

# About the Contributors

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is a senior lecturer at the University of Lausanne, in the Department of Slavic and South Asian Languages and Civilisations. He completed a PhD in the comparative history of religions with a study on rituals of hospitality in Jewish and Indian religious texts. After stays in Tübingen and at the University of Chicago, his current research deals with interactions between India and Europe and the history of Orientalism in late modernity. He has worked on Swiss missionaries in South India in the beginning of the twentieth century and on various topics involving the circulation of epistemic, material, and visual cultures in this period. He served as Treasurer of the International Association for the History of Religions from 2015 to 2020. Recent publications include *“Masters” and “Natives”*: Digging the Others’ Past (2019) (ed. with S. Gorshenina), *Translocal Lives and Religion* (ed., 2021), and “Unruly Images: Representing India in the *Calwer Bilder-Tafeln zur Länder- und Völker-Kunde* (1883)” (2021).

**John Brockington** is emeritus Professor of Sanskrit, University of Edinburgh; Vice President, International Association of Sanskrit Studies; and Member of Common Room, Wolfson College, University of Oxford. His research focuses on the Sanskrit epics and the history of Hinduism. His books include *The Sacred Thread* (1981), *Righteous Rāma* (1985), *The Sanskrit Epics* (1998), and *Epic Threads* (2000). Together with Mary Brockington he is the translator of *Rāma the Steadfast* (2006), editor of *The Other Rāmāyaṇa Women* (2016), and compiler of “Development and Spread of the Rāma Narrative (Pre-modern)” on the Oxford Research Archive (<http://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid:8df9647a-8002-45ff-b37e-7effb669768b>).

**Mary Brockington** is an independent scholar working on narrative and the development of traditional tales in general and the Rāma tradition in particular. Recent publications include “Showing What is Not: The Use of Illusion in Classical Sanskrit Rāma Plays” (2020), ‘From Kanauj to Laos: Development of the ‘Floating Maiden’ episode in the Southeast Asian Rāma tradition” (2021), and “Mānaku’s *Siege of Laṅkā* Series: Words and Pictures”, parts 2 and 3 (2013). Most of her recent work, with John Brockington, has been focused on creating an archive of *Rāmāyaṇa* source material (hosted by the Oxford Research Archive).

**Nadia Cattoni**  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5521-2305>

is a senior lecturer in South Asian studies at the Department of Slavic and South Asian Languages and Civilisations, University of Lausanne. Previously she was SNSF Postdoctoral Fellow at the University Ca'Foscari of Venice and EFEO Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. She received her PhD from the University of Lausanne in 2016 for a thesis on the *rīti* poet Dev. Her research area is early modern North Indian literature, with a focus on court poetry, erotics, aesthetics, and women's writing. She is the author of *Dev, l'artisan-poète du 18<sup>ème</sup> siècle et la nāyikā dans le Rasavilāsa. Circulation et échanges, intertextualité et transformations* (2020) and the co-editor (with Maya Burger) of *Early Modern India: Literatures and Images, Texts and Languages* (2019).

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is Professor of the Study of Religions and Central Asian Studies at the University of Bern. Her research focuses on the cultural history of Tibet and Mongolia, religion and politics in Inner Asia, Mongolian manuscript culture, and on the global history of religion. Recent publications include “Visualizing the Non-Buddhist Other: A Historical Analysis of the Shambhala Myth in Mongolia at the Turn of the Twentieth Century” (2019), “The ‘White History’: Religion and Secular Rule in Buddhist Mongolia” (2021), and “Rewriting the Mongolian Past: ‘New’ Master-Narratives, Scholarship and the State” (2021).

**Basile Leclère** is Lecturer in Sanskrit and Indian Literatures, Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3. He specialises in Jainism, Sanskrit theatre, and the history of medieval India. His recent publications include “Jain Playwrights and their Patrons in the Time of Caulukya Kings” (2018), “The Gold of Gods: Stories of Temple Financing from Jain Prabandhas” (2020), and “Les avatars du mythe dans le théâtre indien” (2022). He is currently preparing the critical edition and translation of a hitherto unpublished Sanskrit drama from the twelfth century, Devabodha's *Satyavratarukmāngada*.

**Angelika Malinar**  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7320-5969>

studied Indology and Philosophy at the Universität of Tübingen and gained her PhD with a thesis on the *Bhagavadgītā* (*The Bhagavadgītā: doctrines and contexts* 2007). She held positions at the University of Tübingen, Free University Berlin, and University of London (SOAS), and is since 2009 Professor of Indian Studies at the University of Zurich. Key areas of her research are Sanskrit epics, classical and modern formations of Hinduism, Indian philosophy and colonial-modern encounters between India and Europe. She co-edited *Asia and Europe intercon-*

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*nected: Agents, Concepts, and Things* (2018) and the multi-volume *Brill's Encyclopedia of Hinduism*. Her recent publications include *Religious Plurality and Individual Authority in the Mahābhārata* (2020, in: *Religious Individualisation: Historical and Comparative Perspectives*, edited by M. Fuchs et al.) and *Ideas of "Indian Philosophy" in 19th century Germany: Vivekananda, Deussen and Garbe*, (2022 in: *Disciplines and Movements. Conversations between India and the German-speaking World*, edited by Hans Harder & Dhruv Raina).

**Hiroko Nagasaki** is a professor of Hindi at the Graduate School of Humanities, Osaka University. Her main research area is early Hindi devotional literature and Hindi metrics (*chand śāstra*). Her publications include *Indian and Persian Prosody and Recitation* (2012), "Mātrā in Bhakti Poetry and Perso-Arabic Metres" (2013), "Duality in the Language and Literary Style of Raskhan's Poetry" (2018), "The Metrical Style of Tulsīdās" (2019), and Japanese translations of Tulsīdās, Rahīm, and Raskhān as well as a hagiography on Tulsīdās and various articles in Japanese.

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is an assistant professor in religious studies at the Faculté de théologie et de sciences religieuses, Université Laval, Québec City. Her research focuses on themes at the intersection of religions and spiritualities with women's history, gender, embodiment, ritual, media, technology, and material culture. Most of her recent publications pertain to various aspects of motherhood in religious contexts, including in South Asia. Her methodologies are interdisciplinary and often include a comparative dimension. More information can be found on her website: <https://fpg.bio>.

**Rosina Pastore**  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6594-4577>

received her PhD from the University of Lausanne in 2022. Her research focuses on North Indian literature in classical Hindi and Indian philosophical traditions. She is the author of two forthcoming chapters: "Exploring the Relationship Between Bhakti, Bhakta and Yoga in the *Prabodhacandrodaya Nāṭaka* by Brajvāsīdās (b.1733?)", in *Early Modern Literary Cultures in North India: Current Research*, edited by Danuta Stasik and Imre Bangha (Oxford University Press); and "Discussing Nyāya in Brajbhāṣā? On Six Categories of Reasoning in Brajvāsīdās's *Prabodhacandrodaya Nāṭaka*", in *Puṣpikā: Tracing Ancient India Through Texts and Traditions – Contributions to Current Research in Indology, Vol. VI*, edited by Dominik Haas, Vitus Angermeier, and Christian Ferstl (Oxbow Books). She is also interested in issues of identity, self-fashioning, and nation making, especially when seen through the lens of popular culture.

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**Nicola Pozza**  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7256-1742>

is a senior lecturer at the University of Lausanne, where he teaches the Hindi language and literature. His research focuses on translation practices and theories, as well as travel narratives and migration issues in modern India. His current project is entitled “Idealized Himalaya and Shining Delhi: A Contrastive Analysis of the Construction of Space in Hindi Narratives”. He is the author of a manual of the Hindi language (*Le hindi... comme en Inde*, 2 vols., 2022/2023) and translates modern Indian fictions and poems into French (e.g. Geetanjali Shree, *Une place vide*, 2018; Kunwar Narain, *Confluences*, forthcoming; and Manohar Shyam Joshi, *L’extravagante histoire d’Hercule Hariya*, in preparation).

**Galina Rousseva-Sokolova** has worked as associate professor, Head of the Classical East Department, and vice-dean of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology of Sofia University, as well as professor at the Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanity School of Jindal Global University. Her research focuses on premodern North Indian languages and literature, narratology, and comparative religious studies. Her book *Jeu et poésie de la bhakti* is based on her PhD from the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris. Her recent publications cover bhakti poetry and North Indian hagiographies, as well as broader problems of intercultural dynamics between Europe and India.

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is a Sanskrit and digital humanities specialist working for various projects at the Universities of Zurich, Basel, and Lausanne. Her present research focuses on the various aspects of the *Jayadrathayāmala*, in particular Yoginīs, tantric cryptography, and digital palaeography. Selected publications and links to public presentations can be found at <https://www.kramanet.org/publications-1>.

**Ekaterina Velmezova** is a professor of Slavistics and the history and epistemology of language sciences in Eastern Europe at the Faculty of Arts, University of Lausanne. Since 2018, she has been vice-dean of the faculty responsible for research and PhD studies. Since 2021, she has been a visiting professor of Slavistics at the University of Tartu in Estonia. Her principal works concern the history and epistemology of linguistics in Central and Eastern Europe, and Czech and Russian ethnolinguistics. Her recent work has focused, in particular, on the history of linguistics as reflected in the history of literature and on the history of structuralism and semiotics.

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is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague. She received her PhD in Arts from the University of Lausanne (Department of Slavic and South Asian Studies). Her research focuses on early modern North Indian literatures composed in Old Hindi, early Dādūpanthī manuscripts, and interactions between visual and literary aspects of bhakti traditions. Her current project is the critical edition of Sūrdās’s poems in the earliest Dādūpanthī manuscript dated CE 1615–1621.

