

Goa and the Memory of Women

**As part of the 13th International Seminar on Indo-Portuguese History
The Mediterranean as a pathway to India: skills, memory, imagination, networks.**

Reconstructing Memory : Tracing the History of Goanese Women



Photo @Constantino Xavier

The seminar “The Mediterranean as a pathway to India: skills, memory, imagination, networks” being held from 22 – 27 March 2010 the University of Provence is accompanied by an encounter devoted to “Goa and the Memory of Women” organised by the CRIMIC from the University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV). The event, which will bring together a number of the participants from the Aix conference, will focus on Goanese womanhood, embracing concepts such as gender, class, race and cast as well the question of women’s role in the passing down of western culture in Goa through the centuries. The place of Goanese women in the contemporary imagination will be of prime importance, whether in historical discourse (where women have played a large part), travel journals or in literary works exploring women’s lives within their own creative space.

Historical research carried out throughout the second half of the twentieth century established that women had a history of their own that could be written by drawing on sources that although sometimes sketchy and difficult to interpret, were also plentiful.

Rightly or wrongly, men have frequently been accused of perpetrating “male politics”, coercing women into being both “goddesses and servants”. Goanese women, like their European counterparts, have had a role to play in the transmission of values, as the guardians of historical memory, and of the cultural and social values of their society. Their lives in the past were confined to marriage and child-rearing. Has the situation evolved in our times? What chance is there for independence and self-fulfilment? By moving into the socio-political sphere, do they manage to tear through the veil of prejudice that has enveloped them for so long? For Simone de Beauvoir, “so long as the family, and the myth of the family and the myth of maternity and maternal instinct have not been destroyed, women will continue to be oppressed.” Does such a remark hold today in Goa? What image does literature portray? What pitfalls lie in wait for Goanese women from the intelligentsia?

Female creativity bears the marks of time and of the era in which it emerges, and is fed by its times. Intricately interwoven with political history and the changing of outlooks, such creativity (and the reactions it inspires) finds expression along meandering paths that this encounter proposes to explore, in order to grasp the sometimes faltering dynamics and the fragile and wilful evolution that is highlighted by the personalities of certain remarkable women who have sometimes been undeservedly forgotten.

9 a.m. Welcome and Introduction

João Pedro Garcia, Directeur du Centre Calouste Gulbenkian
Ernestine Carreira, Université de Provence
Maria Graciete Besse, Université de Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV)

9.30 a.m. Inaugural speech, by the writer Irène Frain

The Condition of Women in Goa

Chair : Ernestine Carreira

10 a.m. - Fatima da Silva Gracias, Emeritus Professor, University of Goa
Goan women seen through photographs

10.20 a.m. - Pratima Kamat, Professor, University of Goa
Femmes hindoues et vie quotidienne à Goa au temps des Portugais

10.40 a.m. - Maria de Jesus dos Mártires Lopes, Honorary Director of Research, IICT – Lisbonne
Mariages et pratiques religieuses féminines dans la Goa d’Ancien Régime

Discussion
Coffee break

11.40 a.m. - Carla Alferes Pinto, Ph.D student CHAM, University of Lisbon,
La vie quotidienne des moniales de Goa d'après l'iconographie du couvent de Sainte Monique de Goa

12.00 - Maria Pia de Menezes Rodrigues, Lilia Maria D'Souza, Honorary Curator of Heritage, Central Library – Goa
Journalistes et écrivaines de presse à Goa au XXe siècle : mémoires d'une société féminine indienne et modèles occidentaux

12.20 p.m. - Délio Mendonça , Director of the Xavier Centre for Historical Research, Goa
L'héritage d'une demeure seigneuriale de Goa: La maison de Lurdes de Figueiredo de Albuquerque

Discussion
Lunch break

*

From Perils to the Pen

Chair: Maria Graciete Besse

3 p.m. - Amar Farooqui, Professor, University of Delhi
Familles indo-portugaises et commerce de l'opium au XIXe siècle

3.20 p.m. - José Manuel da Costa Esteves, Chaire Lindley Cintra, Paris X Nanterre
De Goa au monde entier : une lecture de « Monção » et « Hologramas » de Vimala Devi

3.40 p.m. - Maria Araújo da Silva, Lecturer, Paris IV- Sorbonne
Représentation du féminin goanais dans l'œuvre fictionnelle de Maria Ondina Braga

Discussion
Coffee break

4.40 p.m. - Ernestine Carreira, Lecturer, CEMAF, Université de Provence
Du phantasme exotique à la violence du quotidien. Chrétiennes et métisses de Goa dans la littérature européenne des voyages - (XVIe-XVIIIe siècles)

5 p.m. - Edith Furtado, Professor, University of Goa
When the doubly colonized speaks : Goa's literary woman and the creative imagination

5.20 p.m. - Lotika Varadarajan, Emeritus Director of Research, Academy of Science India – New Delhi
Modèles de broderies traditionnels portugais dans les saris du Bengale

Discussion

Reception

With special thanks to :

Calouste Gulbenkian Cultural Centre , Instituto Camoes, CRIMIC, Paris-Sorbonne, ...