

India, first of all in its philosophical and religious dimension, has been usually considered by the West as a civilization ignoring nature and only interested in the absolute and in liberation from the phenomenal world. Such an opinion has often imbued with prejudices also our judgments about contemporary India. In order to question these prejudices and reconsider the concept of "nature" in India, thus enriching also the contemporary discourse about it in the West, a research project has been funded by Sapienza University of Rome, under the direction of Raffaele Torella. The main lines of the project have been: level A) exploring in various directions the philosophical, aesthetic and religious thought of traditional India, also in its sociological and anthropological aspects; level B) focusing the theme of nature in the historical and political-sociological dimension of contemporary India.

The present conference is the final outcome of this research.



The Human Person and Nature in Classical and Modern India

International Conference
Rome, 14–15 March 2013

For information:

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ISTITUTO ITALIANO
DI STUDI ORIENTALI ISO

SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

MNAO
MUSEO NAZIONALE
D'ARTE ORIENTALE
'GIUSEPPE TUCCI'



14th March, 9.30–19.00
15th March, 9.30–13.00

MNAO, Via Merulana 248, Sala degli
Specchi

15th March, 15.00–19.00

ISO, Via Principe Amedeo 182b, room 1

Programme

14th March: *Classical India*

Morning Session

Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale 'Giuseppe Tucci', via Merulana 248, Sala degli Specchi

9.30–10.00 **Authorities**

10.00–10.30 **Raffaele Torella** (Rome): Introduction

10.30–11.00 **Gilles Tarabout** (Paris): Spots of wilderness. "Nature" in the Hindu Temples of Kerala

11.00–11.30 **coffee break**

11.30–12.00 **Elisa Freschi** (Vienna): Systematizing an absent category: discourses on "nature" in Prābhākara Mīmāṃsā

12.00–12.30 **Rosa Fernandez Gomez** (Malaga): Savouring the rasa of life. The artful yogi in Kashmir Śaivism

12.30–13.00 **Giuliano Boccali** (Milan): The description of Himālaya in Kālidāsa's *Kumārasaṃbhava* I, 1–17

13.00–15.30 **lunch**

Afternoon Session

Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale 'Giuseppe Tucci', via Merulana 248, Sala degli Specchi

15.30–16.00 **Carmela Mastrangelo** (Rome): Natural languages and cultural language — substrate influence and classical tradition in the Sanskrit grammars by Paulinus a Sancto Bartholomaeo

16.00–16.30 **Bruno Lo Turco** (Rome): Woman, nature and *satī*

16.30–17.00 **Gioia Lussana** (Rome): Fluid Mother Goddess: water and blood as the flowing sacred essence of Mahā Devī in *śākta* tantrism of Kāmākhyā

17.00–17.30 **coffee break**

17.30–18.00 **Elisa Ganser** (Paris): Poetic convention, theatrical artifice, and the place of nature in Indian dramatic theory

18.00–18.30 **Maria Piera Candotti** (Turin), **Tiziana Pontillo** (Cagliari): Is *svabhāva* a strictly grammatical expression in the *Mahābhāṣya*? Notes on the early history of a philosophical term

18.30–19.00 **Laura Giuliano** (Rome): *Guhā* in Indian art: the place of manifestation. Representation of a concept, rethinking the landscape, recreating the natural space

15th March: *Modern and contemporary India*

Morning Session

Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale 'Giuseppe Tucci', via Merulana 248, Sala degli Specchi

9.30–10.00 **Giorgio Milanetti** (Rome): Introduction

10.00–10.30 **Daniela Berti** (Paris): Gods' rights and environmental policy in Himachal Pradesh

10.30–11.00 **Jayati Srivastava** (New Delhi): Environment as discursive contestation: Narratives of environmentalism in India

11.00–11.30 **coffee break**

11.30–12.00 **Giorgio Milanetti** (Rome): Journeys through nature in Jayasi and Tul'si: hints of an urban-rural divide?

12.00–12.30 **Mario Prayer** (Rome): Looking at man and nature in rural Bengal: Manik Bandyopadhyay's novel *Padmā nadīr mājhi*.

12.30–13.00 **Mara Matta** (Rome, Naples): Womanizing nature in Indian literature and cinema

13.00–14.30 **lunch**

Afternoon Session, Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali, Sapienza University of Rome, via Principe Amedeo 182b, room 1

15.00–15.30 **Ursula Münster** (Munich): Human-elephant relations in contemporary South India

15.30–16.00 **Sanjukta Das Gupta** (Kolkata, Rome): Representing "tribes" and nature in colonial India: British accounts of Chotanagpur and Santal Parganas

16.00–16.30 **Christine Lutringer** (Lausanne): Experimenting nature: local knowledge and scientific research in India's "rice bowl"

16.30–17.00 **Daniel Münster** (Heidelberg): Agrarian alternatives: An ethnographic research programme on human-nature relations in contemporary India

17.00–18.30 **General discussion**