

Dr. Giovanni Ciotti (CSMC Hamburg)

External member of the Tolkāppiyam group and Codicology

email: giovanni.ciotti@uni-hamburg.de



A critical edition and study of the *pāyirams* of the works on *ilakkaṇam* (grammar). Study of manuscripts reflecting the interaction between Tamil and Sanskrit. Study of colophons in manuscripts produced in Tamil Nadu written in both Tamil and Tamilian Grantha scripts.

Giovanni Ciotti (b. 1982) completed both his B.A. and M.A. in South Asian Studies in Italy, at the University of Bologna. During his M.A. he became interested in Indian grammatical literature, especially from the angle of a comparison of its theoretical frameworks with those of Western linguistics. Furthermore, he developed an interest in the import of the Indian grammatical tradition on the rise of modern Western Linguistics. He did his Ph.D at University of Cambridge (UK). In 2013 he defended his dissertation entitled “The Representation of Sanskrit Speech-Sounds: Philological and Linguistic Historiographies”. 2007 he began to study Classical Tamil in Pondicherry and in 2013 joined the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at the University of Hamburg as a research associate. His research interests are the interaction of Sanskrit and Tamil as it is reflected in manuscripts at the paratextual level, may it be Tamil glosses and commentaries on Sanskrit texts or combinations of the two languages in colophons.

Publications:

“Defining the *Svara* Bearing Unit in the *śikṣāvedāṅga* Literature: Unmasking a Veiled Debate”. In Nina Mirnig, Péter Dániel Szántó and Michael Williams (eds.). *Puṣpikā: Tracing Ancient India Through Texts and Traditions*, pp. 1-24. Oxbow Books, Oxford - Philadelphia 2013.

“Like a Howling *Pisāca*: A Note on the Pronunciation of the *Ṛgvedasamhitā*”. In Ciotti, Giovanni, Alastair Gornall and Paolo Visigalli (eds.) *Puṣpikā 2: Tracing Ancient India Through Texts and Traditions*, pp. 35-54. Oxbow Books, Oxford - Philadelphia 2014.

“«Indigenous» Grammars. An Introduction”. In Keidan, Artemij (ed.) *The Study of South Asia Between Antiquity and Modernity – Parallels and Comparisons. Coffee Break Conference 2. Supplemento n° 2, Rivista degli Studi Orientali, Nuova Serie*, vol. 87 (2014), pp. 55-58.

“Teaching and Learning Sanskrit through Tamil: Evidence from Manuscripts of the *Amarakośa* with Tamil Annotations”. In Vincenzo Vergiani, Camillo Formigatti and Daniele Cuneo (eds.) *The South Asian Manuscript Book* [Provisional title], forthcoming 2016.

G.C. and Marco Franceschini: “Certain Times in Uncertain Places: A Study on Scribal Colophons of Manuscripts Written in Tamil and Tamilian Grantha Scripts”. In Giovanni Ciotti and Hang Lin (eds.) *Manuscripts in Time and Space: Perspectives from Paratexts*. DeGruyter, Berlin, forthcoming 2016.