



Chandraketugarh, Bengal, India



Punch-marked coin

Ancient India. Economy and Society in comparative perspective

Dans le cadre du séminaire d'histoire économique de l'Antiquité (J. Zurbach)

Suchandra Ghosh (Pr. Hyderabad),
professeure invitée au Département d'histoire

Les jeudis 26 mars, 9 et 16 avril 2026, 16h-19h

Salle Lettres 1 (couloir jaune) le 26 mars | salle de séminaire du CEA les 9 et 16 avril | École normale supérieure, 45 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris

Programme des séances sur histoire.ens.fr

Organisation : **Julien Zurbach**

Contact : Julien.Zurbach@ens.psl.eu (lien de connexion à distance sur demande)

1. (26 mars) Living in an Urban space: Reliving early Indian Sources.

In the case of early India, urbanity was responsible for not only creating a life-style but also for defining the ultimate utilization of urban space and ambience that have numerous references in a variety of sources. This ambience was again central to the activities of an urban community. Urban world is generally positioned against the rural world. In the Dharmasūtras there is an apprehension about the city. Contrary to Dharmasāstric view, Kāmasūtra, Sanskrit kāvya literature and many other texts identify the city as a space where there is abundance of wealth and goods, imposing residences, heterogeneity, convergence of varied people, which is also a venue of doubts, criticisms and differences. In fact, early cities of India demonstrate contrary and multiple images which can be gleaned from diverse sources like text, epigraphy, visuals and archaeological remains. The lecture will explore avenues of urbanity.

Suivi par : Olivier Venture (EPHE), Chine ancienne ; Julien Zurbach (ENS), Méditerranée antique

Salle Couloir Jaune 1 (Pôle Lettres), ENS, 45 rue d'Ulm, 16h-19h

2. (9 avril) Understanding the nature of the agrarian economy in early India: Exploring its changing contours through land grants.

This lecture would highlight the main features of the agrarian situation from the beginning of state formation in early India and then through case studies would explain an important category of donation called land grants.

Suivi par : Julien Monerie et Philippe Clancier (Paris I), Mésopotamie ; Julien Faguer (Nanterre), mondes grecs et hellénistiques ; réponse de Cédric Ferrier (AOrOc)

Salle de Séminaire du Centre d'études anciennes, ENS, 45 rue d'Ulm, 16h-19h

3. (16 avril) Crafts, Artisans and guilds in early India (till 500 CE).

The lecture will explore the diversity of crafts, crafts associated with urban and rural life and the evolving social standing of the craftsmen/artisans. It would discuss in detail guild formation in early India as a significant development of the craft economy in 600 BCE was the beginning of organization of industries under the names sreni, gana, puga, samgha, all loosely translated as guild. The changing nature of the guilds would be interrogated.

Suivi par : Louise Quillien (ArScAn), artisans mésopotamiens ; Stéphanie Maillot (UCA), associations professionnelles gréco-romaines

Salle de Séminaire du Centre d'études anciennes, ENS, 45 rue d'Ulm, 16h-19h