



Photo: Lucas den Boer, at the Odisha State Museum of Bhubaneswar

Intellexus Guest Lecture Series

Wednesday, November 6

16:00–18:00

ESA-Ost, Room 120 & Zoom

Prof. Dr. Florinda De Simini

(L'Orientale University of Naples)

Śaiva Literature: Stratigraphic Layers and Genealogical Trees

The philological study of texts from the religious traditions of South Asia often calls for an 'archaeological' approach, which requires the scholar to delve into texts and bring to light the units that form them, thus uncovering information on their composition process. As philologists dig deeper into the layers of a text, they must also adopt a broader perspective, positioning a work within a constellation of other texts, which in turn appropriate its materials and are therefore linked genealogically.

The critical edition of works from the Śivadharma tradition offers a fresh viewpoint to observe the composition and spread of Śaiva literature addressing the vast audience of Śaiva *bhaktas*, and reveals textual interconnections that cross sectarian boundaries. On the basis of selected examples, we will explore the process of borrowing, adapting and rewriting textual units across the Śivadharma and other Śaiva and non-Śaiva works, contributing to the study of 'textual geology,' and the formation of 'intellectual ecosystems'— two key notions of the Intellexus project.