

## 13<sup>th</sup> Classical Tamil Summer Seminar in 2015

Organised by Eva Wilden at the centre of the École Française d'Extrême-Orient  
in Pondicherry, 10<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2015

In 2015 the CTSS will coincide with the third workshop on the Archeology of Bhakti, and in order to minimise overlap we will start only in the second week of August and continue for three weeks until the end of the month. The day will be split into two morning reading sessions for the principal text and a choice of afternoon reading sessions devoted to selected texts from different genres of Tamil literature. Classes will be presided over by experts (young and old, Indian and Western) who provide the material and present their work and view of the chosen text, but emphasis will be laid on the discussion in the forum. The goal will not be to arrive at a single “correct” translation, but rather to explore the different possibilities of understanding, based on commentary or argument. In accordance with the general philological outlook of the EFEO, work will not only proceed from the current editions but will include manuscript material photographed by our lab, or in the case of inscriptions photographs and estampages.

The first and second week will be devoted to a literary text from the oldest part of surviving Tamil poetry, from the *Caṅkam* corpus, namely the *Kuṛiṅcippāṭṭu* (261 lines), one more among the ten long songs of the *Pattuppāṭṭu* and currently being critically re-edited by T. Rajeswari, who will take over the guidance of the reading sessions and acquaint us with her current identifications for the famous ninety-nine plants mentioned in the poem. The third week we shall turn our attention to one of the fundamental texts in the Śaiva devotional corpus, namely the *Tiruvācakam*, of Māṅikkavācakar (9<sup>th</sup> c.), reputed to make the heart melt of everyone who has a heart.