

Mathieu FERRY
Postdoctoral researcher in sociology

Ined, office 6004
9 cours des Humanités
CS 50004
93322 Aubervilliers Cedex
mathieukferry@gmail.com

CURRENT POSITION

French National Institute for Demography (Ined)

Postdoctoral researcher in the '3GEN' research project led by Mathieu Ichou, member of the "International migration and minorities" unit, 2021-present.

PREVIOUS POSITION

Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis

Teaching fellow (Attaché Temporaire d'Enseignement et de Recherche) in the Department of Sociology, 2020-2021.

EDUCATION

2017–2021 : Sciences Po Paris

PhD in Sociology, affiliated to Observatoire Sociologique du Changement and CREST.
Supervisors: Philippe Coulangeon and Christophe Jaffrelot.

Panel examiners: Philippe Coulangeon, Sonalde Desai (reviewer), Magne Paalgard Flemmen (reviewer), Jules Naudet, Divya Vaid.

Dissertation title: 'What goes around meat eating, comes around: Vegetarianism as a status marker in contemporary India'

2015–2017 : Université Paris-Saclay

Master degree in 'Quantitative Sociology and Demography' (partner institutions: ENS Cachan, ENSAE, Université Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines).

Master thesis supervisors: Philippe Coulangeon and Yoann Demoli.

2015–2017 : École Normale Supérieure de Cachan

Trainee civil servant at the Social Sciences department.

2013–2014 : Sciences Po Paris and Université Panthéon-Sorbonne

First year of Dual master 'Research in Economy'.

2012–2013 : Indian Institute of Technology Madras

Academic exchange year.

2010–2013 : Sciences Po Paris

Bachelor in social sciences, main areas: Economics and Sociology.

2010–2013 : Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne

Bachelor in Mathematics applied to Social Sciences, .

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Social stratification; lifestyles; symbolic and social boundaries; ascriptive positions (caste, religion, ethnicity); intergenerational mobility; labor market returns to education;
 - Mixed methods:
 - Quantitative methods (geometric data analysis, econometrics), use of digital data in social sciences, harmonization and data management of large databases.
 - Qualitative methods (semi-structured interviews).
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STATEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC INTENT

My research focuses on the articulation between ascriptive position—such as caste, religion or ethnicity— and class resources—including educational credentials. My projects use both quantitative and qualitative methods to refine our understanding of social stratification processes by examining societies—such as India—or social groups—such as immigrants and their descendants in France—that are generally less often the subject of studies analyzing lifestyles, status processes and social mobility. The first part of my research assesses the boundaries of social groups in the Indian social space through the analysis of lifestyles. The analysis thus aims to study how different social orders—caste, religion and class—articulate and define distinct and competing orders of worth. My second research area focuses more specifically on the role ascriptive categories such as caste and religion play in educational and class intergenerational mobility. Finally, the third strand of my research is part of the collaborative project ‘3GEN’ led by Mathieu Ichou. This research analyzes social mobility over three generations within immigrant families in France, asking whether the mechanisms that promote intergenerational social mobility differ between families of immigrant and non-immigrant origin.

PUBLICATIONS

PhD dissertation

Dissertation title: ‘What goes around meat eating, comes around: Vegetarianism as a status marker in contemporary India’

Abstract: Since 2010, more than two hundred cases of violence related to the sale or alleged consumption of beef or non-vegetarian products, against religious minorities and low castes, have occurred in India. How can food trigger such violent attacks? In a context of deep transformations of the social structure, my dissertation suggests that these incidents mirror symbolic struggles between religious and caste groups, and that they indicate the continued cultural hegemony of the Hindu high castes, of which vegetarianism is one of the most emblematic markers. Based on secondary analysis of quantitative surveys and on fieldwork conducted in Uttar Pradesh, a region in northern India, I show how this diet remains salient in the contemporary period. In doing so, I highlight the importance of religion and caste in food lifestyles and I uncover the mechanisms of diffusion of cultural practices, whether through processes of cultural emulation deriving from class mobility or in relation to the stigmatization of the Muslim minority. I also highlight the plurality of repertoires of justification for vegetarianism, particularly within the most affluent and educationally endowed classes. In sum, the convergence between the different meanings attributed to this diet – ranging from religious, economic,

political, dietary, and even environmental – favors the centrality of vegetarianism in the Indian social space, which in turn plays a key role in the social dynamics of status, integration and stigmatization in contemporary India.

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

- **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘Where Does Ascribed Privilege Get You in? Structural and Net Effects of Caste and Religious Belonging in India’, *Sociology*, First published online May 12, 2022.
- **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘What’s India’s beef with meat? Hindu orthopraxis and food transition in India since the 1980s’, *Sociological Forum*, 35, 2 (2020).
- Jules Naudet, Adrien Allorant, **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘Héritiers, aristocrates d’entreprise et “méritocrates” : l’espace social du grand patronat en Inde’, *Entreprises et histoire*, 90, 1 (2018).
- Jules Naudet, Adrien Allorant, **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘Heirs, Corporate aristocrats and “Meritocrats”: The Social Space of Top CEOs and Chairmen in India’, *Socio-Economic Review*, 16, 2, (April 2018).
- **Mathieu Ferry**, Jules Naudet, Olivier Roueff, ‘Seeking the Indian social space: A multidimensional portrait of the stratification of Indian society’, *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal* (February 2018).
- Odile Henry, **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘When Cracking the JEE is not Enough: Processes of Elimination and Differentiation, from Entry to Placement, in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)’, *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*, 15 (2017).

Book chapters

- Odile Henry and **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘Assignment statutaire et valeur sociale des diplômes: Le devenir scolaire et professionnel des élèves d’un Insitut indien de technologie au prisme des catégories de réservation’, in *Les Mondes de l’ingénieur en Inde (XIXe-XXIe siècle)* (dir. Charles Gadea et Roland Lardinois), Classiques Garnier, Paris, 2022.
- Marine Al Dahdah, **Mathieu Ferry**, Isabelle Guérin, Govindan Venkatasubramanian, ‘India in COVID: A Tragedy Foretold’, in Sugrue T. J. and Zaloom C. (Eds.), *The Long Year*, Columbia University Press, New York, 2022.

Working paper

- **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘Caste Links. Quantifying social identities using open-ended questions’, *OSC Papers*, 2019-1, May 2019, 24 pages.

Articles in non peer-reviewed journals

- Marine Al Dahdah, **Mathieu Ferry**, Isabelle Guérin, Govindan Venkatasubramanian, ‘The Covid-19 Crisis in India. Chronicle of a Tragedy Foretold’, *Books & Ideas*, April 2020.

- **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘En Inde, des attaques contre les minorités au nom de la vache sacrée’, *Observatoire international du religieux*, Bulletin 30, August 2019.
- **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘Cow Terrorism’ (‘Le terrorisme de la vache’), *Books & Ideas*, November 2017.

Book reviews

- Review of *Uneven Odds: Social Mobility in Contemporary India* (Oxford University Press India) from Divya Vaid, published in the *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal* (2018).
- Review of *La Chair, les hommes et les dieux : La Viande en Inde* (CNRS Éditions) from Michaël Bruckert, titled ‘In the Land of Vegetarians’ (‘Au pays des végétariens’), *Books & Ideas* (May 2018).
- Review of *Contested Tastes : Foie Gras and the Politics of Food* (Princeton UP) from Michaela DeSoucey, titled ‘Le foie gras sous la mitraille’, *La vie des idées* (October 2017).

Under review and on-going publications

- **Mathieu Ferry**, Jeanne Subtil, ‘Digitized matchmaking: Marriage-making strategies of the new middle class through online matrimonial advertisements in India’ (under review in an international journal).
- **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘Le gastronationalisme de la vache en Inde : L’instrumentalisation d’un symbole religieux dans le renforcement du sentiment national hindou et la stigmatisation des musulmans’ (under review in a French journal).
- **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘Social honor: from status groups to status beliefs and recognition gaps’, book chapter in the forthcoming *Global Handbook of inequality*, Springer, edited by Surinder Jodhka and Boike Rehbein (under review).
- Michaël Bruckert, **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘Changing Food Habits in Contemporary India: Discourses and practices among the middle classes’, book chapter the forthcoming second edition of the ‘Handbook of Contemporary India’, Routledge, edited by Knut Axel Jacobsen (under review).
- **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘Vegetarianism and non-vegetarian consumption frequency’, book chapter in Guilмото C. and Saikia N. (Ed.), *Atlas of Gender and Health in India* (under editing work).
- Odile Henry, **Mathieu Ferry**, ‘What Does My IITian tag actually mean? The Relationship Between Academic Titles and Job Positions: The Case of Students at the IITL’, in Caru V. (Ed.), *Engineers and Society in India*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, forthcoming in 2023.
- **Mathieu Ferry**, Mathieu Ichou, ‘The role of migration for intergenerational mobility’, in *Research handbook on intergenerational mobility*, edited by Jo Blanden, Jani Erola, Elina Kilpi-Jakonen, Lindsey Macmillan, Edward Elgar Publishing (accepted for publication).

On-going projects

- ‘Making ends meet: the stylisation of vegetarianism through economic justifications in India’

- ‘The World Occupational Distribution Database: Harmonizing censuses and Demographic Health Surveys over 50 years’ (with Louise Caron, Rosa Weber, Mathieu Ichou)
- ‘The socioeconomic integration of immigrants’ grandchildren in France: patterns of assimilation at the third generation’ (with Louise Caron, Lucas Drouhot, Mathieu Ichou)
- ‘Social mobility over three generations among immigrant- and native origin families in France’ (with Milan Bouchet-Vallat, Lucas Drouhot, Mathieu Ichou, Ognjen Obucina)
- ‘Which degree for which occupation? Vertical and horizontal mismatch among migrants and their descendants’ (with Rosa Weber, Mathieu Ichou)

AWARD AND GRANT

- **Award ‘Jeune Chercheur’ from Fondation des Treilles**, obtained in 2021, 5,000 euro.
- **Grant from Fondation Jean Walter-Zellidja**, awarded by Académie Française in 2018, 3,000 euro to finance a research stay in India from September 2018 to June 2019 (invited PhD student at the Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, New Delhi).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- American Sociology Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, 2022 (two roundtables)
- Research Committee 28 meeting, London, 2022
- European Sociological Association Conference, 2021 (two presentations, online)
- Workshop from the French Association for the study of religion (AFSR), on the theme ‘Nation, religion and democracy’, 2021 (online)
- Workshop from the Sociology of inequalities in India seminar, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, 2021, Paris
- International Convention of Asia Scholars (online)
- Research Committee 28 meeting, 2021 (online poster)
- American Sociology Association Annual Meeting, 2020 (online roundtable)
- European Consortium of Sociological Research, 2020 (poster presentation, cancelled)
- Social Classes in Contemporary Societies: Issues and Challenges, Paris, 2017 (invited)
- Final conference of the ANR-funded project ‘Engineers and society in India, from c.1850 to present times’, 2017 (invited)
- Sociology of Elites in Contemporary India conference, New Delhi, 2016
- Congrès de l’Association Française de Sociologie, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Statistical reasoning for social sciences**, Master level, workshop, Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis, 2022-2023, 3*12 hours (in French).
- **Building a questionnaire for a statistical survey**, Bachelor level, workshop, Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis, 2022-2023, 36 hours (in French).
- **Ethnographic survey**, Bachelor level, workshop, Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis, 2020-2021, 96 hours (in French).
- **Mixed methods for social sciences**, Bachelor level, workshop, Sciences Po, Le Havre campus, 2019-2020, 24 hours (in English).
- **Introduction to sociology**, Bachelor level, seminar, Sciences Po, Paris campus (3*24 hours, in French) in 2017-2018 and Le Havre campus, 2019-2020, 3*24 hours (in English).

STUDENT SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

- Co-supervised with Mathieu Ichou a group of students from the Hautes Etudes en Démographie program to conduct a research project using the French Trajectoires and Origines Survey, 2022-2023.
- Co-supervised with Mathieu Ichou Chloé Lavest who worked on inconsistency between self and proxy reports of education among immigrant descendants in the French Trajectoires and Origines Survey, 2021-2022.
- Co-supervised with Yoann Demoli a group of three ENSAE master students for their dissertation in applied statistics on self-subsistence among French households since the 1980s, 2017-2018

SERVICE

- Occasional reviewer for *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, *Poetics*, *Bulletin of Sociological Methodology*, *Anthropology of Food*, *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*.
- Convenor and chair of the panel 'Family and social dynamics in India' at the 12th International Convention of Asia Scholars, Kyoto (2021).
- Advisory committee of *La Vie des Idées (Books and Ideas)*, in charge of inviting and editing essays in sociology and on South Asia (2018-).
- Co-organisation of the seminar 'Sociology of inequalities in India' (Sociologie des inégalités en Inde) at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (2017-2022).
- Co-organisation of the annual workshop of the 'Association des Jeunes Études Indiennes' on Methodological plurality in South Asian scholarship), MSH Paris-Saclay, 2018.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

2017 : Research assistant (1 month), ENS Lyon, under the supervision of Marie-Carmen Garcia and Mélie Fraysse, automatic web scraping and lexical analysis of teenagers' blogs on love affairs.

2015 : Research assistant (6 months), Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, under the supervision of Partha Mukhopadhyay, statistical analysis of Indian large-scale surveys on the 'Indian middle class' project.

2014 : Research assistant (6 months), Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, New Delhi, under the supervision of Jules Naudet, statistical analysis of prosopographic data and Indian large-scale surveys.

RESEARCH SKILLS

Languages

- French: native
- English: full professional working proficiency
- German: professional working proficiency
- Hindi: limited working proficiency (three intensive language courses since 2017)
- Italian: limited working proficiency

Statistical softwares: R, Stata, SAS

Data management: OpenRefine

Lexical analysis: Iramuteq

Qualitative research: NVivo

Document preparation system: Microsoft Office and L^AT_EX.

Paris, 19 September 2022.