



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES

Annual Report 2016



In the cover picture, the artist has attempted to capture the theme of equality as it manifests in gender, in ethno-religious coexistence, and the economy. While gender equality emerges as 'oneness', ethno-religious harmony is a realisation of the 'common thread' that interconnects all religions. Economic equality, which provides the base for an egalitarian society, is expressed in the metamorphosis of poverty into prosperity. The artist conveys that this ideal society manifests within a socio-cultural framework that fosters justice and fairness.

Cover design by Bawaji Maliyawadu, a third year Classics student at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

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PROFILE

For 35 years the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) has contributed to the world of ideas and has informed policy and practice through research, dialogue, the creative arts and other interventions.

The ICES vision is contained in a desire for a world that celebrates diversity in all its multiple shades. The institution's goal is to contribute towards relevant rigorous intellectual traditions that recognise our common humanity, promote diverse identities, and generate ideas that inform and guide policies and institutions in order to promote justice, equity and peaceful coexistence. The unique mission of ICES is to deepen the understanding of ethnicity, identity politics, conflict and gender, and to foster conditions for an inclusive, just and peaceful society nationally, regionally and globally, through research, publication, dialogue, creative expression and knowledge transfer.

The ICES has been an important player in the areas of peace, justice, gender and human rights and has been particularly influential in shaping policy and the public imagination on issues of gender equality, ethnic and religious diversity, and constitutional reform in Sri Lanka. The institution has contributed to the development and promotion of minority and group rights and has previously worked closely with the United Nations' Special Rapporteurs, the several Working Groups and with the Treaty Bodies. In recent years ICES has carved a niche for itself as a centre for the study and promotion of diversity within a framework of democracy and human rights.

The ICES has empowered national and local grass-root level organisations in over ten countries in Asia and Africa through the development of educational material using international human rights instruments and national mechanisms. ICES continues to work closely with a wide range of partners and civil society organisations to provide a space for dialogue, strengthen their capacity to collect information, channel their grievances, and question how claims for justice and rights may be advanced in post-war Sri Lanka.

The ICES has played three broad roles: one of research, the other of policy advocacy and a third of providing space for dialogue. It has also used the creative arts to ignite the public imagination and promote truth, beauty and diversity. Following extensive academic, legal and political involvement in the constitutional and policy formulation process in Sri Lanka in the 1980s and 1990s, and strong advocacy in the areas of gender and human rights, ICES has established a strong reputation globally for its capacity to generate high quality research which is politically relevant nationally, regionally and globally. It has also provided a space for and encouraged creative expression as a vehicle for political and social change, through its support to documentary film-making, seminars for writers and regular film and art festivals.

VISION

A world which celebrates diversity anchored in the fundamental unity of the human species.

GOAL

To contribute towards relevant rigorous intellectual traditions that recognise our common humanity and promote our diverse identities, and to generate ideas that inform and guide policies and institutions in order to promote justice, equity and peaceful coexistence.

MISSION

To deepen the understanding of ethnicity, identity politics and conflict, and to foster conditions for an inclusive, just and peaceful society nationally, regionally and globally, through research, publication, dialogue, creative expression and knowledge transfer.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

There were several significant developments that took place in 2016 in the political and economic spheres in Sri Lanka that have a bearing on the work that the ICES is engaged in. From its inception in 1982, by the late Dr Neelan Tiruchelvam and Professor Kingsley de Silva, our vision has been to see Sri Lanka as a plural, inclusive society where ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity are sources of strength. Our intention is to foster religious harmony, help reduce communal tensions and empower women to take an active role in governance.

The Coalition Government headed by President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe undertook to adopt a new Constitution where all constituent communities would have equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities. The Parliament was designated as a Constitutional Assembly and to facilitate their deliberations the Prime Minister set up the Public Representations Committee (PRC) on Constitutional Reform in May. The members of the Committee visited all 25 districts in Sri Lanka within a period of six weeks. They heard representations from over 2,500 persons and received written representations as well. ICES also made a submission to the PRC. Among the many representations made were the following:

- 1) "Democratisation of the State through the Rule of Law and broadening Fundamental Human Rights through a comprehensive Bill of Rights and strengthening Independent Commissions;
- 2) Democratisation of the polity by strengthening the people's active participation in governance and political life by devolving power to the town and village level;
- 3) Promoting national reconciliation through constitutional reform leading to a meaningful devolution of power as a means of resolving the long-standing issues of the minorities;
- 4) Establishment of a public service that is non-political, professional, independent, fair and dedicated to serve the people".

The Report states that "it was a common view of the people who came before us, that the time is opportune for the democratisation of the state and national reconciliation, that it should be done immediately and if it fails at this moment, the country would not get such an opportunity again".

A further step taken by the government this year was the setting up of the 'Consultation Task Force for Reconciliation Mechanisms' (CTFRM) comprising many eminent resource persons. Following island-wide consultations, the CTFRM Report was submitted in November. The Report carries vital recommendations on Transitional Justice, the Office of Missing Persons, Reparations, the absolute necessity of providing Psychosocial Support for the traumatised persons, particularly Women-Heads of Household, and on Non-Recurrence of the factors that led to the bitter conflict. ICES also made a submission to the CTFRM.

Another major measure was the adoption in August by Parliament of the Right to Information Act. The heartening, laudable preamble of the Act states:

Whereas the Constitution guarantees the right of access in Article 14A, there exists a need to foster a culture of transparency and accountability in public authorities by giving effect to the right of access to information and thereby promote a society in which the people of Sri Lanka would be able to more fully participate in public life through combating corruption and promoting accountability and good governance.

Despite the fact that Section 5 of the Act details several exceptions that would lead to a denial of such access, the adoption of the Act represents a significant advance.

During the year under review, the ICES continued its work on transitional justice, women's empowerment, religious coexistence, and social inclusion. This report gives more detail of the work of the Centre in 2016.

It is with a sense of pride that I take this opportunity to mention that our former colleague on the ICES Board Dr Indrajit Coomaraswamy was appointed as Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

On behalf of the ICES Board, I wish to thank our Executive Director, our Director Research in Kandy, and our team of dedicated research and administrative staff both in our Colombo and Kandy offices for their continuing commitment to ICES's vision and mission.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Casie Chetty', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

C.D. Casie Chetty
Chairman
2016

RESEARCH AND INTERVENTIONS

GENDER

Identifying Post-War Economic Growth and Employment Opportunities for Women in Sri Lanka's Northern Province *(October 2014 – September 2017)*

This research project sets out to identify the barriers that women face in entering and participating in the labour market and in engaging in livelihood activities in five districts in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. The research includes qualitative and quantitative components in a critical evaluation of the livelihood interventions provided by the state, the corporate sector, donors, diaspora and non-governmental organisations.

Poverty levels among women in the Northern Province are among the highest in the country. While the government, private sector, NGOs and the diaspora have invested in initiatives to support livelihoods and economic growth, there is little rigorous evidence on what has worked. This study seeks to understand the impact of post-war recovery initiatives on women in Sri Lanka's Northern Province and to inform policy and best practices to empower women emerging out of conflict.

The quantitative survey of 4,025 Tamil, Muslim and Sinhalese households was completed in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya and Mannar. The qualitative survey covering 118 households has been completed, and the material is being transcribed and translated.

The quantitative and qualitative research teams have taken part in a number of joint meetings discussing initial findings, lessons learnt and challenges. Some preliminary analysis of the data was done and was shared with visiting International Development Research Centre (IDRC) representatives. The research included a mapping of livelihood programmes supporting women-headed households in the five districts. The data gathered had been converted into a range of Geographic Information System (GIS) maps at regional and district level using criteria such as types of intervention, values and coverage. Thirty eight maps have been uploaded to the ICES website. Some of the data has been used to develop semi-interactive Google Earth maps and ICES researchers are exploring scaling up the exercise into a fully interactive GIS mapping system.

The research will include a number of focused case studies covering NGO interventions, the apparel sector and ex-fighters. The project included a capacity-building component providing qualitative training to 11 female field researchers with the support of INTRAC from Oxford and another 25 enumerators on quantitative survey techniques with the support of lecturers from the universities of Jaffna and Colombo.

The study has been supported by a Project Advisory Group (PAG), consisting of academics and activists from Colombo and the North/ East. Several research papers emerging from the project will be released in 2017 and ICES will host a regional conference on women's empowerment, bringing together several of the projects under the GrOW initiative, in October 2017.

DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Migration and Collectives/Networks as Pathways Out of Poverty? Gendered Vulnerabilities and Capabilities amongst Poor Fishing Communities in Asia

(2016 – 2019)

This three-year comparative study intends to improve our understanding of whether migration is a potential route out of poverty for women and men in fishing communities in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and India. It will identify disabling (vulnerabilities) and enabling (capabilities) conditions, leading households to stay in or exit out of poverty. The research aims to generate an innovative, gendered analysis of economic, social and subjective dimensions of poverty and wellbeing in fishing communities resulting from internal and external migration. This includes responses to a range of environmental (resource depletion, seasonality, natural disasters, climate variability) and political-economic (market, state, conflict) changes. The role of social networks and collective action, informal and formal, or indeed the absence of these, in advocating for supportive policies for migrant workers and their communities, reducing risks, violence and conflicts, and enabling them to move into more secure livelihoods will be assessed. Whether current national policies relating to gender, fisheries and migration are adequate in addressing issues of migrant households in fishing communities will also be determined. ICES is responsible for the Sri Lankan component of the three-country study, led by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

ICES also collaborates with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand, University of East Anglia (UEA) in UK, Cambodia Institute for Research and Development (CIRD) in Cambodia and the Fisheries Management Resource Centre (FishMarc) in India, as well as grassroots organisations working with fishing communities in Sri Lanka in this project. In 2016, the Sri Lankan team contributed to designing the study, conducted exploratory Focus Group Discussions in Puttalam and Trincomalee districts, prepared a preliminary country profile, hosted and participated in a Methodology Workshop at ICES for research teams from all three countries, and prepared quantitative and qualitative tools for the fieldwork to be undertaken in 2017.

Building Peace and Governance through Participation of Women with Disabilities in Sri Lanka *(November 2015 – October 2017)*

The project seeks to encourage women with and without disabilities to actively participate in decision-making in relation to Sri Lanka's peace and reconciliation processes. It is being implemented by ICES in partnership with Handicap International and the Women's Development Centre, Kandy and aims to pursue its goal by achieving three specific objectives.

The project is looking at the barriers to the participation of women with and without disabilities in post-war development and reconciliation processes; and to promote inclusion of women with

disabilities especially through capacity-building and awareness-raising at the community level in the districts of Kilinochchi and Kandy.

The project also attempts to assess the status of Sri Lanka's commitment to the United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1325 and use evidence from a qualitative study to inform stakeholders about the grassroots realities of women's participation in post-war recovery processes.

In 2016, ICES continued with the qualitative work. Focus group discussions were held with approximately 300 women. In-depth interviews to support the focus group discussions were also conducted and work on analysing the data commenced. Work is also progressing in developing a literature review. A barrier assessment survey was conducted to assess the level of participation and access to information, services and awareness on policies related to the Women's Charter, LLRC report recommendations and the National Action Plan for Disability.

JUSTICE, MEMORY AND RECONCILIATION

Fostering Pluralistic Memories and Collective Resilience in Fragile Transitional Justice Processes *(April 2014 – March 2020)*

The Pluralistic Memories Project (PMP) is a partnership between the University of Lausanne and the ICES. The PMP is a broad spectrum study that hopes to elicit the views, opinions and memories from all Sri Lankan ethnic communities, on the recent decades of armed conflict and the post-conflict period. It is being simultaneously piloted in three countries: Burundi, Israeli-Palestine and Sri Lanka. It is recognised that none of these societies provide ideal conditions for the working out of classic truth and reconciliation processes. Therefore, the research and intervention programme of the project is geared to create a space for pluralistic discussions of the memories of war as well as to provide a safe space for those who share these memories. It is envisaged that these interventions will facilitate spill-over effects that will lead to community healing through the sharing of memories and the first steps to encouraging positive critical social change.

In the aftermath of protracted civil conflicts, as in Sri Lanka's case, truth and reconciliation processes have come to be accepted as the normal process forward to foster public rituals of truth telling. There is growing academic evidence internationally that post-conflict truth and reconciliation processes and the sharing of collective memories has had significant value in bringing about reconciliation between communities, strengthening democracy in the civic sphere, consolidating a lasting peace between peoples and providing a space for healing after the trauma of conflict.

The PMP uses a mixed-methods research design that includes ethnographic methods of observation and purposive sampling as well as a representative longitudinal survey. Research data collected will be assessed and disseminated for feedback through local community interventions and media dialogues. It will use testimonies, life histories and surveys to explore the pluralistic memories that people hold both privately and publicly, pertaining to different aspects of intergroup violence such as intergroup helping, inclusive victimhood, and solidarity. The project explores the possibility of using these memories in later interventions to see if they can be used to promote support for reconciliation.

In 2016, the Project completed the testimony collection from about 50 respondents across six districts in Sri Lanka. The pilot survey was conducted among 400 respondents in the districts of Matale and Ampara and the data was analysed. The PhD researchers attended the annual doctoral school in Switzerland at the University of Lausanne in May. The quantitative doctoral researcher presented a paper at the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) in Poland in July. The National Coordinator and the Communications Officer attended a review meeting in Bern, Switzerland, together with the Swiss Coordinators of the project, where based on the positive progress the project had made, it was given the green light to continue into the second phase of implementation, with a strategic focus on academic publication. The Pilot Community

Intervention saw near completion by the end of the year with the community group in Puttalam opting to host an art competition for school children and the winning entries displayed on school walls for awareness and further dialogue among local communities, in line with the objective of the Community Interventions envisioned in the project.

The Project is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, under the auspices of the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development, and is coordinated by a research group based at University of Lausanne in Switzerland.

Filling the Gaps: Giving Shape to Sri Lanka's Transitional Justice Process (2016)

In September 2015 the government co-sponsored a resolution in the UN Human Rights Council that committed the state to pursuing a process of justice and accountability. The resolution confirmed the government's previous announcement that the transitional justice processes in Sri Lanka would include a commission for truth, justice, reconciliation and non-recurrence; a permanent office of missing persons; a judicial mechanism with a special counsel and an office for reparations.

While the broad contours of a transitional justice process were unveiled, the specifics remain ambiguous. This initiative sought to provide ideas and options on the specifics of the transitional justice architecture that had already been announced. It aimed to fill a knowledge and capacity gap within civil and political society and outline in concrete terms the measures that should be taken to fill the gaps in Sri Lanka's transitional justice architecture.

This project built on an initiative on transitional justice that ICES implemented in 2015. The previous initiative conducted dialogues in Colombo, Galle, Jaffna, Nuwara Eliya and Trincomalee with a view to increasing capacity within civil society and adding fresh ideas to the public debate. Both projects sought to contribute to the emergence of an organic process of truth and justice for Sri Lanka with the latter project seeking to explore and discuss some of the specifics of the proposed transitional justice architecture and to respond to the proposals emanating from the government.

Within the rubric of transitional justice, the ICES identified four key thematic areas of focus: Prosecutions, Truth-Seeking, Reparations and Memorialisation. Within these four thematic areas of focus, the project interventions generated dialogues, reports and a theatrical performance on memory. Discussions were held in Jaffna, Trincomalee, Colombo, and Galle. International scholars, practitioners and judges, provided comparative experiences. The performance on memory was scripted and performed by well-known actress Kaushalya Fernando and her theatre group, and performed in Trincomalee and Jaffna. The intervention elicited specific recommendations through dialogue forums and the engagement of external experts, and these recommendations were presented to policy-makers to inform and shape the structures and processes to be initiated by the government.

Visiting resource persons included Catalina Díaz, Director of the Department of Transitional Justice for the Ministry of Justice in Colombia; Eduardo González, sociologist and former director of the Truth and Memory programme at the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ); Andra Mobberley, former prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR); Judge Erik Møse of the European Court of Human Rights and former President of the ICTR; Kelli Muddell, Director of the Gender Justice Programme at the ICTJ in New York; and Camilo Sánchez, head of Transitional Justice at the Colombian Organisation DeJusticia (Centre for the Study of Law, Justice, and Society) and an Associate Professor at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia; Dr. Ereshnee Naidu, Senior Director, Global Transitional Justice Initiative, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience; Long Khet, Executive Director, Youth for Peace, Cambodia, and Mofidul Hoque Liberation War Museum, Dhaka.

COEXISTENCE AND RELIGIOUS CONFLICT

Promoting Religious Harmony and Inter-Faith Dialogue

(2014 – 2016)

Through research, dialogue, human rights education, and community interventions, this project sought to enhance understanding between and amongst different religious groups in Sri Lanka, promote social harmony, and foster inter-ethnic and inter-religious coexistence. The project aimed in the long term, to contribute to reducing inter-religious tensions in Sri Lanka, to generate a spirit of tolerance and understanding, to contribute to a promotion of religious diversity, and to develop lessons for other societies experiencing similar conflict. Project activities focused on communities representing the main faiths in the Ampara, Colombo and Galle districts. The project had three main components: research, capacity-building and a public education campaign. The project was implemented in partnership with Equitas—the International Centre for Human Rights Education in Montreal.

The main objectives of the research were:

- To capture and map the recent upsurge in inter-religious violence in Sri Lanka; identify good practices and document positive examples of coexistence and social harmony
- To enhance the capacity of civil society organisations, including community based organisations, to promote inter-faith dialogue and engage in social interventions that will foster inter-religious harmony and promote human rights of all members of the community
- To engage key stakeholders including policy-makers, parliamentarians, members of the clergy, the business sector and civil society leaders in a dialogue at national and regional levels on strategies to foster religious harmony and promote peaceful coexistence

A second capacity-building workshop was held in May 2015 strengthening the participants' knowledge on human rights, while focusing on gender and social media to promote religious harmony. Following two capacity-building sessions with the participants from the three district groups; Ampara, Colombo and Galle, proposals to implement community activities were generated by the groups.

The Ampara group facilitated dialogues with youth, government and religious leaders with the aim of addressing inter-religious conflict in the district. The Colombo group engaged children, parents, teachers, and religious leaders from Sunday schools in activities to promote awareness about different religions. The Galle group brought together children, teachers, government, religious leaders, and civil society organisations to create inter-religious and inter-cultural awareness.

A research paper titled 'The Chronic and the Acute: Post-War Religious Violence in Sri Lanka' was published in English with Sinhala and Tamil translations. The study examined the state of religious freedom in Sri Lanka and discussed a method for classifying religious attacks and the

actors associated with those attacks. It adopted a broad definition of ‘violence’ which included tangible types—both physical and non-physical—and structural types of violence. The study also examined the legal, policy and institutional framework pertaining to religious freedom and the socio-cultural, economic and political contexts in which violence took place.

A sequel to this report is being compiled and will be released in 2018.

Building Resilient Communities (2013 – 2017)

This project aims to understand the emerging Buddhist-Muslim conflict in Sri Lanka and to intervene in creating productive dialogue between the two communities using innovative techniques in two districts in Sri Lanka: Ampara and Galle. One part of the project seeks to understand the rise in Sinhala nationalism in post-war Sri Lanka and the evolving Muslim identities through research. The second part seeks to create a space for dialogue through the innovative use of grassroots video, comic and cartoon productions, and aims to promote civic dialogue at a basic level where ordinary people talk to each other across ethnic, religious and linguistic divides through a variety of stories.

The project commenced with mono-religious ‘context mapping workshops’ in Colombo, Galle and Ampara with Buddhists and Muslims to map the grievances of grassroots communities in relation to the conflict.

The research analyses conflicts that arose as a result of the political manipulation of religions, as well as a result of the deterioration of the respective religious societies in the modern liberal economic context. Several studies focused on the recent radicalisation of political Buddhism in the Sinhalese-Buddhist South of Sri Lanka and the conditions informing unprecedented levels of ethno-religious tensions between the Sinhalese, Buddhist majority and the Muslim minority. Since a radical and ‘fundamentalist’ orientation was becoming clearly evident within both the Sinhalese and Muslim communities, the research sought to examine the dynamics shaping this radicalisation. The research also explored the reasoning that the new ‘presence’ of Muslims in Sri Lanka is due to an Islamic revival characterised by internal tensions regarding the practice of Islam among Muslims of Sri Lanka. It examined and critiqued the sectarian splitting and factionalism among Muslims of Sri Lanka and looked at how these splits in the form of different ideologies, religious practices and customs created problems among and for the Muslim community in a multi-ethnic society.

The project has also been involved in training a group of individuals in Galle on the use of grassroots comics to promote coexistence and inter-religious harmony. The advanced grassroots comics workshops that were designed and conducted taking into account the findings of the mapping workshops and research studies provided insight into the attitude regarding the ‘other’ of both Buddhist and Muslim individuals who participated. For most, this was the first time they had participated closely with each other on such a platform, being given the opportunity to work together regarding such a sensitive issue in which their two communities were the primary

focus. Thus, they were made to understand the importance of coexistence and also impart the knowledge gained through pilot workshops in their respective villages.

Ten films were directed and produced by grassroots community groups from Ampara who were trained by documentary film-maker Anomaa Rajakaruna. The films are in Sinhala and Tamil with English subtitles.

Three research papers on understanding inter- and intra-religious conflicts which explore the rise in religious radicalism and intra-religious relations among the two communities in post-war Sri Lanka were published.

- Self, Religion, Identity and Politics: Buddhist and Muslim Encounters in Contemporary Sri Lanka
- Fracturing Community: Intra-Group Relations among the Muslims of Sri Lanka
- Picturing Coexistence and Conflict: Learning about the Other through Grassroots Comics

Promoting Human Rights, Inclusion and Religious Harmony in Sri Lanka and Beyond: Equipping Communities to Resist Violent Conflict (2016 – 2019)

ICES is partnering with Equitas yet again to promote human rights, inclusion and religious harmony in Sri Lanka and Myanmar. Through research, forum and capacity-building activities, ICES and Equitas will work to promote increased religious harmony, respect for human rights and inclusion while mitigating the risk of religious conflict in Sri Lanka (principally in five districts: Colombo, Ampara, Galle, Jaffna and Mannar). The project will also seek to share lessons learned and increase the capacity of key actors in Myanmar.

The project will aim to generate the following results:

- Improved mitigation strategies, particularly interfaith dialogue and early warning systems, for addressing interreligious conflict in communities in Colombo, Ampara, Galle, Jaffna and Mannar
- Increased capacity of community leaders and educators to conduct human rights education activities in select communities in Sri Lanka
- Increased capacity of community leaders and CSOs in Myanmar to promote religious harmony and reduce conflict based on religion and ethnicity

The ICES is leading the conflict mapping and the research in Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

RIGHTS AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Realizing Rights and Reconciling After Conflict

(February 2016 – June 2018)

This is a series of inter-related initiatives, undertaken by ICES that intend to seize the opportunities afforded by the new political regime to engage in initiatives that promote reconciliation, human rights, accountable governance, and the rule of law.

The research component of the initiative will generate a body of knowledge that enhances understanding about dealing with the past, institutional reform and the challenges in promoting diversity and pluralism in Sri Lanka and how these might be overcome.

The ICES library has commenced digitising its collection and intends to launch its catalogue online in 2018. In addition to digital platforms, conversations and debates around the research were generated through workshops which engaged a cross-section of people such as politicians, academics, civil society, the media and donor agencies from diverse backgrounds.

The ICES is aiming to broaden its engagement in arts and culture by using different platforms such as film and literary festivals, art exhibitions and workshops to create a space for engagement with socially and politically contentious issues and to promote diversity. A key aspect of this goal was to engage in preliminary work towards setting up a museum – digital, physical and mobile – that will reflect, archive and celebrate diversity, coexistence, resilience and solidarity in Sri Lanka.

It is intended that these initiatives will generate a deeper engagement with multiple actors on new ideas around pursuing reconciliation, dealing with the past, realizing rights, celebrating diversity and fostering equality through constitutional and institutional reform in Sri Lanka.

Office of Missing Persons *(April and May 2016)*

On 23 August 2016 Parliament passed legislation to establish the Office of the Missing Persons (OMP). The OMP was created as part of a four-tiered transitional justice architecture that will finally consist of a truth commission, a special court and a special prosecutor's unit, and an office on reparations.

The OMP's mandate is to search for and trace 'missing persons' and clarify the circumstances in which they went missing. It responds to the humanitarian imperative of trying to trace over 16,000 reported cases of missing persons in Sri Lanka.

The OMP Act defines a 'missing person' as a person who went missing in the context of "the conflict which took place in the Northern or Eastern provinces or its aftermath, or if the person is a member of the armed forces or police who is identified as 'missing in action' as well as

persons who ‘went missing’ in the context of political unrest or civil disturbances”. In addition, the OMP’s mandate covers enforced disappearances as defined in the International Convention on Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

The OMP is tasked with centralising all available data on missing persons, making recommendations to relevant authorities towards addressing the incidence of missing persons, protecting the rights and interests of missing persons and their relatives, and identifying avenues for redress.

In the lead-up to the legislation ICES facilitated a series of consultations with civil society with the objective of making an input into the content of the legislation on the OMP.

In May a workshop was held to discuss the proposed features of an Office of Missing Persons, highlight the tensions and dilemmas underlying policy decisions relating to the design of the Office, and identify minimum guarantees to ensure that the investigation is carried out independently and efficiently.

Topics discussed included guaranteeing the OMP’s independence and efficiency, including resources, appointment procedure, and oversight; the expected and desired functions of the OMP; facilitating criminal prosecutions; and reparations. The workshop was attended by approximately 25 members from civil society in Colombo and the regions.

One of the outcomes was a letter to the President and other high-level political actors to outline the concerns and stating what the positions and guarantees ought to be. A letter dated 9 May 2016 was submitted to the President, and copied to several relevant individuals/organisations. This was signed by 104 civil society representatives and organisations.

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Involuntary Resettlement: A Cross-Country Study on Urban Inequality and Poverty

(2013 – 2016)

The research project implemented in Cochin, Colombo and Jaffna, sought to understand and theorise the complex interlinks between inequality and poverty within the context of urban resettlement. It examined the difference that displacement makes to the condition of urban internally displaced persons (IDPs) in contrast to the lives of urban non-IDPs. Among other things it looked at were medium and long term inequality, impoverishment, social and economic opportunities for the second generation (children), civic participation and entrepreneurial behaviour.

The research team, consisting of researchers from ICES and the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), studied low income communities in Cochin, Colombo and Jaffna where displacement and resettlement have taken place as a result of development and conflict. Economic and livelihoods related data was collected from samples of affected households along with data from government institutions, universities, research organisations, developmental agencies and other actors.

The Community Profile report of Colombo was translated into Sinhala and that of Jaffna into Tamil. Shorter versions of both of these local language reports were also produced. These local language versions of the community profile were made available to members of the community. Copies were kept with the local authorities, community organisations, the village church, the village library and with libraries of local universities (University of Colombo and University of Jaffna).

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Caste, Democracy and Social Justice

19 – 20 November 2016

This was the first public dialogue on caste in Sri Lanka in recent years. The conference brought out the significance of caste and identity dynamics in Sri Lanka as a research topic and as a continuing challenge to the promotion of democracy, social justice and social harmony in Sri Lanka. It was held at ICES, Colombo with the participation of over 60 researchers from Sri Lanka and abroad.

The objectives of the conference were:

- To look at the state of current research in relation to caste;
- To identify gaps and outline potential areas of research
- To look at the legal and policy framework in relation to caste and consider how this may be reformed
- To broaden the conversation about caste within academia and among the larger public

The issues discussed included theoretical, conceptual and methodological issues relating to understanding caste and caste-like phenomenon in Sri Lanka; caste dynamics in Sinhalese society; caste within the Buddhist clergy; caste in an historical context; caste in Northeast Sri Lanka; the post-war 'revival' of caste; migration, caste and fluid ethnic identities; caste and religion; the policy framework for addressing horizontal inequality and promoting social justice.

An edited volume with select papers presented at the conference is planned.

The Rights of Disabled Persons and the Constitution Making Process

29 February 2016

ICES partnered the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in Sri Lanka and the Centre for Monitoring Elections Violence (CMEV) to lead a consultation process with Disabled Peoples' Organisations (DPOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and individual disability rights advocates to draw up a proposal on 'disability inclusion' in the proposed new constitution of Sri Lanka.

A preliminary meeting was held at the ICES on the 8 of February 2016 (the day the Sri Lankan government acceded to the Convention on Disability). A diverse group of DPOs, CSOs and independent rights advocates representing multiple disabilities, different geographical contexts and ethnicities in the country discussed initial recommendations that should be included in the proposal to be submitted to the Public Representative Committee on Constitutional Reforms.

A written submission was made to Public Representations Committee (PRC) member Dr Kumudu Kusum Kumara on the 29 of February followed by an oral submission made to all the members of the PRC on the 4 of March 2016.

Roundtable Discussion on 'The Ratification of the CRPD and the Draft Disability Law'

12 August 2016

As a follow-up, a discussion on was organised on 12 August to recognise the Sri Lanka government's accession to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the importance of this to persons with disabilities, practitioners and rights advocates. The meeting also sought to review the 'Draft Disability Law' and to generate a dialogue on the process followed in formulating the draft law and a discussion about its legal framework and the proposed conceptual framework on implementing the law. Representatives from disabled peoples' organisations, practitioners, rights and policy advocates, government, the UN, the donor community, academia, civil society and the media participated.

The discussion provided an opportunity for a diverse group of stakeholders to understand the draft law, make recommendations, and explore ways to implement the law and make use of the dialogue and recommendations that result from the forum to formulate advocacy messages and communication tools to be used in their respective organisational websites and social media messages.

The roundtable also considered generating specific proposals to strengthen the proposed law and the proposed implementation mechanism.

MUSEUM OF MEMORY, COEXISTENCE AND DIVERSITY

The International Centre for Ethnic Studies is currently working towards establishing a digital and subsequently a physical and mobile museum of memory and coexistence as part of its longstanding engagement with issues of Cultural Diversity, Justice and Reconciliation.

Recognising the potential of museums as sites of interaction between personal and collective identities, between memory and history (Crane, 2000) and their ability to instruct and help people engage with a variety of human experiences, ICES is in the process of designing a digital, physical and mobile museum derived from research and public engagement which is accessible and appeals to the multi-modal nature of human experience.

In post-conflict and post-war settings, museums can play an important role in national reconciliation and healing as they have the potential to unleash processes of self-reflection and learning that go beyond other interventions. By combining images with text and digital tools with installations, theatre, music, and possibly the culinary arts, they are easily accessible, appeal to a wide strata of society, and trigger a broad range of emotional and intellectual responses, both spontaneous and long-term.

ICES has commenced this initiative by first conceptualising and designing a digital platform to display curated exhibits derived from the research it has already conducted. The digital website is in its final stages of being developed and ICES is working on curating exhibits on the themes of inter-religious coexistence, resistance music in Sri Lanka and peoples' experiences of displacement. These exhibits will incorporate audio-visual elements and encourage online discussion on the issues they highlight.

For future exhibits, ICES intends to tap into human experience by involving marginalised communities in producing and curating art works or installations that reflect issues and concerns specific to each community. In addition to the digital platform, the exhibits will be displayed either in pop-up locations or within their own organic and indigenous locations. ICES will draw on the experiences of vulnerable and victim communities, including persons living with disabilities, women-headed households, ex-combatants and other similar groups, in generating material for this museum. The museum will celebrate diversity, coexistence, resilience and solidarity, while archiving suffering, loss, victimisation and personal trauma. Through this ICES will facilitate meaningful participation and involvement of communities leading to empowerment and respect for diversity and pluralism in Sri Lanka.

ART AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Sangeetham: Festival of Music for Social Change

29 July 2016

ICES organised the Festival of Music for Social Change titled ‘Sangeetham’ on the 29 July 2016 at the ICES auditorium and patio. July 29 also marked the 17th anniversary of the assassination of Neelan Tiruchelvam, co-founder of ICES.

‘Sangeetham’ brought together artists, academics and activists to look at how music has been used as a tool of social transformation and debate in Sri Lanka. The festival commenced with two trilingual panel discussions and was followed by performances by artists from different parts of the country.

The festival looked at how music questions the status quo and challenges conventional understandings of gender, caste, ethnicity, land, globalisation and institutional oppression. It also looked at how cultures of musical movements for social change have emerged and evolved, and their impact on artistes and society at large. It examined the role of music as repositories of memories associated with personal experiences, collective social struggles, particular social movements and politico-historical events.

The festival sought to create a space for artistes and academics from the Northern, Eastern, Central, Southern and Western provinces of Sri Lanka from diverse musical backgrounds and traditions, to discuss, perform and share insights.

The first panel discussion was on “Calling for Change: Histories of Music for Social Change in Sri Lanka” and the second panel focused on Challenging the Status Quo: The Art of Socially Conscious Music in Contemporary Sri Lanka”.

Outcomes of the Sangeetham Music Festival

In Sri Lanka, conversation about music for social change has been mostly limited to the songs emerged in support of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) movement in 1970s and 1980s and has largely been in Sinhala. Music for social change had rarely been discussed as an art cross cutting ethnic/religious divides and beyond its use in political movements. The presenters and performers at this festival from different ethnic and religious backgrounds raised multiple issues such as exploitation, displacement, violence against women, child abuse, breakdown of social networks and religious extremism. The presentations contributed to enhancing understanding about music’s potential use as a tool for social change. Performers and the presenters mentioned that the diversity of the panellists was a new experience for them and it provided them the opportunity to learn from each other and to explore future exchanges and collaborations. It also provided a platform for lesser-known artists to present their creative work and to surface the hidden stories of struggles and suffering undergone by different communities

of Sri Lanka. The combination of academics, activists and artists helped trigger innovative debates.

‘Lest We Forget’

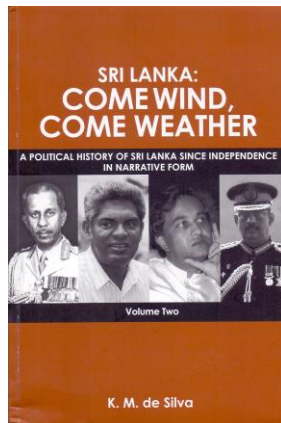
An original production based on memory and dealing with the past, written by Nadee Kammallaweera directed by Kaushalya Fernando and performed by the Somalatha Subasinghe Playhouse in Trincomalee (23-24 November) and Jaffna (25 November).

The play was staged with the idea of providing an understanding of the concept of memorialisation, and the challenges that different ethnic groups face in attempting to memorialise. The storyline includes the grievances and injustices faced by all three ethnic communities, and uses theatre to discuss a complex issue.

PUBLICATIONS

The ICES has published almost 160 books, monographs and reports, which make it an important source of information on contemporary ideas. This also includes monographs and reports of workshops the ICES has conducted on human rights, religion, anthropology, politics, women's studies, sociology, judiciary in plural societies, education and ethnicity, and periodicals, research papers, working papers and lectures.

BOOKS

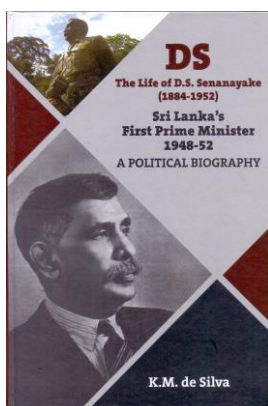


Sri Lanka: Come Wind, Come Weather

A Political History of Sri Lanka since Independence in Narrative Form (Vol. Two)

K.M. de Silva, 2016 (pp. 171 + xv)

This book seeks to provide the beginnings of a comprehensive political history and could be treated as the second volume of Sri Lanka's post-colonial history in a narrative form. It deals with two other themes in Sri Lanka's history: first the far-reaching changes in Sri Lanka's land policies and revival of its irrigation system through the leadership, primarily of D.S. Senanayake; and just as important, the negotiations with Britain on the transfer of power through his leadership.



DS, The Life of D.S. Senanayake (1884-1952)

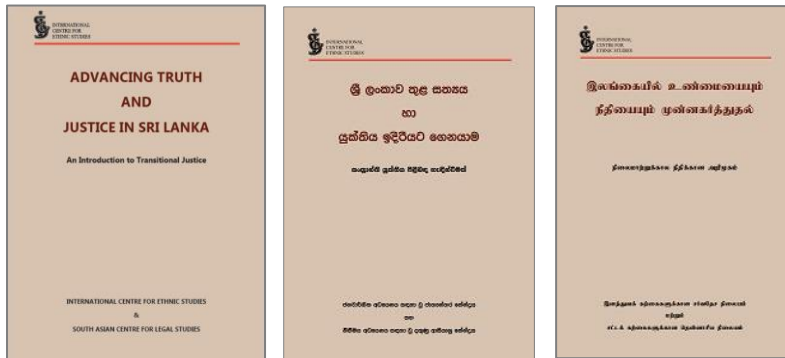
Sri Lanka's First Prime Minister, 1948-52 – A Political Biography

K.M. de Silva, 2016 (pp.135 +xviii)

Just over 65 years after his death, DS clearly ranks as the greatest Sri Lankan political figure of the twentieth century, the one individual in Sri Lanka's political leadership, over the past 60 to 70 years, who cannot be held responsible, in any substantial way, for Sri Lanka's recent, violent ethnic conflict and its associated political crises. The author believes that a study of the biographies of a country's principal figures should be an essential feature in the study of a country's national history.

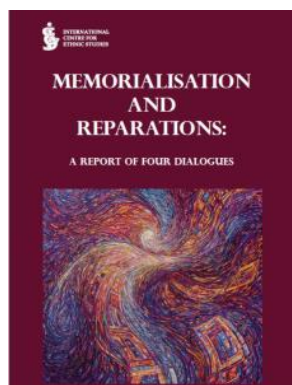
REPORTS

Advancing Truth and Justice in Sri Lanka: An Introduction to Transitional Justice



The ICES conducted a series of dialogues in indifferent parts of the country to provide space for civil and political society to explore the complexities of pursuing justice in a complex and volatile, post-war context. The long-term objective of this initiative was to contribute to the generation of an organic and relevant transitional justice process in Sri Lanka. This initiative sought to achieve this objective by providing space for key decision-makers from different communities to dialogue and debate the variety of different options that may be available, in order to forge at transitional justice process that is sensitive to the peculiarities of the Sri Lankan conflict.

Memorialisation and Reparations: A Report of Four Dialogues



This report captures the key themes arising from four dialogues on memorialisation and reparations in Jaffna, Trincomalee, Colombo and Galle led and facilitated by local and international resource persons. The dialogues intended to gather perspectives from the grassroots in order to influence decision-makers and create understanding of these concepts among the community.

The dialogues revealed the deep cleavages that exist across ethnic and geographical lines in Sri Lanka on the issues of memorialisation and reparations, and highlights the challenge that policy-makers and the government face in bridging these gaps in order to create an inclusive process of memorialisation and reparations.

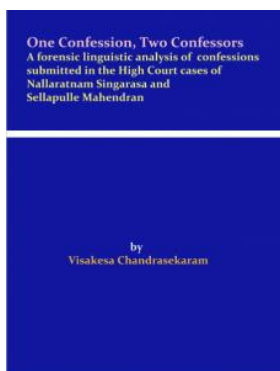
The Relationship between Truth Seeking and Prosecution: Report of a Dialogue



The report summarises the discussion of a meeting on the Relationship between Truth-Seeking and Prosecution held at the ICES in May 2016.

The objective of the meeting was to help refine and contribute to the further development of the transitional justice architecture proposed by the government, as well as to strengthen stakeholders' understanding of the issues, and identify challenges. Through this meeting ICES sought to create a robust discussion that would elicit specific recommendations with the potential to inform and shape the truth-seeking and prosecution structures and processes to be initiated by the Sri Lankan government. The meeting sought to contribute constructively to the practice and policy on transitional justice, specifically in relation to truth-seeking and prosecution, within both civil society and political society. The report was published in English, Sinhala and Tamil.

ICES RESEARCH PAPERS



One Confession, Two Confessors: A Forensic Linguistic Analysis of Confessions Submitted in the High Court Cases of Nallarathnam Singarasa and Sellapulle Mahendran

by Visakesa Chandrasekaram

Nallarathnam Singarasa, a 20-year-old Tamil man from Navakadu, Batticaloa, was indicted on four counts of counter-terrorism offences at the Colombo High Court and convicted in 1995 and sentenced to 40 years rigorous imprisonment. Similarly, 19-year-old Sellapulle Mahendran from Vandaramullei, Batticaloa was convicted around the same time. What is peculiar about these two cases is that both men were convicted based on confessionary evidence recorded by the same police officers.

In this paper, Visakesa Chandrasekaram analyses the two alleged confessions using a methodology consisting of newly-developed analytical tools and several existing tools used by scholars and practitioners in the discipline of forensic linguistics.

His analysis finds that the confessions of Nallarathnam and Sellapulle were fabricated by the police officers. Further, the comparison of the two confessions reveals that a single template was used to fabricate them.

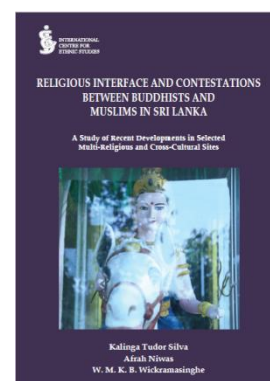
Religious Interface and Contestations between Buddhists and Muslims in Sri Lanka

by Kalinga Tudor Silva

Afrah Niwas

W.M.K.B. Wickramasinghe

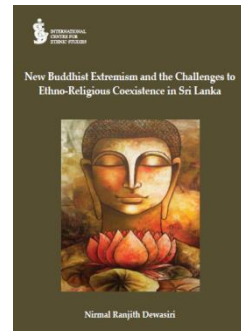
This study examines the claim made by researchers that there is a shift in conflict dynamics in post-war Sri Lanka from ethnic hostilities to largely religiously inspired hostilities (Wickramasinghe 2015, Herath and Rambukwella 2015, Klem 2011) due to the rise of Bodhu Bala Sena (BBS) and aggressive Muslim reform movements.



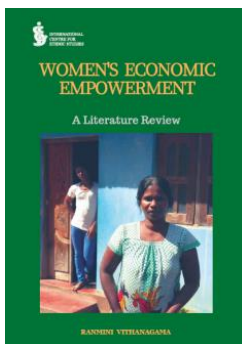
The study focuses on three religious sites with a multi religious heritage in central Sri Lanka which do not provide evidence for an unambiguously religious turn in social conflict in Sri Lanka in the post-war era. The religious sites studied with a history of multi-religious engagement between Buddhism and Islam have potential for promoting conflict as well as solidarity. The current situation in these three sites does not indicate a major rupture in terms of inter-religious relations. The study concludes that while these sites have become entangled with externally driven campaigns for religious purification that can certainly contribute to both inter-religious and intra-religious tensions, it is difficult to argue that what we have witnessed is an irreversible change in the nature of social tension in Sri Lanka.

New Buddhist Extremism and the Challenges to Ethno-Religious Coexistence in Sri Lanka by Nirmal Ranjith Dewasiri

This study attempts to understand the emergence of politically motivated Buddhist organisations, their modes of activism, the way in which their role is being perceived and responded to by the other forces of Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism; and lastly, how the activities of these organisations affected the precarious political equilibrium in the post-Eelam war in Sri Lanka which is dominated by antagonistic relationships among a number of ethno-religious nationalisms. It argues that these organisations are very much a part of the hegemonic Buddhist organisational network in Sri Lanka and logical offspring of a recent evolution of Sinhala-Buddhist nationalism.



Women's Economic Empowerment: A Literature Review



Achieving women's economic empowerment is dependent on the interplay of a number of factors. First and foremost are the gender norms that dictate women's role in society. While in some countries women are actively discouraged from engaging in paid work, in many others the gender division of labour within the household limits time and opportunities available for women to partake in income generating activities. Even when women do engage in wage work, that is often at the cost of her rest and leisure. Although improved access to resources (such as water and electricity) and better public infrastructure (such as transportation) help cut down on the time spent on unpaid household chores, women may not be able to use the time saved to engage in income-generating activities unless they also have access to markets or credit facilities. In other words, a number of other factors should come into play to enable women to earn income and realise economic empowerment.

LECTURES & DISCUSSIONS

- Lecture and discussion on “Leonard Woolf’s Novel *The Village in the Jungle*: Political Agenda behind the Literary Work” by Dr Shihan de Silva Jayasuriya (Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London and an elected Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, Great Britain & Ireland) on 11 January 2016. (Kandy)
- Lecture on “Leonard Woolf’s Novel *The Village in the Jungle*: Political Agenda behind the Literary Work” by Dr Shihan de Silva Jayasuriya on 12 January 2016. (Colombo)
- Panel discussion on “Constitutional Models of Power Sharing: Challenges and Perspectives in Multi-Ethnic Societies”. The Panellists were Professor Eva Maria Belser (Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg, Switzerland), Professor Nico Steytler (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) and Maurizio Maggetti (Research Fellow, Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg, Switzerland) on 20 January 2016. The event was a collaboration between the Institute of Constitutional Studies and The University of Fribourg, Switzerland. (Kandy)
- Panel discussion on “Indian Trawlers in Sri Lankan Waters: Legal, Political and Ecological Perspectives” on 21 January 2016.

Participants: Chandaka Jayasundere LL.M, (Attorney at Law); Mohamed Faslan MA, (ICES); Steve Creech PhD (Sustainable Fisheries Advisor, Seafood Exporters Association of Sri Lanka)

- Lecture by Dr Yasmin Tambiah on *(Un)Civil Wars* on 8 February 2016.
- Focus Group Discussion on “Understanding Issues of Coexistence through Creative Dialogue” on 27 February 2016.

The discussion was conducted with the participation of around 43 participants representing all ethnic groups and representative of several Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in Kandy who contributed their views on ethnicity, inter-ethnic antagonisms, possible causes of such antagonisms, religiosity and culture. The discussion was mainly based on five short films screened for the participants. The participants also expressed their critique of the films and their opinion of the effectiveness of them as a tool in the process of bringing about coexistence.

Four films directed and produced by grass-root community groups of Ampara who were trained under the ICES programme “Building Resilient Communities” were screened. The films depict the issues that threaten harmony in ethnically mixed communities and how those communities react and respond under such circumstances. While the films give valuable insights into possible points of intervention that would prevent a misunderstanding metastasising into a conflict, they also show how new media tools can

be effectively used by community leaders to help a community take a fresh look at issues that threaten harmony and coexistence.

- Book Launch and panel discussion – *To End Civil War* by Mark Salter Moderator – Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu; Panellists – Jehan Perera, Mark Salter and Dayan Jayatilaka on 3 March 2016.
- Documentary and discussion on “Advancing Truth and Justice in Sri Lanka” by Ram Manikkalingam and Niran Anketell on 4 March 2016.
- Dialogues on “The Relationship between Truth-Seeking and Prosecution”; Resource Persons: Catalina Diaz, Eduardo Gonzalez, Andra Mobberley, Judge Erik Mose, Kelli Muddell and Camilo Sanchez on 27- 28 May 2016.
- Discussion on “Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka: Building a Credible and Inclusive Process” in Jaffna. Resource Persons: Catalina Diaz, Eduardo Gonzalez and Kelli Muddell on 30 May 2016.
- Lecture on “Unutterable Desires: Subversive Sexualities and Undisciplined Daughters in Sri Lanka” by Dr Sandya Hewamanne on 5 July 2016.
- Book Launch of “Grandfather’s Letters: A Series of Politically Motivated Letters to His Grandchildren” by C. Suntharalingam at the Barefoot Garden Cafe Tuesday 12 July 2016.
- Lecture on “Capital Play: Sri Lanka’s Former Global Factory Workers Negotiating Social and Economic Life in Sri Lanka’s Villages” by Dr Sandya Hewamanne (Economic Anthropology and Feminist Anthropology, University of Essex). The session was chaired by Prof. Tudor Silva on 13 July 2016. (Kandy)
- “Sangeetham: Festival of Music for Social Change”. Collaboration of ICES and GIZ – FLICT on 29 July 2016.
- Book Launch and panel discussion – *The Lion’s Roar: Anagarika Dharmapala & the Making of Modern Buddhism* by Sarath Amunugama on 9 August 2016.
- “Disability Rights Law in Sri Lanka: Gaps and Concerns” (Advocacy Event) on 12 August 2016.
- Lecture and discussion on “U.S. Presidential Election” by Conor Harnett on 12 August 2016.
- Lecture on “Repatriates from Sri Lanka in South India and on the Andaman and Nicobar Island” by Prof. Frank Heidemann on 8 September 2016.
- Workshop on “Migration and Collectives/Networks as Pathways out of Poverty/ Methodology” on 26-29 September 2016.

- Dialogue on Building Foundations for Reconciliation on “Memory and Memorialisation in Transitional Justice” in Galle on 29 September and in Colombo on 30 September 2016.
- “Ashley Halpe, Celebrating His Work” on 19 October 2016; Speakers Thiru Kandiah and Jean Arasanayagam; Musical Interlude by Soundarie David Rodrigo – Piano and Hasini Halpe – Violin Moderator Harshana Rambukwella.
- Conference on “Caste, Social Justice and Democracy in Sri Lanka” on 19-20 November 2016.
- Lecture on “Deconstructing Transitional Justice: Experiences from Guatemala” by Dr Alison Crosby on 1 December 2016.
- Visit of Afghan Emerging Civil Society Leaders to ICES Kandy on 3 December 2016. In collaboration with Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA), Colombo, the ICES hosted 32 emerging civil society activists from Afghanistan for a panel discussion to share conflict and post-conflict civil society action in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. The panel put together by ICES comprised of Prof. K. Tudor Silva, Director Research ICES; Ms Yogeshwari, Programme Manager, Institute of Social Development; Mr M. Rajudeen, Director, Service Civil International; Dr Sivapragasan, Director Human Development Organisation and Dr Pahan Prasada, Senior Lecturer of Department of Agricultural Economics and Business Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.



The above representatives of the NGO community based in Kandy shared their experiences and their expectations in the post-war Sri Lanka, while Dr Prasada made a presentation on his post-war study titled “Development Interventions vs Local Expectations in Post-Conflict Recovery: A Cross Sectional Study in Northern Sri Lanka”.

- Round-table discussion on “The ratification of the UNCPRD and the Draft Disability Law” to recognise the Sri Lanka government’s ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the significance of this to persons with disabilities, rights advocates and practitioners on 12 August 2016.
- A Discussion on “Human Rights and Its Role in a Democracy” by Judge Erik Mose (Judge of the European Court of Human Rights & Former President at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda). The event was a collaboration between the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies and was held at BASL Mini Auditorium on 26 May 2016.

FILM SCREENINGS

The ICES has a monthly film screening and also screens documentaries and conducts regular film festivals.

Films screened in 2016:

- Skin – 29 January
- The Book Thief – 29 April
- Son and Saul (Hungary) – 31 May
- Dheepan (France)- 29 June
- Leviathan (Russia) – 28 July
- Illegal (Belgium) – 29 August
- *Konikar Ramdhenu*, (Ride on the Rainbow) – 6 October (Kandy)
- Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? – 17 October
- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas – 14 December 2016

Film Festivals

- Celebrating African American Month from 11–12 February (Kandy)
 - Selma
 - Malcolm X
- American Movie Classics: A Festival of Award Winning Films from 15–19 February (Colombo)
 - A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)
 - Love is a Many Splendored Thing (1955)
 - In the Heat of the Night (1967)
 - North By Northwest (1959)
 - The Magnificent Seven (1960)
- International Women's Day Film Festival from 8–10 March
 - Rosenstrasse
 - The Book Thief
 - The Color Purple
- American Movie Classics (Continued) from 4–8 April
 - My Fair Lady (1964)
 - The Graduate (1967)
 - Notorious (1946)
 - Lolita (1962)
 - Roman Holiday (1953)

DOCUMENTARIES

SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Building Resilient Communities

Screening of four short films produced under the 'Building Resilient Communities' project, and a discussion in Kandy on 26 February 2016. The films are in Sinhala and Tamil with English subtitles.

- **God must be Deaf?** by Kaushalya Pathirana
A man wakes up from his sleep disturbed and irritated by the prayer from a mosque. He goes from door to door rallying people against it. This group is led by a Buddhist monk who himself plays Buddhist chanting using a loudspeaker. New actors enter this 'battle of sounds' resulting in absolute chaos in the community.
- **Let her Fly** by Fathima Nafla
Who will shape up her life...? Will she be able to do as she wish...? Are we ready to let her fly...?
- **The Rope** by Anthonipillai Nishanthan
A girl goes near a tree to commit suicide. Some children also come there to play. What happens next?
- **The Judgement** by Suranga Kulatunge
The unending struggle of a man in a society where words, perceptions and ideologies have different faces at different times.

Advancing Truth, Justice in Sri Lanka

Screening of the documentary film on "Advancing Truth, Justice in Sri Lanka" on 4 March 2016.

Puṅgudutīvu: A Disintegrating Island

Screening of an ethnographic film *Puṅgudutīvu: A Disintegrating Island* depicting the post-war life in island off Jaffna and a discussion with the film director Thanges Paramsothy (Doctoral Student in Anthropology, University of East London, UK). The discussion was moderated by Prof. K. Tudor Silva, Director Research, ICES, Kandy on 30 November 2016.

Market Imaginary

ICES in collaboration with the Global Shapers Colombo Hub (an initiative of the World Economic Forum) screened the documentary *Market Imaginary* on 1 July 2016, written, directed and produced by Joanna Grabski, explores the commercial/ social, historical/spatial, and visual /creative imaginaries around Colobane Market in Dakar, Senegal. Conceptual elements associated with mobility, urbanization, and connectedness (transits, passages, conduits) and the possibilities they promise are deeply embedded in the market imaginary. Like the market, the neighbourhood is associated with mobility and convergence due to its geographical positioning in Dakar and proximity to the railroad line, bus depot, and highway.

INTERNS

- Nina Marie Fernando joined as an Asia Foundation LankaCorps Fellow. She has graduated from University of Redlands with a B.A. in Social Change through Music and Religious Studies and had her Masters in Interdisciplinary Studies from Claremont School of Technology. (4 July to 31 December 2016)
- Conor Hartnett is a J.D. Candidate at Harvard Law School. He has worked as an editor for the Harvard Law School Human Rights Journal and is currently involved in a project to facilitate educational law reform in India. (24 May to 19 August 2016)
- Natasha Karunaratne was at ICES as an intern from 15 December 2015 to 15 January 2016. She is an undergraduate at Tufts University, USA, double majoring in Peace & Justice Studies and Education.

WEBSITE

The ICES website was re-designed in order to reflect the mandate of the institution as a research centre. The ICES team worked closely with the web designing team *rukizone* to come up with a suitable template that would show case the work ICES has done in the past and is currently engaged in. The interface was made more user-friendly and also incorporated photographs/videos directly on the homepage so that all interested stakeholders will get a very clear indication regarding the work of ICES. The projects and gallery are also presented thematically to convey that ICES works across a wide range of thematic areas including women and development, disability, religious co-existence, transitional justice and urban development.

The events calendar was also designed so as to highlight and give prominence to the different movie screenings, literary evening and panel discussions hosted by ICES. The ICES publications are also featured on the website, and can be accessed directly by scholars, academics, students and all other interested parties. An archive is also available to access all past research of the organisation. The library and auditorium facilities have also been given more prominence on the website so as to promote their usage. It was felt that the library is under-utilised and needs to be showcased so that more researchers, academics and students can benefit from its wealth of materials. The facilities in the auditorium have also been listed so that it will continue to be used for diverse discussions, screenings and plays.

LIBRARY

The two libraries in Colombo and Kandy constitute the central academic facility of the Centre, both in resources and standing as the repository of knowledge. The library specialises in social sciences and women's studies with strong collections on ethnicity, culture and history. It also has an excellent collection on law, religion, anthropology, transitional justice and fiction. It contains one of the best collections on ethnicity and identity politics in the country. The library holdings include material usually unavailable to scholars from the Asian region. In 2016, a total of 309 new books were added to the two libraries in Colombo and Kandy.

The library plays an important role in all academic activities of ICES. It is not only used by the research staff of the Centre, but also serves scholars, academics, senior government officials, politicians, media people, universities and other research institutes.

The catalogue is being computerised and will enable better access to the collection in the future. Readers can also make use of the Wi-Fi internet connection in the library.

The project also intends to increase the uptake and impact of ICES' research by disseminating it in a more creative manner through the use of social media. The ICES library has also commenced digitising its collections and intends to launch its catalogue online during 2018. In addition to digital platforms, conversations and debate around the research will also be

generated through international and national workshops which will engage a cross-section of people such as politicians, academics, civil society, the media and donor agencies from diverse backgrounds.

AUDITORIUM

The ICES auditorium which initially started in a 'thatched patio' in the previous building adjacent has over these 34 years been transformed into a modern and attractive facility. Over these years it has been the site of a number of conversations, academic discussions, film screenings and poetry readings on a variety of topics from constitutional reform to displacement to religious freedom to plays and exhibitions 'about the past'.

The auditorium's facilities have been recently enhanced by adding a state-of-the-art sound system, two ceiling mounted projectors and two screens at both ends of the hall. It also has facilities for simultaneous interpretation and a patio for informal discussions and receptions. Maximum seating capacity is for approximately 90 persons. The area has Wi-Fi coverage as well. A generator has been recently added.

Consequently, the venue has been sought by organisations for its seminars, academic discussions and film screenings. It has emerged as an 'alternative site' for a broad range of academic and artistic activities.

STAFF

Executive Director

Dr Mario Gomez (PhD, University of Colombo)

Director Research (Kandy)

Prof. K. Tudor Silva (PhD, Monash University) (*Joined May 2016*)

Finance and Administration Manager

Chalani Lokugamage (CIMA, UK)

Emeritus Fellow

Radhika Coomaraswamy (LL.M, Harvard; JD, Columbia)

Research Fellow

Dr Nireka Weeratunga (PhD, Anthropology, University of Toronto)

Research Staff

- Chulani Kodikara – Senior Researcher (*left on 30 April 2016*)
- Kasun Pathiraja – Senior Project Coordinator (M.Sc., Environmental Economics, University of Peradeniya)
- Asela Ekanayake – Programme Officer (*left on 31 May 2016*)
- Danesh Jayatilaka – Research Fellow, MBA, University of Sri Jayewardenapura
- Faslan Mohamed – Programme Officer, MA (Political Science), University of Colombo
- Nadine Vanniasinkam – Programme Officer, MA; LL.B (Applied Linguistics), University of Melbourne
- Dinushka Jayawickreme – Programme Officer, BA (English) University of Colombo
- Ranmini Vithanagama – Researcher, MA (Economics) University of Colombo
- Kethaki Kandanearachchi – Programme Officer (*left 31 December 2016*)
- Nirmir Vitarana – Researcher, MA (Sustainable Development), Brandeis University, USA
- Harini Dias Bandaranayake – Programme Officer, MA (Development Studies) University of Colombo

Administrative, Finance, IT and Library

- Ponnudurai Thambirajah – Chief Librarian
- B. M. Mowsil – PA to the Executive Director
- Gallage Ayoma Shyamalee – Finance Officer
- Bhagya Wijayasooriya – Accounts Executive
- Dimuth Geethananda – Assistant Librarian/IT Officer
- Lakmali Alwis – Assistant Librarian
- Anthony Christopher – Receptionist
- Kandiah Raveendran – Office Assistant
- Rengasamy Arumugam – Office Assistant

- Iranga Silva – Publications Officer; Managing Editor- IJESS (Kandy)
- Vasantha Premaratne – Programme Coordinator (Kandy)
- Samarakoon Bandara – Administrative/Accounts Executive (Kandy)
- Niranjala Sarojini – Librarian (Kandy)
- Saleeka Peiris – Secretary and Receptionist (Kandy)
- R. Wasantha Jayawathie – Office Assistant (Kandy)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 2016

Daneshan Casie Chetty, Chairman
Retired career diplomat

Tissa Jayatilaka
Executive Director of the Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission

Rajan Asirwatham
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, Corporate Director and former Senior Partner and Country Head of KPMG Ford Rhodes Thornton & Company

K. M. de Silva
Founder, former Chairman and Executive Director of ICES; Retired Professor of Sri Lanka History, University of Peradeniya; Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

John Gooneratne (*Till 15 September 2016*)
Retired Career Diplomat and former Secretary-General of the Sri Lanka Peace Secretariat

S. H. Hasbullah
Retired Professor of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Nira Wickramasinghe (*Till 15 September 2016*)
Professor of Modern South Asian Studies, Leiden University Institute for Area Studies, School of Asian Studies, Netherlands

Wijaya Jayatilaka
Professor of Archaeology, University of Peradeniya

Frankly Amerasinghe
Attorney-at-Law, Corporate Director and former CEO of Employers' Federation of Sri Lanka

Gnana Moonesinghe (*From 15 September 2016*)
Civil Society Activist and Writer/Author

Shafinaz Hassendeen (*From 15 September 2016*)
Former Senior ILO Officer and Labour/Gender Specialist

FINANCE: KANDY/COLOMBO

Private & Confidential

B.R.DE SILVA & CO.

Chartered Accountants



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES

1. Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of International Centre for Ethnic Studies, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31st March 2016, and the statement of Income and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and, Statement of Cash Flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

2. Board's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors ("Board") is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards for SME's, and for such internal controls as Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

3. Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Partners - N.S.C. De Silva FCA, FCMA(UK), L.C. Phasana FCA, F.I.S. Wickremasinghe FCA,
F.S.N. Manikar FCA, S.M.S.S. Bandara MBA, FCA, D.S. De Silva LL.B.(Hons) & LL.M.
Partner (Kandy) W.L.L. Perera FCA
ACA, ACMA(UK)

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4. Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31st March 2016, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards for SME's.

5. Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by section 163 (2) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, we state the following:

- a) The basis of opinion and scope and limitations of the audit are as stated above.
- b) In our opinion :
 - We have obtained all the information and explanations that were required for the audit and, as far as it appears from our examination, proper accounting records have been kept by the Company.
 - The financial statements of the Company, comply with the requirements of section 151 of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.

B.R. De Silva
B. R. DE SILVA & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Colombo 05.

Date: 25/8/2016

LCP/NM/lr/64/07



International Centre for Ethnic Studies

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