



Friday, 16 November 2018
Room 140, HNES Building, York University

10:00 am

Welcome and Introductions

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Panel 1: Pluralizing Tamil Archives and Narratives

Printing Tamil Modernity: Pedagogy and Publishing in the American Ceylon Mission

Mark Balmforth (Columbia University)

Community Based Archiving

Natkeeran Ledchumykanthan (University of Toronto, Noolaham Foundation)

Trusteeship Without Trust? Postcolonialism and Memory in a South Asian Christian Archive

Henria Aton (University of Toronto)

Dalit Women: Unheard Voices

Dr. Gowri Diwakar (K.R. Narayanan Centre for Dalits and Minorities, New Delhi)

Moderator: Professor R. Cheran (University of Windsor)

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Panel 2: Research Into Practice: Identifying Community Concerns/Struggles

Understanding Barriers in Accessing Mental Health Services

Shangaari Kanesalinkam (McMaster University)

Research on Employment Equity for South Asian Immigrant Communities in Toronto

Mathura Karunanithy (Council of Agencies Serving South Asians)

Racialized Canadian Indoor Sex Workers Speak Out: Identity, Agency and Resistance

Menaka Raguparan (Carleton University)

Regulation of Trans Identities and Care in Ontario

Gitanjali Natasha Lena (Osgoode Hall Law School, York University)

Moderator: Harini Sivalingam (York University)

12:45 pm – 1:15 pm

Lunch break



1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Panel 3: Challenging 'Traditional' Norms and Practices

Caste Based Remittance Practices of Tamil Diaspora and Ritual Transformation

Dr. Thanges Paramsothy (University of East London)

A Society That Conceals Domestic Abuse

Anna Ponnampalam (University of Auckland)

Not Your Mother's Culture: Second Generation Tamil Women Negotiating Trauma and Identity Through Art

Ann Satkunam (Ryerson University)

Moderator: Faith Rajasingham (York University)

3:00 pm

Contemporary Visual Art in the North and East of Sri Lanka: Talk by S. P. Pushpakanthan (Eastern University Batticaloa, Sri Lanka; Cornell University, NY)

Talk will be followed by discussion and Q & A

Moderator: Kaitlin Emmanuel (Cornell University)

4:00 pm

Close of public events and Coffee Break

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

I Want to Do Graduate Work in Tamil Studies

(Feedback and Brainstorm session for students/would-be students and faculty)



Saturday, 17 November 2018

Room 152 (Assembly Hall), Founders College, York University

10:15 am
Welcome

10:30 am – 11:45 am

Panel 1: Recasting Tamil Representation in Arts and Design

Kosuvu chatai: New Icons of Tamil Identity

Packiyathan Ahilan (University of Jaffna)

Coconut and Stone: Culinary Memories, Spaces and Identities

Geetha Sukumaran (York University)

Building Identity as a Woman in Tamil Diaspora

Sivahami Vijenthira (McMaster University)

Giving Them a Face: The Uses of Tamilness in Jacques Audiard's *Dheepan*

Kaitlin Emmanuel (Cornell University)

Moderator: Dr. Anindo Hazra (York University)

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm

Environment and Identity: On the Struggles of a People: Keynote by Professor N. Srisankarajah (Swedish Agricultural University, Uppsala)

Keynote will be followed by Q & A period and discussion

Moderator: Nedra Rodrigo (York University)

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Short Film Showcase

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Panel 2: **Film panel**

Radheyam Simonpillai (NOW Magazine film critic and culture writer)

Dilani Rabindran (CEO Viewfinder)

Mahes Ragunathan (Director, Independent Art Film Society Toronto)

Moderator: Maria Saroja Ponnambalam (Regent Park Film Festival)

4:30 pm – 4:45 pm

Coffee Break

4:45 – 6:00 pm

Launch of people's history poster commemorating the Gardiner Protests of 2009

Tamil Studies Symposium Collective in collaboration with South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario



Activities at Artscape Youngplace 18 – 24 November 2018

18 November 2018 | **Evening Reception and Artist Talks with S. P. Pushpakanthan and Sabes Sugunasabesan**

18-24 November 2018 | **Exhibition: 'When Memory Lives': Reckoning with War and Its Aftermath at Home and in Diaspora**

Paintings by S.P. Pushpakanthan; Photographs by Sabes Sugunasabesan

'When Memory Lives' is conceived of as a conversation between media, between generations, and between homeland and diaspora. The exhibit will feature the art of the Sri Lanka-based artist S. P. Pushpakanthan, and UK-based photographer Sabes Sugunasabesan presented parallel to each other as intimate journeys in reckoning with war and its aftermath. With the ten-year mark of the end of war in Sri Lanka approaching, these works examine what it means to remember, both physically and psychically, in the face of historical erasure. In their close attention to the deeply personal, these works move away from dramatic assertion, exploring instead the vulnerability of the psyche and wounds that remain invisible and untended.

24 November 2018 || **Visual Art Workshop on Memorialization** with S. P. Pushpakanthan
(LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED)

For more information: tamilstudiesyork@gmail.com