ABSTRACT  India has been the first receiver of remittances in the world for nearly one decade now and the Non Resident Indians (NRIs) have been actors of the real estate market in India for even longer (Nijman, 1999; King, 2004; Kapur, 2010). Purchasing land and a house “back home” are common goals for migrants, and the euphoria for property in India has reached the wealthy part of the diaspora, with migrants developing sophisticated investment projects in the property market in India. In this presentation, I analyze the strategies developed by Bangalore developers to reach out to the diaspora market, contrasted with migrants' narratives of their investments back home, and question the formation of a global market for Indian property.

This article is based on a field research conducted in Bangalore over the last ten years completed with a multi-sited ethnography among Indian real estate professionals and Indian migrants that has been conducted in the UAE since 2014. It is part of the research project “Finurbasie”, funded by the French National Agency for Research (ANR).

ABOUT THE SPEAKER  Aurélie Varrel is a CNRS researcher in Geography with the Centre d'Etudes de l’Inde et de l’Asie du Sud at Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris since 2010. She is currently deputed to the French Institute of Pondicherry, in the Department of social sciences (2014-2017). She holds a PhD degree (Geography) from the University of Poitiers, France, with dissertation on : " Back To Bangalore. A geographical approach to return migration of Indian highly skilled migrants to Bangalore (India)". In her research she brings together migration studies and urban studies, with the aim of articulating a socio-spatial understanding of the contemporary transformations of South Indian metropolitan cities, especially Bangalore and Chennai. At the French Institute she is working on the impact of Information Technology on the urban fabric in South India, especially in Tamil Nadu.

DATE  Wednesday, 9 March 2016
TIME  3.00pm to 4.30pm
VENUE  Malay Studies Seminar Room, AS7 #04-13, Kent Ridge Campus, NUS