

The Study of South Asia: between Antiquity and  
Modernity: Parallels and Comparisons.  
*The Coffee Break Conference — 2*  
(8-10 September 2011)

August 2, 2011

Where: Institute of Oriental Studies, Caserma Sani, via Principe Amedeo  
182b (Underground “Vittorio”), Rome

## 1

### 1.1 Language as a Way of Salvation

Thursday the 8th, 8.30-13 sine tempore

chair: Marco Ferrante

- 8.30-8.35, Camillo Formigatti and Elena Mucciarelli, *General Introduction*.
- 8.35-8.40, Marco Ferrante, *Introduction to the Panel*.
- 8.40-9.20, Paolo Visigalli (University of Cambridge), *How can I get a cow just by saying “cow”? an exploration into the power of language in ancient India*.
- 9.20-10, Enrico Giulia, *The Japanese Polyglots of Salvation: Miwa-ryū and its multilingual approach*.
- 10-10.40, Marco Ferrante, *Language, Salvation and their Relation: the soteriological goal according to the ancient Indian grammarians*.
- 10.40-11, coffee break
- 11-11.40, Marco Lauri, *Three ways to happiness. Arabic language and its paths to salvation*.
- 11.40-12.20, Priya Darshini Swamy (University of Leiden), *One Language is Not Enough: The Use of Sanskrit Among Hindus in Amsterdam*.

- 12.20-13, Roberta Amato (Archivio di Stato di Venezia), *Language as a sign of the times in Timor-Leste. The perception of the Portuguese language as salvation between politics and religious belief.*

13-14.15: Lunch

## 1.2 The Development Question in South Asia: Policies and Processes

Thursday the 8th pomeriggio 14.15-17.20

chair: Matilde Adduci

- 14.15-14.20, Paola Cagna, *Introduction to the Panel.*
- 14.20-15, Daniela Bevilacqua, *Divine Enterprise, the intimate relationship between new Hindu religious organisations, Hindu nationalism and power élites.*
- 15-15.40, Paola Cagna, *The Self-Help groups movement between poverty alleviation and women's empowerment: a case study from South India.*
- 15.40-16, coffee break
- 16-16.40, Valentina Prosperi, *Casual migrant workers in the construction industry in India. Gender dimension.*
- 16.40-17.20, Simona Lanzoni, *Women, empowerment and microcredit.*

17.20-17.30: coffee break

## 1.3 Round-table on History and Historiography

Universalist theories in past, present and research. Or: How autopoietic was primitive communism?

Thursday the 8th, 17.30-19.30

chair: Mark Schneider (university of Hamburg)

## 2

### 2.1 “Indigenous” grammars

Friday the 9th 8.30-13

chair: Giovanni Ciotti (university of Cambridge)

- 8.30-8.35, Giovanni Ciotti *Introduction to the Panel.*

- 8.35-9.25, Philomen Probert (University of Oxford), *Underlying forms and derivations in ancient Greek theory of prosody*.
- 9.20-10.15, Maria Piera Candotti (University of Lausanne) and Tiziana Pontillo (University of Cagliari), *Linguistic layers and their role in structuring Pāṇini's grammar*.
- 10.15-10.30, coffee break
- 10.30-11.20, Christian Pallone, *Japanese grammatical traditions*.
- 11.20-12.10, Stefano Seminara (Pontificio Istituto Biblico — Rome), *Sumerian grammatical traditions*.
- 12.10-13, Carlo Vessella, *Greek grammatical traditions*.
- 13-14.15: *Lunch*
- 14.15-15, Artemij Keidan, *The Syntax of the simple sentence*.

## 2.2 Round table on Borrowing representational devices across language speculation

What happens when representational devices developed by a tradition to describe a language A are employed to describe a language B?

Friday the 9th 15-17  
chair: Giovanni Ciotti

- 15-15.30, Introductory speech, Luca Alfieri, *A Contribution to the History of the Concept of Root*.
- 15.30-17, Open Discussion
- 17-17.15, *coffee break*

## 2.3 Narratives in South Asian philosophical texts

Friday the 9th 17.15-19.30  
chair: Daniele Cuneo

- 17.15-17.20, Daniele Cuneo, *Introduction to the Panel*.
- 17.20-18.10, Robert Leach (University of Edinburgh), *Textual Deference: Philosophy in the Spandapradīpikā*.
- 18.10-19, Kate Wharton (Research Assistant to the Revd Canon Guy Wilkinson), *The Teacher as Mother of Midwife? A Comparison of Brahmanical and Socratic Methods of Education*.
- 19-19.30, Open Discussion

### 3

#### 3.1 The relevance of texts for the study of art

Saturday the 10th 8.30-11.20 chair: Elisa Ganser

- 8.30-8.35, Elisa Ganser, *Introduction to the Panel*.
- 8.35-9.25, Ciro Lo Muzio, *Written sources versus material record: some views on a thorny issue*.
- 9.25-10.15, Felix Otter (University of Heidelberg), *Vastuvidyā between text and practice: Some considerations*.
- 10.15-10.30, coffee break
- 10.30-11.20, Anna Tosato (University of Mysore), *The Use of Traditional Texts in the Interpretation of Dance Sculptures (Nāṭyaśāstra-s, Śilpaśāstra-s and Vāstusūtra Upaniṣad)*.

11.20-11.35, coffee break

#### 3.2 Round Table on Present Results and Further Goals

Saturday the 10th, 11.35-12.35

chair: Elena Mucciarelli and Cristina Bignami

**For further info, abstracts and additional bibliography:**  
**<http://asiatica.wikispaces.com>**