

International conference Facets of Tamil Diaspora

Venue: Jawaharlal Nehru Conference Hall
French Institute of Pondicherry
March 14-16, 2007

Organized by Indology Department, French Institute of Pondicherry.
and
Department of Tamil Literature, University of Madras, Chennai.

*Each paper 20 mins – Discussion 10 mins
Sessions will be coordinated by Kannan. M and Dr. Arasu.*

Day One – March 14 2007

Inaugural Session

Welcome Address (9.00 AM) Dr. Jean Pierre Muller, Director, IFP
Dr. V. Arasu, University of Madras.

Key Note Address (9.30 AM)
Prof. Francois Gros “Tamil Diaspora – An Academic Perspective”

Tea Break (10.15 AM)

Session One (10.30 AM) Tamil from all compass points: perspectives

Prof. P. Shanmugam “Migrations of Tamils in early and medieval periods”

Prof. M. A. Kalam “Where were Diaspora till 1990s?”

Prof. Knut Axel Jacobsen “Ritualization in the Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora in Norway”

Dr. Brigitte Sebastia “Ārōkkiya Mātā of Velankanni in France
Competition and expression of Tamil identity in
the Catholic activities of the Franco-
Pondicherrian community”

Prof. Christian Barat “Tamil Culture in Reunion Islands”

Lunch Break (1.00 PM)

Session Two (2.00 PM)

- Dr. Florence Callandre “La confrontation de la créolisation et de la tamoulisation dans les mondes malbar de La Réunion et des Seychelles”
- Dr. Gaëlle Dequirez “Sri Lankan Tamils in France: the role of businesses and associations”
- Dr. Anthony Goreau “The diasporisation: a tool for understanding the different Tamil historical trajectories”

Tea Break (4.00 PM)

- Mr. Sugumaran “State of Refugees in Tamil Nadu – A Report ”
- Prof. A. Marx “Refugees, Law and Tamil Politics”

5.45 pm Documentary Film on Poet Vilva Rathinam

7.00 pm Cocktail Dinner, IFP

Day Two – March 15 2007

Session One (9.00 AM)

Theatre and Tamil Diaspora

- Dr. Mounaguru “Theatre of the Tamil Diaspora”
- Dr. Mangai “Diasporic Existence and Theatre”

Tea Break (10.00.PM)

- Dr. Chitralakha Mounaguru “Identity in Diaspora – a search through Eelam Tamil Literature”
- Dr. Ko. Palani “Theatre activities of Tamil Diaspora”

Session Two (11.15AM)

Media and Tamil Diaspora

- Ms. Uma Sankari “Miles apart – yet together – Net as a link between widespread Diaspora”
- Dr. Ra. Srinivasan “Internet based activities of Tamil Diaspora”
- Mr. Rajesh “Reading Tamil Diasporic Aspirations from Homeland: A Study of Few Tamil Diasporic Websites”

Lunch Break (1.00 PM)

Session Three (2.00 PM)

Literature and Tamil Diaspora

Dr. V. Arasu

“Towards a discussion: The need to construct a curriculum incorporating writings from Tamil Diaspora”

Dr. A. Ekambaram

“Novel im by Shobha Shakti and Violence against Tamil people”

Dr. Y. Manikandan

“Poetry of the displaced”

Dr. Va. Mu. Se. Andavar
Malaysia”

“Reflections: Tamil Short Stories from

Dr. Se. Yogaraja

“The State of Women in Tamil Diaspora – a view through Literature”

Tea Break (4.00 PM)

Session Four (4.15 PM)

Caste, Women and Tamil Diaspora

Ms. V. Geetha

“Young women's perceptions of being Tamil – an account of Interactions”

5.45 pm Documentary Films on Theatre

Day Three – March 16 2007

Session One (9.00 AM)

Tamil Diaspora: Impressions

Dr. Zainab Basheer

“Being Tamil in Canada”

Dr. Preetha Mani

“Being in Tamil in United States”

Tea Break (10.00 PM)

Discussion

Lunch Break (1.00 PM)

Note on Participants:

1. **Prof. Francois Gros**, EPHE, Paris.
2. **Prof. P. Shanmugam**, Dept. of Ancient History and Archeology, Director, Institute for Traditional Cultures of South and South East Asia, University of Madras, Chennai.
3. **Prof. Knut Axel Jacobsen**, Dept. of the History of Religions, University of Bergen, Norway
4. **Prof. M. A. Kalam**, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Madras, Chennai.
5. **Prof. Christian Barat**, Director, Dept. Language and Civilizations of the Indian Ocean, University of Reunion, Reunion.
6. **Dr. Florence Callandre**, University of Reunion, Reunion.
7. **Dr. Elisabeth Sethupathy**, Head, Tamil Section, Department of South Asia, INALCO, Paris
8. **Dr. Gaëlle Dequierez**, INALCO, Paris
9. **Mr. Sugumaran**, Human Rights Federation, Pondicherry.
10. **Prof. A. Marx**, Presidency College, Chennai.
11. **Prof. Mounaguru**, Dept of Fine Arts, Eastern University, Batticola, Srilanka

12. **Dr. Mangai**, Dept. of English, Stella Maris College, Chennai.
13. **Dr. Chitralakha Mounaguru**, Dean, Dept of Languages, Eastern University, Batticola, Srilanka.
14. **Dr. Ko. Palani**, Dept. of Tamil Literature, University of Madras, Chennai.

15. **Ms. Uma Sankari**, Sub-Editor, Thenseide, Chennai.
16. **Dr. Ra. Srinivasan**, Presidency College, Chennai.
17. **Mr. Rajesh**, Dept. of Humanities, IIT, Chennai
18. **Prof. V. Arasu**, Head, Dept. of Tamil Literature, University of Madras, Chennai.
19. **Dr. A. Ekambaram**, Dept. of Tamil Literature, University of Madras, Chennai.
20. **Dr. Y. Manikandan**, Dept. of Tamil Literature, University of Madras, Chennai.
21. **Dr. Va. Mu. Se. Andavar**, Pacchaiappar College, Chennai.
22. **Ms. V. Geetha**, Editor, Tara Publishing, Chennai.
23. **Dr. Zainab Basheer**, University of Toronto, Toronto. Canada.
24. **Dr. Preetha Mani**, Dept. of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
25. **Dr. Brigitte Sebastia**, IFP, Pondicherry.
26. **Dr. Yogaraja**, Dept of Fine Arts, Eastern University, Batticola, Srilanka
27. **Mr. Anthony Goreau**, University of Bordeaux III, Bordeaux, France.