

**Martin Chautari**

invites you to a

Lecture by

**Marie Lecomte-Tilouine**

on

## **Exploring Prisons' Inside Organizations in Nepal**

Martin Chautari Seminar Hall, Thapathali, 19 September 2013 (Thursday), 3:00pm

Beyond the common principle of confinement, there are much more varied conditions of detention than the two models, one monastic, the other military, as identified by Foucault for the West. Here we will discuss a model that is common in South Asia, where prisoners are neither categorized nor isolated, but are responsible for the inside running of their institution. We set out to reconsider this type of prison, often portrayed as hell on earth, and denounced as intrinsically linked to a colonial state or its legacy. This view is, for instance, expressed by Jaytilak Guha Roy, in his study of the "Indian jail System", or by David Arnold in his article on the "colonial prison," published in the Subaltern Studies series. We will examine the case of Nepal which disproves this conception, and we will move away from the path which was taken by Foucault and often followed in his wake, by no longer giving primacy to textual sources of legislative and administrative nature for the description of reality. Instead, using interviews with some of the inmates in Tansen and Dilli Bazaar as well as texts written by prisoners published in the newspaper Jel Sansar, their experience and narratives will sustain our understanding of their inside organization and our reflections on this so-called "colonial" model of jail management.

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Marie Lecomte-Tilouine (directeur de recherche/senior researcher, CNRS, previously attached to Centre études himalayennes, CNRS, Villejuif, now member of the Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, CNRS/EHESS/Collège de France, Paris, France) is a social anthropologist. Her research focuses on religious strategies, mental representations, ethno-history, and the Maoist movement in Nepal. She has coordinated several collective programs of research in Nepal and the latest one, led in collaboration with Anne de Sales, deals with the modalities of 'presentification' (or production of presence) of invisible powers in the Himalaya. Her recent books include: *Hindu Kingship, Ethnic Revival and Maoist Rebellion in Nepal*, OUP (2009, paperback 2010), (ed.) *Bards and Mediums: History, Culture and Politics in the Central Himalayan Kingdoms*, Almora Book Depot, 2009, (ed.) *Nature, Culture and Religion at the Crossroads of Asia*, Delhi, SSP, 2010, and (ed.) *Revolution in Nepal: An Anthropological and Historical Approach to the People's War*, OUP (2013, paperback).

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*This is a public lecture and admission is free and open to all.*