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***Assessing the political and religious milieu of the new literary vernacular of second-millennium North India***

In the last part of the first millennium BC and in the first millennium AD, Middle Indo-Aryan languages and Sanskrit, respectively, dominated the scene as languages of culture of the whole South Asia. However, with the beginning of the second millennium AD, in the majority of South Asian regions, but at different times depending on these regions, we witness a change in the languages adopted for political, administrative as well as religious and literary production. As a matter of fact, new languages started to be used with these functions, and the change was not only related to the choice of different languages compared to the previous period, but concerned also the kind of influence exerted by these languages on the whole South Asia in general and on the corresponding regions in particular. Indeed, if the above said Middle Indo-Aryan languages and Sanskrit can be considered cosmopolitan languages, the new languages are more localized in their use.

During the talk, the focus will be on North India, where a form of a new vernacular language was gradually used for the most part of literary and non literary texts. We will try to contextualize the its spread taking into consideration the political as well as the religious transformations of the region.