



International Centre for Ethnic Studies

Up-country Tamils: Charting a New Future

2nd and 3rd August 2017

ICES Auditorium

Conference Agenda

2nd August 2017 - Day 1

9.30– 10.45 a.m.	Keynote Speeches Moderator: Prof. Tudor Silva Charting Uncertain Futures: Diaspora, Citizenship and Belonging among Up-country Tamils Migration Towards the North-East and the Emerging Political Leadership of Hill Country Tamils Discussion	 Dr. Daniel Bass, Cornell University P. Muthulingam, Institute for Social Development
10.45 – 11.00 a.m.	Tea	
11.00 – 12.15 p.m.	Session 1: Place and Identity Moderator: Dr. Daniel Bass Malaiyaha Tamilar: Identity Formation and Challenges 'Telling of My Identity Myself': A Positioning Theory Analysis of Up- country Tamil People's Complex Self-identification	 Sivam Prabagharan, Up- country Social Research Centre Dr. Maneesha S. Wanasinghe and Jayani Senevirathne, Department of International Relations, University of Colombo

	<p>Caste and Gender: The Politics of Identity</p> <p>Concluding Remarks</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Anthonimuthu Robinson, Department of Sociology - University of Colombo</p> <p>P. P. Devaraj</p>
12.15 – 1.15 p.m.	<p>Session 2: Land, Housing and Public Services Moderator: P. Muthulingam</p> <p>The Impact of Estate Worker Housing on Sustaining the Plantation System in Sri Lanka</p> <p>Public Service Delivery, Quality of Government and Institutional Trust: An Examination of the Working of Public Institutions in the Plantation Sector of Sri Lanka</p> <p>Land Issues of the Up-country Tamils and Environmental Problems</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>D. P. Chandrasekara, Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa</p> <p>R. Ramesh, PhD Candidate - University of Bergen, Norway</p> <p>Selvarajah Rajasekar and Yalini Saranya Sivasubramaniam, Centre for Policy Alternatives</p>
1.15 – 2.15 p.m.	Lunch	
2.15 – 3.15 p.m.	<p>Session 3: Rights and Development Moderator: Prof. M. Mayilvaganan</p> <p>Use and Abuse of Labour Rights in the Colonial Plantation System</p>	<p>Ramani Hettiarachchi, Department of History, University of Peradeniya</p>

	<p>Between Factory and Estate</p> <p>Right to Development: Income and Livelihood Opportunities of Workers in Tea Smallholdings</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Zainab Ibrahim (Independent Researcher) and Buddhima Padmasiri, Open University of Sri Lanka</p> <p>P. P. Sivapragasam, Human Development Organization</p>
3.15 – 4.30 p.m.	<p>Session 4: Art and Representation Moderator: Dr. D. Karunanayake</p> <p>“No one should be dependent on another”: Representation of Marginalization and Resistance in Imaginative Texts of the Sri Lankan Plantation Community</p> <p>Identity in Up-country Literature</p> <p>Toward a Cinema of Conversation: The Making of <i>Ingirunthu</i> (Here and Now)</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Lal Medawattegedara, Open University of Sri Lanka</p> <p>Thelivathe Joseph, Writer</p> <p>Prof. Sivamohan Sumathy, University of Peradeniya</p>
4.30 – 5.00 p.m.	Tea	
5.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Screening of <i>Ingirunthu</i> (Here and Now) followed by discussion	Sivamohan Sumathy

3rd August, 2017 – Day 2

<p>9.30 – 10.45 a.m.</p>	<p>Keynote Speeches Moderator: Prof. Tudor Silva</p> <p>The History and Politics of the Up-country Tamils (Title TBC)</p> <p>The Oppression and the Need for Reemergence of the Indian Tamil Plantation Community of Sri Lanka</p> <p>Intentionally Ignored? India and the Up-country Tamils of Sri Lanka</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Dr. Kumari Jayawardena</p> <p>Dr. A. S. Chandrabose, Department of Social Studies - OUSL</p> <p>Prof. M. Mayilvaganan, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore</p>
<p>10.45 – 11.00 a.m.</p>	<p>Tea</p>	
<p>11.00 – 12.15 p.m.</p>	<p>Session 1: Women, Identity and Empowerment Moderator: Dr. Nireka Weeratunge</p> <p>Women in the Plantations of Sri Lanka: Their Access to Economic Rights, Land, Higher Education and Employment Skills for Livelihood</p> <p>Up-country Tamil Women: “Moving Towards Own Space”</p> <p>Transitional Justice: Forgotten Experiences of Up-country Tamil Women</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Dr. A. S. Chandrabose, P. P. Sivapragasam and P. Logeswary, Department of Social Studies - OUSL</p> <p>T. Kalaimagal, Development Specialist</p> <p>Letchumanan Kamaleswary, FOKUS WOMEN</p>
<p>12.15 – 1.15 p.m.</p>	<p>Session 2: Urbanization and Migration</p>	

	<p>Moderator: Kalaimagal Thangavelu</p> <p>Estate Line Rooms to Colombo City: The Story of Estate Tamils' 'Home' Construction in the City of Colombo</p> <p>Up-country Tamils in the Urban Areas: Their Working and Living Conditions</p> <p>New Venture – Up-country Tamil Youth Urbanization – “Slipped Cup of Tea”</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Anton Piyarathne, Department of Social Studies, OUSL</p> <p>O. Arumugam, SHAGAR Consultants</p> <p>Periyasami Surendran. ILDPAcademy (Pvt.) Ltd.</p>
1.15 – 2.30 p.m.	Lunch	
2.30 – 3.30 p.m.	<p>Session 3: Education and Inequalities</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. A. S. Chandrabose</p> <p>Experimenting Critical Pedagogy with Up-country Communities in Haputale, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Lack of Language Proficiency of Indian Tamils in Sri Lanka and its Implications</p> <p>New Futures for Up-country Tamil Youth: One Non-profit's Efforts to Tackle Economic, Educational and Gender Inequities</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>Upul K. Wickramasinghe, T. Waradas, R. N. Uttamadasa et. al.</p> <p>S. Thiruvenkataswami, Department of English, SSN College of Engineering, Chennai</p> <p>Ruvani Fonseka and Yadharshi Selvaraj</p>
3.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Tea	

<p>3.45 – 5.45 p.m.</p>	<p>Session 4: Politics, Governance and Rights – Implications for Policy Moderator: Balasingham Skanthakumar</p> <p>Constitutional Reform in the Plantation Sector</p> <p>Up-country Tamils: Charting a New Future</p> <p>Random Reflections of Sri Lankan Laws on Up-country Tamils – An Appraisal</p> <p>Politics and Governance</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Panel Discussion - Imagining a New Future for Up-country Tamils: Identity, Governance, Gender and Rights</p>	<p>Gowthaman Balachandran</p> <p>Dr. D. Nesiah and Dr. R. Hoole</p> <p>Selvaras Janha, Department of Legal Studies – Open University of Sri Lanka</p> <p>N. S. Dayanandan, Tamil Equality Alliance</p> <p>Dr. Daniel Bass, Prof. Tudor Silva, P. Muthulingam, T. Kalaimagal, Dr. A. S. Chandrabose and P. P. Devaraj</p>
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