



Bhakti and Literature(s)

Second workshop of the DELI project
23 June 2016 - INHA (Walter Benjamin room)

Call for papers

Presentation

This workshop is organised by the collaborative research project DELI “Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Indian Literature”, an Idex Sorbonne Paris Cité project aiming at gathering, spreading and developing scholarship on South Asian literature in France. The project is led by Anne Castaing (CNRS/THALIM), Nicolas Dejenne (Université Paris 3 – UMR Iranian and Indian Worlds) and Claudine Le Blanc (Université Paris 3 – CERC) in collaboration with Résurgences and the BULAC library.

Rationale

As religious movements which emphasize personal and emotional bonds between devotees and a personal god, bhakti traditions (from the Sanskrit root *BHAJ*- “to share”) have been intimately linked to the development of vernacular languages through the production of devotional songs, hagiographical or philosophical-religious texts which have generated fruitful and sometimes critical interactions with Brahmanical orthodoxy as expressed in Sanskrit sources. Bhakti literature also played a crucial role in the emergence of modern poetry and, more generally, of South Asia’s literary modernity.

The second workshop organised by the DELI project will take place on 23 June 2016 at the Institut National d’Histoire de l’Art and aims to initiate interdisciplinary discussions on the bhakti movement and Indian literary cultures by exploring the links between devotional movements and literary production, the role of literature in devotional practices and the different types and adaptations of bhakti literature across centuries, regions and languages.

This workshop intends to bring together scholars and researchers from various disciplines such as literature, history, anthropology, art history, musicology, film studies, *etc.* We welcome papers exploring works (texts, songs, oral literature, graphic novels, film adaptations, *etc.*), authors or centres of literary production and leading to in-depth discussions on the role of bhakti movements in the development of Indian vernacular literary cultures as well as on the various literary and performance dimensions of the bhakti tradition from the origins to the present.

Themes

We particularly invite innovative paper proposals, for 20 minutes presentations, related to the following themes:

- **The bhakti movement and the development of vernacular literary cultures:** devotional movements and their relations with regional courts; vernacular languages as languages of culture; links between vernacular languages and Sanskrit literary traditions (or bhakti texts in Sanskrit); religious institutions as centres of literary production, the reformist or revolutionary social dimensions of bhakti literature.
- **Literary genres and bhakti traditions:** hagiography and poets-saints; the bhakti movement and the epic genre; modern adaptations of bhakti traditions; bhakti literature in the modern media (cinema, press, graphic novels, *etc.*)
- **Literature and devotion:** the role of literature in devotional practices; literature and religious emotions; literary relations or influences between different “bhakti trends”; Bhakti and Sufism; devotional Jain and Buddhist literature.
- **Literary performances and bhakti traditions:** relationships between devotional literature and music; popular, visual and oral bhakti traditions.

Submission guidelines

Abstracts (of no more than 1500 characters), in French or English, must be submitted by **Friday 15 April 2016** to projetdeli2015@gmail.com.