TAMIL STUDIES SYMPOSIUM at YORK UNIVERSITY
Friday, 1 May 2015

Looking Forward, Reaching Out (Youth Roundtable and Kickoff)
10 am to 12:00 pm | Room 280A, Second Floor, York Lanes | York University

Mental Health and Our Tamil Youth
Bramilee Dhayanandhan (York University/CAMH)

Trauma and Solidarity Between Indigenous and Tamil Youth
Jesse Thistle (York University, University of Waterloo, Researcher for First Story)

Hyphenated Self: My Identity ‘Unveiled’ post 9/11, post 2009
Fathima Nizamdeen (University of Toronto)

Outside the Queer Mainstream
N. Gitanjali Lena (LGBT Youth Line)
Moderator: Vasuki Shanmuganathan (University of Toronto)

Beyond Refuge: Shaping Tamil Studies in the Present
12:30 to 6:30 pm | Room 519, Fifth Floor, Kaneff Tower | York University

12:30 to 1:00 Welcome

1:00 to 2:30 Complicating Tamil-ness at Home and in Diaspora
Moderator: R. Cheran (University of Windsor)

Caught Between Rebels and Armies: Competing Nationalisms and Anti-Muslim Violence in Sri Lanka
Amarnath Amarasingham (Dalhousie University) and Shobana Xavier (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Invisible Diasporas: Can the Non-Anglophone Diasporas Speak?
Sinthujan Varatharajah (University College London)

Sāyavē Red and Slavery in Jaffna: A Social History of Commodity, Caste and Colonialism
Mark Balmforth (Columbia University)

Men and Ghosts: Reading Shyam Selvadurai’s The Hungry Ghosts as Truth Claim
Arun Nedra Rodrigo (York University)

2:30 to 4:00 The Ocean Lady, The MV Sunsea and the Shrinking Rights of Tamil Asylum Seekers in Canada
Moderator: Jennifer Hyndman (York University)

Don't rock the boat: discourses on the arrival of Tamil refugees to Canada by boat
Harini Sivalingam (York University)

Tamil Boat People: Bars and Barriers to Asylum in Comparative Context
Sharry Aiken (Queen’s University)

People Smuggling and the Erosion of the Right to Seek Asylum in Canada: Appolonappa et al v. Canada
Angus Grant (Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers)
4:00 to 4:30  Break (Refreshments will be served)

Inaugural N. Sivalingam Memorial Lecture on Tamil Studies

4:30 to 4:45  Presentation of the inaugural N. Sivalingam Award in Tamil Studies

5:00 to 6:30pm  The Female Fight: Gender & Violence in Sri Lanka
Nimmi Gowrinathan, City College New York

Bilingual Poetry Event

6:45 to 8:00 pm  Kannamma Kavithai (Kannamma’s poetry)

Zulfika Ismael
Geetha Sukumaran
Avvai Vickneasweran
(Tamil poetry with English Translations)

Gowri Koneswaran
(Spoken Word in English)