



R. Benedito Ferrão to present a paper entitled 'A Garden Overgrown: Panjim's Garcia da Orta Park and the Remaking of Eco-Cultural Legacies'

R. Benedito Ferrão will present a paper titled 'A Garden Overgrown: Panjim's Garcia da Orta Park and the Remaking of Eco-Cultural Legacies' at the conference on Preserving Transcultural Heritage: Your Way or My Way, to be held at the School of Arts and Humanities, University of Lisbon, from 5-8 July, 2017.

Ferrão's paper will dwell on Garcia da Orta's text *Colóquios dos Simples e Drogas e Cousas Medicinias da Índia* (1563) which catalogues regional plant-life and da Orta's legacy in contemporary Goa. Despite da Orta's life's work, his Catholicism appears to be an issue for the State. In seeking to orchestrate other legacies for Goa, local governmental machinations have been imbued with India's right-wing politics in the quest for a Hindu historical consciousness for the once Portuguese region. For example, in 2012 the State sought to situate an architectural monument at this park to commemorate the service of seventeenth century Saraswat Brahmin physicians who had been involved in compiling another botanical text - the *Hortus Malabaricus* (1678-1693). Whether these botanists may have actually been Goan seems irrelevant, for their caste lineages evoke those of Goa's contemporary political elite, signaling the Brahmanical Hindu hegemony of the Indian nation-state.



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