

**Tradition, Veda and Law**

Studies on South Asian Classical Intellectual Traditions

*Federico Squarcini***Pub Date:** December 2011**Binding:** Hardback**Price:** £60 / \$99**ISBN:** 9780857284365**Extent:** 178 pages**Size:** 229 x 152mm / 9 x 6**Category:** RELIGION / Hinduism / General**BISAC code:** REL032000**BIC code:** HRG**Rights Held:** World**Description**

The essays in this volume include both general considerations and detailed investigations of South Asian cultural productions, and are arranged to fit specific South Asian materials into larger analytical frameworks.

[T]hese contributions give us an excellent series of conceptual case studies of how to do more with normative texts than affirm or deny their applicability or reality. By reaching out to contemporary theoretical work, Squarcini shows how perennial topics of ideology-formation, the politics of contested language, and the non-physical effects of punishment may be studied through the lens of even ancient Sanskrit intellectual traditions.'

—Donald R. Davis, *Journal of Hindu Studies*

The essays presented in this volume constitute a progression from general considerations related to the 'etic' (in the geertzian sense of the word) approach to South Asian cultural productions, to peculiar and detailed investigations of them. Such a sequence is meant to develop a renovated and systemic approach, through which these specific cultural materials should be interpreted: materials not to be read in isolation, nor with an overemphasised concern for cultural relativity. Rather, they should be viewed as meaningful examples of sophisticated intellectual and cultural procedures to be included into a broader comparative discussion, also in order to increase the quality and the depth of such debate. The studies gathered in this volume are therefore arranged to fit specific South Asian materials into larger analytical frameworks.

Readership: Sanskritists and buddhologists; students and scholars of ancient Indian religions, history and literature; students and scholars of South and Central Asia; cultural and social anthropologists; literary theorists; and historians of religions.

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I. Understanding South Asian Cultural Production. In Search for a New Historical and Hermeneutic Awareness; II . *Paṣaṇḍin, vaitandika, vaitaṇḍika* and *nastika*. On Criticism, Dissenters and Polemics and the South Asian Struggle for the Semiotic Primacy of Veridiction; II. Being Good is Being *vaidika*. On the Genesis of a Normative Criterion in the *Mānavadharmasāstra*; IV. *na mlechhabhāṣām śikṣeta*. On the Authority of Speech and the Modes of Social Distinction through the Medium of Language; V. Punishing in Public. Imposing Moral Self-Dominance in Juridical Sanskrit Sources

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Federico Squarcini is an Associate Professor with the Department of History, University of Firenze, Italy, where he teaches the history of Indian religions. He has been affiliated with the Chair of Sanskrit Language and Literature at the University of Florence since 2002. He holds a PhD in Historical and Social Studies of Religions from the University of Bologna, and his current research interests include the sociology of South Asian classical religious and judicial traditions.

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