# Texts, Contexts & Performances from Pre-Modern to Contemporary India

# Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Centre d'Etudes Sud-Asiatiques et Himalayennes (CESAH), Paris-Aubervilliers

# International Conference online in memory of Prof. Alexander Mikhailovitch Dubiansky and Dr. Joanna Kusio

Organisation: Tiziana LEUCCI (CNRS, CESAH, LAP, Paris-Aubervilliers, Conservatoire 'Gabriel Fauré', Les Lilas-Est-Ensemble) and Margherita TRENTO (EHESS, CESAH, Paris-Aubervilliers)



Literary texts in India were rarely born on a written support (palm-leaf or paper), and even more rarely remained on the page of the manuscripts or printed editions where we are accostumed to seeing them today. Throughout the subcontinent, literature has been recited, sung, performed and reused in innumerable places and occasions, from village and court performances and storytelling, to cinema and television series, that are part of the ways in which texts have been "read", "depicted", "interpreted" and "staged" over the centuries. In this conference, in hommage to the memory of two eminent Indologists and Tamil scholars, the late Prof. Alexander Mikhailovitch Dubiansky (Lomonossov Moscow State University, Russia) and Dr. Joanna Kusio (University of Warsaw, Poland), we will trace precisely the movements and travels of texts into the world of ritual, art, and performance, thus exploring the many sites and forms of the "literary" in ancient, modern and contemporary India. By focusing on the rich

scientific contribution of Prof. Alexander Mikhailovitch Dubiansky (27/04/1941-18/11/2020) and Dr. Joanna Kusio (08/03/1960-18/11/2009) to the field of South Asian studies, the speakers, specialists of various disciplines (including history, anthropology, linguistics, philology, literature and performing arts studies), will evoke their personal interactions with the two scholars as students, colleagues, relatives and friends.

## **PROGRAM**

10.00 a.m. (Paris time). Introduction by Tiziana LEUCCI and Margherita TRENTO

**10.30 Tatiana Dubyanskaya** (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia) « South vs. North in S.S.Rajamouli's movie 'RRR' (2022) »

11.00 Jean-Luc Chevilliard (CNRS, HTL, Paris and University of Hamburg, Germany) « Multilingual Sources as 'Time Capsules' in the Humanities. குடும்பம் ஒரு கதம்பம் »

**11.30 Nikolay Gordiychuk** (University of Hamburg, Germany) « Theory of puram poetry in Tolkāppiyam and Purapporulveṇpāmālai »

#### Discussion

### Lunch pause

**14.30 Monika Browarczyk** (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland) « *Meena Kandasamy in the Autobiographical Woods* »

**15.00 Gautam Chakrabarti** (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt, Germany) « *The 'Rabbi Saint'* as a Cold Warrior: Nissim Ezekiel and Indian Poetry in English »

**15.30 Natalia Swidzińska** (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland) « Exploring Tamil culture with prof. Alexander Dubiansky and Joanna (Asha) Kusio »

**16.00 Tiziana Leucci** (CNRS, CESAH, LAP, Paris-Aubervilliers, Conservatoire 'Gabriel Fauré', Les Lilas-Est-Ensemble) « The many lives of a text: performing poetry in the South Indian artistic traditions »

### Final discussion and vote of thanks

Zoom link: <a href="https://univ-montp3-fr.zoom.us/j/96525368837">https://univ-montp3-fr.zoom.us/j/96525368837</a>

