

VASUGI KAILASAM
CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of South and South East Asian Studies
University of California Berkeley
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EDUCATION

- 2015 PhD, Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore.
2009 Masters in Comparative Literature (Asia/Africa), SOAS, University of London.
2007 Bachelors in English Literature, Stella Maris College, University of Madras.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- July 2019 – present Assistant Professor, Department of South and South East Asian Studies (SSEAS),
University of California, Berkeley.
Aug 2015 – June 2019 Lecturer, South Asian Studies Programme (SASP), National University of Singapore.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- Forthcoming “Reimagining Postcolonial Sri Lanka as ‘Ceylon’: Shyam Selvadurai’s *Cinnamon Gardens*”
in *ARIEL*
Forthcoming “Becoming an engineer, becoming a Tamil man: The middle-class hero in post-millennial
Tamil cinema” in *Tamil Cinema in the 21st Century: Politics, Genre and Technology*, edited
by Vijay Devdas and Selvaraj Velayutham (Routledge Press)
2018 “Sri Lankan Tamil nationalism and male violence: The unnarratability of Shobasakthi’s *Traitor*”
in *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*.
2017 “Framing the Neo- Noir in Contemporary Tamil Cinema: Masculinity and Modernity in Tamil
Nadu” in *South Asian Popular Culture*, 15 (1), pp. 23-39
2015 “Notes on a South Asian Diasporic Aesthetic: Reading Cheran Rudramoorthy’s Poetry” in
Postcolonial Text, Chakraborty, Chandima. ed. *Translated Worlds: History, Diaspora, South
Asia* (special issue in honour and memory of Chelva Kanaganayagam) Volume 10&11, Issue
3. pp 1-18.

Encyclopaedia Entries

- 2013 “Cinema and the Sri Lankan Diaspora” in *The Encyclopaedia of the Sri Lankan Diaspora*, eds.
Peter Reeves and Rajesh Rai, editions Didier Millet, Singapore 2013. pp.60

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2017 Departmental nominee for the NUS Annual Teaching Excellence Award.
2015 Toronto Tamil Literary Garden Scholarship Award for Outstanding Essay.
2014 Full tuition fee fellowship, Institute of World Literature (IWL), Harvard University.
2014 Tamil Language Council (Singapore) workshop grant for the Annual Tamil Language Festival.
2013 Full tuition fee fellowship, School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University.
2013 Tamil Language Council (Singapore) workshop grant for the Annual Tamil Language Festival.
2013 Student Achievement Group Award, National University of Singapore.
2013 Overseas Education Programme Grant, National University of Singapore.

- 2012 Tamil Language Council (Singapore) workshop grant for the Annual Tamil Language Festival.
 2010 Graduate Research Scholarship (full tuition fee and maintenance stipend), National University of Singapore.

CONFERENCES ORGANISED

- 2015 “Centring Mobility in Tamil Worlds: Research Agendas for the 21st century”, co-organised by the Tamil Studies Initiative, University of Toronto and the South Asian Studies Programme, NUS, Singapore, October 15-16.

PANELS ORGANISED

- 2019 Exploring Gender in Tamil cinema at the Annual Conference on South Asia, UW Madison October 26.

PANELS MODERATED

- 2017 “Contemporary Tamil Women’s Writing” at the Singapore Writer’s Festival, Singapore, November 11.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY (selected)

- 2018 “Refugee literature as World literature?” in the *Society for Novel Studies* biennial conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, May 31-June 2.
 2017 “The Tamil Neo noir film” in the *American Comparative Literature Association* conference, Utrecht, Netherlands, July 6-9.
 2016 “Contemporary Popular Literature in Tamil: Genre, modernity and the creation of new literary cultures” at the 45th Annual conference on South Asia: University of Wisconsin -Madison, October 18-20.
 2015 “Writing trauma and reading Tamil nationalism: Shobasakthi’s ‘mmm ’’ at ‘Centring Mobility in Tamil Worlds: Research Agendas for the 21st century’, NUS, Singapore, Oct 15-16.
 2013 “Sri Lanka’s conflict zone: A view through Indian Tamil films” at *Violence, Insurgencies, Deceptions* at the Asian Research Institute, (ARI), Singapore, May 7-9.
 2012 ‘Reconciling through literature: Romesh Gunasekera’s *Heaven’s Edge*’ 5th Global conference Forgiveness, University of Oxford, United Kingdom. July 14-17.
 2011 “Visualising Militarization through Popular Culture: Maniratnam’s *Kannathil Muthamittal*” at the Annual British Association South Asian Studies Conference, Southampton, April 2-4.

INVITED TALKS (selected)

- 2020 “The refugee in contemporary Tamil writing” at UW Madison’s Center for South Asia
 2017 “Singaporean postcolonial Tamil fiction: An overview” in NUS Faculty of Arts and Poetry Walls conference held in conjunction with the National Poetry Festival, July 30.
 2017 “Locating the ‘world’ in comparative literatures of conflict: the case of postcolonial Sri Lanka” in the World Literatures workshop, co-organised by the Department of English, Warwick University and Department of English Literature, National University of Singapore, March 27.
 2016 “Teaching Tamil literature: Cultivating empathy” at the Select centre, Singapore, May 12.
 2014 “Articulations of Belonging in Tamil cinema” at the South Asian Studies Programme Seminar series, South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore, March 12.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley

SASIAN 136: Film, Visual Media and Spectatorship Practices in Modern South Asia (Fall 2019)

SASIAN Modern Indian Literature (Spring 2020)

SASIAN Framing Tamil Worlds: Histories, Cultures and Identities (Spring 2020)

National University of Singapore:

GEM 1050/ GEH 1009 Framing Bollywood: Unpacking the Magic (Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

SN 3772: Violence and Visual Cultures in South Asia (Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2019)

SN 2275: Contemporary Tamil Literature (taught in Tamil) [Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017]

SN 3275: Tamil Culture and Society (taught bilingually; in English and Tamil) [Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019]

GEM 1001: South Asia: People, culture and development (Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017)

SN Gender and Society in South Asia (Fall 2015)

ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate honours thesis supervision (National University of Singapore)

2018	Nandhini Balakrishnan, <i>The New Age Kathanayaki in Tamil cinema</i>
2016	Harsha Channa, <i>The New Woman in Bollywood Cinema</i>

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

To Profession

2017-2018	South Asian Studies Programme Seminar convenor
2015	Organizing Committee member, "Centring Mobility in Tamil Worlds: Research Agendas for the 21 st century", co-organised by the Tamil World Initiative, University of Toronto and South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Oct 15-16.
2011	Graduate Representative, Department of English Literature, National University of Singapore.
2012	Organizing Committee Member for the Department of English Graduate Conference, National University of Singapore.

To Community

2012	Vice Chairperson, Organising Committee, World Tamil University Youth Conference 2012, Singapore.
2014	Workshop on Tamil Identities in the Global World, Tamil Language Festival 2013, Singapore.
2013	Workshop on Diasporic Tamil Identities in Popular Culture, Tamil Language Festival 2014, Singapore.

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Tamil (native)

English (near native)

French (intermediate)