

SHARIKA THIRANAGAMA

Department of Anthropology
Stanford University
450 Serra Mall, Building 50
Stanford, CA 94305
sharikat@stanford.edu

EDUCATION

2006	Ph.D.	University of Edinburgh. Social Anthropology
2002	MSc by Research	University of Edinburgh. Social Anthropology (with Distinction)
2001	B.A. (Hons)	St John's College, Cambridge University. Social Anthropology (Archaeology and Anthropology Tripos)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2019 -	Associate Professor of Anthropology , Stanford University.
2013 –2019	Assistant Professor of Anthropology , Stanford University.
2011- 2013	Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology , Stanford University.
2009-2012	Assistant Professor of Anthropology , The New School for Social Research
2007-2010	Visiting Research Fellow , Department of Social Anthropology, London School of Economics (LSE)
2007-2009	Research Consultant for the AHRC and Open University (UK) sponsored project: 'An Interdisciplinary Study of the BBC World Service'. Open University (UK) and ASSR, University of Amsterdam. June 2007 - September 2009
2007-2009	Lecturer , Modern Asian Studies Masters Program. Institute for the Study of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam.
2006-2007	ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow , Department of Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh.
2005-2006	Nancy L Buc Postdoctoral Fellow , Pembroke Center. Brown University.

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

2022	Lang Fund for Environmental Anthropology, Stanford. Starter fund for workshop and research on the impact of homeownership on the global south: "Home Economics"
2021-2022.	Stanford Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship
2021	Stanford Asian American Faculty Award for contributions to undergraduate and graduate community.
2019-2021	Co-Director, Center for Global Ethnography , Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRISS) and Dept. Anthropology. Stanford University
2018-2019	Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRISS) Faculty Fellowship (with Sylvia Yanagisako)
2020-2023	Elected President of the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies .
2017-2020.	Elected President of the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies .
2016-2018	Sakurako and William Fisher Family Faculty Scholar in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Stanford University.

- 2016-2017 Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRISS) Faculty Fellowship
- 2015-2019 **Grant from National Science Foundation** for project “The Local Level Social Life of Global Ideologies” for new fieldwork project in Kerala. Received on first attempt (placed in highest category)
- 2015-2016 **Grant from Wenner Gren Foundation** for new fieldwork project “The Local Level Social Life of Global Ideologies”/ Cultural Life of Communism in Kerala
- 2015 **Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**, Department of Anthropology Stanford University.
- 2014 **Grant** from Urban Beyond Measure, Stanford Global Studies for workshop, Civility: Trust, Recognition and Co-Existence” to run workshop at Stanford University in April 2015 (with Tobias Kelly).
- 2013 **Grant** from Stanford Project on Religious and Ethnic Conflict and Co-existence for proposal Civility: Trust, Recognition and Co-Existence” to run workshop at Stanford University in April 2015 (with Tobias Kelly)
- 2016 [2010-2016] **Conference Grant**. American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS) & Center for South Asia, Stanford to organize and run Annual Graduate Student Conference: “Remember, Reconcile, Revise”.
2014. **Conference Grant**. AISLS & Center for South Asia, Stanford to organize and run Annual Graduate Student Conference: “Sri Lanka Otherwise? Resituating Temporality and Topography”
- 2013 **Conference Grant**. AISLS & Center for South Asia, Stanford to organize and run Annual Graduate Student Conference: “Sri Lanka: Politics of the Public”
- 2012 **Conference Grant**. AISLS & Center for South Asia, Stanford to organize and run Annual Graduate Student Conference: “Sri Lanka: Intersections”.
- 2011 **Conference Grant**. AISLS to organize and run Annual Graduate Student Conference “Remaking Sri Lanka”.
- 2010 **Conference Grant**. AISLS & Asia Connections, New School University to organize and run Annual Graduate Student Conference for Graduate Student Conference “Sri Lanka : Future Horizons for Research”
- 2010 **Faculty Development Award**, The New School for Social Research to fund Malayalam language learning in Kerala, June–August 2010.
- 2007 **British Academy Small Grant** (with Tobias Kelly) for workshop ‘Treason and the Art of Politics: Historical and Anthropological Perspectives’ at Edinburgh University.
- 2005-06 **ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Edinburgh University.
- 2004-05 **Nancy L Buc Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Pembroke Center, Brown University
- 2004 **ESRC Overseas Award** for semester abroad – taken at Johns Hopkins University.
- 2001-05 **ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council of Great Britain) Postgraduate Studentship**. National fully funded (all-inclusive) doctoral studentship.
- 2000-2001 **Davidson Prize**. St Johns College, Cambridge University
- 2000 –present Made a “**Scholar of St Johns**” at St Johns College, Cambridge University. *Lifetime* award for academic achievement in Archaeology and Anthropology Tripos
- 2000 **Rajiv Gandhi Commonwealth Travelling Scholarship**, University of Cambridge.
- 2000 **Isaac Newton Trust Bursary**, St Johns College, University of Cambridge.
- 1999 **Rajiv Gandhi Commonwealth Travelling Scholarship**, University of Cambridge.
- 1999 **Isaac Newton Trust Bursary**, St Johns College, University of Cambridge. Bursary support for students from low-income families.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2011 Book: *In My Mother's House: Civil War in Sri Lanka*. Foreword by Gananath Obeyesekere. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Indian Edition published by Zubaan Books 2013
2010. Book: *Traitors: Suspicion, Intimacy and the Ethics of State-Building*' Co-Edited with Tobias Kelly. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2022 "The Names of the Leader: The Political Deification of Prabhakaran" *Religion*, 52:4, 513-531, DOI: 10.1080/0048721X.2022.2094785
- 2022 "Figures of Menace? Militarization in Post-War Sri Lanka", *South Asia, Journal of South Asian Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2022.201723>
- 2020 with J Devika, "Gender, Caste, Spatiality, and Local Development in Kerala: A Dialogue" *Lateral Studies Series on Kudumbashree* 8, CSDS, Center for Development Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala. <https://cds.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/RULSG-Kudumbashree08.pdf>
2019. Rural Civilities: Caste, Gender and Public Life in Kerala. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 42(2), pp.310-327. DOI 10.1080/00856401.2019.1582190
Reprinted in 2021 Suryakant Waghmore, Hugo Gorringer (eds), *Civility in Crisis: Democracy, Equality and the Majoritarian Challenge in India*, Routledge.
Reprinted in 2022, Kalpana Kannabiran (eds) *Routledge Readings in Law and Social Justice: Dispossessions, Marginalities, Rights*.
- 2019 "Respect Your Neighbor as Yourself: Neighbourliness, Caste, and Community in South India" *Comparative Studies for Society and History*, 61(2). DOI: 10.1017/S0010417519000057
- 2018 Thiranagama, T Kelly and C Forment, "Introduction: Whose Civility?" in Special Issue *Civility: Global Perspectives*, T Kelly, Forment C, Thiranagama, S. (eds.) *Anthropological Theory* Volume 18 Issue 2-3:
- 2018 "The Civility of Strangers? Caste, Ethnicity and Living Together in Postwar Jaffna, Sri Lanka" in Special Issue *Civility: Global Perspectives*, T Kelly, Forment C, Thiranagama, S. (eds.) *Anthropological Theory* Volume 18 Issue 2-3:
- 2014 "Making Tigers from Tamils: Sri Lankan Tamils and Long Distance Nationalism in Toronto, Canada" *American Anthropologist* 116(2): 265-278
- 2013 "The Self at a Time of War," in special issue "The Self in South Asia," ed. Mookherjee, N. *Journal for Historical Sociology* 26 (1):19-40
- 2013 "Claiming the State: Reconciliation Processes in Sri Lanka," in Special Issue "Reconciliation, Popular Aspirations, and the State" Thiranagama S and Biner O (eds). *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*, 4 (1): 93-116
- 2013 Thiranagama, S and Biner, Z.O. "Preface to Dossier Rethinking Post-Conflict Resolution" in Special Issue "Reconciliation, Popular Aspirations, and the State" Thiranagama S and Biner O (eds). *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*, 4 (1): 93-116 [reviewed by the editorial collective]
- 2012 "'A Railway to the Moon': The Post-Histories of a Sri Lankan Railway Line," *Modern Asian Studies* 46: 221-248. Cambridge University Press DOI: 10.1017/S0026749X1100063

- 2011 “Ethnic Entanglements: BBC Tamil and Sinhala services amidst the civil war in Sri Lanka,” *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism*, 12 (2): 153-169.
- 2010 “Partitioning the BBC: From Colonial to Postcolonial Broadcaster,” *South Asian Diaspora* 2 (1): 39-55 in Special Issue ‘South Asian Diasporas and the BBC World Services: Contacts, Conflicts, and Contestations’, Marie Gillespie, Sharika Thiranagama, Alasdair Pinkerton and Gerhardt Baumann (eds.) *South Asian Diaspora* 2(1)
- 2007 “A New Morning? Reoccupying Home in the Aftermath of Violence in Sri Lanka” *Focaal: European Journal of Anthropology*, 49. 1:45-61.

Reprinted in:

- 2009 “A New Morning? Reoccupying home in the aftermath of violence in Sri Lanka” in *Struggles for Home: Violence, Hope, and the Movement of People*, ed. Stef Jansen and Staffan Löfving. Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books.

Peer reviewed Book Chapters

- 2010 Kelly, T & Thiranagama, S. “Specters of Treason,” in *Traitors: Suspicion, Intimacy and the Ethics of State-Building*, S Thiranagama and T Kelly (eds.) Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- 2010 “In Praise of Traitors: Intimacy, Betrayal and the Sri Lankan Tamil Community,” in *Traitors: Suspicion, Intimacy and the Ethics of State-Building*, S Thiranagama and T Kelly (eds.) Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- 2009 “A New Morning? Reoccupying home in the aftermath of violence in Sri Lanka” in *Struggles for Home: Violence, Hope, and the Movement of People*, ed. Stef Jansen and Staffan Löfving. Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books.
Reprint of article in *Focaal*.
- 2007 “Moving on? Memory, generation and home for displaced Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka” in *Ghosts of Memory: Essays on Remembrance and Relatedness*, ed. Janet Carsten. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Publications (Non-Peer Reviewed, reviewed by editorial collectives and issue editors)

Articles:

2020. “Afterword: A Division of Laborers” *Anthropology of Work Review* DOI: 10.1111/awr.12200.
2020. “The Leader as Image: Prabhakaran and the Visual Regimes of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam”. Visual and text essay in the series “Manly Matters Representations of Maleness in South Asian Popular Visual Practice” in *Tasveerghar: A Digital Network of South Asian Popular Visual Culture* (www.tasveerghar.net).
<http://www.tasveergharindia.net/essay/prabhakaran-visual-ltte.html>

Book Chapters

- 2022 “Caste after the revolution”: the agricultural laborer in Kerala” in Nayanika Mathur and Ravinder Kaur (eds) *New Indian Politics*. Penguin India.
- 2014 “Female Militancy: Reflections from Sri Lanka” in *Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia*, ed., Leela Fernandes. London: Routledge. Paperback Second edition 2018.
- 2012 “Muslims, Ethnicity and Minority Identity in Sri Lanka,” in *Religion and Politics in South Asia*, ed. Christophe Jaffrelot and Amina Arif. Purushartha, Sciences Sociales en

Popular Forum

- 2020 “Figurations of Menace” in Special Issue on ‘Figurative Politics Crowds, Protests and Democratic Anxieties’ (April 1) *The Immanent Frame*.
<https://tif.ssrc.org/2020/04/01/figurations-of-menace/>
- 2020 “Justice disappears for victims of the Sri Lankan civil war” in (April 17) *East Asia Forum*. <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2020/04/07/justice-disappears-for-victims-of-the-sri-lankan-civil-war/>
- 2019 “For Sri Lankan Christians like me, the Easter attacks revived old ghosts” Post Everything, Perspective. (April 30) *Washington Post*
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/04/30/sri-lankan-christians-like-me-easter-attacks-revived-old-ghosts/>
- 2017 “When There Is No Solid Ground” (Feb) “Speaking justice to power: APLA/ POLAR responds to the Trump Executive Order on Immigration”
<https://politicalandlegalanthro.org/speaking-justice-to-power-apla-polar-respond-to-the-trump-executive-order-on-immigration/>
2014. “Sri Lanka’s Lingerin State of War” Annual South Asia issue, April *Current History*
- 2008 ‘The Shadow Diaspora: Sri Lankan Tamils in Colombo’ in Special Issue ‘Migration and Displacement’. *Infochange Agenda*, Centre for Communication and Development Studies, India.
- 2008 ‘The Eviction of Tamils and Muslims from Jaffna’. (01/07/2008) *Daily Mirror*. Sri Lanka
2008. ‘The right of return to Jaffna.’ *Himal South Asian* (January) Vol 21: 1.
2007. ‘A Dream of Return’ in ‘Opinion’ (11/05/2007) *Daily Mirror*. Sri Lanka.
2007. ‘A Dream of Return: Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka’. *ISIM Review* 20.

Book reviews

2021. Review of *Protestant Textuality and the Tamil Modern: Political Oratory and the Social Imaginary in South Asia*, by Bernard Bate. *Anthropological Quarterly* 94 (2021): 725-735. [doi:10.1353/anq.2021.0035](https://doi.org/10.1353/anq.2021.0035).
- 2014 Review of John Borneman “Political Crime and the Memory of Loss” *PoLAR* 37(1): 202-204
- 2008 Review of F.W Clothey ‘Ritualizing on the Boundaries: Continuity and Innovation in the Tamil Diaspora’ *Religion*, 38: 195-218

WORK IN PROGRESS

Under review:

“Inheritance and Caste Formations”. Submitted final version March 2022 for volume *Dalit Studies II*, Rawat, Satyanarayana & Sanal Mohan (eds). Essay focuses on political economy of caste and evaluates effects of a long *duree* of inter-generational inequality among Dalit communities. Working paper presented at Dalit Studies Workshop, January 2018, CSDS, New Delhi.

Oxford Research Encyclopedia, long form essay on “Tamil militancy”

Manuscripts in preparation:

“Untouchability and Agrarian Servitude: Re-evaluating the history of slavery in India”. In preparation for submission to regional journal articles. Working paper presented at Forced Labor workshop, 2017, Stanford University and Geography Colloquium, University of Berkeley.

Chapter “Public and Private” for the Cambridge Companion to Indian Politics and Society”. Chapter in preparation.

Fieldwork in progress:

The Cultural Life of Communism in Kerala. Fieldwork undertaken from June 2015-June 2016 in Palakkad district Kerala, with female Dalit laborers to examine Kerala’s dramatic social transformations from the perspective of Dalit (formerly untouchable caste) communities of agricultural laborers. Stanford IRB approval: RB-32943. Funded by the National Science Foundation and the Wenner Gren Foundation.

Postwar life in Northern Sri Lanka. Fieldwork in the former warzone, northern Sri Lankan Jaffna Peninsula over consecutive summers. Research concentrates on questions of land and changing configurations of residence, mobility, and social status. Stanford IRB approval: 28496

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

-
- | | |
|--------|---|
| 2/23 | UC Davis Anthropology Colloquium series |
| 11/22. | “Houses as Horizons: Caste, Experience and Domination in Kerala, South India”
Research Seminar, Department of Anthropology, University of Bern |
| 11/22. | Day-long seminar on “Caste, Class, and Politics,” Department of Geography, Political
Geography Research Group, University of Zurich. |
| 11/22 | “Menace: Political Violence, Policing and Desire in Sri Lanka” in Workshop “Cultural
Life of Democracy.” Department of Geography, Political Geography Research Group,
University of Zurich. |
| 06/22. | “Between Sri Lanka and India: Cross Region Research.” South Asian Intersections:
Identity, Difference, and Postcolonial Trajectories. University of Zurich Summer
School |
| 11/21 | “Spaces of Encounter: Tamil and Muslims life in Jaffna” Ceylon Geographer’s
Forum, University of Peradeniya. |
| 10/21. | “In Memoriam” Series on “Dissent” Center for South Asia, UC Santa Cruz |
| 10/21 | “The Private Life of Caste”. Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford. |
| 5/20 | “Rural Civility: Caste and Public and Private in Kerala” Institute for Social Science,
Humanities and Oceanic Research’ (I-SHORE). Online Webinar |
| 3/20 | “Menace, fear and the long-term effects of militarization in post-war Sri Lanka” South
Asian Studies Program, National University of Singapore. |
| 3/20 | “Caste Today: Sharika Thiranagama and Suryakant Waghmore” Center for South South
Asia Seminar Series, Cambridge University |
| 2/20 | “Respect your neighbor as yourself? Caste, Dignity and social transformation in
Kerala”. Center for India and South Asia. UCLA |
| 10/19 | "Caste in Private: Rethinking Work, Public Life and Caste Emancipation Through the
Household" Workshop, Mellon Sawyer Seminar " Kinship as Critical Method", Tufts
University |
| 8/19 | Lecture on Ethnography and Ethnographic Research Methods for Qualitative Research,
Open University, Sri Lanka. |

- 5/19 Invited presentation, " Younger Brother, Elder Brother, Leader, Sun God: Prabhakaran and the Sacralization of Martial Masculinity in Sri Lanka" Workshop "Manly Matters", Duke University.
- 3/19 Invited presentation, "Love and Survival: Aspiration and Yearning in South Asian Anthropology," in honor of Isabelle Clark-Decès. Princeton University
- 9/18 Constitution Day Roundtable discussion: "Conversation about Civility, Diversity, and Inclusion." Linfield College. (Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) initiative on Diversity, Civility, and the Liberal Arts)
- 9/18 Annual Anthropology Lecture "Waiting for the revolution: Why did militancy in Sri Lanka fail to transform society?", Linfield College.
- 7/18 In My Mother's House: Reflections on Civil War in Sri Lanka. Department of English, Colombo University, Sri Lanka
- 5/18 When the Dust Settles? Caste, Ethnicity and Co-Existence in Post War Jaffna. Geography Lecture Series. Zurich University
- 5/18 "Respect your Neighbour as yourself: Ethics, Caste and Neighbourliness" Centre for Modern Indian Studies Colloquium. Gottingen University
- 1/18 Keynote Address: Progressive Civility and Private-Publics in Kerala. Democracy and Civility Workshop. Indian Institute for Technology, Bombay. Mumbai.
- 1/18 Caste as Inheritance: Structures of Mobility for Dalits in the Agrarian Economy. Second Dalit Studies Workshop: Human Dignity, Equality and Democracy. CSDS. New Delhi
- 11/17 Who is your neighbor? Caste, Dignity and Dalit Lives in Kerala. UPENN South Asia Colloquium
- 10/17 Who is your neighbor? Caste, Dignity and Dalit Lives in Kerala. Center for Study of Societal Issues. UC Berkeley
- 1/17 Strangers of all kinds: co-existence and co-presence in post war Sri Lanka. Plenary speech, Latin American Social Issues Summer School, Altacama, Chile
- 12/16 The Slow Arc of Emancipation? Communism and Dalit lives in Kerala. Workshop on Conservatism in India, CERI/ University of Ashoka, Delhi
- 10/16 Resettling Jaffna: Ethnic and Caste Relations in Post War Sri Lanka, University of Toronto
- 10/16 Legacies of Coercion: Caste and Agricultural Labor in South India. Workshop on Labor, Coercion, and Rights in Africa and the Indian Ocean World in the 19th and 20th Centuries, Stanford University
- 9/16 Recasting slavery: The legacy of caste and slavery in South India. (Geography Colloquium, University of Berkeley)
- 05/15 South Asia Speaker Series, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
- 04/15 "Strangers of all kinds" Workshop "Civility: Trust, Recognition and Coexistence",
04/15 Spring Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, UC Santa Cruz.
- 04/15 Anthropology Research Colloquium, UC Davis.
- 02/15 Seminar series, Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation
- 01/15 "Younger Brother, Elder Brother, Leader, Sun God: Prabhakaran and the Sacralization of Death in Sri Lanka" Workshop: Spectacle and Sovereignty: Stately Bodies on Display, Stanford University
- 05/14 "Post Liberation Theology: Catholicism and Caste in Northern Sri Lanka" South Asia Roundtable "Religion and its Discontents". UC Davis.
- 04/14 "Grease Devils: Militarization and Postwar Reconciliation in Northern Sri Lanka" South Asia Program Lecture Series, Cornell University.
- 10/12 "Transforming Oneself, Transforming Society?: Tamils, Tigers, and Militancy in Sri

- Lanka” Stanford Department of Anthropology Colloquium
- 03/12. “Civility without Intimacy: Northern Tamil and Muslim Relations in Postwar Sri Lanka” South Asia Studies Weekly Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania
- 03/12. “Civility without Intimacy: Northern Tamil and Muslim Relations in Postwar Sri Lanka” Colloquia series, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University.
- 04/12. “Militancy and Consent? “The 2012 Pembroke Seminar Roundtable:” The Question of Consent”. Pembroke Center, Brown University
- 02/12. “Tamils, Tigers ... and Transformations? Cultures of Militancy in Sri Lanka” UC Berkeley Anthropology Departmental Seminar
- 11/11 Invited speaker at 30th Anniversary of Pembroke Center: *Theory on the Move: Three Decades of Feminist Critical Thinking*. Brown University. One of 12 former postdoctoral fellows picked from 30 years of three annual postdoctoral fellows.
- 10/11. “At Home with Violence: Ethnic Life in Colombo” Workshop on Urban Sensorium, Centre for South Asia, Stanford University.
- 09/11. ““All Tigers are Tamil, but not all Tamils are Tigers”: Anthropology and the Culturalisation of Politics in Sri Lanka”, Center for South Asian Studies Scholarly Lecture Series, University of Michigan.
- 06/11 “Muslims and Minority Identity” in “Politics and Religion in South Asia”. *Centre d'études et de Recherches Internationales (CERI), SciencePo*. Paris
- 04/11 “Understanding Tamil Colombo: Urban life, Ethnicity and the Future in Sri Lanka”, South Asia Program Lecture Series, Cornell University.
- 11/10 “Cultural Purity and Militant Kinship: The Transformation of Tamil Society in Sri Lanka”, South Asia Institute, Columbia University.
- 11/ 10 “Popular Militancy, the Family and the Legacy of Political Violence in Northern Sri Lanka” at Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies Lecture Series, Tufts University
- 10/10 “The Self in Civil War” at workshop “Victims, Interventions and Knowledge”, RCT, Denmark.
- 04/10 “Militant Biographies and the Promise of Transformation in Sri Lanka”, Anthropology Colloquium, University of Texas, Austin
- 03/10 “Now the War Has Ended....New and Old Futures in Sri Lanka”. ESRC Research Network Series: Conflicts in Time: “Making Time Present”. LSE. London.
- 03/10 “Policing Sameness: Secrecy, Ethnicity, and Sri Lankan Tamil militancy” Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
- 03/10 “Technologies of the Future: The Northern Railway in Sri Lanka” presented at workshop on ‘Everyday Technology in Monsoon Asia, c. 1880-1960’, University of Warwick.
- 11/ 09 “Can What is Broken be Put Back together?”: Ethnic Harmony as Reconciliation” at workshop ‘The Possibilities of [Re]conciliation: The Legalisation of Justice’ Organized by myself and Zerrin Ozlem Biner. Max Planck Institute, Halle, Germany.
- 04/09 ‘We are all Traitors Now’: Secrets, Betrayal, and Ethnic Intimacy amongst Sri Lankan Tamils”, New School for Social Research, New York.
- 04/09 with Tobias Kelly. “Our Secrets, Our Treason, Our People: Ethnic Intimacy and Sri Lankan Tamils’ One day symposium ‘*At the Gates of the Polis: Strangers, Traitors and Migrants.*’ Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Amsterdam.
- 03/09 “The Generation of Militancy”, Department of Anthropology Colloquium, University of Utrecht
- 02/09 “Becoming of that place: Muslim Stories from Northern Sri Lanka”, Department of Anthropology and South Asia Centre seminar series, University of Virginia.

- 01/09 'Subjection, Everyday life and Narrating War'. In 'Oral Histories and Life Stories'. Huizinga Instituut (Research Institute and Graduate School of Cultural History), University of Amsterdam
- 06/08 "The movement that is not one: the Indian Women's movement", India Lecture Series, University of Amsterdam.
- 05/08 "The movement that is not one: the Indian Women's movement", India Lecture Series, University of Amsterdam.
- 03/08 "From Commonwealth to Ethnoscapes: the BBC Tamil and Sinhala services amid the Civil War in Sri Lanka" presented at symposium: 'Interrogating the BBC World Service: Cosmopolitan Claims, Diasporic Dialectics, and the Cultural Politics of Translation.' The Amsterdam School of Social Science Research
- 01/08 'The Generation Who Lost: Popular Tamil militancy in Sri Lanka', Centre for South Asian Studies Seminar Series, University of Edinburgh.
- 06/07 "Traitors, Intimates, and Secrets amongst the Sri Lankan Tamil Community", The Anthropological Theory Seminar, London School of Economics.
- 12/06 Introductory and concluding remarks, and, Paper "In Praise of Traitors: Intimacy, Betrayal and the Sri Lankan Tamil Community" presented at workshop "Treason and the Art of Politics: Historical and Anthropological perspectives" co-organized by myself and T. Kelly. University of Edinburgh.
- 10/06 "The Railway to the Moon: The Post-History of a Sri Lankan Railway Line", Edinburgh University Anthropology seminar series.
- 05/06 "Becoming People out of Place: Stories of Home and Eviction for Northern Muslims of Sri Lanka" presented at 'Minorities and new imaginaries in Sri Lanka', New School for Social Research, New York.
- 04/06. "A New Morning? Reoccupying Homes in Sri Lanka" at 'Languages of Victimization' seminar series, Pembroke Center Faculty Seminar, Brown University
- 04/06 "Becoming People out of Place: Stories of Home, Eviction, Return for the Northern Muslims of Sri Lanka", 'Public Modernities in Asia Colloquium', Yale University.
- 09/05 'In Praise of Traitors' presented at 'Languages of Victimization' seminar series, Pembroke Centre Faculty Seminar, Brown University
- 05/05 "In Praise of Traitors", 'Politics of Victimhood' workshop, CRASSH, Cambridge University
- 12/04 "Moving On? Memory, Generation and Home for Northern Muslims of Sri Lanka" presented at the 'Kinship and Memory' workshop, University of Edinburgh.
- 11/04 "Militancy, Women and Narrative", in workshop on 'Narrative and Sexuality' Workshop, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.
- 05/04 "Living in the Homeland", LSE South Asia Postgraduate Seminar, London School of Economics
- 11/03 "Stories of Home: Northern Muslims of Sri Lanka", at workshop on 'Encountering History', Goldsmiths College, University of London

Invited speaker at screenings of Canadian National Film Board film 'No More Tears Sister: Anatomy of Hope and Betrayal' at:

- 04/ 2010 Anthropology. University of Texas, Austin.
- 10/2006 Annual conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 04/2006 Religion and Politics in South Asia Film Series, Yale University
- 03/2006 Pembroke Center. Brown University
- 11/2005 'States of Fear' documentary film series, Carr Centre for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 10/22 Presentation in Roundtable “ the Aesthetic Archive and the Left” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 10/22 Presentation in Roundtable on " Roundtable: On V. V. Ganeshanathan’s *Brotherless Night*: justice, war, and fiction in Sri Lanka ". Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 10/19 Presentation in Roundtable on "Marrying for the Future". Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 11/18 “Inheriting Work: Dalit Women and Agrarian Slavery” on Panel “The Work of Inheritance: the Relational Labor of Investment and Aspiration” American Anthropological Association, San Jose.
- 10/18 “Inheriting Enslavement: Caste, Work and Gender in Kerala” in panel “Caste Matters: Geographies of Gender. Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 4/17 The World that Work Creates: Inheriting Agricultural Labor in South India. Panel (organized) Multiple Exposures: Gender, Embodiment and Time” American Ethnological Society. Stanford
- 10/16 The Caste Universe of Rice Agriculture. On Panel, Language, labor, and politics in South Asian public spaces: a panel inspired by the works of Bernard Bate. Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 11/13 “Partitioning the BBC: The challenges of decolonization in South Asia” on panel “The BBC and Decolonization” North American Conference of British Studies. Portland, Oregon.
- 10/ 13 “Grease Devils: The Sri Lankan Army and Sri Lankan minorities” at panel I organized “Exceptions” as Norms: Militarization in South Asia “Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 11/11. “Civilities and New Neighborhoods in Post-War Northern Sri Lanka” on Panel “Civility, Ethics and the Politics of Sociality” co-organized with Tobias Kelly, American Anthropological Association, Montreal.
- 10/11. “The Traffic of Jaffna: The Traffic in Jaffna: Post war urbanization” at panel “Jam-Space? Urban Infrastructure and the (Traffic) Jam in urban South Asia “Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 02/10 “Houses of the Future? Return and reconciliation amongst Northern Muslim and Tamils” N YU Global South Asia Conference, New York University, New York.
- 10/09 “The Railway to the Moon: The Post- History of the Sri Lankan Northern Line” presented on Panel “Debating Technology: The State and Infrastructure in South Asia” organized and chaired by myself. Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 08/08 ‘Ethnoscapes and Institutions: the BBC World Service in Sri Lanka’. Panel on “Modern Institutions in a Cross-cultural Perspective”, Annual meeting of the European Social Anthropology Association (EASA). Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 02/08 Invited participant in British Academy Panel ‘South Asia Peri- doctoral Workshop’. British Academy, London.
- 09/07 Discussant at the ‘First European South Asia PhD seminar’, a collaborative seminar between the University of Amsterdam and the University of Edinburgh. Amsterdam.
- 04/07 ‘Treason and Individual Responsibility in Civil War’ presented in the 34th Conference on Value Inquiry ‘Social Justice and Individual Responsibility’. Adrian College, Michigan.
- 10/06 ‘People out of Place: Northern Muslims of Sri Lanka’ at panel organized on ‘Constructing the future in Sri Lanka’s North and East’. Annual conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 10/05 ‘Stripping Women, Stripping History: Dowry and Eviction of the Northern Muslims’ presented to the ‘Displacement – Global Dynamics and Gendered

- Patterns' conference, Centre for Women's and Gender Research, University of Bergen, Bergen.
- 04/04 'Living in and leaving the Homeland: Sri Lankan Tamils in Colombo presented in panel on 'The materiality of metaphor: tensions between landscape and 'landscapelessness' at ASA (annual conference of Association of Social Anthropologists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Durham University
- 09/03 'Stories of Home: Northern Muslims of Sri Lanka' presented at the annual meeting of SAAG (South Asian Anthropologists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) London School of Economics.

WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

- 04/15 Co-organizer with Tobias Kelly "**Civility: Trust, Recognition and Coexistence**", Stanford University. Participants include Lisa Mitchell, Laurent Gayer, Carlos Forment, Helene Risor, Thomas Blom Hansen, Tobias Kelly, Azra Hromadzic, Paul Anderson, Magnus Marsden, Bruce Grant. Raised \$22,000 from 10 different sponsors/units at Stanford University.
- 2010-2016 Co-organizer with a graduate student committee, **Sri Lanka Graduate Student Conference**, November 2016, November 2014, December 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010
- 11/09 Co-organizer (with Zerrin Ozlem Biner) '**The Possibilities of [Re]conciliation: The Legalisation of Justice**'. Max Planck Institute, Halle, Germany.
- 12/06 Co-Organizer (with Toby Kelly) '**Treachery and the Art of Politics: Historical and Anthropological Perspectives**'.
- 03/06 Co-Convener (with Lori Allen and Donna Trembinski) '**Who Needs Victims?**' Roundtable, Pembroke Center, Brown University.
- 04/05 Co-Convener (with Kim Masson and Rebecca Walker) 'Researching and Recognizing Conflict' postgraduate workshop at Edinburgh University, funded by CSAP, University of Birmingham.

Forthcoming Workshops:

Preparing a workshop on Private Life and Dalit Worlds (planned for 2022)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017 & 2019 3 sessions of 2 weeks of archival research in India Office Records at British Library on enslavement in Malabar, Simon Commission, 1931-32 Indian Franchise Committee.
- 2015-2016 11 months of fieldwork in Palakkad, Kerala. 1.5 weeks in London conducting archival research in India Office records at British Library on slavery in south India, specifically Malabar.
- 2010/11/13 Summers, Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Ethnographic research on post war resettlement
2010 Summer, Kerala, India. Preliminary interviews, identification of research sites and two months of language study of Malayalam (in Ernakulam)
- 2008 Archival research (2 weeks) BBC WAC archives, Reading. Research on BBC Hindustani, BBC Hindi, BBC Urdu, and documents relating to partition in India and the BBC
- 2007 Summer London, UK. Interviews and observations with BBC Tamil and BBC Sinhala journalists, summer 2007
- 2007 1 month archival research. BBC WAC archives, Reading. Research on BBC Tamil BBC Sinhala and the BBC coverage of war in Sri Lanka
- 2007 Summer, London UK. Targeted interviewing and ethnographic research on Tamil

	dissidents
02/2005	Toronto, Canada targeted interviewing and ethnographic research of Tamil dissidents, winter 2005
2004	Follow up to Dissertation Research (1 month) summer, Colombo and Puttalam, Sri Lanka. Follow up interviews.
2004	Archival research (1 month) Public Records Office, London. Research on dowry reforms in Jaffna, abolition of “slavery” in Jaffna and Jaffna low caste agitation for representation.
2003-4	Dissertation Research (5 months) Ethnographic research on Tamil diaspora communities: 3 months, Toronto, Canada, 2 month London, UK
2002-3	Dissertation Research (11 months), Colombo & Puttalam, Sri Lanka. Ethnographic research with internally displaced Tamils and Muslims on home and displacement, dowry and land relations, political dissidence, and ethnic identification.
2002-3	Archival research (accompanying ethnographic research) National Archives, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Research on nineteenth century Jaffna Tamil migration to Malaya and Singapore, nineteenth century railway construction and agitations, 1905 opening of the Northern Railway. General archival research on nineteenth century government agent diaries for Jaffna focusing on land disputes.
2000	Summer (3 months), Undergraduate Dissertation Research. Native Canadian Center, Toronto, Canada. Volunteering, and ethnographic research with First Nations communities.

COURSES TAUGHT

STANFORD

Graduate

The Family Romance: The Family in Contemporary Society (Fall 2022)

Strangers and Intimates: Exploring Public Life (Spring 2023)

History of Anthropological Theory (required graduate course) Winter 2012, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2018. Fall 2019

Theory through Ethnography (required graduate course) Spring 2018

Archives for Social Scientists Spring 2018

Authority: Anthropological Perspectives. Spring 2015. Spring 2017

Strangers and Intimates: Exploring Civility. Spring 2014, Winter 2015.

Policing the Family: Kinship and Society. Fall 2011.

Queer Anthropology (Co-taught with Barb Voss), Fall 2018, Winter 2019, Spring 2019

Emancipations: Theories and Experiences Spring 2020

Dissertation Writers Seminar (required): Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Spring 2021

Undergraduate

Anthropology Capstone: Debates in Anthropology. Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2023

Ritual, Politics, Power. Winter 2014, Winter 2015, Spring 2017

Intro Sem (Frosh Seminar): “Ethnicity and Violence: Anthropological Perspectives”. Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Winter 2018, Fall 2020, Fall 2022

“South Asia: People, Politics, History”. Winter 2012, Spring 2014.

Ethical Life with Strangers: Sociality and Civility. Spring 2021

Other:

Our Families, Our Worlds: quarter length course at Hope House Scholars Program (a Stanford residential drug and alcohol treatment facility for women). Winter 2021

The Ethnographic Craft (one day workshop for the Center for Global Ethnography) with Sylvia Yanagisako: Winter 2019

Other Institutions:

Graduate

We the People: Ethnicity, Nationalism and Belonging” [for the New School’s Democracy and Diversity Graduate Summer Institute, Wroclaw, Poland]. July 2011. New School for Social Research

Anthropology as a History of Present (required graduate course). Winter 2010, Fall 2010. New School for Social Research

Policing the Family: Kinship Intimacy and Society. 2010 New School for Social Research

South Asia in Motion (MA). 2007, 2008. IHSS, University of Amsterdam.

Undergraduate

The Hidden Life of the Obvious: An Introduction to Social Analysis (First Year Seminar). Eugene Lang College, New School University

Mythologies of the Everyday. 2010. Eugene Lang College, New School University

The Family Romance: The Family in Contemporary Life” 2010, 2011. Eugene Lang College, New School University

Introducing South Asia: States, Politics and Popular Culture 2007, 2008. IHSS, University of Amsterdam

“Kinship: Structure and Process” Co-designed and co-taught with Prof Janet Carsten. 2007. University of Edinburgh

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Stanford Anthropology Department Committees

2022-2023 Undergraduate Committee Chair

2023. Spring Colloquium Series

2020-2021 Undergraduate Committee member

Fall Colloquium Series

Ad-Hoc Committee on Inclusion, Racial Justice and Equity

[Summer 2020]

2019-2020 Chair, Graduate Admission Committee

2018-2019 Committee member – Ad-Hoc Committee addressing Sexual Harassment in Fieldwork

2018-2019 1st year Graduate Cohort Advisor,

Ethics Committee

2017-2018 Curriculum Committee, Language Committee

2016-17 Graduate Admissions Committee

2016-17 Search Committee, Islam and Gender

2014-15 Chair of Undergraduate Committee

2014-15 Fall Colloquium Series

2013-14 Chair of Undergraduate Committee

Other Stanford Committees

2022 Rhodes Marshall Campus Committee

2020 Global Advisory Committee: Committee to advise course criteria for global education

2020 Knight - Hennessy Scholars Program – Interviewer of Finalists

2019 Rhodes Marshall Paper Screening Committee
 2019 Stanford Rhodes and Marshall Campus Committee
 2018 Stanford Rhodes and Marshall Campus Committee
 2017 Stanford Rhodes and Marshall Campus Committee

New School Committees

2010-11 Diversity Committee, Eugene Lang College
 2009-10 Anthropology Undergraduate Major Committee

External Institutions

2020-2023 Elected President of American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies
 2017-2020 Elected President of American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies
 2013-2016 Elected Director, Board of Directors, American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies
 2010-2013 Elected Director, Board of Directors, American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies
 2010-2011 Institutional Representative for New School, Board of Directors, American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies
 2012-present Advisory Board, Noolaham Foundation (Documentation and Digitization of resources and documents on Tamil Speaking communities in Sri Lanka)

Book Series Editor

With Tobias Kelly and Daniel Hoffman, University of Pennsylvania Press series *Ethnographies of Political Violence* (from 2018 onwards)

Reviewer for Journals and Presses

Modern Asian Studies, Cultural Anthropology, American Ethnologist, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Dialectical Anthropology, JRAI, Anthropology and Education Quarterly, Medical Anthropology, Ethnography, Feminist Review, Nations and Nationalism, South Asia Diaspora, Critique of Anthropology, American Anthropologist, Comparative Studies in South Asia and the Middle East, Differences.

Indiana University Press, Routledge, Stanford University Press, Cornell University Press, Fordham University Press

Research Grant Reviewer/Panels

Wenner Gren, National Science Foundation, Stanford OIA International Exploration Fund, Stanford Humanities Center Geballe Workshop

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Film

Voice-Over for (2007) Haro-Hara: Pilgrimage to Kataragama, independent documentary film directed and produced by Samuel Holt

Main actress and interview subject in (2005) 'No More Tears Sister'- Docudrama film by Helene Klodawsky on the life of Dr. Rajani Thiranagama. Canadian National Film Board. Touring with and speaking on the film on issues of human rights, political activism, violence and war etc. 2005-2007. Also screened in the PBS POV series.

Refugee/Community work

Ongoing - Expert reports and witness on cases involving Sri Lankan asylum seekers.

2003-4 On contracts as Immigration Casework Assistant. Scudamore's Solicitors, London. UK (including performing and designing internal audits for legal services compliance)

2003 Weekly volunteering visiting detainees (3 months). London Detainee Support Group (support group for asylum seekers detained in Harmondsworth detention center, London)

2000-02 Immigration Casework Assistant, Summers. Lawrence Lupin Solicitors, London, UK

1996-99 Immigration Casework Assistant/Volunteer, Summers. JCWI (Joint Council for Welfare of Immigrants), London.UK.

2000 Summer, Native Canadian Centre (First Nations community center) Toronto, Canada.

LANGUAGE

- Native English,
- Fluent spoken Tamil, good reading and basic writing Tamil.
- Good spoken, basic reading Malayalam