



**Dean Academic Affairs**

**UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR,**  
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13<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Jean-Michel VERDIER  
President, EPHE, PSL  
Paris, France.

Sub: Renewal of MoU with Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, PSL University,  
Paris, France.

Sir,

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you that the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir is pleased to give her consent for renewal of MoU between University of Kashmir, Srinagar, UT of J&K (India) and Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, PSL University, Paris, France for a period of 5 years w.e.f 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 until July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2027.

We look forward to have a fruitful academic collaboration with your University for times to come.

With Regards,

Sincerely Yours

Prof. Farooq A. Masoodi  
Dean Academic Affairs  
University of Kashmir



**Activities under Memorandum of Understanding  
EPHE, PSL, Paris, France and University of Kashmir, Srinagar, India  
July 2017-April 2024**

**2017**

- Meeting with the Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir and signing of MoU.
- Invitation to Prof. Laurianne Bruneau (EPHE-PSL) to CCAS early July 2017 for discussions on activities of mutual interest.
- Prof. Laurianne Bruneau delivered a lecture at CCAS entitled “A report of recent archaeological investigations in Ladakh: The Central Asian Connection over time” (Bronze Age-10th century AD).
- Scientific discussions with Alison Betts and Mumtaz Yattoo.

**2018**

- Dr. Ajmal Shah was nominated as a member of the MAFIL project in Ladakh.
- Spring 2018: Dr. Ajmal Shah looked after NOC form J & K Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums to enable excavations of the Franco-Indian Archaeological Mission in Ladakh (MAFIL) for excavations at the site of Leh Choskor.
- Spring 2018: Invitation of Dr. Ajmal Shah to EPHE-PSL as Visiting Professor for the year 2019 approved by EPHE scientific board.
- June 2018: Dr. Ajmal Shah was invited to Leh, Ladakh for field studies under MAFIL Project.
- Dr. Ajmal Shah and Dr. Bruneau had a meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 at the French Institute in New Delhi (IFI, section of the Embassy of France for promoting Indo-French academic and scientific exchanges between higher institutes of learning and research).
- Participation of Dr. Ajmal Shah in a conference convened by Dr. L. Bruneau and Dr. V. Gillet on ‘Connecting Megalithic Cultures in South Asia’ in Paris, 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2018. Due to visa issues Dr. Ajmal Shah participated online and presented his talk titled “Beyond Burzahom and Gufkral: Documenting Megalithic sites in South Kashmir”.

**2019**

- No field activities because of political situation in Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Invitation of Dr. Ajmal Shah to Paris was postponed due to Covid crisis.

**2020-2021**

- No activities due to COVID crisis

**2022-23**

- February 2022: invitation of Dr. Ajmal Shah to EPHE-PSL as visiting professor for the year 2023 was re-approved by EPHE scientific board.

- May 2022: Dr. Ajmal Shah has send 20 samples for C14 dating collected during MAFIL fieldwork at the site of Leh Choskor in Ladakh to Physical Research Labotry, Ahmadabad (Result Awaited) .
- May 2022: A Letter from EPHE-PSL was sent to CCAS for renewal of MoU.
- September 2022: MoU between the two parties was renewed.
- October 2023: Visit of Dr. Ajmal Shah to Paris as Visiting Professor to EPHE-PSL to deliver series of lectures on Himalayan Art and Archaeology. Dr. Ajmal Shah delievred 4 lectures and while visiting EPHE University Paris. Apart from that Dr. Ajmal Shah visited Louvre Museum, Guimet Museum for collecting data on Kashmir collections.

### **2023-24 (Scheduled Activities)**

- Summer-Autumn 2023: Summer School in Archaeology at CCAS/Ladakh with the involvement of French members to give training to PG students of Archaeology in various new field methods .
- Develop a long term Joint Research Project on Archaeology of Kashmir (or somewhere else in the Western Himalayas).
- To conduct a Joint Conference on Trans-Himalayan region in University of Kashmir or EPHE, PSL, Paris, France (2023-24).
- To conduct student/scholar exchange program between the two institutions (2023-24).



Prof. Laurianne BRUNEAU delivering an extension lecture at CCAS, University of Kashmir, 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2017 ©MAFIL / C. Sadozai.



MAFIL Stakeholders during a meeting at the French Institute in New Delhi, 5th of July 2018. ©MAFIL / Sadozai





École française  
d'Extrême-Orient

EFEEO



PSL  
UNIVERSITÉ PARIS



Centre  
de recherche  
sur les civilisations  
de l'Asie orientale



École Pratique des Hautes Études  
*Sciences historiques et philologiques*



## Conference Day Connecting Megalithic Cultures in South Asia

co-organized by Valérie Gillet (EFEEO, Université PSL) and Laurianne Bruneau (EPHE, Université PSL)

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2018

Maison de l'Asie, Paris (22 avenue du Président Wilson, 75016, Paris), Grand Salon



The megalithic-period tombs of Sittanavasal, near Pudukkottai (Tamil Nadu, South India)

The megalithic phenomenon is found almost throughout the world, although its definition itself and its period seem to raise many questions and difficulties. The major part of this conference day will be devoted to the presentation of megalithic cultures of South Asia, starting from the southern part of the Indian peninsula, where megalithic-period funeral arrangements are often said to be concentrated, then moving to the northern area, with a focus on the north-west of India and Pakistan. Exploring the possible connections between these areas and beyond may help carve a better understanding of these ancient practices in South Asia.

### PROGRAMME

9 a.m. – *Welcome coffee*

9.30 a.m. – Introduction by Valérie Gillet (EFEEO, Université PSL) & Laurianne Bruneau (EPHE, Université PSL) & M. Ajmal Shah (University of Kashmir, Srinagar)

10.30 a.m. – The megalithic phenomenon in South India by V. Selvakumar (Tamil University, Tanjavur)

11.30 a.m. – *coffee break*

12.00 – Site presentation by V. Selvakumar

12.30 – Discussion

1 p.m. – *Lunch break*

2 p.m. – Megalithic cultures in Northern Pakistan by Luca Maria Olivieri (Director of the Italian Archaeological Mission in Swat, Berlin)

3.30 p.m. – *coffee break*

4 p.m. – Megalithic cultures outside the South Asian context by Tara Steimer (University of Geneva)

5 p.m. – Discussion

Visit of Dr. Ajmal Shah as Guest Professor to EPHE, PSL University Paris, France, Oct, 2023



Dr. Ajmal Shah, delivering lecture in Paris, France, Oct, 2023



Dr. Ajmal Shah, at Louvre Museum, Paris, France, Oct, 2023



Dr. Ajmal Shah, at Eiffel Tower, Paris, France, Oct, 2023