part of this analysis process: the northern Indian influences in the poems of the *Patirṟuppattu*, and while it focuses on that, it also try to make a distinction, if possible, between the linguistic historical layers of the text. In this presentation, I will argue that the ancient Čēra kingdom, compared to other contemporary kingdoms of South India, seemed to have from earlier time a hybrid nature which meant, on the one hand, Tamil literary life, culture, and identity, but on the other hand meant profound northern Indian influences together with dominant political theories from the North. Although these extrinsic influences on the Čēra kingdom have already been presented by several scholars (such as K. G. Sesa Aiyar, Ci. Pālacuppiramaniyaṉ, Ce. Catācivam, Avvai Cu. Turaicāmi Piḷḷai, V. I. Subramoniam, etc.), they explored the question either not in depth enough and/or not with enough criticism in my view. Since this topic has not yet been historically critically examined and has not yet been completely placed into the broader historical
context, an attempt has to be made to accomplish this important task. My presentation provides an insight into the research process of this analysis.

Elisa Ganser, Zürich

**Constructing Public Space through Artistic Performances in South India (1600-1900)**

This project examines the role of artistic performances in Early modern South India as crucial media in the construction and enactment of power formations, and in mediating public space across different communities. To this aim, the archives of Thanjavur offer a rich and largely unexplored textual repository. The area of the Kaveri delta hosts a diversified performance culture, stretching from the middle ages to the colonial period, with an upsurge in the textual production between ca. 1600 and 1900. While the relation of literature to power in the previous imperial formations, as well as the role of dance in promoting the image of India as a modern State, have been the object of studies, the centrality of performance in this politically fragmented period will be first addressed in this project. Its main objectives are: uncovering circuits of patronage in the textual and stage production; mapping intellectual and artistic circulations; determining the impact of artistic performances in furthering a multilingualistic, multicultural, and multireligious premodern society. The study of the literary sources that form the basis for different performance genres will be combined with that of the technical texts, and supplemented with art-historical analysis for the main temples connected with political power.

Nikolay Gordiychuk, Moscow

**Remembering Alexander Dubiansky. His legacy and intellectual milieu**

Dr. Alexander Dubiansky (1941-2020) played a key role in developing and maintaining Tamil studies in Russia. He studied at the Institute of Oriental Languages from the second generation of Russian Tamil scholars – translator Yuri Glazov, philosopher Alexander Pyatigorsky, and informally from linguist Semen Rudin – but soon after emigration of the former two and tragic death of the latter, remained the leading Tamil scholar in the Soviet Union, along with linguist Mikhail Andronov. Alexander Dubiansky’s research was largely inspired by achievements of the Moscow-Tartu school of semiotics and many other scholars’ insights into the role of ritual in the development of folklore and literary genres. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, when very hard times began for the academic scholarship in Russia, Alexander Dubiansky remained at the Moscow State University to teach Tamil and eventually managed to establish around himself a stable circle of former students with deep interest in Tamil studies. Alexander will be remembered as a very kind and generous person, supportive teacher and colleague with amazing love and commitment to Tamil.

Ilona Kędzia, PhD candidate Kraków

**Medicine, Alchemy, and Yoga in Tamil Siddha Literature, with a Special Reference to the Text Vaittiya Kallāṭam**

My presentation concerns my doctoral research project entitled „Medicine, Alchemy, and Yoga in Tamil Siddha Literature, with a Special Reference to the Text Vaiṭṭiya Kallāṭam”. The main aim of my doctoral research is to prepare a study of a Tamil siddha text Vaiṭṭiya Kallāṭam along with the translation of the selected passages of the book. The text, usually ascribed to siddhar Yākōpu alias Irāmatēvar dated tentatively to ca. 17th c., consists of three main chapters dedicated to three important domains of the traditional system of the Tamil siddhars knowledge, i.e. to medicine, alchemy, and yoga. All three chapters
contain passages composed in a certain kind of esoteric, ambiguous language. I analyze the strategies applied in the text, which render the content obscure. Each of the three chapters differs in terms of the ways of constructing an esoteric text, which is related to the specific content of the teachings on medicine, alchemy, and yoga.

Jan Kucera, Prague

An Update on Unicode Developments Related to South India

Following a short overview of Unicode, recent developments and efforts in encoding south Asian scripts and their characters will be presented. This includes encoding of the Nandinagari script, whose earliest attestations come from Tamil Nadu, and Dives Akuru, which developed from the Grantha script. In the upcoming version of the standard, Brahmi encoding will be updated to cover the needs of Tamil-Brahmi, and both the Telugu and Kannada scripts are getting a few newly encoded characters. Finally, the ongoing efforts on Tulu/Tigalari script used in Karnataka and Kerala will be discussed.

In the remaining time, there will be introduction to work by Indology students in Prague: An online version of Harold Schiffman’s English Dictionary of the Tamil Verb, containing over 9500 entries in both written and spoken Tamil with usage examples and native speaker recordings; an upcoming application for Tamil cross-dictionary search, and keyboard layouts for south Indian epigraphy.

Erin McCann, Hamburg

The Linguistic and Material Aspects of Mixed Language Manuscripts in the Śrīvaiṣṇava Tradition

The manuscript collection of the École française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO) holds approximately 230 multiple-text manuscripts (MTM) that contain materials pertaining to the South Indian Hindu sect of Śrīvaiṣṇavism. The tradition’s teachers (Ācāryas, c. 12th-15th CE) early on accepted three streams of scripture as authoritative – the Tamil devotional corpus, the Nālāyira Tivya Prapantam (NTP); the Sanskrit Vedas, especially via Rāmānuja’s philosophical works; and Sanskrit works on temple-ritual known as the Pañcarātrāgamas. In keeping with this stance, the MTMs of the EFEO collection contain, in an extensive variety of combinations, both Sanskrit and Tamil texts, alongside mixed-language Manipravalam commentaries on the NTP, esoteric works (rahasyagranthas), and hagiographies that are documented in the manuscript sources in a blend of Tamil and Grantha scripts. In this presentation I will provide an overview of the contents of the collection and present some of my findings on the structural patterns of the MTMs.

Vinodh Rajan, Hamburg

Digital Representation of Manipravala

Manipravala, in the context of Tamil-speaking regions, can be thought a mixed language system that combines Sanskrit and Tamil. Traditionally, Manipravala has been written in a combination of Tamil and Grantha scripts. However, it has also several additional orthographies that involve mixing a wide-range of writing systems. This talk will focus on the following questions regarding the digital representation of Manipravala text. How can the original orthographic oddities of Manipravala be preserved digitally? What are the challenges in encoding Manipravala with respect to Unicode? And what might a digital edition of a Manipravala text might look like?
Eva Wilden, Hamburg

**Tamilex – Plans for a New Lexicon of Literary Tamil**

Tamilex is a project in the making that aims at creating an online platform for an electronic corpus of the Tamil literary works of the first millennium (to begin with) and the works of the wider tradition of grammar and poetics as a basis for a fresh start on lexicography. The lexicographical work will be based on fully analysed corpus dictionaries, glosses from the old commentaries, the traditional thesaurus lexica and existing lexicographical tools such as the Tamil Lexicon, the Dravidian Etymological Dictionary, the Tamil Ilakkiyap Pērakarāti, the Tamil Ilakkaṇam Pērakarāti, etc. The goal is a historical dictionary of literary Tamil (Tamil/Tamil/English). The size of the corpus going into the database depends on the one hand on financing, on the other hand on the large-scale collaboration of scholars: every text that is properly edited, word-split, translated and endowed with a corpus dictionary can be added and enhance the commonly available knowledge.