

RAJESH VENKATASUBRAMANIAN, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Head
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Science Education
and Research (IISER) Mohali
Sector 81, Mohali
Punjab, Postal Code - 140306

rajeshv@iisermohali.ac.in
rajeshviisermohali@gmail.com

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Modern Indian History, Intellectual and Cultural History of Modern India, South Asian Literary Cultures, History of Tamil Language and Literature, Literary Historiography, Social and Intellectual History of Book Production in Modern India, Reception Studies, Progressive Literary Movements.

EDUCATION

2010 Ph.D. in Modern Indian History, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras. Title of Study: The Reproduction and Reception of Classical Tamil Literature in Colonial Tamilnadu, 1800-1920.

2005 M.Phil in History, Department of History, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad. Title of Study: Interrogating Text, Time and Space in Early Historic Tamilakam.

2003 M.A. in History, Department of History, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad.

2001 B.A. in History, Department of History, Madras Christian College, Chennai.

TEACHING POSITIONS HELD

2020-Till date. Associate Professor in History, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Mohali, Punjab, India.

2013-2020. Assistant Professor in History, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Mohali, Punjab, India.

2013. Assistant Professor in History, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSSC), Calcutta, West Bengal, India.

2012. Assistant Professor in History, School of Humanities and Sciences, Manipal University Jaipur (MUJ), Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

2010-2012. Adjunct Faculty, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai, India.

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph and Edited Books:

2013. [*Manuscripts, Memory, and History: Classical Tamil Literature in Colonial India*](#). New Delhi: Cambridge University Press India Pvt Ltd. **Reviews:** [Economic and Political Weekly](#), [Indian Economic and Social History Review](#), [Relegere: Studies in Religion and Reception](#), [Frontline](#)

2019. (Ed) [*The Russian Revolution and India: Compilation from Soviet Land Magazine and Other Sources*](#). New York. Routledge (Co-Editor).

Essays in Edited Books:

- 2023.** 'Progressivism and Tamil Modernity: Tracing the History of Progressive Literature in Tamil, 1940-1970' in Nishat Zaidi (ed), [Indian Modernities: Literary Cultures from the 18th to the 20th Century](#), New Delhi. Routledge. (Forthcoming).
- 2022.** 'The Making of Classical Tamil Literature: Multiple Sources in its Construction' in Aloka Parasher-Sen (ed). [Seeking History through Her Source: South of the Vindhyas](#), New Delhi. Orient Blackswan, pp. 25-43.
- 2008.** 'The Making of Sangam Literary Canon and Tamil Identity', in R. Cheran, Darshan Ambalavanar and Chelva Kananayagam, (eds.). [New Demarcations: Essays in Tamil Studies](#). Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Inc. pp. 133-147.
- 2007.** 'Evaluating the Meanings of Globalization on a Caste Association in Contemporary Tamilnadu', in Jyotirmaya Tripathy, (ed.). [After Globalization: Essays in Religion, Culture and Identity](#), New Delhi: Allied Publishers. pp. 139-149.
- 2006.** 'Text and Time in Early Tamilakam', in M. Kannan and Carlos Mena, (eds.), [Negotiations with the Past: Classical Tamil in Contemporary Tamil](#), Department of Indology, French Institute Pondicherry and Department of South and South East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley. pp. 231-265.

Peer-Reviewed Articles in Journals and Proceedings:

- 2018.** 'Spatial Perceptions in Early Tamil Poetry', [Summerhill: IAS Review](#), Vol. XXIV, No. 1. Summer. pp. 6-12.
- 2018.** 'Reading M.K. Gandhi's Hind Swaraj in Classroom: Challenges Confronting Pedagogy and Intellectual History', [Social Change and Development](#), Volume XV, January. pp. 82-89.
- 2015.** 'Beyond the Politics of Identity: The Left and the Politics of Caste and Identity in Tamil Nadu, 1920-63', [South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies](#), 38, 4. pp. 543-557 (With Ravi Vaitheespara).
- 2013.** 'Intellectual Awakening in late 19th century colonial Tamilnadu: A Study of P. Sundaram Pillai', [Journal of Tamil Studies](#), 83. pp. 49-60.
- 2011.** 'Patrons and Networks of Patronage in the Publication of Tamil Classics, 1800-1920', [Social Scientist](#), March-April. pp. 64-91.
- 2007.** 'The Making of Ancient Tamil Literary Canon', [Proceedings of the 67th session of Indian History Congress](#), Calicut. pp. 153-161.
- 2006.** 'The Written and the Oral in Early Tamil Society', [Proceedings of the 66th session of Indian History Congress](#), Santiniketan. pp. 102-109.

Publications in the Tamil Language:

- 2009.** 'Airopiya Noolagangalil Tamil Avanangal' (Tamil Sources in European Libraries), [Puthiya Puthagam Pesuthu](#), April, pp. 30-31.
- 2009.** 'Pathompatham Nurrandu Tamil Ilakkiya Pathippukkalin Pokkukkal' (Trends in 19th Century Tamil Literary Publications), [Puthiya Puthagam Pesuthu Sirappu Malar](#), (Special Issue on World of Tamil Books, 1800-2000), Chennai, June, pp. 174-178.
- 2010.** 'Sanga Ilakkiya Marapu Uruvakkam' (Formation of Literary Conventions in Sangam Literature) in Pa. Ilamaran et al (eds.), [Tamil Nool Tokuppu Varalaru](#) (History of Compilations in Tamil), Puthiya Puthagam Pesuthu Sirappu Malar, Bharathi Puthagalayam, Chennai, pp. 23-34.

2011. 'Airopiya Tamil Arignargalin Tamil Ilakkiya Parvai, 1700-1920' (The Views of European Tamil Scholars on Tamil Literature, 1700-1920), in Pa. Ilamaran, J. Sivakumar, K. Ganesh (eds), [*Ariyappadatha Tamizh Ulagam*](#), (Unknown Tamil World) Bharathi Puthagalayam, Chennai.

DOCTORAL SUPERVISOR AT IISER MOHALI

- 1) Basil Alias, 'Panchayat Raj Institutions and Tribal Governance in a Non-Scheduled Region: A Study of Edamalakudy Tribal Village in Kerala,' Awarded, August 2022.
- 2) Manleen Kaur, 'Catastrophe of the Great Economic Depression: The Case of India,' Awarded, July 2020.
- 3) Ansaad. C, 'Ethno-Historical study of Communal Organisations in Kerala: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)' (In Progress)
- 4) Amitoj Kaur, 'Interrogating the Evolution of Literary Historiography in Punjabi' (In Progress)
- 5) Nilkantha Pal, 'Imagining Childhood in Colonial Bengal: Juvenile Magazines, Literary Culture, and Nationalism, c. 1870-1940' (In Progress)
- 6) Swapnil Chaudhary, 'Communalism and Indigenous Medicine: Study of Ayurvedic and Unani Medicine in United Province, c. 1900-1925' (In Progress)
- 7) Utkarsha Negi, 'Women in the Anti-Caste Movement in Central India, c.1920-1980' (In Progress).
- 8) Shafakat Hassan Mirza, 'Contours of Progressivism in Urdu Literature' (In Progress).

POSTDOCTORAL MENTORSHIP

- 1) Dr. Shilpi Rajpal, 'Curing Madness? A Social and Cultural History of Insanity in Colonial North India 1780s-1950s', 2015-2017. Published as a book by Oxford University Press, 2021.
- 2) Dr. Ranjana Saha, 'Milk, Maternities and Manliness: A Social History of Breastfeeding and Motherhood in Colonial Bengal, 1820s-1920s', 2018-2020. Book manuscript under preparation.
- 3) Dr. Shaheen KT, 'Afterlives of Tipu Sultan in Malabar, 1799 to Present', 2020-2021.
- 4) Dr. Shriya Bandyopadhyay, 'Bengali Vernacular in Text and Context: A Social History of Bengal's literary culture from Eighteenth to Nineteenth Century', 2021-2023.

MS THESIS SUPERVISOR AT IISER MOHALI

- 1) Tutika Thanvita Sai Sree. 2023. Unmet Supportive Care Needs of Family Caregivers of Children with Cancer: A Quantitative Study in Hyderabad, India.
- 2) Lokesh Kumar Meena. 2023. Navigating the Popular and Academic Histories: A Study of Manauli Fort.
- 3) Pranav Soni. 2023. Interrogating History Textbooks and Syllabus in Contemporary India and National Education Policy – 2020.
- 4) Atharva Jadhav. 2023. Online education in the age of pandemic: A case study of IISER Mohali students' experiences.
- 5) Abhishek Dangi. 2021. Everyday Hindu Nationalism in Rajasthan: A Study of RSS in Pilani District.
- 6) Amisha Yadav. 2021. Search for Ancient River in Contemporary India: History, Heritage and Politics of River Sarasvati.
- 7) Umakant Gaurav. 2021. Ambedkar and Periyar's Critique of Caste System: A Comparative Study and Its Contemporary Relevance.
- 8) Mohit Baswal. 2020. Many Histories of Ranthambore Fort, Rajasthan.

- 9) Sidharth Sh. 2020. Representations of Migrant Labour in Malayalam Cinema.
- 10) Gouri Goverdhan. 2019. Use and Abuse of Drugs: A Sociological and Institutional Study.
- 11) Balu, N.V. 2019. Religion and Politics: A Case Study of Kottayam District, Kerala.
- 12) Soumitra Chatterjee. 2019. Exploring Regional Cinema in Contemporary India.
- 13) Vinayak Aswal. 2018. Prafulla Chandra Ray and History of Indian Chemistry.
- 14) Om Prakash. 2018. Contending Histories: Politics and Textbook Writing in Contemporary India.
- 15) Sukhraj Kaur. 2018. Beyond the Legal: A Sociological and Institutional Critique of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- 16) Devwrat Dube. 2016. The Evolving Contours of Scientific Temper in India.
- 17) Varun Kumar, 'Environmental History: Transcending Boundaries-Colonial to Contemporary India', MS Thesis, IISER Mohali, 2016.

COURSES TAUGHT AT IISER MOHALI

- HSS102 History of Science (Core)
- HSS613 The Social History of Science in Modern India, 1780-1950 (Open Elective)
- HSS617 From Plassey to Partition: A History of Modern India (Open Elective)
- HSS618 India from Prehistory to Early History (Open Elective, Co-Instructor)
- HSS620 Imagining India: An Intellectual History of Orientalism (Open Elective)
- HSS627 Idea of India: Intellectual Imaginary of Nation (Open Elective)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018.** Best Teacher Award, IISER Mohali.
- 2008.** Jan Gonda Advanced Study Grant, Jan Gonda Foundation, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, The Netherlands.
- 2007.** Foreign Travel Grant by Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) to present a research paper at the second annual international Tamil Studies Conference "Imagining Collectives: Continuities, Changes and Contestation", University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, 31 May to 2 June 2007.
- 2005.** The Ministry of Human Resource Development Scholarship, Government of India, to pursue a doctoral program (PhD) in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, 2005-2009.
- 2004.** Study Grant by Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) for Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) degree in History in the Department of History, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad.
- 2003.** Andhra Bank Gold Medal for securing First Rank with Distinction in Master of Arts (M.A.) in History at the University of Hyderabad.
- 2001.** Merit Scholarship for Master of Arts (M.A.) in History from the University of Hyderabad, 2001-2003.

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS

1. "Battle over Chronology: Establishing Antiquity of Tamil Literature in Colonial India", Department Seminar Series, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IISER Bhopal, 26 October 2022.
2. "From Rediscovery to Reproduction: Classical Tamil Literature in Colonial India", Department Seminar Series, Department of History, University of Delhi, 12 October 2022.
3. "Monastery and Household: Sites of Reproduction and Transmission of Literary Cultures

in Tamil South India”, International Workshop on Revisiting the Situatedness of Knowledge: Sites of Knowledge in Asia, Kathmandu, Nepal, 26-29 September 2022.

4. “Regional Lives of Progressivism: The Tamil Experience”, Department of History Webinar Series, Department of History, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, 10 September 2020.

5. “Interrogating Sources and Layers of Transmission of Classical Tamil Cankam Literature during 18th and 19th Centuries’, Tracing School Formations and Scholarly Networks, 10th NETamil Workshop, 10 to 12 September 2018, EFEO Pondicherry.

6. “Translation in Indian Languages: Tamil Scenario”, Literary Circulations in South Asia: Producing, Translating, Preserving Texts, French Institute of Pondicherry, India 21st and 22nd August 2018.

7. “Progressivism in Tamil Literature”, Le Centre d'Études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud (CEIAS), École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, 17 July 2018.

8. “Exploring Progressivism in Tamil Literature”, Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, 3 July 2018.

9. “Intellectual Consciousness and Contending Narratives of Identity and Region in Tamil Nadu”, Language, Region, Knowledge: Colonial Disciplines to Indian Social Sciences, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, 4-5 May 2017.

10. “Reading M.K. Gandhi’s Hind Swaraj in Classroom: Challenges Confronting Pedagogy and Intellectual History”, One Hundred Years after Champaran and the Making of the Indian Nation, National seminar jointly organized by the Department of History, Sikkim University, Gangtok and Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, 27-29 October 2017.

11. “Possible Literary History in Tamil: Some Historiographical Considerations”, Time-Frames: Questioning Chronologies in South Asia’s Pasts, Department of History, Shiv Nadar University, 24 - 25 February 2016.

12. “The Left and the Dravidian Movement: Dialogue and Contestation in the Intellectual, Literary and Cultural Sphere, 1920-1960”, Chicago Tamil Forum workshop ‘Margins of Dravidianism’, University of Chicago, 21-23 May, 2015.

13. “Reading the Lives of Early Surveyors in British India: Anthropology, History and the Colonial State”, paper presented at the national seminar on Anthropological Perspectives of Bio-Cultural Change, Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, 6-7 March, 2014.

14. “Print and Publishing in Early 19th Century Madras: A Study of the College of Fort St. George”, paper presented at the ICHR-sponsored National Seminar on *Colonial Madras: The City and Its History*, Chennai, March 2010.

15. “The Making of Sangam Literary Canon and Tamil Identity”, paper presented at the 2nd annual International Tamil Studies Conference, *Imagining Collectives: Continuities, Changes and Contestations* at University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, 31 May to 2 June 2007.

16. “The Making of the Ancient Tamil Literary Canon”, paper presented at the Ancient Indian Section of 67th session of the *Indian History Congress*, Calicut, 2007.

17. “Reading Tamil Diasporic Aspirations from Homeland: A Case Study of few Tamil Diasporic Websites”, paper presented at the International Conference on *Facets of Tamil Diaspora*, French Institute Pondicherry, 15 March 2007

18. “Globalisation and the Resurgence of Community History: A Case Study of Tamil Brahmins”, paper presented at the national conference on *After Globalisation: Religion, Culture and Identity*, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, 24 November 2006.

19. "The Written and the Oral in Early Tamil Society", paper presented at the Ancient Indian Section of 66th session of the Indian History Congress, Santiniketan, 29 January 2006.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- 1) Member, Association for Asian Studies, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 2) Member, Indian History Congress