Credit: Jacqueline Nivard

Our dear colleague Élisabeth Allès passed away in the early hours of 1 January. Élisabeth was a long-time friend of the CEFC, where she spent two years as a CNRS researcher from 2002 to 2004, and of *China Perspectives*, as a regular contributor and member of its editorial board. Most recently, she co-edited the special issue entitled "The Deadlock in Tibet" in 2009.

She was an anthropologist and a specialist of Chinese Islam and of Central Asia, in particular of the Dungan culture, the name by which the Chinese communities in Central Asia, mostly made up of Hui Muslims speaking a variant of Gansu dialect, are known. I remember first learning about these communities through a paper she gave at a CEFC conference in Almaty in June 2008, and also the expertise and generosity with which she shared contacts of Muslim Chinese writers and intellectuals with me on this occasion. She published two important articles in *China Perspectives* on her research, one on the Dungans: "Les Dounganes et la cérémonie du mariage" (1999), and one on education: "Muslim Religious Education in China" (2003). Several articles published in other academic journals are available via her author page on the French Website Persée (link below). She was most recently the director of the EHESS-CNRS China Centre in Paris.

She was also a committed defender of human rights, in particular of Wenzhou immigrants in France, as reflected in our colleague Jean-Philippe Béja's recollection of her, and in the announcement published by the Ligue des droits de l'homme, both linked below.

Sebastian Veg

- Élisabeth Allès' articles on Persée: www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/author/auteur_oroc_137
- Jean-Philippe Béja's recollection: http://blogs.mediapart.fr/blog/jean-philippe-beja/030112/disparition-d-elisabeth-alles-sinologue-engagee
- Ligue des droits de l'homme's recollection: http://www.ldh-france.org/Hommage-a-Elisabeth-Alles,4016

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