

# INDOLOGICA TAURINENSIA

THE JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SANSKRIT STUDIES

*Founded by Oscar Botto*

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# INDOLOGICA TAURINENSIA

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**PATTERNS OF BRAVERY**  
**The Figure of the Hero in Indian Literature,**  
**Art and Thought**  
Cagliari, Cittadella dei Musei – 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

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Tiziana Pontillo

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## PREFACE

A first version of the contributions collected in this volume was presented at the Conference hosted by the Department of Philology, Literature and Linguistics of Cagliari in May 2015, under the title “Patterns of Bravery. The Figure of the Hero in Indian Literature, Art and Thought.” On this occasion, scholars from different countries participated in thought-provoking discussions with colleagues from analogous or different disciplinary fields, all of whom shared the same interest in Indological Studies and in particular in the cultural multifaceted picture of the history of Indian heroism from the Vedic age to the present day.

I should like to thank all the participants, the authors and the chair-persons for having taken part in this project and for kindly sharing every step of the Conference and beyond. My immense gratitude also goes to Prof. Jaroslav Vacek, who often generously led me in facing doubts and making decisions.

The majority of participants in this conference – whose programme is included at the end of the present volume – came from

1) Prague – *Seminar of Indian Studies*, Institute of South and Central Asia, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic;

2) Cracow – *Institute of Oriental Studies*, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland;

3) Milan – *Chair of Indology* of the Department of Literary, Philological and Linguistic Studies, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy;

4) Warsaw – *Chair of South Asian Studies*, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland.

In other words, these are the four European Institutions which, from 1998 onwards, have cooperated in the organization

of twenty Rotating International Indological Seminars, as can be seen e.g. on:

<http://dipartimenti.unica.it/filologialetteraturaelinguistica/files/2015/06/International.Indological.Co-operation.pdf>.

In fact, in Warsaw on 27 September 2008 the representatives of these Institutions signed a Letter of Intent – as regards a plan for Indological academic and research cooperation in the fields of common interest, even though, work had already started, albeit informally, in 1998. On behalf of the University of Cagliari’s Philology, Literature and Linguistics Department, which was accepted as a new member of the group on 16th May 2015, that is to say, during the afore-mentioned Conference, I wish to express my gratitude to all the representatives for agreeing to our inclusion.

The other contributors to this volume hail from Lausanne, Moscow, Rome, Saint Petersburg, Tübingen, and Turin. Most of them have had some involvement in the three-year E.U./ R.A.S. Research Project “Traces of a Heterodox Concept of Kingship in Ancient, Medieval and Modern India” (2012-2015 – principal investigator: Tiziana Pontillo; partners: Giuliano Boccali and Cinzia Pieruccini – University of Milan; Pier Giorgio Solinas – University of Siena; Lidia Sudyka – Jagiellonian University of Cracow; Yaroslav Vacek – Charles University of Prague; official members of the research group: Cristina Bignami – University of Milan/ University of Turin; Danila Cinellu – University of Cagliari / University of Siena; Ewa Debicka Borek – Jagiellonian University of Cracow; Moreno Dore – University of Cagliari / University of Turin; Frank Köhler – Eberhard Karls University, Tübingen; Elena Mucciarelli – Eberhard Karls University, Tübingen; Chiara Neri – “La Sapienza” University of Rome). Furthermore, Chettiarthodi Rajendran from the University of Calicut, Kerala, who was unable to attend in May, also sent his paper as a contribution. On the contrary, a few papers have not been published in the present proceedings, as their authors failed to meet the early deadline.

The conference was financed by funds assigned by the Regione Autonoma della Sardegna, which allocated a part of

EU financial assistance to the subsidy of scientific research (with the promulgation of Regional Law 7 August 2007 n. 7) and thanks to funding from both the Department of Philology, Literature and Linguistics and the University of Cagliari. In this regard, my gratitude goes to our Head of Department, Prof. Ignazio Efisio Putzu, Vice Chancellor for Didactics and the former – Vice Chancellor for International Relations Prof. Giovanna Maria Ledda and the new Vice Chancellor for International Relations Prof. Alessandra Carucci.

Special thanks are also due to the English Lecturer at our Faculty of Humanities, who is really a dear friend of mine, Dr. Sally Davies, who patiently helped me and revised my English on several occasions, and to Gianni Lampis, Giulietta Masala, Sandra Masala, Francesca Oro and Roberto Reccia from our Department's Administrative Office, for their invaluable support before, during and after the Conference. Moreover I am also grateful to all the Students, ex-Students or super-Students of Sanskrit Language and Literature at the University of Cagliari, especially to Dr. Moreno Dore who shared responsibility for the whole planning of the Conference Programme – logistics included, and to Prof. Paola Pisano, who was active in promoting the Conference in the Press. Thanks also go to Diletta Falqui, Lucia Pinna and Dr. Rita Moi who were a precious help at the Conference Venue.

Moreover, it would have been impossible to carry out the double peer-review procedure, chosen by the Conference participants themselves, without the essential contribution of several scholars. Therefore, on behalf of all the authors, let me underline our deep gratitude for their precious suggestions, comments and corrections offered by the following assessors:

1. Maria ANGELILLO, University of Milan
2. Ravikumar AZHAGARASAN, University of Madras
3. Giacomo BENEDETTI, University of Pisa
4. Cristina BIGNAMI, Karls Eberhard University of Tübingen
5. Serena BINDI, Descartes University of Paris
6. Maria Piera CANDOTTI, University of Lausanne

7. Gautam CHAKRABARTI, University of Berlin
8. Sabrina CIOLFI, University of Milan
9. Daniele CUNEO, Leiden University
10. Tamara DITRICH, University of Sidney
11. Tatiana DUBYANSKAYA, Jagiellonian University of Cracow
12. Cristiano DOGNINI, Catholic University of Milan
13. Donatella DOLCINI, University of Milan
14. Moreno DORE, University of Cagliari
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24. Stefano NOVELLI, University of Cagliari
25. Heike OBERLIN, Karls Eberhard University of Tübingen
26. Chettiartodi RAJENDRAN, University of Calicut
27. Antonio RIGOPOULOS, University of Venice
28. Rosa RONZITTI, University of Genoa
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32. Francesco SFERRA, "L'Orientale" University of Naples
33. Ganesh Umakant THITE, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute of Poona
34. Felice TIRAGALLO, University of Cagliari

35. Yaroslav VASSILKOV, Russian Academy of Sciences,  
Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and  
Ethnography
36. Ewa WILDEN, École Française d'Extrême Orient,  
Paris

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Irma Piovano, Scientific Director of CESMEO (International Institute for Advanced Asian Studies) and President of the Editorial Committee of *Indologica Taurinensia*, who generously proposed to publish these proceedings as a dedicated issue of the prestigious *Indologica Taurinensia*, and also to the whole Editorial Board of this Journal, in particular to Dr. Victor Agostini who made everything possible with his legendary patience and competence.

Cagliari, November 5th, 2015

Tiziana Pontillo

## Conference Programme

<b>FLL</b> 	DIPARTIMENTO DI FILOLOGIA LETTERATURA E LINGUISTICA	
		
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA	UNIONE EUROPEA	
<b>University of Cagliari – Faculty of Humanities</b> <b>Legge Regionale 7 Agosto 2007 N. 7 – Bando 2010</b> <b>University of Turin – Euro-Asian Studies PhD School</b>		

### PATTERNS OF BRAVERY

The Figure of the Hero in Indian Literature, Art and Thought  
Cagliari, Cittadella dei Musei – 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

14<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, h. 14.20

**IGNAZIO EFISIO PUTZU** (Head of Philology, Literature and  
Linguistics Department, University of Cagliari)  
*Opening Address.*

Session I

*Chair: JAROSLAV VACEK* (Charles University of Prague)

**DANUTA STASIK** (University of Warsaw)  
Immovable as Āṅgada: Īśvardās's Āṅgad paij (1502).

**ALESSANDRO BATTISTINI** (University of Milan/ La Sapienza  
University of Rome)  
Cardboard weapons: the lexicon of warfare in the descriptions of  
*citrabandhas*.

**DAVID P. PIERDOMINICI** (University of Milan/ La Sapienza University of Rome)  
The Kavi as a Warrior: the Poetic Fight between Aruṇagirinātha Diṇḍima and Śrīnātha as an Image of Literary Changes in 15th Century Vijayanagara.

Session II

Chair: **LIDIA SUDYKA** (Jagiellonian University of Cracow)

**BOŻENA ŚLIWCZYŃSKA** (University of Warsaw)  
Bravery of the Durātman Hero – the Figure of Rāvaṇa on the Kūṭiyāṭṭam Stage.

**JOHANNES BRONKHORST** (University of Lausanne)  
Reflections on the fate of north-western Brahmins.

**ALBERTO PELISSERO** (University of Turin)  
The semantic domain of *vīra* in Indian culture, from *Veda* to tantrism.

**FEDERICO SQUARCINI** (University of Venice)  
Mahāvīra, Mahāpuruṣa, Mahājāna. On the normativity of exceptional figures.

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2015, h. 8.30**

Session III

Chair: **CINZIA PIERUCCINI** (University of Milan)

**ANNA TRYNKOWSKA** (University of Warsaw)  
The Making of a Hero: Kṛṣṇa in MBh 2.30-42 and in Māgha's Śiśupālavadha.

**DANIELLE FELLER** (University of Lausanne)  
The epic hero: between Brahmin and Warrior

**FRANK KÖHLER** (University of Tübingen)  
The broken world of heroism. Reflections on the status of the hero in the *Mahābhārata*.



## Session IV

*Chair: DANUTA STASIK* (University of Warsaw)

**PAOLA ROSSI** (University of Milan)

The sounds of the warrior: the Vedic drums between war and poetry.

**YAROSLAV VASSILKOV** (Russian Academy of Sciences, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, South and South-West Asia)

The Indian hero in heaven and on earth: on the meaning of the word 'devaputra'.

**PETTERI KOSKIKALLIO** (University of Helsinki)

The art of flying: Aerial experiences of epic and puranic seers.

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2015, h. 14.30**

Session V - *Chair: JOHANNES BRONKHORST* (University of Lausanne)

**MORENO DORE** (University of Cagliari / University of Turin)

Indra-Bṛhaspati and the Atharvavedic 'consecrated warrior'.

**CHIARA NERI** (La Sapienza University of Rome) - **TIZIANA PONTILLO** (University of Cagliari)

The Apotheosis of the Hero in the Path to Salvation: *brahmabhūta* and some comparable phrases in Vedic and Sutta Piṭaka sources.

**MARIA PIERA CANDOTTI** (University of Lausanne) – **TIZIANA PONTILLO** (University of Cagliari)

Is the *garagīr* a hero's image? Reflections on the act of accepting (*pratigraha*).

## Session VI

*Chair: ALBERTO PELISSERO* (University of Turin)

**JAROSLAV VACEK** (Charles University of Prague)

Tamil Sangam 'man of war' – his activities and aspirations.

**ALEXANDER DUBYANSKIY** (Lomonosov State University of Moscow)  
Heroic behavior in religious movements (*bhakti* poetry in the South India).

**LIDIA SUDYKA** (Jagiellonian University of Cracow)  
The Chejarla temple myth revisited: self-decapitation in early medieval Andhra.

**EWA DEBICKA-BOREK** (Jagiellonian University of Cracow)  
The bravery of Sāluva Narasiṃha and the grace of Narasiṃha deity.

**16<sup>th</sup> May 2015, h. 8.30**

Session VII

*Chair: YAROSLAV VASSILKOV* (Russian Academy of Sciences, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, South and South-West Asia).

**LETIZIA TRINCO** (La Sapienza University of Rome)  
Heroes beyond the texts. Sacrifice, death and afterlife in the iconography of Southern Maharashtra's hero-stones.

**CHIARA POLICARDI** (University of Milan/ La Sapienza University of Rome)  
Mastering oneself, encountering otherness: the itinerary of the vīra in the tantric Yoginī cult.

**ANNA NITECKA** (Jagiellonian University of Cracow)  
Vīras in the Trika Śaivism of Abhinavagupta.

Session VIII

*Chair: ALEXANDER DUBYANSKIY* (Lomonosov State University of Moscow).

**CEZARY GALEWICZ** (Jagiellonian University of Cracow)  
Patterns of Liminal Bravery: the Cāvers of Kerala.

**ALEKSANDRA TUREK** (University of Warsaw)  
A Good Villain: the Bravery of Dacoits from the Śekhāvātī region of Rājasthān.

**MARTIN HRÍBEK** (Charles University of Prague)  
Heroes from the margins in contemporary Bengali fiction.

**SONA BENDIKOVA** (Charles University of Prague)  
Hero in the oral literature of the Kota ethnic group.