



— EFEO —

École française d'Extrême-Orient

The EFEO is seeking to recruit three PhD Candidates (F/M)

Three positions are open for PhD research to be carried out in the framework of the DHARMA Project.

Deadline for submission of applications: July 1, 2019 at 15:00 (Paris time)

Entry requirements: (1) a French M2 diploma, or foreign equivalent; (2) solid command of English and French (minimally C1 level in one and B2 level in the other); (3) competence in Sanskrit and at least one Southeast Asian vernacular language.

Monthly salary: 1768.55 € gross, which means about 1400 € after deduction of all taxes.

Type of contract: A French *contrat doctoral* lasting three years.

Start date of contract: September 2019

Enquiries: contact arlo.griffiths@efeo.net

About the DHARMA project and the positions

The EFEO is seeking to recruit three PhD candidates for full-time doctoral research in Southeast Asian epigraphy as part of a “Synergy” project funded by the European Research Council (ERC) as part of the program Horizon 2020 of the European Union.

The project DHARMA (*The Domestication of “Hindu” Asceticism and the Religious Making of South and Southeast Asia*) engages with the political, economic and social history of “Hinduism”. It is co-directed by Arlo Griffiths, professor of Southeast Asian History at the École française d'Extrême-Orient (French School of Asian Studies, EFEO), which has entered into a consortium involving three other institutions, namely the Centre d'Études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud (CEIAS, UMR 8564, joint research unit of the CNRS and the EHESS, in Paris), Humboldt University in Berlin, and the University « L'Orientale » of Naples.

DHARMA will study the history of the religion known today as “Hinduism” in comparative perspective, focusing on the period from the 6th to the 13th century. During this period, the Bay of Bengal served as a maritime highway for intense cultural exchange. The resulting process of “Indianization”, marked notably by the spread of “Hinduism”, of an Indian writing system, and of India’s sacred language Sanskrit, touched large parts of South and Southeast Asia.

The Sanskrit word DHARMA can designate the cosmic law that is upheld both by gods and humans. But it is also often used to refer to any of the numerous temple-related foundations made to support this law. The DHARMA project seeks to understand the process of “institutionalization” of “Hinduism” by investigating the roles of various agents, from kings and noblemen to priests, monks and local communities. It emphasizes the social and material contexts of “Hinduism”. This emphasis requires a multi-regional, multi-scalar and multidisciplinary methodology in order to forge a real synergy of scholarship on premodern South and Southeast Asia.

The most important online deliverable of the project is a database that will give access to several thousands of editions of Asian inscriptions and will allow the data from these inscriptions to be exploited for historical research. We are dealing with ancient texts engraved in stone or metal, written in Sanskrit or in other languages of Asia, relevant to the history of the Hindu world. The online editions will be accompanied by translations into a western language and by metadata concerning the text-bearing objects, their findspots, etc. They will be furnished with maps and with images showing the inscriptions as physical objects.

While also developing their own historical research, the PhD candidates will play a crucial role in building up this database. Their work will be supervised by one or more relevant EFEO Professors (Dominic Goodall, Arlo Griffiths, Andrew Hardy, ...), in the framework of the *École doctorale* (graduate school) of the *École Pratique des Hautes Études* in Paris (<https://www.ephe.fr/recherche/ecole-doctorale>), and the doctorate will be awarded by Université PSL (<https://www.psl.eu>).

One position is available in each of the following three fields:

1. Cambodian Epigraphy and History
2. Campā Epigraphy and History
3. Javanese Epigraphy and History

Candidates need to propose a research project that can be carried out in 3 to 4 years, that involves direct study of the inscriptions in their artefactual and textual aspects, and makes use of the data for studying a historical question more or less closely related to the questions that are at the heart of the DHARMA project. A variety of angles (religious, political, social, economic history; history of art; even historical-descriptive linguistics) are admissible, as long as the candidate is committed to making a substantial direct contribution to the epigraphical work that needs to be delivered by the DHARMA project, and can explain the relevance of such work to the doctoral research project.

Successful candidates will have a solid command of English and French, will have the best possible mix of skills in the relevant ancient and modern languages of

Asia (Sanskrit, Old Khmer, Old Cam, Old Malay, Old Javanese — Khmer, Vietnamese, Indonesian), and will be trained in one or more relevant scholarly discipline (history, art history, philology, linguistics, archaeology, religious studies).

Applications should be sent to the EFEO through the addresses direction@efeo.net and arlo.griffiths@efeo.net, in the form of a single PDF document not weighing more than 15 MB, including:

- a cover letter explaining the candidate's motivation and identifying which of the three positions s/he is applying for
- the candidate's doctoral research proposal of no more than five pages (max. 2500 words)
- a provisional bibliography relevant to the project of no more than two pages
- the candidate's CV (including list of any publications)
- copies of relevant diplomas demonstrating that the candidate satisfies the entry requirements (academic degrees, language skills)
- any published scholarly work

The selection committee will comprise of Dominic Goodall, Arlo Griffiths, Andrew Hardy, and Charlotte Schmid.

Any positions not filled this year will be advertised again in 2020, and any positions not filled then will be advertised again in 2021. Candidates not selected in a given year may re-apply the next year.

Candidates who are not at this time sufficiently qualified are advised to enroll in the Asian Studies MA program offered by three Paris-based institutions involved in this field (<https://masterasie.hypotheses.org>, EPHE-EHESS-EFEO), to become admissible for subsequent PhD research. In the second half of 2019, the EFEO will be opening applications for two scholarships for students from Indonesia, Vietnam or Cambodia, who wish to enroll in the Asian Studies MA program offered by EPHE, EHESS and EFEO, in order to be trained in Southeast Asian epigraphy, starting September 2020.

Further information

The project ***DHARMA: The Domestication of "Hindu" Asceticism and the Religious Making of South and Southeast Asia*** (2019–2025), was launched on May 1st 2019. The ERC funds are awarded through the European Union's Research and Innovation Programme Horizon 2020. The project's three Principal Investigators are Emmanuel Francis (CEIAS), Arlo Griffiths (EFEO) and Annette Schmiedchen (UBER), while Florinda De Simini will lead project activities at a fourth beneficiary, the University « L'Orientale » of Naples.

Our approach will be based on the correlation and contextualization of written evidence from inscriptions and manuscripts, as well as material evidence from temples and other kinds of archaeological sites. The project will be carried out in four task forces. Three regional task forces will focus, respectively, on the inscriptions and archaeological sites of the Tamil-speaking South of India (A), of Central through North-Eastern South Asia into what is today Myanmar (B), and of mainland plus insular Southeast Asia (C). A fourth, transversal task-force (D), led by Dominic Goodall (EFEO)

and Florinda De Simini (UNO), will focus on textual material transmitted in manuscript form. For our operations in Asia, the EFEO regional centres in Pondicherry, Siem Reap, and Jakarta will serve as anchors.

South and Southeast Asian manuscripts, normally written on palm-leaf, preserve a rich **textual archive** relevant to the history of “Hinduism”. We will produce editions with translations of texts that have so far remained unpublished, and therefore untapped, by historical research. These include descriptions of religious practices, as well as prescriptions that deal both with lay religiosity and with religious life in temples and monasteries. As for **archaeological evidence**, we are in an ideal position — thanks to the long-term collaboration between French and Asian archaeologists — to initiate surveys and contribute the data from **excavated sites** which are known to be rich in data and which will thus enable us to confront our findings in the inscriptions and texts with the archaeological record. **Inscriptions** are the main sources for the history of premodern South and Southeast Asia. But they are not all accessible, even less so in a machine-processable format. For the large-scale comparative research that we propose to undertake, making as much as possible of South and Southeast Asian epigraphy available, in a **digital database**, is therefore a core objective of this project. By making the epigraphy of South and Southeast Asia (in Sanskrit and vernacular languages) enter the digital age, the DHARMA project will create exciting new pathways to comparison across regions. The project will participate in the ERC’s Open Research Data Pilot, and will publish all of its epigraphic data in the form of TEI/EpiDoc encoded XML files under a creative commons license.