

Call for Applications

Three Junior Scholars in Tamil/Sanskrit

ERC (European Research Council) Consolidator Grant (No. 101229483)

MIRA: Manipravalam — Insight, Research, and Analysis

University of Hamburg (Host Institution) in partnership with the École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), Pondicherry

Location: École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), Pondicherry, India.

Start date: August 2026

Full-time positions (100%), one-year renewable contracts (until 2031)

The **ERC-funded Consolidator Grant project MIRA** invites applications for three full-time positions as junior scholars, which will be based at the **École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO)**, Centre de Pondichéry. The research team will conduct, textual research, manuscript study, and field-based scholarly activities. Successful candidates will be expected to **reside and work in Pondicherry**. MIRA will be hosted at the University of Hamburg and carried out in close institutional partnership with the EFEO Pondicherry, which will host a research team and provide the main base for philological work, manuscript research, and so forth.

Project description

MIRA investigates Manipravalam, the Sanskrit–Tamil hybrid literary language that emerged as a major intellectual medium in medieval South India. Far from being a marginal linguistic phenomenon, Manipravalam—used by Śrīvaiṣṇavas, Jains, and Śaivas—functioned as a bridge-language across religious communities, facilitating the transmission of theological concepts, reshaping Tamil literary culture, and mediating between Sanskrit and Tamil intellectual traditions. The project integrates philology, manuscript studies, linguistic analysis, intellectual history, and digital humanities, including the creation of an open-access database, lexicographic tools, and a Grantha-typing interface.

Required Qualifications

- An ongoing PhD or a recent PhD in Tamil or Sanskrit, preferably in religious studies (Vaiṣṇavism, Śaivism, or Jainism)
- Excellent knowledge of Tamil and a reasonably good grasp of Sanskrit OR an excellent knowledge of Sanskrit with a good knowledge of Tamil
- Excellent command of English
- Proficiency in IT skills (MS OFFICE typing skills in Tamil/English/Devanagari)

Desirable Expertise

- Demonstrated familiarity with Indian religious traditions (Vaiṣṇavism, Śaivism, Jainism)
 - Experience in working in an international project
 - Knowledge of the Grantha script + working knowledge with manuscripts
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Responsibilities

- Critical edition and translation of select texts
 - Linguistic analysis of hybridity and vocabulary formation
 - Study of theological argumentation and intertextuality
 - Contribution to the project glossary and database
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What We Offer

- Full-time (100%) research position based at the EFEO Centre in Pondicherry
 - One-year contract renewable annually (until 2031)
 - Competitive monthly salary, with employer-provided social security benefits according to EFEO regulations
 - Integration into a major ERC-funded international research project
 - Access to EFEO manuscript collections and scholarly networks
 - Participation in the development of a foundational digital resource for Manipravalam studies
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Application Materials

Applicants should submit:

1. Cover letter outlining relevant experience
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Writing sample (maximum 30 pages)
4. Contact details of two referees

Shortlisted candidates may be invited for interview, online or in-person.

Application deadline: 15 July 2026

Applications should be sent electronically to:

administration@efeo-pondicherry.org with copy to erc.projectMIRA@gmail.com

Please indicate in the subject line of your email:

MIRA Application – Junior Scholar – [Applicant's Name]