

CENTRE DE SCIENCES HUMAINES

SEMINAR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2026

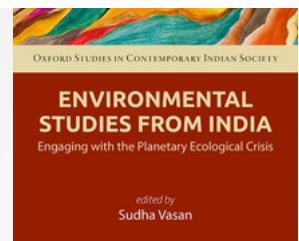


The Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH, UMIFRE n°20) is part of a network of research units of the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (MEAE). The CSH is a multidisciplinary research unit that covers all disciplines of the social sciences and humanities.

14
SEP

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FROM INDIA: ENGAGING WITH THE PLANETARY ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

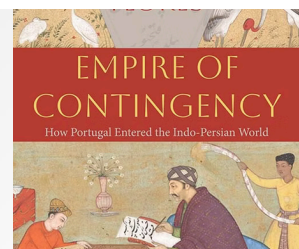
Speaker - Sudha Vasani (University of Delhi)
Discussant - Amita Baviskar (Ashoka University)



12
OCT

EMPIRE OF CONTINGENCY (2024): THE AUTHOR'S VIEW, TWO YEARS LATER

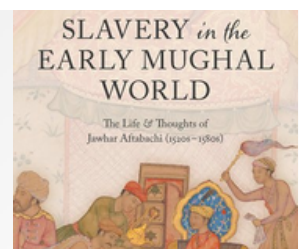
Speaker - Jorge Flores (University of Lisbon)
Discussant - Radhika Chadha (University of Delhi) &
Farhat Hasan (University of Delhi)



05
NOV

SLAVERY IN THE EARLY MUGHAL WORLD: THE LIFE AND THOUGHTS OF JAWHAR AFTABACHI (1520S-1580S)

Speaker - Ali Anooshahr (University of California)
Discussant - TBA



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DEC

MAKING OF A SPECTACLE STATE: FROM THE THEATRE OF MASS SPECTACLE TO THE RITES OF REPUBLIC

Speaker - Brahma Prakash (Jawaharlal Nehru University)
Discussant - TBA



The CSH seminar takes place once every month. It offers researchers from different disciplines across social sciences an opportunity to present their upcoming or recently published work. Presentations are followed by a discussion with another scholar and a Q/A session with the audience. The sessions are in hybrid mode. The seminars are coordinated by Corinne Lefèvre (co.lefevre@csh-delhi.com) and David Singh (david@ifro.ku.dk).

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SEP

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FROM INDIA: ENGAGING WITH THE PLANETARY ECOLOGICAL CRISIS BY SUDHA VASAN

Abstract - Environmental Studies from India brings together scholars to examine the Anthropocene through grounded studies of India's landscapes, ecologies, labour, and everyday experience. Organized into five themes, it explores how ecological crisis, capital, and infrastructure shape socio-natures across scales while encouraging dialogue across disciplines.

Speaker - Sudha Vasani is a Professor at the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India. She teaches and writes on political ecology examining how social stratification and inequality intersect with ecology and environmentalism.

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OCT

EMPIRE OF CONTINGENCY (2024): THE AUTHOR'S VIEW, TWO YEARS LATER BY JORGE FLORES

Abstract - In this talk, the speaker will discuss the arguments and methods behind his book *Empire of Contingency: How Portugal Entered the Indo-Persian World*, now available in a South Asian edition. The book examines Portuguese information and communication practices in Mughal India and the Deccan sultanates from the 1570s to the 1690s, and reflects on its reception since 2024.

Speaker - Jorge Flores is Senior Researcher at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon. He is a social and cultural historian of the early modern Portuguese empire in Asia, with a special focus on South Asia and the empire's relations with Mughal India.

05
NOV

SLAVERY IN THE EARLY MUGHAL WORLD: THE LIFE AND THOUGHTS OF JAWHAR AFTABACHI (1520S-1580S) BY ALI ANOOSHHR

Abstract - Jawhar Aftabachi, enslaved by the Ottomans and later employed by Mughal Emperor Humayun, documented his extraordinary journey in *Tazkirah-i Vaqi'at*. Ali Anooshahr uses Jawhar's memoir to explore slavery, identity, and state formation, revealing connections between the Mediterranean, Black Sea, and Indian Ocean worlds and portraying individualization as alienation rather than liberation.

Speaker - Ali Anooshahr is a Professor of History at the University of California, Davis. He is the co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Mughal Studies* and is on the editorial board of the *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*.

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DEC

MAKING OF A SPECTACLE STATE: FROM THE THEATRE OF MASS SPECTACLE TO THE RITES OF REPUBLIC BY BRAHMA PRAKASH

Abstract - The talk examines how Hindutva and the spectacle state use traditional rituals, festivals, and performances to create emotional attachment and mass participation. It also asks how secular republican values are ritualized and consecrated in the process, turning both cultural and constitutional forms into instruments of political spectacle.

Speaker - Brahma Prakash is a writer and cultural theorist who teaches theatre and performance studies at JNU's School of Arts and Aesthetics. His work explores folk performance, cultural labour, art, resistance, and political culture. His recent major books include *Cultural Labour* (2019), *Body on the Barricades* (2023), and *Spectacle State* (2026).