

# MYTHRI JEGATHESAN

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## EDUCATION

**Columbia University**, New York, NY  
**Ph.D.**, Anthropology, May 2013  
**M.A.**, Anthropology, May 2005

**Georgetown University**, Washington, DC  
**B.A.**, Classics and Anthropology, May 2003

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Santa Clara University**, Santa Clara, CA  
**Assistant Professor**, September 2014 – present

**The College of William and Mary**, Williamsburg, VA  
**Visiting Assistant Professor**, August 2013 – August 2014

**Georgetown University**, Washington, DC  
**Adjunct Lecturer**, August 2012 – August 2013, January – May 2014

**Columbia University**, New York, NY  
**Teaching Fellow**, August 2010– May 2012, August 2006-May 2008

## PUBLICATIONS (SINGLE-AUTHORED)

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Deficient realities: expertise and uncertainty among tea plantation workers in Sri Lanka” Original article, *Dialectical Anthropology*. April 2015. DOI: 10.1007/s10624-015-9386-1

### Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

“Negotiating History and Attending to the Future: Formations of Solidarity and Community among *Malaiyaha* Tamils in Sri Lanka,” in Tamil Communities and the Sri Lankan Conflict. 2011. *Géographie et Cultures*. Paris: L’Harmattan. 45-71.

### Invited Book Reviews

Review of Kumari Jayawardena and Rachel Kurian. *Class, Patriarchy and Ethnicity on Sri Lanka’s Plantations*. Forthcoming in *Contributions to Indian Sociology*. 2017

Review of Daniel Bass. *Everyday Ethnicity in Sri Lanka* (Routledge, 2012). Forthcoming in *Asian Ethnologist*. July 2016.

Review of Nira Wickramasinghe. *Sri Lanka in the Modern Age* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, Oxford University Press, 2014). 2015. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*. 38 (4): 858-861.

Review of Sonali Deraniyagala. *Wave* (Vintage, 2013). *Columbia Magazine*. Summer 2013.

**Public Anthropology and Other Publications**

“A year on, Sri Lanka suffers.” May 30, 2010. Global Post.

Website: <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/worldview/100519/colombo-sri-lanka-war-tamil-tigers>

“Bargaining for a Living Wage: Reflections on the Economic Rights of Tamil Tea Plantation Workers in Sri Lanka” *HimalSouthasian*. February 2010. 23(2): 38-41.

“Sri Lanka’s Time of Reckoning.” May 19, 2009. Global Post.

Website: <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/worldview/090522/sri-lankas-time-reckoning>

“Silenced in Sri Lanka” February 16, 2009. Global Post.

Website: <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/asia-at-large/090216/silenced-sri-lanka>

“Reflections on Development in the Hill Country.” *Satyodaya Centre for Social Research and Encounter Bulletin* (April 2009) 208: 20-22.

**PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Invited Lectures**

“The unbecoming coolie: connectivities of labor and landscape among *Malaiyaha* Tamils on Sri Lanka’s tea plantations” Invited lecture. Centering Mobility in Tamil Worlds. National University of Singapore (NUS). October 15, 2015.

“Falling short of the ideal: negotiating a woman’s worth from age attainment to marriage among *Malaiyaha* Tamils on Sri Lanka’s tea plantations” Invited lecture. Workshop on Kinship and Marriage (American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies). September 5, 2015. Kandy, Sri Lanka.

“What to do? Plantation Life and the Politics of Development, Visibility, and Risk in Sri Lanka.” Department of Anthropology. Georgetown University. February 8, 2013.

**Conference/Conference Panel Organization**

“Labor, Landscape, and (De)colonial Desires: Rethinking the Plantation as a Socio-Ecological Category.” [Co organized with Sarah Besky] American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Denver, CO, November 18, 2015.

“The Decolonial Future: Gender, Trust, and Solidarity in South Asia.” Panel Organizer and Chair. Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI, October 23, 2015.

“Destabilizing "Tamilness" in Sri Lanka” Panel Organizer and Chair. Tamil Studies Conference, University of Toronto. Toronto, Canada. May 14, 2011.

Sri Lanka in South Asia: Future Horizons for Scholarship. Indo-China Institute, New School for Social Research and American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, New York, NY. Conference Co-Organizer. April 16, 2010.

**Selected Paper Presentations (2010 to present)**

“Is a progressive politics possible? Examining the contemporary intersections of industrial sustainability and political shifts in Sri Lanka’s plantation sector” Paper presentation. Sri Lanka Roundtable. University of Edinburgh. May 27, 2016.

“Unbecoming coolie: deconstructing colonial ideals on Sri Lanka’s tea plantations.” Paper presentation. American Anthropological Association. Denver, CO. November 18, 2015. Panel organizer/paper presenter.

“Organizing the unorganized: negotiating solidarities among working women in Sri Lanka.” Paper presentation. Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. October 23, 2015. Panel organizer/paper presenter.

“The unbecoming coolie: constructing “home” among Tamil plantation residents in Sri Lanka” Paper presented at the University of Hawai’i Manoa Center of South Asia Symposium. April 15-17, 2015.

“Reimagining development: forging transnational solidarity through rights-based programming in Sri Lanka’s tea plantation sector” Paper presented at Sri Lanka Roundtable. Universiteit van Amsterdam. December 11-12, 2014.

“In search of solidarity: transnational connections and rights-based programming on tea plantations in Sri Lanka” Paper presented at 2014 Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. October 17, 2014.

“Neither *ūr* nor owned: deconstructing the plantation labor regime and the politics of development, visibility, and risk in Sri Lanka” Paper presented at 2013 Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, WI. October 18, 2013.

“The stigma of plantation labor: marking undesirability among development workers in Sri Lanka.” Paper presented at 2012 American Anthropological Association General Meeting. San Francisco, CA. November 18, 2012.

“Documenting place among Hill Country Tamils in Sri Lanka.” Panel organized/paper presented at the Tamil Studies Conference. Toronto, Canada. May 14, 2011.

“Taming uncertainty: the signification of doubt and belief in a healing ritual among Hill Country Tamil tea estate residents in Central Sri Lanka.” Paper presented at 109<sup>th</sup> Annual American Anthropological Association General Meeting. New Orleans, LA. November 17, 2010.

“Articulating Life Choices and Attributing Value among Hill Country Tamil Women in Sri Lanka.” Paper presented at the Tamil Studies Conference. Toronto, Canada. May 14, 2010.

“A community ‘on the move’: perceptions of belonging and possibility among Hill Country Tamil tea estate residents in Sri Lanka.” Conference co-organized and paper presented at Sri Lanka in South Asia: Future Horizons for Scholarship. Indo-China Institute, New School for Social Research, New York, NY. April 16, 2010.

“Negotiating history and attending to the future: formations of solidarity and community among *Malaiyaha* Tamils in Sri Lanka,” Paper presented at Tamil Communities and the Sri Lankan Conflict Conference organized by *Espaces, Nature, and Culture Research Laboratory*. Paris IV (Sorbonne) France. February 13, 2010.

### **Guest Lectures**

“The politics of the researcher: documenting Kāman Kūttu and visual methodologies” In undergraduate course, Music, Writing, and Research (Music, Christina Zanfagna). April 19, 2016.

“Housing and land rights on Sri Lanka’s tea plantations.” In undergraduate course, International Environment and Development (Environmental Science and Studies, Patrick Gallagher). May 28, 2015.

“Labor, landscape, and (de)colonial desires on Sri Lanka’s tea plantations” Department of Anthropology Speaker Series. Santa Clara University. April 29, 2015.

“Deconstructing the plantation labor regime and the politics of development, visibility, and risk in Sri Lanka” Department of Anthropology Brown Bag Speaker Series. The College of William and Mary. October 30, 2013.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

### External Research Grants

- Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS), 2014-2015
- Dissertation-to-Book Travel Grant, American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS), October 2013
- American Dissertation Fellowship, American Association of University Women (AAUW), 2012-2013
- Green Harbor Financial (GHF) Prize for Anthropological Fieldwork, July 2009
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG), October 2008
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship Award (AIIS, Madurai), May 2007
- Language Instruction Award, American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS), April 2006
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) Award (Tamil, South Asia), AY 2003-2005

### Internal University Grants

- Bannan Institute Scholar, Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education, Santa Clara University, 2016-2018
- Critical Gender Studies Research Initiative, Santa Clara University, January 2016
- Penstemon 2.0 Project Sustainability Faculty Stipend, Santa Clara University, July 2015
- Deans Grant, International Conference Travel, Santa Clara University, December 2014
- Travel Grant, Reves Center for International Studies, The College of William and Mary, October 2013
- Sheldon Scheps Fellowship Travel Award, Columbia University May 2006; May 2007

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Reviewer for Peer-Reviewed Journals:

*American Ethnologist, Contributions to Indian Sociology, Economic Anthropology*

Co-Founder and Member. *Lanka Solidarity*. Scholarly and Activist Collective on Sri Lanka. Writing, solidarity network-building, policy analysis collective.

Member, *American Anthropological Association (AAA)*

Section and Interest Groups: Association for Feminist Anthropology, Society for the Anthropology of Work, Interest Group on NGOs and Non-Profits, Anthropology & Environment Society

Member and Workshop Selection Committee Member, *American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS)*

## COURSES

Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology

Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Senior Capstone and Internship (NSF Proposal Writing)

Anthropological Methods and Qualitative Field Research Methods (Georgetown School of Foreign Service)

Human Rights & Humanitarianism

Anthropology of Development

Visual Anthropology

## **LANGUAGES**

- Advanced writing, reading, and oral proficiency in Tamil
- Advanced written and reading proficiency in Classical Latin and Ancient Greek
- Basic spoken and reading knowledge of Italian
- Basic spoken knowledge of Sinhala