

## 14<sup>th</sup> Classical Tamil Summer Seminar in 2016

Organised by Eva Wilden at the centre of the École Française d'Extrême-Orient  
in Pondicherry, 1<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2016

In 2016 the CTSS will be combined with the 5<sup>th</sup> NETamil workshop, designed to be a one-week special meeting of the *Tolkāppiyam* group (<http://www.manuscript-cultures.uni-hamburg.de/netamil/calendarium.html>). This means that the advanced classes will last only for three weeks, while the beginners will continue for the full 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 week under the guidance of Indra Manuel will be devoted to a literary text notorious for its difficulty, the 12<sup>th</sup>-century *Kallāṭam*, a collection of 100 stanzas combining the praise of Śiva with an Akam poem. In the second week G. Vijayavenugopal will introduce us to the beauties of a less well-known Jain *Peruṅkāppiyam*, the *Cūlāmaṇi*, generally held to be close in time to the *Cintāmaṇi* and still belonging to the first millennium. The third week Jean-Luc Chevillard will guide us through his selection of songs from the *Tēvāram*, the most important text in the Śaiva devotional corpus, sung by the three poet-saints Tiruñānacampantar, Appar and Cuntarar between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Beginner's Class**

A beginners class will take place, provided there is a minimum of five inscriptions by the end of June 2016. The beginners will start early in the morning with a grammar class from 9.30-11 a.m. For the rest of the morning they will have personal preparation time. In the early afternoon, they will have a text class (3-4.30 p.m.) up to the tea break.