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Jeudi 14 décembre 2017 - 17h00-18h30 - Maison de l'Asie (4^{ème} étage)
22, avenue du Président Wilson 75016 Paris

“Armed forces of the Ancient Kingdom of Dergé in the 18th Century: a preliminary study”

by

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© Jampa Phuntsok (?-1667), considered as the founder of the Kingdom of Dergé, in the *Dergé Gyelrab*.

The making and the expansion of the territory of the Dergé (sDe dge) Kingdom, between the mid-17th and late 18th centuries, were partly achieved by military action. Yet, no archives related to the forces that were mobilised (their size, their organisation, their equipment, etc.) and their modalities of action are, to my knowledge, available to document this crucial aspect of the influence and the prestige of this kingdom across Kham and, more widely, the Tibetan world.

This paper will show how the biographies of the chaplains of the house of Dergé, particularly those of Situ Panchen and Palden Chokyong, allow us to glimpse some aspects of the engagement of the armed forces in the context of internal conflicts in the kingdom, against certain neighbours and also during large-scale conflicts, such as the Jinchuan wars, alongside the Manchu armies.

Rémi Chaix is a Ph.D. student at the Centre d'Etudes Himalayennes. His Ph.D. research aims at giving an account of political, economic, social and religious transformations, which affected the kingdom Dergé (Eastern Tibet), from the middle of the 17th century to the end of the 18th century, and of the politics run by local authorities to form a major religious center capable of competing with Central Tibet.