



UNDERSTANDING RELIGIOUS ICONS IN ANCIENT INDIA

This seminar will examine the diversity of Indian viewpoints about religious icons from the earliest testimonies up to around 13th century (possibly up to 18th century, including instances of interaction with Islamic and Catholic concepts of icons). This will be mainly based on Sanskrit sources. It will cover Vedic, late Vedic, Buddhist (relic worship), devotional, paleographical, philosophical, artisanal, ritual and other contexts. Examining the topic of the icon, which is of major importance in Indian culture, will also entail critical discussions about methodologies and the historical approach.



Professor Colas is a senior researcher at the EHESS-CNRS (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), which is France's leading academic institution for South Asia.

His fields of research include concepts of religious icon, normative texts on temple rituals, ritual and music as known from ancient Sanskrit texts, textual criticism, transmission of texts and paleography of ancient India, Catholic and Protestant missionaries in India and their works in Sanskrit and Telugu and history of Sanskrit scholastics.

Tuesdays 9-11 a.m. s.t. From Tue. 08 May to Tue. 26 June 2018. SAI R. E11

Professor Colas is a guest of the department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia from 01st May - 30th June 2018, SAI Room 308.