

## The Rites Controversy in the Early Modern World

(Preliminary programme)

May 25-27, 2011

Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Centre National de  
la Recherche Scientifique,

### The Rites Controversy in the Early Modern World

The goal of our exploratory workshop is to understand how the concept of "rite", with its religious connotation of *ritus* or liturgy, developed during the early modern period into a secular concept of ritual and how it opened the debate on religious pluralism. The change in the meaning of the word is symptomatic of a larger sociocultural transformation in which religion and ethics, piety and morality came to be defined as two separate spheres. Then as today, this transformation was negotiated through a series of "quarrels". These will be in the center of our inquiry.

#### Tuesday, 25 May 2011

9:40-10:00

Introductory note by Pierre-Antoine **Fabre** (CARE, EHESS), Paris and Ines **G. Zupanov**, CEIAS, CNRS, EHESS, Paris)

"Why Studying Rites Controversy? Connecting Historiographies and Disciplines"

10:00-12:30 (coffee break for ten minutes after 11:00)

*Panel 1: Constructing the Object: History, Origins, Historiography*

Paolo **Aranha** "Malabar Rites: An eighteenth-century Controversy on the Catholic Missions to South India"

Michela **Catto**, "The Jesuit case"

Adriano **Prosperi** (to be confirmed), "From Europe to New and Other Worlds : Nicodemism and Accommodation"

Antonella **Romano**, "The Chinese Controversy of Science between the Ming and the Quing Dynasties".

*(lunch at the EHESS canteen)*

14:30-16:30 (coffee break for ten minutes after 15:30)

*Panel 2 : Idols*

Claudia **Brosseder**, "Fearing the Power of Symbols: the Antagonism between Andean, Creole, and Afro-American Rites in Colonial Peru."

Juan Carlos **Estenssorro**, "The Extirpation of idolatry"

Anna **Hosne**, "Civilization and Religion from America to Asia"

(break 20 minutes)

16:50-18:00

*General Discussion*

## Wednesday, 26 May 2011

10:00-12:30 (coffee break for ten minutes after 11:00)

Panel 3: *Les rites de passage/The Life Cycle Ceremonies*

Charlotte de **Castelnau-L'Estoile**, "The Brazilian Rites"

Gita **Dharampal-Frick**, "The Malabar rites controversy (ca. 1600-1744): A paradigmatic case study of ritual dynamics in the early modern Catholic missions of South India".

Nicolas **Standaert** (to be confirmed), "Death, rites and rituals"

Ronnie **Po-chia Hsia**, "Rites controversy. Chinese Converts' Reaction".

*(lunch at the EHESS canteen)*

14:30-16:30 (coffee break for ten minutes after 15:30)

Panel 4 : *"Naming God": Controversy and Solutions*

Isabelle **Landry-Deron**, "The *Lettres édifiantes et curieuses* as Sources"

Istvan **Perczel** : "Le mouvement chaldéen secret au sein des chrétiens de saint Thomas catholiques (les Pazhayakur) au XVIIIe siècle"

Margareta **Trento**, "Translation and Accommodation in 17<sup>th</sup> century South India"  
(break 20 minutes)

16:50-18:00

*General Discussion*

## Thursday, 27 May 2011

10:00-12:30 (coffee break for ten minutes after 11:00)

Panel 5 : *Encounters with Historical Cultures : Missionary Practices, Ecclesiastical Logic, Intellectual fronts*

Catherine **Jami**: "The Jesuits at the Astronomical Bureau in Beijing: science, rites and politics in early Qing China (1644-1669)".

Giuseppe **Marcocci**, "Inquisition and the Rites Controversy"

Eugenio **Menegon**, "Courtly Pendulum: Theology and Politics between Rome and Beijing (early 18th century)"

Sabina **Pavone**, "Malabar Rites Controversy and the Suppression of the Jesuits"

Joan Pau **Rubiés**, "The Concept of Secularism in Catholicism and Protestantism"

*(lunch at the EHESS canteen)*

14:30-16:30 (coffee break for ten minutes after 15:30)

Panel 6 : *New Sources, New Interpretations*

Jorge **Flores**, "Between Secular Knowledge and Religious Identity in Early Modern South India: indigenous Writers and Writing in a Catholic Setting"

Florence **Hsia**, "Rites and Jesuit mission history. Pierre-François-Xavier de Charlevoix's works"

Antonio **Vasconcelos de Saldanha**, : "When the *Other* decides on Rites. The case of the Kangxi Emperor".

(break)

Final discussion and conclusion (moderators: P. A **Fabre** and I. **G. Zupanov**).

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(contact person)

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(co-organizer)