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Department of Anthropology  
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## EDUCATION

PhD Anthropology, University of Chicago (2000)  
M.A Anthropology, University of Chicago (1988)  
B.A Anthropology, Hobart College (1984)

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2008-Present Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology  
Yale University  
2001-2007 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology  
Yale University  
1999-2001 Lecturer, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations  
University of Chicago  
Winter 1997 Lecturer, Department of Anthropology  
University of Chicago  
Fall 1995 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Spring 1992 Instructor, Department of Liberal Education  
Columbia College, Chicago

## PUBLICATIONS

### *a. Books and Edited Volumes:*

In Press *Kavitha's Love: Tamil Oratory, the Dravidian Aesthetic, and Democratic Practice in South India*  
Columbia University Press [Due Spring, 2009].  
2005, ed. *Language, Genre, and the Historical Imagination in South India*, a special issue of the *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 42(4): 443-553.

### *b. Articles:*

Under Review 'Naladiyar in the *bazaar*: Protestant textuality and the Tamil public sphere, c. 1865.' In Daud Ali and Anand Pandian, eds., *Genealogies of Virtue: Ethical Practice in South Asia*. Indiana University Press.  
Forthcoming 'Parapraxis today: the u.s. flag and the mythopoesis of self and other.' *Critique of Anthropology* [2008]  
2007 'Arumuga Navalar, Shaivagamika Anushasana saha Agamehi Seema Nirnaya, 1850 Ashrithawa.' [Sinhala Translation of 2005b]. In Perera, Sasanka and Harindra Dassanayake, eds *Shri Lankeya Samajaya saha Sanskrutiuya Patanaya Kireema: Thoragath Nibandha, 2000-2006*. Translation by Anuruddhika Kularatne and Harindra Dassanayake. Colombo: Institute for the Advanced Study of Society and Culture.

- 2006b 'Jugo de los tropos en la practica politica de los Tamil: de vita, luz de luna, y jazmin' ('The play of tropes in Tamil political practice: on life, moonlight and Jasmine.') Translated by Ariel Silva. In *La tropologia y la figuracion del pensamiento in la accion social*, a special issue of *Revista de Antropologia Social* (Madrid) 15:85-112, edited by James Fernandez.
- 2006a 'The Fields of Toronto.' In 'Post Field Positionings,' a special issue of *Indian Folklife* (Chennai), No. 23 (August), 19-20, edited by Susan Seizer.  
[http://www.indianfolklore.org/pdf/newsletter/currentissue/aug\\_2006/ifl\\_23-19.pdf](http://www.indianfolklore.org/pdf/newsletter/currentissue/aug_2006/ifl_23-19.pdf)
- 2005d 'Introduction: Language, Genre and the Historical Imagination in South India,' coauthored with Lisa Mitchell and Rama Mantena. *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 42(4): 443-444.
- 2005c 'arumukanaaval: c. 1850 alavil caivap piracanka marapum, camaya nirnayamum' [Tamil Translation of 2005b]. Translation by Cho. Patmanaban. *Panuvai* (Jaffna) 3: 166-87.
- 2005b 'Arumuga Navlar, Saivite sermons, and the delimitation of religion, c. 1850.' In *Language, Genre, and the Historical Imagination in South India*, a special issue of the *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 42(4):467-82.
- 2005a 'Archival Materials of the American Ceylon Mission/ Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India.' American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies. <http://www.aisls.org/pdfs/archives-jaffna-church.pdf>
- 2004 'Shifting subjects: elocutionary revolution in 18<sup>th</sup> Century America and 20<sup>th</sup> Century India.' *Language and Communication* 24 (4): 337-352.
- 2002 'Political Praise in Tamil Newspapers: The Poetry and Iconography of Democratic Power.' In Mines, Diane and Sarah Lamb, eds., *Everyday Life in South Asia*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 308-25.
- 1995 'tamizhakattil cikaako maanidaviyal aavukkal' ('Chicago Anthropology in Tamilnadu.'). *Taamarai: ulaka tamizh maanaadu cirappumalar*, January 1995:155-58.

*c. Reviews and Review Essays:*

- 2008 *The Encounter Never Ends: A Return to the Field of Tamil Rituals*, by Isabelle Clark-Decès, 2007 (Albany, NY: SUNY Press). *Journal of Anthropological Research*. [Due 2008]
- 2008 *Language, Culture, and Society*, edited by Christine Jourdan and Kevin Tuite, 2006 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). *Journal of Anthropological Research*. [Due 2008]
- 2007 *Fierce Gods: Inequality, Ritual, and the Politics of Dignity in a South Indian Village*, by Diane Mines, 2005 (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press). *Journal of Asian Studies* 66(2): 578-580.
- 2006d *Blowback: Linguistic Nationalism, Institutional Decay, and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka*, by Neil DeVotta, 2004 (Stanford: Stanford University Press). *Anthropological Linguistics* 48(2):203-5.
- 2006c *No One Cries for the Dead: Tamil Dirges, Rowdy Songs, and Graveyard Petitions*, by Isabelle Clark-Decès, 2005 (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press). *Journal of Anthropological Research* 64: 416-17
- 2004 *Print, Folklore, and Nationalism in Colonial South India*, by Stuart Blackburn, 2003 (Permanent Black, Delhi). *Journal of Asian Studies* 63(4): 1163-65.
- 1997b *Public Faces, Private Voices: Community, Individuality in South India*, by Mattison Mines, 1994 (University of California Press, Berkeley). *Contemporary South Asia*.6(1):115-16.

1997a *Word, Sound, Image: The Life of a Tamil Text*, by Saskia Kersenboom, 1995 (Berg Publishers, Washington, DC). *American Anthropologist* 99(1):193.

*d. Translations:*

1992b. With A.K. Ramanujan. 'vittin munaiyil oru camayilarai,' ('A Kitchen in the Corner of the House'), a Tamil short story by Ambai. *The Journal of South Asian Literature* 27(1):21-42.

1992a. With A.K. Ramanujan. 'ataikkalam,' ('Shelter'), a Tamil short story by Sundara Ramaswamy. *The Chicago Review* 38(1&2):136-42.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

*Speaking the Public Sphere: Tamil Oratory and Linguistic Modernity, 1847-1919*. A historical ethnography of the emergence of oratory in the production of a Tamil public sphere in India and Sri Lanka.

*Unknown Landscapes: Essays in Contemporary Tamil Cultural Criticism*. A translation of *ariyappadaata tamizhakam*, a collection of essays by Tho. Paramasivan.

*Tropology: The Figuration of Social Thought and Action*. Co-edited with James Fernandez, a volume of eleven European and American authors on anthropological rhetoric.

### FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND HONORS

2008-09 Senior Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies/National Endowment for the Humanities (9 months).

2008-09 Senior Faculty Fellowship, Yale University

2008 Publication Subvention, Frederick W. Hilles Publication Fund, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University.

2005 Research Fellowship, American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies (4 months).

2004-5 Junior Faculty Fellowship, Yale University.

2003 Social Science Faculty Research Award, Yale University.

2003 Faculty Research Grant, Yale Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University

2001 Distinction for doctoral dissertation: *Metaittamil: Oratory and Democratic Practice in Tamilnadu*, University of Chicago

1997-98 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, The Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

1997 Frederick Starr Lectureship, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago.

1995-97 Committee on South Asian Studies Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago (two years).

1994-95 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Abroad Fellowship (US DoEd).

1992-93 Junior Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies.

1988-89 Advanced Language Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies, Madurai, Tamilnadu.

1987-92 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Tamil, University of Chicago (three years).

1986-87            Century Scholarship, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago.

### **PANELS AND CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

Co-organizer/Chair of the double session, 'South Asian Social Imaginaries,' Annual meetings of the Association of Asian Studies, Atlanta, GA, 4 April 2008.

Co-organizer of the session, 'Mythopoesis,' 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 28 November-2 December 2007.

Organizer and Chair of the session, 'Vernacular Social Imaginaries: Public Spheres, Modernities, Nations,' CASCA/AES 2007 Toronto, Canada, 8-12 May 2007.

Co-organizer of the conference, 'Vernacular Public Spheres/South Asia,' Yale University, 6, 7 April 2007.

Organizer and Chair of the conference, 'Language, Genre, and the Historical Imagination in South India,' Yale University, 20 February 2004.

Organizer and Chair of the session 'What is at Stake? Oratory and Social Imaginings.' 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, 22 November 2002.

Organizer and Chair of the session 'Culture and Historical Agency.' 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 29 November 2001.

Organizer and Chair of the invited session 'Language, Democracy, and the Localities of Power.' 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, 16 November 2000.

Co-organizer of 'Anthropologies and Histories of Language,' The University of Michigan and the University of Chicago second annual graduate student conference in linguistic anthropology ('Michigan'). 14-15 April 2000.

Organizer of the session 'Tropologies: Metalinguistic Discourses on Meaning Transformation.' 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, 20 November 1999.

Organizer and Chair of the session 'Ideologies of Rhetoric: Language Ideology/ Language Function/ Oratory.' 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, 2 December 1998.

Co-organizer and Chair of the session 'Newspapers in Ethnographic Research' for the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 23 November 1997.

Co-organizer of the session 'Rethinking the Symbol' for the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 1996.

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

'Can the sovereign speak? The ruler's voice and the emergence of a public Tamil.' Paper circulated and presented in 'Modernity and the Voice: Anthropological Histories from Beyond the Metropole,' School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, 22-24 April 2008.

'Slut.' Invited presentation for students and members of the Yale Women's Center, 10 April 2008, Yale University.

'Synecdoche + The Nation.' Paper delivered in the panel 'Mythopoesis,' Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 2 December 2007.

'Protestant Textuality and the Tamil Public Sphere, c. 1816-1865.' Paper delivered in the Joint Meeting of the Cultural Anthropological Society of Canada/American Ethnological Society, Toronto, Canada, 12 May 2007.

- '*Naladiyar* in the *bazaar*: protestant textuality and the tamil public sphere, c. 1865' Paper delivered in the conference, 'Vernacular Public Spheres/South Asia,' Yale University, 6 April 2007.
- 'Speech in the *Kali Yugam*: Gender and Vulgarity in Tamil political oratory.' Paper delivered in the conference, 'Visceral Nations: Daily Practices of Citizenship, Belonging and Emotions in South Asia,' Yale University, 18 May 2006.
- 'Textuality and social transformation in mid-nineteenth-century Jaffna.' Paper delivered in 'Tropes, Territories and Competing Realities,' Tamil Studies Conference, University of Toronto, 13 May 2006.
- 'Can the sovereign speak? The ruler's voice and the emergence of a public Tamil.' Annual meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, San Francisco, 8 April 2006.
- 'Walking Utopia: spacetime and the city in urban political practice.' Paper delivered in the conference, 'Urban Charisma: On reputations, hustlers, big men and other forms of urban infra-power.' Yale University, 24 September 2005.
- 'pirathiyamum camuthaya nilaimarramum' ('textuality and social transformation'). Invited lecture, Arumuga Navalar Mandram/ Department of Art History, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka, 4 May 2005.
- 'Appropriating Rhetoric: Christian and Saivite Sermons in Tamil, c.1850.' Paper delivered in the conference, 'Language, Genre, and the Historical Imagination in South India,' Yale University, 20 February 2004.
- 'The Interior Landscape of Tamil Political Events.' 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, 20 November 2003.
- 'Oratorical Embodiment and the Praxis of Self and Person in Tamil.' 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 24 October 2003.
- 'Beyond rhetoric: oratory and the discursive production of political power.' 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, 22 November 2002.
- 'Arumuga Navalar, Protestant textual practice, and the objectification of Saivism.' 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 29 November 2001.
- 'Arumuga Navalar and the materiality of speech.' Invited lecture, Department of Anthropology, Yale University, 19 March 2001.
- 'Speech genre, politics, and historical transformation in Tamilnadu.' South Asia: Histories of the Present, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 17 March 2001.
- 'Shifting subjects: elocutionary revolution in 18<sup>th</sup> Century America and 20<sup>th</sup> Century India.' 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, 16 November 2000.
- 'medaitamil, manidaviyalin parvai' ('anthropological perspectives on Tamil oratory). Invited lecture, Department of Tamil Literature, Madras University, 19 September 2000.
- 'On life, moonlight, and jasmine: Transformations of word and person in Tamil political oratory.' 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, 20 November 1999.
- 'Arumuga Navalar and the advent of a prose orality in Tamil public discourse.' 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 16 October 1999.
- 'The King's Red Tongue: Transformations of Political Discursive Interaction in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Tamilnadu.' 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, 2 December 1998.

'On *Nannul* 290, a Tamil Semeiotic.' 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, The University of Wisconsin, Madison, 17 October 1998.

'The Powers of Praise: The Content and Layout of Political Poetry in Tamil Newspapers.' 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 23 November 1997.

'Walking through utopia: the temporary architecture of political processions in Madurai, Tamilnadu.' Conference on Space/South Asia/Globalization, University of Chicago, 17 May 1997.

'The Play of Tropes in Tamil Oratory.' 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 1996.

'Citation in Tamil Oratory.' 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 17 November 1995.

'The Man who Speaks Fire: Tippi Arumugam and Vulgarity in Tamil Public Oratory.' 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, The University of Wisconsin, Madison, 21 October 1995.

## RESEARCH

Aug 2008- July 2009      Field/Archival Research, Tamilnadu, India

Jan-May 2005            Field/Archival Research, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Aug 1992-May 1995      Field Research, (Doctoral Thesis), Madurai, India.

July-Aug 1987            Field Researcher, Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, University of Chicago Hospital.  
Conducted interviews in the Chicago area with persons suffering from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

July-Nov 1984            Field Researcher, Bangalore, India.  
Collected information on academic and housing facilities for proposed college term program for Hobart College.

1983-1984                Field Researcher (Honors Thesis), Hobart College, Geneva, NY  
Ethnographic research in a Charismatic Christian Church.  
Thesis: 'The Body and the Spirit: An Ethnography of a Storefront Church.'

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Yale University:

2002 – Present	<b>Secondary Appointment</b> in Ethnicity, Race and Migration
2002 – Present	Undergraduate Fulbright Committee
2005 – 2008	Committee on Teaching in the Residential Colleges
2005 – 2006	Senior Search Committee, Anthropology Department
2005 – Present	<b>Secondary Appointment</b> in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies
2005 – Present	Faculty Advisor, Undergraduate Anthropology Society
2006 – 2007	Chair, Undergraduate Grants Committee, Council for South Asian Studies
2007 – Present	<b>Secondary Appointment</b> in South Asian Studies
2007 – 2008	Junior Search Committee, Anthropology and African American Studies

### National Service:

2007 – Present	Member, South Asia Council, Association of Asian Studies (three year term)
2007 – Present	Associate Editor, <i>Journal of Linguistic Anthropology</i>

Manuscript Reviewer:

*American Anthropologist* (1998), *American Ethnologist* (2000, 2001), *Anthropologie et Sociétés* (Montreal) (2005), *Cultural Anthropology* (2002), *Identities* (2002), *Journal of Asian Studies* (2002, 2004), *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* (2003, 2006, 2007, 2008), *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (2008), *Review of Development Change* (Madras) (2006)

**COURSES TAUGHT (Yale University)**

Anthro. 214, 'Language and Gender,' Spring 2002; Spring 2003, Spring 2004, Spring 2006, Fall 2007.  
 Anthro. 276, 'Contemporary South Asia: Ethnographic and Critical Approaches,' Fall 2001; Fall 2003, Fall 2006  
 Anthro. 285, 'South Asian Nationalisms,' Fall 2002.  
 Anthro 210, '20<sup>th</sup> Century Anthropological Theory,' Spring 2007  
 Anthro. 311, 'Contemporary Anthropological Theory,' Spring 2003  
 Anthro. 321/ Anthro. 298, 'Anthropology of Oratory and Rhetoric,' Fall 2005, Spring 2008  
 Anthro. 380/580, 'Language and Political Practice, Fall 2002; Fall 2003.  
 Anthro. 348/548, 'Gender/Media/India,' Fall 2001, Spring 2004. Spring 2006, Spring 2007  
 Anthro. 419/619, 'Language and the Public Sphere,' Fall 2006, Fall 2007  
 Anthro. 429/629, 'Rhetorics and Publics,' Spring 2002.  
 Anthro. 461/661, 'The Ethnography of Speaking,' Spring 2008  
 Anthro. 942, 'Research Seminar in South Asian Anthropology,' Fall 2003, Spring 2004.

**LANGUAGES**

Tamil (Highly proficient in written and oral/aural); French, Spanish (Proficient in reading; some oral ability); German, Hindi/Urdu (Structural understanding for linguistic teaching)

REFERENCES

1. Prof. E. Valentine Daniel  
Professor, Department of Anthropology  
Columbia University  
Schermerhorn Annex  
New York City, NY 10027  
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2. Prof. James Fernandez  
Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology  
University of Chicago  
1126 E. 59<sup>th</sup> St  
Chicago, IL 60637  
e-mail: [jwfl@midway.uchicago.edu](mailto:jwfl@midway.uchicago.edu)  
(773) 702-7003 (Office)  
(773) 363-8030 (Home)
  
3. Prof. William R. Kelly  
Chair, Department of Anthropology and Sumitomo Professor of Japanese Studies  
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