

**30 novembre 2022, 11h-12h30**

**Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Campus Nation**

8, avenue de Saint-Mandé (Paris 12e), salle C206

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**On the Margins of Modernity:  
The Advaita of Rāmasubba Śāstrī  
(1840-1922)**

It is well known that the history (and historiography) of modern Hinduism is closely intertwined with Advaita Vedānta. However, the dominating narrative has emphasised the importance of 'neo-Vedānta' to the expense of the 'traditional' Vedānta that was thriving in this period—the advaita of the pandits who continued to debate, teach and write in colonial times. What were they writing about? What key philosophical issues were they debating? Were these themes in continuity with the older exegetical tradition or responding to new patterns of epistemology and practice? Did Advaita Vedānta scholars continue to engage with canonical figures such as Śaṅkara, and if so, in what ways? How does this compare with neo-Vedānta interpretations, and what can we learn from this? In this talk, I reflect on these questions with a focus on Rāmasubba Śāstrī (1840-1922), a bold yet little known scholar of advaita who lived near Tanjore.

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