

TAMIL STUDIES NETWORK WORKSHOP 2013
Held at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS), University of Goettingen
June 7-8, 2013
Cosponsored by "Ritual Dynamics" (University of Heidelberg), Subproject A6

Organisers: Gabriele Alex (University of Tübingen), Michael Bergunder (University of Heidelberg), Torsten Tschacher (CeMIS), Ulrike Schröder (University of Heidelberg) and Rupa Viswanath (CeMIS)

Day 1: June 7 2013

Welcome, self-introductions, lunch: 12:00-13:15

Panel 1: Religion as the Sign of Tamilness
13:15-15:15

"Buddhism Among Tamils"
Peter Schalk, University of Uppsala

"'The Most Important Seat of Saiva Siddhanta Learning and Tamil Culture': The Thiruvavaduthurai Adhinam and Other Networks of Popularizing Saiva Siddhanta"
Rafael Klöber, University of Heidelberg

Respondent: Michael Bergunder

Discussion: 45 mins.

Coffee Break: 15 mins.

Panel 2: Identity: Linguistic and Otherwise
15:30-16:50

"The Roots of Tamil Identity"
Emmanuel Francis, CNRS Paris

"Of Chinese, Klings, and Other Castes: Tracing the Making of 'Tamilness' from the Margins, 1819-1942"
Torsten Tschacher, CeMIS, University of Göttingen

Respondent: Nathaniel Roberts

Discussion: 30 mins

Drinks and dinner: 6pm
Bullerjahn Restaurant, Altes Rathaus, Göttingen

Day 2: June 8 2013

Panel 1: Tamilness, Contestation and the Modern State

9:00-1100

“Pillars of Saivism’: Rituals of Community and the Making of Tamil Identity among South African Indians”

Ulrike Schröder, University of Heidelberg

“The Tamil Question - The Modern Roots of Sri Lankan Communalism”

Harshan Kumarasingham, Alexander von Humboldt-Fellow, University of Potsdam

Respondent: Gabriele Alex

Discussion: 45 mins.

Coffee break: 15 mins

Panel 2: “The Tamil,” Politics and Representation

11:15-12:55

“Canvases of political competition: Image production as politics in Tamil Nadu, India”

Roos Gerritsen, University of Heidelberg

“Culture and Nation in the Rāmāyaṇa: C. N. Annadurai’s Reading of India’s Epic”

Jonas Buchholz, University of Heidelberg

Respondent: Rupa Viswanath

Discussion: 30 mins

Lunch: 45 mins.

Roundtable discussion (planning future of network): 13:40-14:40

Goodbyes and coffee: 14:40-15:15