

Abstract:

It is not only a truism that Indian society has changed rather rapidly over the last decades under the impact of economic and cultural transformations often epitomized by an expanding middle class, but also that indigenous people have been affected to a large extent by the very same transformation processes leading to various new aspirations and subaltern empowerment, but also to labour migration, forced displacement, marginalization and social exclusion.

Our workshop critically looks at the issue of connectivity which we apply to socially and culturally marginalised contexts. We discuss how connections are established, forged, maintained or appropriated but also undone in the overlapping spheres of religion, politics, economics etc.; how they might differ in terms of their quality and materiality as well as their scope and immediacy; how are they utilized as markers of status and wealth or as back-up, security net or resource and how they might have been altered in changing environments, mediatized in novel ways or even lost in a new order?

We are specifically interested in the role of media in these processes of linking and relating and propose a wide understanding of media which are expressing and informing the socio-political dynamics and change of contemporary indigenous, Adivasi and vernacular India.

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International workshop:

MAKING CONNECTIONS ON THE MARGINS. PERSPECTIVES ON INDIGENOUS AND VERNACULAR INDIA



Aula Trentin, Ca' Dolfin (Dorsoduro 3825)
Ca' Foscari University, Venice
Friday 04/12/2015, 10.00-19.00



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Workshop programme:

10.00: Opening

Session I - Chairman: Antonio Rigopoulos

- 10.30 **Gregory D. Alles** (McDaniel College)
The Gendering of Being Possessed in Eastern Gujarat
- 10.50 **Fabrizio M. Ferrari** (University of Chester)
Agriculture in a Mediaeval Bengali Śaiva text: On Ritual and Technical Knowledge
- 11.10 **Ülo Valk** (University of Tartu)
Hinduisation of Landscape in Rural Assam: From Vernacular Knowledge to Institutional Authority
- 11.30 **Marine Carrin** (CNRS)
Performing Indigeneity and the Politics of Representation: The Santals in Jharkhand, Odisha Bengal and Assam
- 11.50 Discussion
- 12.20 Presentation of the exhibition “**Zan Par**”
- 12.30 Lunch
- Session II - Chairman: Stefano Beggiora*
- 14.00 **Margaret Lyngdoh** (University of Tartu)
The Water Nymph and the Snake People: The Folklore of Water and the Khasis of Northeast India

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- 14.20 **Monica Guidolin** (EHESS)
Dynamics Change and Reconstruction of a Collective Representation: the Pardhan Community of Bhopal between the Ancient Recited Memory and a Renovated Ritual Language
- 14.40 **Claire Sheid** (University College Cork)
The 'Truant Soul' in Donyipolo: Revisiting Fürer-Haimendorf's 1937 Adi Language Invocations
- 15.00 Discussion
- 15.15 Coffee break
- Session III - Chairman: Thomas Dahnhardt*
- 15.30 **Lidia Guzy** (University College Cork)
Music and Indigenous documentation – A medium of Cultural Connectivity - Example from Western Odisha, India
- 15.50 **Stefano Beggiora** (Ca' Foscari University)
Aspects of Saora Ritual: Permanence and Transition of the Artistic Performance
- 16.10 **Uwe Skoda** (Aarhus University)
The (Un)making of Ritual Connections: Durga Worship in a Former Princely State of Odisha
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- 17.00 Documentary “**3 Shamans**”
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