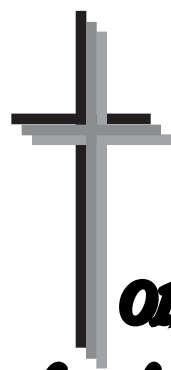


Centre for Contemporary Studies

Invites you to a talk on



History of Kerala Christianity

on the basis of newly found documents -

methodological challenges and possible answers

Speaker

Prof. Istvan Perczel

Dept of Medieval Studies

Central European University, Hungary

Venue:

**New CCS Seminar Hall, IISc
(Formerly TIFR Mathematics building)**

**Date: Thursday, 24th July; Time: 4pm
Tea/Coffee will be served at 3:30 pm**

My team and I have been collecting, photographing and cataloguing thousands of hitherto unknown local documents, written in Classical Syriac, Malayalam, Latin, Portuguese and English, on paper, palm leaves, copper plates, wooden timbers or rock slabs, relevant to the early modern and modern history of the indigenous Indian Christian community, commonly called St Thomas Christians, or Syrian Christians. These documents tell us a new story about the history of this community before and after the arrival of the European colonisers. They testify to an incredible openness of this part of India, not only of the Western Coast toward the Middle East, the Mediterranean and Europe, but also of the different religious communities toward each other. The documents permit us to see how the arrival of the subsequent waves of European colonisers, all motivated by their commercial interests and ideological background - acted on the existing equilibrium of the multicultural Kerala setting. Moreover, given the traditional - commercial and ecclesiastic - links of the Kerala Christian communities to the Middle East, one can also see what kind of response this intrusion triggered on the part of the Indian Christians' traditional Middle Eastern partners. This side of the story has remained to the greater part unknown until now, as the only evidence in use by both Western and Indian historians were those kept in Western archives. The main novelty of our approach consists in shifting the evidence to India and to consider what has been created and kept here.

URL: <http://ces.iisc.ernet.in/hpg/ragh/ccs/Welcome.html>