



Annual Report

2013



International Centre for Ethnic Studies

Published in July 2014

(Cover photo credit Imesha Athukorale)

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PROFILE

Established in 1982, the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) is an independent research centre, with a focus on ethnicity, identity politics, conflict resolution, post-war reconstruction, democracy, governance, human rights, development and gender. The mission of ICES is 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.*

The ICES engages in academic research, advocacy on key policy matters and endeavours to create a critical mass of people who believe in cultural pluralism and tolerance. For three decades, ICES has strived to evolve a model of historically sensitive, theoretical and empirical research, publications and debate on key socio-political issues in the global South. It has been particularly influential in shaping policy and public imagination on issues of ethnic diversity and constitutional reform in Sri Lanka. ICES provides a vibrant and dynamic intellectual environment for academic and policy dialogues, discussions, seminars, publications and socially-engaged literature, art and cinema. In the past, ICES maintained a consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and served as the Secretariat to the former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and former Executive Director of ICES, Radhika Coomaraswamy. 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 is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of eminent scholars and practitioners. The Board of the Centre formulates the broad policy of ICES that is executed by a multi-ethnic core staff headed by an Executive Director.

Each of the two offices in Colombo and Kandy has its own academic personality, with its special concerns and emphases, while sharing the same vision and collaborating closely in pursuit of a common mission and a goal.

In addition to its research staff, ICES benefits from a wide global network of eminent researchers, practitioners, frequent international research fellows and interns who contribute to research projects and to shaping the Centre's work.

ICES has a culture of working collaboratively and conducts its projects with partners in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America drawn from academic institutions, policy institutes, women's organisations, and community-based groups.

The ICES library is one of the most sought after academic resource centres in Sri Lanka, housing a range of publications on ethnicity, culture, identity, religion, women's studies, politics, law and history. The ICES receives funding from a range of bilateral and multilateral donors and foundations including Diakonia, IDRC, and USAID.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 2013

Amal Jayawardane, Chairman

Head of the Department of International Relations, University of Colombo

Deepika Udagama

Head, Department of Law, University of Peradeniya; Member of the Board of Directors, Law and Society Trust, Colombo

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 and former Chairman and Executive-Director of ICES; Retired Professor of Sri Lanka History, University of Peradeniya

John Gooneratne

Retired Career Diplomat and Secretary-General of the Sri Lanka Peace Secretariat

Michael Roberts

Retired Professor of the Department of Anthropology, University of Adelaide, Australia

Jayadeva Uyangoda

Professor of Department of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Colombo

Nira Wickramasinghe

Professor of Modern South Asian Studies, Leiden University Institute for Area Studies, School of Asian Studies, Netherlands

Carmen Wickremagamage

Professor of English, University of Peradeniya

September 2013

Tissa Jayatilaka, Chairman

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

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Michael Roberts

Retired Professor of the Department of Anthropology, University of Adelaide, Australia

Nira Wickramasinghe

Professor of Modern South Asian Studies, Leiden University Institute for Area Studies, School of Asian Studies, Netherlands

Sudarshan Seneviratne

Professor of Archaeology, University of Peradeniya

Danesan Casie Chetty

Retired career diplomat

Fazeeha Azmi

Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya

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

Contributing to the World of Ideas

Established in 1982, in keeping with its mandate, the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), contributed meaningfully in 2013 to critical debates on ethnicity, governance, gender, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Our goal has been to help shape public policy and practice. A related important goal has been to inspire and mentor emerging scholars in the subject areas that ICES is primarily focused on.

The ICES continued with the above mission engaging with issues at home relating to democracy, equality, gender, post-war reconciliation, displacement and disability. We are proud to have hosted some leading national and international scholars during the year under review. These scholars either gave lectures or led workshops or did both. We are most grateful to them.

The ICES, throughout its existence, has been a space for debate and reflection and for the articulation of dissenting and alternative views. One of the highlights of 2013 was the conference we hosted on the theme '*Ethical Futures: A Dialogue on State, Society and Ethical Existence*'. The conference attracted several notable scholars from Sri Lanka and elsewhere. It was after a considerable period of time that ICES hosted a conference of this magnitude and we were particularly proud to have held it at our newly refurbished Kynsey Terrace auditorium.

Three key activities were begun in 2013. The first of these looks at the relationship between urban displacement and poverty and seeks to generate recommendations for policymakers. The second seeks to address the escalating tensions between the Sinhala and Muslim communities with a view to building resilience among them to cope with such tensions through the creation of greater public awareness via research and dialogue. The third attempts to develop a better understanding of attitudes and issues stemming from 'intimate partner violence' between partners themselves and among partners, lawyers and counsellors in the North Central Province (Anuradhapura) and in the Eastern Province (Batticaloa) of Sri Lanka.

New publications on justice, nationalism, gender, reconciliation and the post-war Sri Lankan state were released in 2013. Some of our previous research publications were translated into Sinhala and Tamil. We will continue to make our research more accessible in Sinhala and Tamil and thereby make such research available to new and diverse audiences.

ICES has also continued with its 'Dialogue' series and in 2013 we made a special effort to organise some of these dialogues in venues such as Batticaloa, Galle, Kandy, Jaffna, and Matara. We intend to continue with this policy and provide an opportunity for civil society outside of the metropolis to reflect on, debate and engage on issues of national import.

The ICES website is being modernised and the library collections in Kandy and Colombo are being strengthened. An organisational capacity assessment was done during the year under review and we intend to take such steps as are called for to strengthen our governance and financial, administrative, and project management systems over the coming years. The ICES has also begun to make efforts in the direction of re-establishing its presence in global civil society. Needless to say, funding continues to pose a challenge for us, as it does for most civil society initiatives today.

We would like to thank our colleagues on the Board, our funders for continuing to have faith in the ICES and its values, and to the staff in Kandy and Colombo for their energy and effort over the past year. We look forward to consolidating our achievements to-date and to continue to build on our strengths as we go forward into another year of activity.

Amal Jayawardane
Chairman
(January – September 2013)

Tissa Jayatilaka
Chairman
(From September 2013)

RESEARCH

The ICES is independent and international in its research, outlook and audience, with a natural emphasis on Sri Lanka and South Asia. Projects are a synthesis of detailed country analyses and broader regional analyses, all placed within the global context. The multi-dimensional approach adopted by the ICES in its research is directed at the enrichment of conceptual, theoretical as well as empirical understandings of ethnicity, ethnic conflict and conflict resolution in particular and of all other issues that come under the purview of its research portfolio in general.

The Centre has consistently produced cutting-edge literature on ethnicity and related socio-economic, political and cultural processes. Its research portfolio reflects a wide geographical and thematic diversity of interests that have a bearing upon contemporary issues of governance worldwide.

ICES's research, policy interventions and discussions have traditionally been in the following four broad areas:

- **Ethnicity, Identity and Violence** - Protecting the endless diversity of identities, and promoting coexistence; and continuing to understand the problem of the perpetration, witnessing and survival of violence.
- **State, Politics and Power** - Promoting understanding of the state; and contributing towards the development of a state that is more responsive to the needs of the community.
- **Justice and the Struggle for Peace** - Deepening understanding of, and catalysing improved policies for, social and reparative justice and inclusive peace; and strengthening mechanisms and capacity in human and minority rights.
- **Gender and Sexuality** - Providing a feminist analysis of gender and sexuality; re-conceptualising VAW interventions in conflict and other settings; and strengthening the role of women as political decision-makers at all levels.

OVERVIEW

During 2013 ICES engaged with a multiplicity of issues relating to democracy, equality, gender, post-war reconciliation, displacement and disability. Dialogues and film screenings were expanded beyond Colombo to Kandy, Jaffna Galle and Kantale. Foreign scholars participated in the Ethical Futures conference, and the 'Diversity and Exclusions' intensive course. Leading scholars including Arjun Appadurai, Rajeev Bhargava, Megan Bradley, Radhika Coomaraswamy, Qadri Ismail, Vasuki Nesiah, Charles Taylor and Nira Wickremasinghe, led workshops or gave lectures. The 'Diversity and Exclusions' seminar raised issues of concern to young scholars and activists and was held as part of the ICES tradition of mentoring young people. One of the highlights of the past year was the conference on 'Ethical Futures: A Dialogue on State, Society and Ethical Existence'. Several new publications were released and some previous research translated into Sinhala.

DIALOGUES and CONFERENCES

'Ethical Futures: A Dialogue on State, Society and Ethical Existence'

30, 31 May and 1 June 2013

The two and half day conference was organised around nine broad themes: reconciliation; memory and remembering; security and normalcy; justice and the rule of law; nationalism and secularism; the post-war political economy; law and ethics; diversity and exclusions; and social struggles and mobilisation. Gender was addressed as a cross-cutting theme.

The conference brought together a diverse group of academics and activists from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds. Approximately 15 foreign academics participated. On the first day the conference attracted approximately 120 participants and on the second and third days between 75–90 participants for the different panels. Significantly, there were a number young scholars and activists who participated.

The meeting was held at the ICES auditorium to provide the space and informality for the dialogue that was envisaged. The ICES has for long been a space for diverse and different voices and the conference sought to keep this tradition alive. Several of the papers are on the ICES website and some papers were published as 'think pieces'.



Dialogues on Democracy

In 2013 ICES continued to provide a space for people from diverse backgrounds such as politicians, academia, the donor community, civil society, artists, members of the clergy and the media to constantly engage in discussion and debate on issues of ethnic cohesion, reconciliation, gender justice, minority rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Several 'Dialogues on Democracy' were conducted over the past 12 months. This consisted of nine lectures, three panel discussions, two workshops, four roundtable discussions, the screening of the film festival 'Picturing Reconciliation' in three districts, and the holding of the 'Herstories' Exhibition in Jaffna.

The dialogues provided a space to:

- raise and debate critical issues facing Sri Lanka at the current moment such as the crisis within the university system, attacks on Muslims by Sinhalese extremist groups, transitional justice and the different meanings of reconciliation;
- deepen our analysis of these issues and enable more targeted interventions;
- develop new partnerships and alliances.

Workshop on 'Post-War Futures'

21 February 2013

Kandy

A full-day workshop on the above theme to critically analyse socio-political developments over the past three years and to imagine 'new and ethical future' for post-war Sri Lanka was held at ICES Kandy. The objective of the workshop was to bring fresh insights into the emerging socio-political and cultural configurations of post-war Sri Lankan society. Academics and other members of civil society from the Central Province participated. In two sessions, seven presentations were made following the keynote speech made by Jayantha Dhanapala (UN Under-Secretary-General, 1998-2003) on 'Populism and Democracy'.



Jayantha Dhanapala delivers the keynote speech; also in the picture is Mario Gomez, Executive Director of ICES.

Seminar on 'Diversity and Exclusions'

12 – 16 August 2013

A five-day intensive course on the Sri Lankan State, Society and Culture titled 'Diversity and Exclusions' was held in August. The seminar provided a forum for a group of researchers, professionals and activists; ranging from undergraduate students to Ph.D. candidates to engage in an intensive dialogue on a variety of issues pertaining to the Sri Lankan state, society and culture. Nira Wickramasinghe and Harshana Rambukwelle were the course directors.

The seminar provided a space for the participants, including the teaching panel, to engage in critical introspection about received assumptions on Sri Lanka's polity and the epistemologies through which it has been historically approached. One of the objectives was to create a forum where young researchers could engage with academics in an interactive and informal way, and in an education style that provided a holistic and interdisciplinary approach.

'Picturing Reconciliation' Film Festival

Colombo, Batticaloa and Kantale

'Picturing Reconciliation' was screened in three locations over the past year. (In Colombo and Batticaloa in January and in Kantale in May) The festival attracted diverse audiences from the different ethnic communities. The target group of the Colombo event was Sinhala and English speaking audiences and the Batticaloa screening targeted the Tamil speaking audience in the East. The Kantale screening focused on the Sinhala population in that area because of the high level of militarisation and the tensions at the time of the screening.

'Herstories' Exhibition: A Mobile Exhibit of Resilience and Hope

Jaffna

28 and 29 June 2013

'Herstories', an archival project researched and curated by Radhika Hettiarachchi, focuses on mothers from the South and North of Sri Lanka. It highlights their strength in the face of adversity, and their hopes for their children's and Sri Lanka's future. These histories or 'Herstories' showcased a shared history and highlighted how Sri Lankans are rooted in multiple identities, multiple histories, and different experiences. Through the narratives of many, this project also highlighted a sense of fundamental humaneness that transcends ethnic boundaries.

The exhibition was held in Jaffna at the YMCA and drew approximately 700 persons over a two-day period. The exhibition was held at ICES, Colombo from 24 to 28 July.

Women, Poverty and Human Rights: Two-Day Learning Programme

6-7 September 2013 (held at SEDEC)

ICES and PWESCR (Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, New Delhi) conducted a Two-Day Learning Programme to enhance an understanding among women's rights leaders' and build skills that will enable effective activism and advocacy on women's human rights. The programme was divided according to the themes of 'understanding gender and the feminization of poverty', 'the human rights framework', and 'key principles of the ESCR framework' over the two days. The programme employed diverse pedagogical methods including lectures, interactive and participatory discussions, case study methods, videos, study groups, and simulation exercises and games.

Conducted in a mix of Sinhala, Tamil and English, with consecutive translation, the workshop was attended by a wide cross-section of grassroots and community based activists.

RESEARCH

The research undertaken in 2013 straddled the themes of post-war reconciliation, development, state reform, democracy, justice and identity politics, involuntary settlement and gender.

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

Principal Researcher: Rajith Lakshman

Research Team: Dhammika Herath, Michael Collyer, W. D. Lakshman, Irudaya Rajan, K. Amirthalingam, I. M. Lakshman, Danesh Jayathilake

Inequality and poverty are mutually reinforcing phenomena and processes. Poverty creating and reducing processes take place in interaction with markets and socio-economic conditions, and are marked by aspects such as inclusion and exclusion. This research, in Cochin, Colombo and Jaffna, will strive to comprehend and theorise the complex interlinks between inequality and poverty within the context of urban resettlement. It will examine the difference that displacement makes to the condition of urban IDPs (internally displaced persons) in contrast to the lives of urban non-IDPs. Among other things, it will look at medium and long term inequality, impoverishment, social and economic opportunities for the second generation (children), civic participation, and entrepreneurial behaviour.

The research team will study 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 will be collected from samples of affected households along with data from government institutions, universities, research organisations, developmental agencies, and other actors.

The academic research is being done over three years (April 2013 to March 2016) in three South Asian cities: Cochin, Colombo and Jaffna. The Centre for Development Studies (CDS) is leading the research in Kerala and ICES is spearheading the research in Colombo and Jaffna. The study will generate concrete recommendations to enhance the capacity of local, national and international actors to effectively integrate the perspectives of affected and vulnerable populations in urban development programmes and policy-making.

'Narratives of Intimate Partner Violence in the Courtroom and Counselling Centres in two districts in Sri Lanka'

Principal Researcher: Chulani Kodikara

Research Team: Harshini Ranasinghe, Tharanga Gunasinha, Nadine Vanniasinkam, K. Kuhanithi, S.Tambiah

Following on previous research on the public discourse relating to domestic violence in Sri Lanka, this study seeks to interrogate narratives of domestic violence employed by counsellors

and activists in organisations providing counselling services, as well as of lawyers and judges in implementing the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (PDVA) of 2005.

The aim of the study is to determine to what extent a complaint to a women's organisation or an application for a protection order under the PDVA can open up a discursive space to talk about a victim-survivors' experience of violence in a way not possible or even imagined before. It also seeks to understand whether these institutions can be conceptualised as 'sites of resistance' where dominant discourses around intimate partner violence can be challenged, where alternative (or even feminist) understandings of such violence can be shared, where old experiences can be given new meanings and understood in different ways and where the self can be (re)constructed anew. To present it differently, to what extent does the discourse on domestic violence in these two institutional sites reflect, reinforce, reproduce and perpetuate dominant narratives about violence as well gendered norms of power and dominance.

'Building Resilient Communities'

Programme Coordinator: Kasun Pathiraja

The ending of the war was seen by many as a paradigm-shifting moment in the country's history. But more than four years since the end of the war Sri Lanka remains a troubled nation. New forms of conflict are emerging along with new majority-minority configurations. This project seeks to address one such conflict/configuration—Sinhala-Muslim relations in post-war Sri Lanka. Extremist Sinhala Buddhist organisations, initially a Colombo-based urban phenomenon, has spread the Sinhala-Muslim conflict with alarming rapidity to other parts of the country and has taken on a national dimension. These organisations have been able to garner large-scale intra and inter-class support for their activities and their emergence and the rapid growth suggests that there is a complex underlying dynamics at play.

The project attempts to both understand this emergent phenomenon better and intervene to create productive dialogue between the two communities using innovative techniques in two districts in Sri Lanka: Ampara and Galle which represent multi-ethnic and multi-religious areas that have witnessed recent violent confrontation.

By creating the space for narrativising one's experiences through the innovative use of grassroots video, comic and cartoon productions, this project hopes to promote civic dialogue at a very basic level where ordinary people talk to each other across ethnic, religious and linguistic divides through stories. These narrative dialogues in turn will be highlighted at the national level through media and will also feed into publicised inter-faith and inter-ethnic civic dialogues conducted by eminent personalities.

Given the macro-scale realities of the Sinhala-Muslim conflict, the grassroots activities will be simultaneously accompanied by formal civic dialogues with various influential individuals and community organisations to address the systemic and institutionalised nature of the emerging Sinhala-Muslim conflict. The project also includes a research component that will generate historically, politically and economically nuanced insights into the Sinhala-Muslim and inter-community conflict in general in Sri Lanka, since the current cycle of conflict is little

understood and needs to be looked at in relation to the major institutional, economic and societal shifts Sri Lanka is experiencing in the post-war period. The project commenced in November 2013 and will continue till October 2016.

The South Asia Regional Project on Justice

Principal Researchers: Neloufer de Mel & Chulani Kodikara

This project looks at how the practices of law both inhibit and forward a nuanced knowledge on what constitutes justice in South Asia. A book chapter of approximately 20,000 words for a book on 'Justice in South Asia' is envisaged as one of the products.

The literature survey has commenced and is on-going. Based on the literature survey the Sri Lanka chapter will focus on the phenomenon of disappearances and the manner in which families of disappeared persons are keeping their claims for justice alive in an environment hostile to justice. The paper will focus on the issuance of death certificates and provisions of reparations and the choices that families take in seeking 'closure' or justice. Two field trips have been undertaken and several interviews also conducted. The two researchers attended a project meeting in New Delhi on 23 and 24 May 2013 where preliminary findings were presented.

The Practice of Human Rights Claims-Making in Sri Lanka: Towards a 'Thick' Description

Principal Researchers: Vijay Nagaraj and Shermal Wijewardene

This project takes as its object of study *the practice of human rights claims-making in Sri Lanka*. By 'practice', the idea is to map human rights claims-making in terms of the performance of it, i.e. what human rights practitioners in non-government organisations (NGOs) do and how they speak in the service of human rights in Sri Lanka. The significance of this project lies in its objective to provide a 'thick' account of the issues of logic, discourse, politics, and ethics attending human rights claims-making, drawing on conversations with human rights practitioners themselves.

The main expected outcome of the project is *the development of new insights into the nature and dynamics of human rights practices and claims-making in Sri Lanka*. Its intention, with regard to this topic, is to support clear thinking; credible evidence; nuanced analysis; openness to diverse ideological orientations; and the prospect of moving forward from established knowledge.

PUBLICATIONS

ICES has published almost 125 scholarly books, monographs, lecture/discussion series and reports which make it a leading source of information in Sri Lanka on contemporary ideas. It also include monographs and reports of workshops it has conducted on human rights, religion, anthropology, politics, women's studies, sociology, judiciary in plural societies, education and ethnicity. The credibility and accessibility of ICES research had made our publications popular among a cross-section of society from academics to media, students and general public.

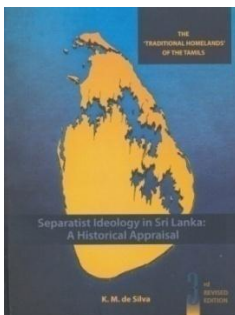
Publications in 2013



Reconciliation in Sri Lanka

Edited by Minna Thaheer, Pradeep Peiris and Kasun Pathiraja, 2013 (pp. 179)

This book is an effort at understanding the post-war reconciliation process as experienced by the different communities in the war-affected villages in the North and East of Sri Lanka. It attempts to give voice to the voiceless by contributing to the burgeoning discourse on reconciliation in Sri Lanka. This study used a pluralist research methodology comprising of a series of in-depth interviews and dialogue sessions with communities in the former war zones combined with a survey of 600 respondents in six districts in the North and East. The findings of the study are presented in six chapters in order to capture the multi-dimensional nature of reconciliation on the ground. The analysis in this book has been informed by the work of scholars who, through their rigorous and dedicated scholarly interventions, strive to build a just and democratic society in Sri Lanka.



The 'Traditional Homelands of the Tamils, Separatist Ideology: A Historical Appraisal

by K. M. de Silva, 2013 (pp. 283)

The concept of 'The Traditional Homeland or Homelands of the Tamils of Sri Lanka' evolved in the mid-and late-1970s, becoming the principal contribution of the leadership of the Federal Party and its successor the Tamil United Liberation Front to the public debate in Sri Lanka on devolution of power. Its origins and its many manifestations in Sri Lankan politics are reviewed in this present monograph which contains essays based on the revised text of the monograph published in 1987 and later in 1994. From the time of its entry into the Sri Lankan political debate i.e., in the 1970s and 1980s the concept of the 'Traditional Homeland or Homelands of the Tamils of Sri Lanka', became acutely controversial.

Research Papers

- “The Promise of the LLRC: Women’s Testimony and Justice in Post-War Sri Lanka” by Neloufer de Mel, ICES Research Paper 4; Published in February 2013
- A Provisional Evaluation of the Contribution of the Supreme Court to Political Reconciliation in Post-War Sri Lanka (May 2009-August 2012) by Dinesha Samararatne, ICES Research Paper 5; Published in March 2013
- Victorious Victims: An Analysis of Sri Lanka’s Post-War Reconciliation Discourse by Andi Schubert, ICES Research Paper 6; Published in March 2013
- The Political Economy of Post-War Sri Lanka by Sunil Bastian, ICES Research Paper 7; Published in May 2013
- Post-War Sri Lanka: Is Peace a Hostage of the Military Victory? Dilemmas of Reconciliation, Ethnic Cohesion and Peace-Building by Gamini Keerawella, ICES Research Paper 8; Published in June 2013
- History’ after the War: Historical Consciousness in the Collective Sinhala-Buddhist Psyche in Post-War Sri Lanka by Nirmal Ranjith Dewasiri, ICES Research Paper 9; Published in July 2013
- What Lessons Are We Talking About? Reconciliation and Memory in Post-Civil War Sri Lankan Cinema by Dinidu Karunanayake and Thiyagaraja Waradas, ICES Research Paper 10; Published in August 2013
- A History of Tamil Diaspora Politics in Canada: Organisational Dynamics and Negotiated Order, 1978-2013 by Amarnath Amarasingam, ICES Research Paper 11; Published in September 2013

Working Papers

- A Critique of Cultural Relativism by Qadri Ismail, ICES Working Paper 4; Published in August 2013

E Publications

- ‘What Lessons Learnt?’, An Accessible, Thematized Summary of the LLRC Report, 2013
- Who are the Women in Local Government? By Chulani Kodikara and Kethakie Nagahawatte, October 2013

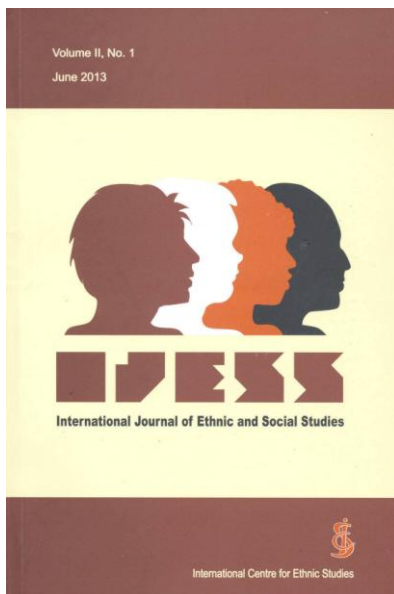
Translations into Sinhala and Tamil

- “Only until the Rice is Cooked” by Chulani Kodikara (Sinhala)
- “An Exploratory Mapping of Domestic Violence Intervention Services” by Chulani Kodikara with Thiagi Piyadasa published in English in 2011 and in Sinhala in 2012.
- “History’ after the War: Historical Consciousness in the Collective Sinhala-Buddhist Psyche in Post-War Sri Lanka” by Nirmal Ranjith Dewasiri (Sinhala)
- “Producing the Present: History as Heritage in Post-War Patriotic Sri Lanka” by Nira Wickramasinghe (Sinhala)

IJESS

(International Journal of Ethnic and Social Studies)

The *IJESS* has been launched with a wider scope which will cover not only ethnic studies per se, but also the diverse disciplines generally included in a broad definition of the social sciences and humanities. These include, but are not limited to, sociology, psychology, anthropology, gender studies, economics, political science, and history. The *IJESS* particularly welcomes contributions with an inter-disciplinary focus. In accordance with the editorial policy of the *IJESS*, the articles are peer-reviewed by two referees.



“The second volume of the *IJESS*, reaffirms the intention of ICES to go beyond its traditional focus (previously the *Ethnic Studies Report*) and make a seminal foray into research within the broader social sciences rubric. The second volume does not disappoint. Its multidisciplinary emphasis is evident in the scholarly papers of Shihaan de Silva Jayasuriya, Francesca Bremner, Nethra Samarawickrema and Manuela Cook, which cover the research disciplines of gender studies, history and sociology.

When considered in totality, the second volume, published in June 2013 and edited by Dr. Maithrie White, provides important insight into current scholarship on Sri Lanka. It reflects an interest in areas of research as diverse as the post-colonial evolution of popular culture, and the sociological dynamics of contemporary post-war communities”. (Review of the *IJESS* by Esther M. McIntosh)

VISUAL MEDIA

Don't Think of Me as a Woman: An Election Story from the Margins

A film by Chulani Kodikara and Chitra Velayudan

This film produced in collaboration with Women and Media Collective (WMC) and the Organisation for Visual Progression (OVP) documents how Aynoon Beebi, a 39 year old Muslim woman, challenged the naturalisation of male dominance within communities and political party structures to contest the 2011 Local Government elections in Kinniya in the Trincomalee district. At that time, only 77 out of nearly 4,000 elected local councillors were women, and only 1 was Muslim. The film grew out of the 'Changing Minds: Nominations and Votes for Women' programme implemented by ICES, WMC and five other women's organisations between 2010 and 2012.

LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS and WORKSHOPS

- “Religion as a Cultural Resource in the Making of Asian Modernities” by Arjun Appadurai on 3 January 2013.
- “Displacement, Transitional Justice and Reconciliation: Assumptions, Challenges and Lessons” by Dr. Megan Bradley on 17 January 2013.
- “The Budget, Education and the Priorities in Post-War Sri Lanka” by Dr. Ananda Jayawickrama on 23 January 2013 (Kandy)
- A Literary Evening with Nayomi Munaweera on 14 February 2013.
- A Workshop on ‘Post-War Futures’ on 21 February 2013. (Kandy)
- “What Ails Higher Education in Sri Lanka” by Muttukrishna Sarvananthan on 27 February 2013.
- A Celebration of Sri Lankan Women’s Writing in English on 7 March 2013.
- “Coexistence and Disruption: Perspectives on Sinhala-Muslim Relations” by Farzana Haniffa, Ahilan Kadirgamar and Sumith Chaaminda on 19 March 2013.(in partnership with the Law & Society Trust)
- A Literary Evening on “Sri Lankan Women’s Voices Through Specific Literary Genres” in Commemoration of International Women’s Day, featuring, Dr. Jean Arasanayagam, Dr. Sumathi Sivamohan, Prof. Ranjini Obeyesekere, Dr. Piyaseeli Wijayamanne on 21 March 2013 (Kandy)
- Joint Open Forum (ICES and FES) on “Bridging the Divides of the Past, Building a Common Future: Impressions from Germany and Sri Lanka” on 8 April 2013.
- “Up-Country Tamils’ Legal and Cultural Citizenship in Post-War Sri Lanka” by Prof. Daniel Bass on 27 May 2013.
- “Ethical Futures: A Dialogue on State, Society and Ethical Existence” on 30, 31 May and 1 June 2013.
- “Burma/Myanmar: From an International Pariah to the West’s New Ally” by Marwaan Macan-Makar on 13 June 2013.
- “Images and Memory: How Photo Journalism Helped in the Post-Conflict Healing Process in Nepal” by Kunda Dixit on 20 June 2013.
- “Managing Religion and Rights in Plural Societies in Malaysia and Indonesia in Comparative Perspective” by Dian Shah on 25 June 2013.
- “Buddhist Monks’ Responses to Extremism in Sri Lanka” by Ven. Dr. Deegalle Mahinda on 27 June 2013 (Kandy).
- Book Launch: Reconciliation in Sri Lanka by Minna Thaheer, Kasun Pathiraja and Pradeep Peiris on 3 of July 2013.
- ‘Herstories Exhibition’. Exhibition of Mothers’ Narratives of Strength and Hope on 24–28 July 2013.
- “Ethical Soft Power and Public Diplomacy” and ‘Civility in Australian Society’ by Prof. Naren Chitty and Prof. John Simon on 16 July 2013.
- “Post-Colonial Identity and Popular Music in Sri Lanka: Baila and Kaffrinha” by Dr. Shihan de Silva Jayasuriya on 30 July 2013.
- “Muslim Community’s Response to Anti-Muslim Activism” on 1 August 2013, conducted by Dr. Jude Fernando, Dr. M. M. Cader and Vasantha Premaratne. (Kandy) Focus-Group Discussion (with *Samadana*).
- “Diversity and Exclusions”, Intensive Summer Course, 12–16 August 2013.

- “Economic and Social Justice for Women in Post-War Sri Lanka” on 27 August, Roundtable Discussion (with PWESCR)
- “The Draft Disability Law and the National Action Plan on Disability” on 3 September 2013, Roundtable Discussion (with Wheels in Motion)
- “Indo-Pakistan Geo-Strategic Relations, Impact on Region in General and Sri Lanka in Particular” by Ambassador Sohail Amin on 5 September 2013.
- “Women, Poverty and Human Rights” on 6-7 September 2013, Two Day Learning Programme (with PWESCR)
- “Peace-Building and Cascades of Violence” by Prof. John Braithwaite on 12 September 2013.
- “Strengthening Democracy and the Rule of Law” on 25 October 2013, Civil Society Discussion.
- ‘Women in Sculpture and Paintings in Pre-Modern Sri Lanka’ by Prof. Sirima Kiribamune and Mrs. Harsha Seneviratne on 7 November 2013. (Kandy) (In collaboration with the (SLFUW) Kandy branch).
- “An Evening of Poetry, Prose and Music” in partnership with the English Writers’ Cooperative (EWC) on 25 November.
- “The Roles of Religion and Secularism in a Plural Society” led by Prof. Charles Taylor, Prof. Gananath Obeyesekere, Prof. Rajeev Bhargava and Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy on 27 November 2013 (in partnership with CEPA).
- “The Rule of Law: Revisiting the Legacy of the Enlightenment” by Radhika Coomaraswamy on 3 December 2013.
- “Increasing the Space for Civil Society Work in the Current Context”, Civil Society Discussion, 5 December 2013.



A panel discussion on “Ethics, Secularism and Institutions of Governance” by Charles Taylor, Rajeev Bhargava, Gananath Obeyesekere and Radhika Coomaraswamy.

FILM SCREENINGS

The monthly film screenings of foreign language “feature films” have become very popular. In addition to monthly screenings, ICES also screens documentaries and conducts regular film festivals.

The following films and festivals were screened in 2013:

- English-Vinglish (India), 29 January
- About Elly (Iran), 28 February
- International Women’s Day Film Festival from 11 to 13 March. Films screened: North Country (USA), The Secret in Their Eyes (Argentina), English Vinglish (India)
- Barbara (Germany), 28 March 2013
- Argo (USA), 29 April
- English Vinglish (India), 19 June (Kandy)
- Life of Pi (India), 28 June
- Parzania, 6 August
- Silver Linings Playbook, 29 August
- If I Want to Whistle, I Whistle, 27 September
- It’s a Girl, 24 October
- The Reluctant Fundamentalist, 30 October
- My Mother’s Village, 22 November
- Saving Face (A Documentary Film by Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy and Daniel Junge), 2 December (Kandy)(with the Public Diplomacy Office of the American Embassy)
- My Mother’s Village (A Documentary Film by Aaron Burton) 3 December (Kandy)
- Human Rights Film Festival from 10 to 13 December

VISITING INTERNS

Farnaaz Khan: Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace & Conflict Resolution, India

Shehara Herath: Law Student

Poornima Ananda: Student of International Relations

Niruba Kirubarajah: Warwick University, Coventry, England

Noorah Stenholm: University of Helsinki, Finland

Avanthi Kalansooriya: University of Colombo. Joined the staff of ICES as a Programme Officer from 1 October 2013.

Sumudhu Jayasinghe: Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY. Joined the staff of ICES as a Programme Officer from 1 October 2013.

VISITING RESEARCHERS

Matti Weisdorf: Graduate student of anthropology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Simone Steuns: Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Esther McIntosh: Visiting Researcher, Leiden University, The Netherlands

STAFF

Administrative Staff

Mario Gomez–Executive Director
Ponnudurai Thambirajah – Chief Librarian and Programmes
B. M. Mowsil – PA to the Executive Director
Vivien Thalayasingham – Finance Manager (*Left in February 2013*)
Abira Varatharajah - Projects/Admin Manager (*Left in May 2013*)
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

Chalani Lokugamage – Finance and Administration Manager
Iranga Silva – Publications Officer/Managing Editor, IJESS - Kandy
Vasanthi Premaratne – Programme Coordinator - Kandy
Niranjala Sarojini – Librarian/Documentation Officer -Kandy
Samarakoon Bandara – Administrative/Accounts Executive - Kandy
Saleeka Peiris – Secretary/Receptionist - Kandy
R. Wasantha Jayawathie – Office Orderly - Kandy

Research Staff

Chulani Kodikara – Senior Researcher
Minna Thaheer – Senior Researcher (*Left on 31 December 2013*)
Kasun Pathiraja – Senior Project Coordinator
Chamindry Saparamadu – Senior Programme Coordinator
Geethika Dharmasinghe – Research Assistant (*Left 28 February 2013*)
Kethakie Nagahawatte – Research Assistant (*Left 31 January 2013*)
Ramla Wahab – Project Assistant (*Left 15 August 2013*)
Avanthi Kalansooriya – Programme Officer (*Joined 1 October 2013*)
SumudhuJayasinghe – Programme Officer (*Joined 1 October 2013*)
Asela Ekanayake – Research Assistant (*Joined 1 July 2013*)
Harshini Ranasinghe – Programme Coordinator (*Joined 21 October 2013*)

WEBSITE

The ICES website contains regularly updated information on the activities and research of the Centre. Full texts of some ICES research material are available for download.

The current content of the website includes a 'Publication' section that lists all ICES publications, and a section on 'Research' that highlights all the research projects, past and on-going, undertaken by ICES. There is a video gallery—the most recently added feature—that has video clips on short interviews and monologues on issues.

The ICES web site was re-designed and re-launched in October 2013 with a view to make it more appealing and to integrate social media sites. Security was also strengthened and monthly backups will be made to ensure data is not lost.

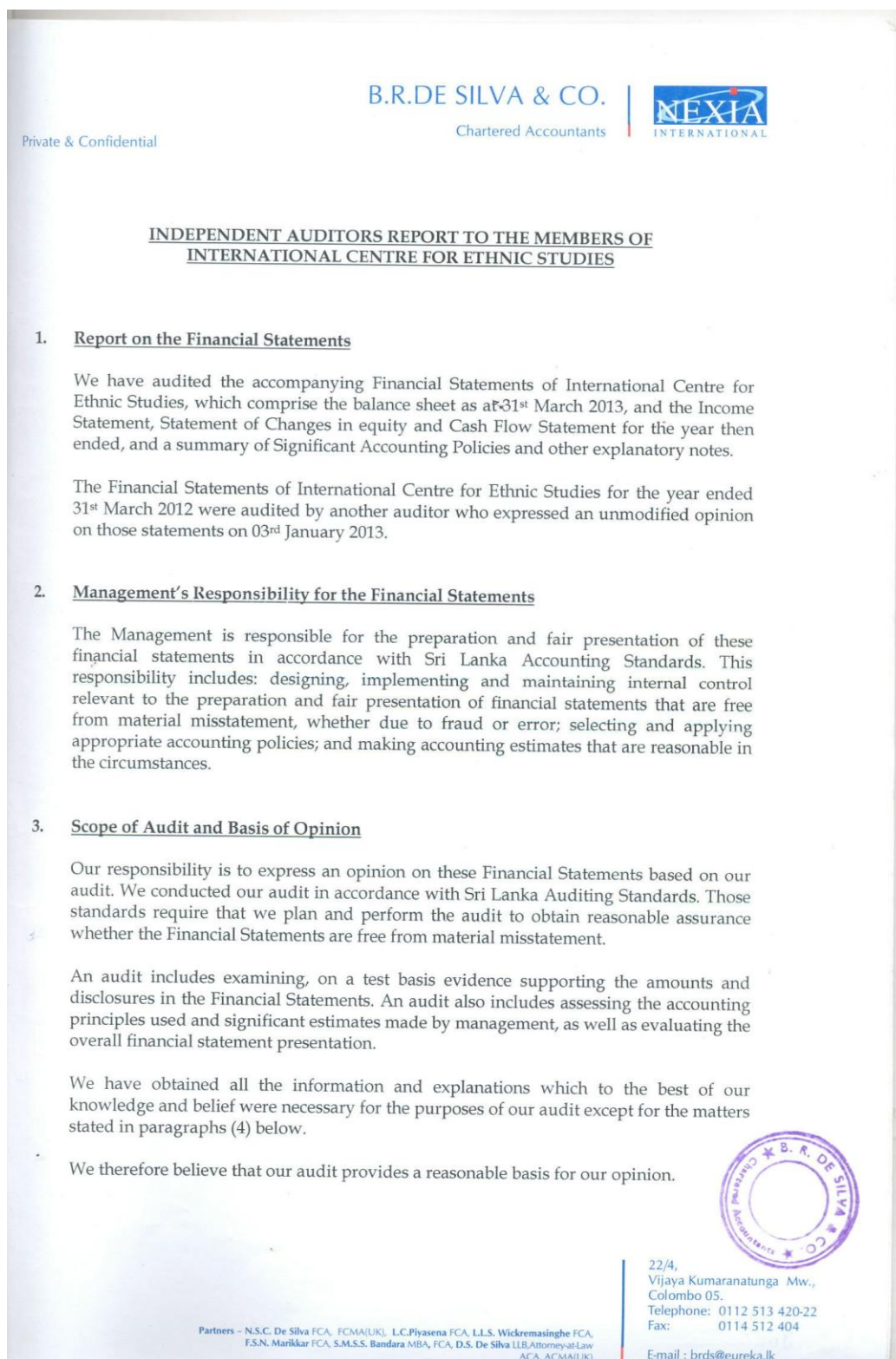
LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The ICES library is the central academic facility of the Centre, both in resources and its standing as the repository knowledge. The library specialises in social sciences and women's studies and its strong emphasis is on ethnicity, culture and history. It also has an excellent collection on law, religion, anthropology and fiction. It is possibly the best in the island on ethnic-related issues. The library holdings include material usually unavailable to scholars from the Asian region, especially South Asia.

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

The computerised catalogue enables scholars and researchers ready access to the collection. Readers can also make use of the wireless internet connection in the library.

FINANCE: COLOMBO & KANDY



International Centre for Ethnic Studies – 2013

4. We were unable to verify the accuracy and existence of the following balances, in an absence of inventory and physical verification. Further we noted that no depreciation has been provided in the financial statements as per section 17 of SLFRS for SME's.

Library Collection

Amounts

Colombo Office
Kandy Office

Rs.	Cts.
8,496,750.59	
3,886,827.01	

5. Opinion

In our opinion, except for the matters stated in paragraphs (4) above and any consequent adjustments that may arise therefrom, so far as appears from our examination, the Company has maintained proper accounting records for the year ended 31st March, 2013, and the financial statements provide a true and fair view of the Company's state of affairs as at 31st March, 2013, and its Income Statements and Cash Flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

Without further qualifying our opinion we draw attention to note 23 to the Financial Statement.

6. Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

These Financial Statements also comply with the requirements of Sections 151 (2) of the Companies Act No.07 of 2007.

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

Date.....19/08/2013

LCP/NM/nk/107/06

Audit Report by B. R. De Silva & Co.



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International Centre for Ethnic Studies

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Fax: 94 81 2234892