



Monthly seminar cycle of the ERC project TibArmy
www.tibarmy.hypothese.org

Friday 2 June 2017 – 17.30-19.00 - INALCO
65, rue des Grands Moulins
room 3.11

“Social History of the Tibetan Army: Sources for a Prosopographic Approach”

by

Alice Travers, (CNRS, CRCAO)



© Shigatse, tibetisches Militär mit Dzong, Truppenparade
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contours of a military career, its variations according to different criteria the training of soldiers and officers, their origin and social mobility, the diversity of practices in regiments and, more generally, the evolution of the Tibetan military institution in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Alice Travers, Principal Investigator of the project TibArmy (the Tibetan army under the Ganden Phodrang government, 1642-1959, is a permanent researcher in Tibetan history at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), affiliated to the East Asian Civilisations Research Centre. She worked on the Tibetan military history under the Ganden Phodrang government in the context of a post-doc position dedicated to the various reforms of the Tibetan army from 1895 to 1951, then she has been working on particular aspects of the Tibetan army according to legal sources. She is currently studying the social history of the army from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries.

A number of prosopographic works on the military world have shown how beneficial such an approach might be in advancing our historical knowledge of various cultural areas at different periods. This conference aims to present and discuss an ongoing research project on the social history of the Tibetan army under the Ganden Phodrang government, based on the use of the prosopographic method. After outlining the corpus of available sources (autobiographies, public and private archives, oral sources) for the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, we will present the construction of the metasource as well as the broad lines of enquiry we propose to follow. A preliminary inquiry into the evolution of the Tibetan army officer corps was extended to the troops as a whole, from the base to the top of the hierarchy, with a comparative treatment of the various regiments that comprised the Tibetan army. The presentation will then examine a few specific examples of aspects of military history that the prosopographic approach can document and analyse: the