

Dans le cadre du projet ANR/DFG
« Le Statut social dans le Monde tibétain (TibStat) »

Lucia GALLI, post-doctorante, EPHE
présentera une communication intitulée :

"Fictional Facts or Factual Fiction? The Social Reality behind Kha stag 'Dzam yag's *Nyin deb* and Lhag pa Don grub's *Drel pa'i mi tshe*"

Mercredi 7 février 2018, 15h-16h30, 5.12

What did it mean being a *mi ser* in pre-modern Tibet? How was the life of a Khams pa merchant (*tshong dpon*) different from that of a donkey-driver from dBus-gTsang? How did Tibetan pilgrims react when they clashed with Indian modernity? Can Tibetan literature provide any answers to these questions, and, if so, is there a difference in value between the socio-historical information contained in autobiographical writing *versus* fictional narratives? It is with these issues in mind that I will discuss two different texts, an autodiegetic narrative in a diary form and a social realist novel. The first of the works in question is the *nyin deb* (diary) of a Khams pa trader named Kha stag 'Dzam yag; his recollections, presented as diary entries, cover a period of thirteen years (1944-1956), mostly spent by the author on pilgrimage and trading between the central provinces of Tibet and the holy sites of India and Nepal. The information contained in the *nyin deb* will be compared with that provided by Lhag pa Don grub's *Drel pa'i mi tshe* ("The Life of a Muleteer"), a social realist novel depicting the personal and social growth of a young *mi ser* in the years preceding the Chinese Invasion.



Couverture du roman *La vie d'un muletier* de Lhag pa don grub
(Lhasa, 1999)

In the first part of my presentation, I will be questioning the arbitrary categorisation that places the texts at the opposite ends of an imaginary clear-cut "fiction"- "nonfiction" divide. To do so, I will first put to the fore the fictional aspects of the diary narrative and their function in increasing our understanding of indigenous representations of the self, and then examine the factual nature of Lhag pa Don grub's novel, largely based on the author's memories and personal experiences. In the second part of my talk, I will present some preliminary findings on the socio-economic role of traders and hired transport labourers in 1940s-1950s by reading extracts from 'Dzam yag's *nyin deb* and Lhag pa Don grub's *Drel pa'i mi tshe*."