



# SLAS Lectures

## Univ. of Lausanne

Department of  
South Asian Studies

**Prof. Anand Venkatkrishnan (Uni. Chicago)**

### **Bhakti and Mukti: Literature and Liberation in Sixteenth-Century Kerala**

The preponderance of textual studies of the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* reproduce particular concerns: its theological importance to Vaiṣṇava religious communities, its philosophical influence on traditions of theistic Vedānta, and its literary reputation as the paradigmatic source of *bhaktirasa*, exemplified and exploited to the fullest by the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas. In his talk, Prof. Venkatkrishnan will focus on the inverse of each: Śaivism, Advaita Vedānta, and *rasa* outside the recognized canon of bhakti. He finds evidence for each of these in the writings of Rāghavānanda (16th C.), who inherited and contributed to a regional commentarial tradition on the *Bhāgavata* in Kerala. This regional study brings to light the gaps that remain in the intellectual history of this text-tradition.

**Monday**  
**26 October 2020**  
**4:15–6:00 pm**

Unil, Anthropole-  
4088

**online on Zoom**  
**register in advance:**  
**secretariat-slas@unil.ch**



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Section de langues  
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