

Curriculum Vitae
Sumathy Sivamohan

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Sumathy Sivamohan, Professor in English

D/2/3/3 Torrington Flats, Stage 3, Longden Place, Colombo 07

Tel: 0094 11 2505802 (Residence)

0094 71 8016081 (Mobile)

0094 812 392543

Email: sivamohan.sumathy@gmail.com

Sex: Female

Date of Birth: 25/11/ 1959

Nationality: Sri Lankan

Mother Tongues: English; Tamil

Medium of instruction and work: English

Education

Ph.D. 1999 Washington State University, USA

M. A 1995 Master of Arts in English
Washington State University, USA

Postgraduate Diploma in English Literature, University of Gottenburgh, Sweden,
1987

BA 1984 BA (Honors) in English. Second Class Upper Division
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Research and Professional Experience

My research and academic involvement includes publications and conference presentations in the field of study. My study of postcolonial Literature and theory and feminism dates from my involvement with, from the early 80s, women's movements in Sri Lanka, the Performing Arts-theater and film-and a politically engaged study of nationalism.

Current Projects:

Sons and Fathers: Feature Film. Near Completion.

“**Street Tales and the Sacred Chariot**” Designed and Directed this workshop theatre production on Muslim-Tamil relations. Performed with Muniyandi Karunaharan and Tasneem Hamead. This is part of the project Testimonies of Hope on building Muslim-Tamil relations, in designing which I had an organic role.

Higher Education: Engaging in the ongoing dialogue on the imperatives of higher education and education and the crisis facing free education today in Sri Lanka and globally. Member of the National Steering Committee on education, representing the Federation of University Teachers’ Associations.

A member of the committee appointed by the University Council to draft policies and action, addressing **Sexual Harassment and Violence** in the University.

Areas of expertise and interest.

My research and other activities are connected with my approach to scholarship, activism and the aesthetic terrain. Areas of interest include: English Literature and Language, Social theory and sociological practice, gender and the nation with emphasis on Tamil and Muslim polities in Sri Lanka, media and the visual arts, translation studies, film practice and theory, theater practice and theory, Education and Critical Pedagogy.

Areas of Expertise and Teaching interests in the discipline of English and Language

My fields of expertise are wide ranging, moving from Early modern English Literature (the Renaissance and Shakespeare) to Modern British and American Literature, Sri Lankan English Literature, Critical Literary Theory and Practice, Research and epistemology.

Dissertations:

Phd. Washington State University: *Postcolonial (dis)content: South Asian Feminism and Women’s Texts*

M. A. Washington State University: *A Study of Selected Sri Lankan Women Writers in English*, 1995.

Graduate Diploma, University of Gothenburg, Sweden: ‘Feminism and the Ideology of Buchi Emechetas Works,’ 1987.

B. A. University of Peradeniya: A Comparative Analysis of Salman Rushdie's
Midnight's Children and Shame 1984

Awards and Honors

The Best Film (Jury) prize at the World Indian Film Festival Hyderabad 2018 for the film *Sons and Fathers*

Teaching Award granted by Department of Asian Studies, Cornell University, March-May 2017

Erasmus Mundus Fellowship Award to be held at Univ. of Edinburgh for one month in 2016-2017

Award granted by GIZ and European Union for film on Music of the minorities. 2016

Guest and Panelist at the Jaipur Literary Festival, Jaipur, India. 2016

Writer in Residence, University of Michigan, February – March, 2013.

Honorable Mention Award for feature film *Ingirunthu* (Here and Now) by Global Film Initiative, USA, 2011

Premchand Memorial Fellowship awarded by Sahitya Akademi (The Board of Arts and Letters) of India for a writer from the SAARC region for 2011-2012.

Fellowship at Solomon Asch Centre, University of Pennsylvania, USA, 2005. Presented paper and performed 'In the Shadow of the Gun' in collaboration with the Centre and InterArt Theatre group.

SSRC Research Fellow for the year 2003-2004 on the theme of Movement and Citizenship; an interactive study and narrative of displacement from the North of Sri Lanka.

Writer in Residence at Sanskriti Kendra in New Delhi from Feb. 24th to April 29th, 2002.

Gratiaen Trust Award (co-winner) for best literary work in English for the year 2001. Awards given for plays, 'In the Shadow of the Gun,' and 'The Wicked Witch.'

Harriet B. Rigas Award for Outstanding Woman in Graduate Studies at the Doctoral Level awarded by the Association for Faculty Women of Washington State University, USA in 1999.

Fulbright Junior Scholarship awarded by IIE, USA, to pursue higher studies in the United States, from August 1993-May 1995.

Books and Monographs

An Incomplete Sentence: the cinema of Dharmasena Pathiraja. Edited with Robert Cruz and Ashley Ratnavibhushana. Colombo: Netpac, 2009

like myth and mother: a political autobiography in poetry and prose. Colombo, sirahununi, 2008. (ShortListed for the Gratiaen Trust Award)

Thin Veils: In the Shadow of the Gun & Wicked Witch performing act/ivism. ICES, 2003.

Militants, Militarism and the crisis of (Tamil) nationalism. Monograph. Marga, 2003

Articles in journals

“Pennahamum Malaiyahamum: Isai Pizhilyapatta Veenaiyil Kaanapadaum Eluthum Penn (Feminine subjectivity and the subject of *Malaiyaham*: The woman as writer in the poetry of upcountry Tamil women) . Dept. of Fine Arts Journal. 2016

“Man Waves: militarization, cultural subjectivity and subjecthood.” *LST Review* 2016

“Surveillance and Survival: Sri Lankan cinema in the post war years.” *Frontline*, February, 21, 2014.

“Reading ‘Halal’ in the classroom: pedagogical queries and political disquietitudes.” *Phoenix: Sri Lanka Journal of English in the Commonwealth* Vol. X, 2013/2014.

“my teacher talks of a sri lankan english: questing the literary.” Special issue on Anglophone Writing in Sri Lanka. *South Asian Review*: 33.3. 2013

“It is not about Race: reading *Chinaman* against the grain. *Phoenix: Sri Lanka Journal of English in the Commonwealth*. Vol. IX. 2012.

“Gendered Fictions: Media and the Making of the Malaiyaha Identity.” *The Sri Lanka Journal of the Humanities*, Volume XXXVIII (Number 1) 2012. pp. 43 – 62.

‘Contesting Sovereignty: (Post)modern nations and Postcolonial Narratives.’ *Phoenix: Sri Lanka Journal of English in the Commonwealth*. Vol. VIII.2011.

'Securing the City.' Written together with Nicola Perera. *Himal Southasian*. Vol 23. July 2010

Pathways of Dominance. Review of *Pathways of Dissent: Tamil Nationalism in Sri Lanka.*' by R. Cheran. *Himal Southasia*. Vol. 23. 2 February 2010.

'Salt, Sand and Water: movement and citizenship in the narratives of displaced women'. *Social Identities* (2009): 15: 1.1

'The Middle Passage: migration and displacement of Sri Lankan Tamil women of the diaspora' *Socio-Legal Review*, Vo. 1. 1, 2005.

Review article of *Gender in the Hindu Nation" RSS women as Ideologues* by Paola Bacheta and *Shifting Body Politics: Gender, Nation, State* by Shabnaz Rouse. Women Unlimited, 2004. Book Review, Vol. XXVIII; 5-6, may/june 2004.

'Representing Conflict: the 'rural' in four Sri Lankan Films' *Deep Focus: a film quarterly*. Bangalore, India: Dec. 2004.

Review of *Women in Post-Independence Sri Lanka*, ed. Swarna Jayaweera in *The Book Review*, XXVI, Delhi, October, 2002.

'The Canon and the Curriculum: The Teaching of English Literature in the Postcolonial Context' *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* 22 (1995):557-567.

Chapters in books

"A spoonful of sugar: the quest for survival and justice in the violence of gender and the violence of sex in the politics of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka,
in *The Search for Justice: the Sri Lankan papers*. Ed. Kishali Pinto Jayawardena. Delhi: Zubaan Publishers, 2016.

"Territorial Claims: Home, Land and Movement: women's history of violence and the history of resistance in Sri Lanka's north. *The Search for Justice: the Sri Lankan papers*. Ed. Kishali Pinto Jayawardena. Delhi: Zubaan Publishers, 2016.

“Tracing Ethnicity: the Sri Lankan English writer and the Politics of Identity” in [*Contrapuntal Reclamations of Self, Place and Community: Sri Lankan Creative Writing in English and its Conversations with Literary Post-coloniality*](#). Forthcoming. Bernard Soysa Memorial Volume 2017

“The University as Institution: Transforming the modern” in *Neo Liberalism, Critical Pedagogy and Education*. Delhi: Routledge, 2015.

“Is there war in your ‘Ur’? Jaffna is in the heart” in *Continuities/Departures: Essays on Postcolonial Sri Lankan Women’s Creative Writing in English*. ed. Dinithi Karunanayake and Selvy Thiruchandran. Colombo: Vijitha Yapa, 2011.

“Displaced and Displeased: Fragile Fragments of Conversation.” *Arbiters of a National Imaginary: Essays on Sri Lanka. Festschrift for Professor Ashley Halpe*. Ed. Chelva Kanaganayakam. Colombo: ICES, 2008.155-164.

“Discovering political violence: The violence of the State and the violence of the Media.” in *Search for Peace in Sri Lanka: Complexities of Culture, Politics and Society*. Ed. Yoshiko Ashiwa. Center for the Study of Peace and Reconciliation, Hitotsubashi University. 2008

“Who is a good translator? Beyond Governmentality.” In *Perspectives on National Integration in Sri Lanka*. Ed. Amal Jayawardene. Colombo: NIPU, 2006. 265-287

“The Rise of Militant Tamil Nationalism: Its Assumptions and the Cultural Production of Tamil Women,” *Struggling to Create a New Society: Sri Lanka in the Era of Globalization* ed. Morrison & Hasbullah New Delhi: SAGE, 2004, 12, 149.

“Becoming Women: travelling gender and identity politics in four women’s texts.” *Indian Women’s writing* ed. R.K Dawan & A. Monti, 2002.

“I Like Women and Postcolonial Desire: heteronormativity and its points of departure in *Fire*.” *Across Cultures: Issues of Identity in Contemporary British and Sri Lankan Writing*. Ed. Neluka Silva and Rajiva Wijesinghe. Colombo: British Council, 2001.

Translations

“Jesus is not there.” Translation of Vijayaletchumy Sekhar’s short story. Lanka. Delhi: Zubaan, 2016.

The Colour Purple. The poetry of Penniya. Sirahununi: 2011. A collection of Penniya’s poetry in translation. Translated 7 of the poems in the collection.

From the novel *mm* by Shoba Shakthi. Translation of First two chapters of the novel *mm. Nethra*. Vol.1. 1. 2010.

Trans from Tamil. “A Tale of Three Cities.” By Kalamogan 2002 *Lankan Mosaic: Translations of Sinhala and Tamil Short Stories.* Ed. Ashley Halpe, M A Nuhman, and Ranjini Obeysekere. Colombo: Three Wheeler Press.

Translated from English into Tamil. *Nagamanadala* by Girish Karnad with the approval of the playwright. Unpublished manuscript. 2000

Conference Presentations:

The long day’s journey out of war: undoing the nation in *Koorvazhin Nizhalil* by Thamizhini and the *Long Watch: war, captivity and return*, as told by Boyagoda to Sunila Galapatti. SLACLAS, Kandy. October 29-30, 2016.

“In search of a metaphor: signs of war and signs of woman.” Paper read at the Workshop on Visual Cultures Blah Blah Blah: Sydney, September 17-18, 2016

“The university as institution: transforming the modern” in conference on “ Education Transformation and transformative education: alternatives and possibilities to the crisis in education.” South Asian University and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, South Asia, Delhi, March 2014.

“The University as Institution: Transforming the Modern.” Annual Academic Sessions, 2013. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. University of Ruhuna, Matara: Humanities and Social Sciences, 2013. Guest Speaker.

“Halal and the Politics of place.” Plenary: Ethical Futures, Colombo, ICES, 2013

“Reading Halal in the classroom,” in “The postcolonial in transition.” SLACLALS, 2013.

“The practice of translation: academic exercises and activist stances” Guest Lecture: South Asian Studies, University of Michigan. March, 2013.

Collaborative Performance: Wicked Witch Stories: University of Michigan. March, 2013.

“Autonomy and Democracy: an interrogation of the terms of the Federation of University Teachers’ Association’s (FUTA) struggle within the compass of a social movement”. Plenary Speaker at the Law and Social Science International Conference organized by the Jawaharlal National University, Delhi, Law and Society Trust and the Dept. of Law, University of Peradeniya, held at the University of Peradeniya from December 14-16, 2012.

‘Legal maneuvers and the literary endeavour’ Paper presented at the second Law and Social Science Network Inaugural conference, Foundation for Liberal and Management Education, Pune, India, December, 27-30, 2010.

‘my teacher talks of a sri lankan English: questing the literary.’ Paper presented at the Sixth International Conference of Sri Lanka English Teachers’ Association, Colombo, October, 15-17, 2010

‘Contesting Sovereignty: (post)modern nations and postcolonial narratives.’ Sri Lanka Association of Commonwealth Literature, Kandy, 22-23 October, 2010.

‘Gendered Fictions: Media and the Making of the Malaiyaha Identity’, Law and Social Science Network Inaugural conference held at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi 2009.

“Displaced Territory: narratives of Women’s Experiences of Travel, Migration and Place.” Paper presented at the conference Cultural Theory for Asia : New Pedagogic Possibilities; 2004 INTER-ASIA CULTURAL STUDIES CONFERENCE, organized by the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore, India in February, 2004.

‘{dis}Covering Political Violence. Media Conference on Reporting Political Violence. Organized by the South Asian Forum for Human Rights, January, 2003.

‘Representing Conflict: the ‘rural’ in four Sri Lankan films.’ University Research Series. Peradeniya, October, 2002.

'Translating Difference: translating class, gender and ethnicity in the postcolonial context' International Conference on Translation 3-5 July 2002, Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. Organized by the Depts. Of Sinhala, Tamil and English, Univ. of Peradeniya

'Territorial Claims and the Gender of Nation: the rise of Militant Tamil Nationalism, its assumptions and the cultural production of Tamil Women.' Conference on Comparative International Studies of Social Cohesion and Globalization Nov. 26-27 2001 Shanghai, Peoples Republic of China.

'Traveling Theory and Migrant Women: The Middle Passage of Sri Lankan Tamil Women of the Diaspora.' Presented at the International conference on Women Transforming the Public,' at The University of California, Santa Barbara, from April 23-25, 1999.

"The story of a cyborg; Reading Haraway and Bharati Mukherjee's *Holder of the World from a postcolonial perspective*" presented at the 'Webs of Discourse' Texas Tech Comparative Literature Conference Feb. 4- 7, 1998.

"Martial feminism and Tamil women in the national liberation struggle." Paper presented at the annual South Asia Conference, at the University of California at Berkeley, February 1997.

Discussant at panel on 'Violence and the Rhetorics of Geopolitics' Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Nov. 1997.

"Sri Lankan Tamil women's movement and the liberation struggle: an appraisal of the cultural production of Sri Lankan Tamil women." Lecture sponsored by the Centre for South Asian Studies of Monash University, June 1996.

"Beyond essentialism/hybridity: the Sri Lankan case." Centre for Women's Studies, Monash University, August 1996.

"Postcolonial Transformation of Feminism and Sri Lanka." Lecture sponsored by the Institute of International Studies, Sri Lanka, June 1995

"Tamil Nationalist Aspirations and the Peace Proposals of 1995". I was one of the four panelists of the seminar on the 1995 Peace Proposals organized by Ceylon Studies Seminar, University of Peradeniya, August 1995.

"The Canon and the Curriculum: The teaching of English Literature in the Postcolonial Context" 14th Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association, Edmonton, Canada, August 1994.

“Feminism and the Ideology of Buchi Emecheta s Works”. Presented to the SriLankan branch of ACLAS. Jan.1991.

“Sri Lankan Tamil Women’s Literature Today” Paper presented at the Conference on ‘New Perspectives on Writing,’ Arts Council of Sri Lanka, May 1991.

Articles in semi –academic journal and newspapers- a selection

“Territorializing the environment: The political question of land and the future of the displaced in Musali South: The case of wilpattu.” *The Island*. July 2, 2015.

“Renewing our contract with society.” *Island*, June 23, 2011

“Education and its discontents” *Island*. Nov.1, 2011

“Halal as a metaphor for the search for understanding.” *Island*, March 19, 2013.

“Drama at high sea: ‘*In the same boat*’ by Channa Wickramasekera
Colombo: Bay Owl Press, 2010. Book Review. *The Island*, 22 September, 2010

“What lies at the end of the tunnel? a question for filmmakers” *Cineist* (2009) 1. 2

“Penniya’s Poetry: The Task of the Translator” in *Spectrum* 2009. 1.2

“25 years ago” in *A Garland for Ashley: Glimpses of a life*. ed. Tissa Jayatilleka and Jayantha Dhanapala. Kandy: The Ashley Halpe Felicitation Committee, 2008.

“Motherland Woes: Reviewing *Aba*.” Film Review. *The Island*. Wed. 17th September, 2008

Batticaloa Collective. ‘Also in our name’ lines magazine. August, 2004. on-line edition:
http://issues.lines-magazine.org/Art_Aug04/CollectiveBatti.htm. A leading contributor to this effort and article.

“I paint for non-artistes” *Lines*, Sept. 2004.

“Feminism, Activism and *Cat’s Eye*”, *Pravada*, May, 2002.

“Review of Dharmasena Pathirajas *Mathu Yam Dawasa* (film)”, *Pravada*, February, 2002.

“More on the Gordimer Critique” *Pravada* 1.4 (Colombo), Social Science Association, 1992.

Theatre, Performance and Activism:

I am also, apart from purely academic pursuits, seriously involved in feminist activity and the theater. For several years from the late 70s I belonged to an amateur theater company called ‘The Performing Arts Society of Sri Lanka’ where I took part in productions of Chekhov, Lorca, Brecht and Tennessee Williams among other productions. From the late 80s onwards I launched out on my own as a performer and producer working toward social change. Was member of several womens action groups in Sri Lanka.

Wrote, choreographed and produced plays and dance dramas for women and/or on feminist themes. I have also done one-woman shows at various activist events.

From the time I first performed my one woman play *In the Shadow of the Gun* at La Mama, Melbourne Australia in 1996, I have performed it widely internationally, from Seattle, USA to Delhi, India. I have also performed this in Sri Lanka in many venues.

Therum Therukathaiyum (Street Tales and the Sacred Chariot). Workshop theatre production on exploring Muslim-Tamil Relations in post-war Sri Lanka.

Wicked Witch Stories: a collaborative piece performed together with Yalini Dream and V. V. Ganeshanathan at University of Michigan, Michigan, USA.. 2013.

Performed ‘**love in the time of the city**’ at SLAM, University of Peradeniya, Nov. 2010.

Payanangal (Journeys). 207. Produced for the Arts Council of Sri Lanka with a group of youth from the Plantation Tamil community in Hatton. Performed at the Sri Pada College of Education, Pattana and John de Silva Theatre, Colombo.

Produced a workshop play *Light and Day* with first and second year Science Faculty Students of the University of Peradeniya under the Irque Project of the World Bank in 2007.

Mounathin Nillalil, First performed on the 23rd of November, 2003 at the Lionel Wendt, Colombo as part of the 50th year celebrations of the Wendt. This is a Tamil adaptation of “In the Shadow of the Gun,” recast for three people: Reviewers have called it a milestone in Sri Lankan Tamil theatre history.

The wicked Witch: This play along with “In the Shadow of the Gun” was co-winner of the Gratiaen Trust Award for the year 2001. Currently I am engaged in raising funds to produce it.

Nagamandala(m): Translated into Tamil and directed this celebrated play of **Girish Karnad** for Arangadigal and Vibhavi in 2000.

Wanted Woman (Tamil) Wrote and Directed for Arangadigal (the players) and for Vibhavi: centre for alternative culture, in 2000. This Tamil Language play had dialogue in Sinhala organically woven into it.

An Old Wives Tale:

One of my plays, ‘An Old Wives Tale,’ on rape and first performed in Tamil in Jaffna was subsequently was performed by the Women’s Studies Program of McMaster University , Hamilton, Canada at their International Womens Day celebrations on March 8th, both in 95 and 96. Another group performed the same play in 97 in Toronto. Worked with the organization ‘Justice for Sri Lankan Women’ in Toronto on a bilingual production of the same play directed by Sheila James in June 97. At Washington State University I played a leading role in a WSU theater production, ***Missing Faces***, directed by Bill Shepherd in the Fall of 1995.

I also adapted and directed scenes from the Ghanaian playwright Ama Ata Aidoo’s ‘**Dilemma of a Ghost**’ for the African Night festival of Washington State University in 1996.

I have conducted numerous drama workshops on gender and ethnicity where theatrical forms are employed to explore issues of ethnicity, and other constructs of subjectivity.

Film and TV:

Sons and Fathers (Feature Film) Work in Progress. 2017

Sing Mother Sing: a theoretical exposition of violence in three dissimilar narratives of war and peace. Digital. 16. 11?. 2015

INGIRUNTHU (Here and Now): Debut feature film on the minority plantation Tamil community. 2012. Theatrical Release in October – November 2013. Screened at the 10th Asian Women’s Film Festival. Women in Radio and Television, Asian Women’s Film Festival, Delhi, in March 2014.

ORANGES

35 mm/ Colour/19 minutes/2006

Bombs go off in the city and the battle rages on in the north and east of the country. The film explores the relationship between a middle class Tamil woman and a Sinhala man in the backdrop of the war and ethnic conflict.

Screened at International Film Festival of the Island of Groix in France, August 19-23, 2009.

PIRALAYAM (Upheaval)

Digital/Colour/18 minutes/2005

In the war torn east of Sri Lanka a mother is caught between warring parties, as she tries to retain possession of her only daughter. In the meantime, the goddess of the sea waits in the wings..... The drama is played out in the backdrop of the tsunami that hit the coast of Sri Lanka on the 26th of December, 2004.

Short listed for the Annual Film Without Frontiers Short Film Festival, Barcelona, 2005

Co-wrote the script for the Docu-feature, ***In Search of a Road*** (2006) by Dharmasena Pathiraja tracing the last 100-years of the history of the ethnic conflict.

Premiered at the 19th Singapore International Film Festival.

The Road to Sampur: Worked as consultant and wrote the narration for this half hour documentary on displacement.

Bindunuwewa: worked as consultant for this documentary by Dharmasena Pathiraja on the massacre of 27 detainees in the Open Rehabilitation camp in Binudunuwewa in 2000.

'Language, Power, People'--scripted a video documentary on Bilingualism, the current language policy of the Sri Lankan state, and nationalism called for the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, in 1990. This was directed by the renowned film maker Dharmasena Pathiraja.

'A Six Yard Story,'--a film script of Sharika Thiranagama's short story, a personal account of her growing up in war torn Jaffna and of her subsequent displacement in England after the loss of her mother in the war. An invited contribution to www.women'swriting.com of British Council, India

'Beyond the blast of the bomb; Beyond the bounds of death' on the life and assassination of Neelan Thiruchelvam, in 1999. Wrote the script for this half-hour television feature which was telecast on the State Television channel on the first birth anniversary of Dr. Theruchelvam after his death.

Television Spots Scripted several one-minute television spots on the issues of war and peace, child soldiers, and on women and politics in 2001 for National Integration Programme Unit and the Social Scientists Association.

Took part in a major National Film Board of Canada film on Rajani Thiranagama, ***No More Tears Sister***, as consultant and resource person. Also featured in the film. Sections of the play *In the Shadow of the Gun* appear in the film.

Played one of the leading roles in the film, *Flying Fish* by Sanjeewa Pushpakumara. 2011.

Occupation and related activities

Professor in English, Dept. of English, 2012-to the present.

Head of the Department of English, July 2001 to 2004; and Head of the Department of English, 2012 – 2014.

Senior Lecturer, the Dept. of English University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka from 1999 to the present.

Lecturer in English (probationary)-University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, from June 1990-June, 1999.

Assistant Lecturer in English-University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka from 1989-1990

Research Assistant, International Center for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, from January-June 1990.

Teaching Assistant-WSU, from Aug. 1996- May 1999.

Research Assistant-Washington State University, Pullman, Washington State,USA, from August 1995-May 1996; As Research Assistant I assisted in editing two of the literary journals published through the department.

Visiting Lecturer in Diploma in Journalism, Sri Lanka Foundation Institute.

Visiting Lecturer in Film Theory, Department of Design, University of Moratuwa

Member of the Arts Council of Sri Lanka, 2007-2008

Member of the Arts Council of the University of Peradeniya. 2008

Senior Treasurer, English Literary Association in 2002

Senior Treasurer, University Dram Soc 2002-to the present.

Professional, Pedagogic and Activist Roles

Visiting Lecturer, University of Moratuwa on film and television for the degree in Design, Faculty of Architecture 2010-2011.

On the Advisor Board of Jaffna Civil Society for Equality, Jaffna. 2010-the present.

Member of the Academic Board of National Institute for Language Education Training Institute, Ministry of National Integration 2009-to the present

Designed and taught in a series of 10-day workshops in translation for government employee conducted by NILET

Member of the Arts Council of the University of Peradeniya, 2008.

Was cocordinator and member of the Board of Translation Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya from 2002 to 2009. Also taught in the postgraduate Diploma and Diploma programmes of Translation Studies.

Taught in the Translation Studies Diploma programme of Vibhasha, Colombo 2005-2006.

Member of the Drama Panel of the Arts Council of Sri Lanka, 2007.

Member of the Arts Council, University of Peradeniya, 2002, 2003.

Member of the Director Board of Alliance for Peace and Integration, 2002.

Consultant at National Integration Programme Unit, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, and National Integration, Jan-Dec. 2001.

Member of the Drama Panel (Tamil) of The Arts Council of Sri Lanka, 2001.

GPSA (Graduate Student Organization) Senator representing English Graduate Students at Washington State University (WSU), 1994-95 and 97-98.

Asian Pacific American GPSA, founder member and Vice-President of Programs, 97-98 and Co-President 98-99.

Founder member of the critical academic-activist journal *dis/content* published at the Dept. of English, WSU in 1998.

Member of African Friendship Association, WSU 1995-99

Member of University Teachers for Human Rights, Jaffna, 1989-1991.

Member of Poorani Womens Home, Jaffna from 1989-1993.

Member of Mothers and Daughters of Lanka from 1990-1992.

Assistant Secretary of the Peradeniya Arts Faculty Teachers Association from 1991-92.

Member of The Performing Arts Society of Sri Lanka, 1978-1982.

WRITING

Novel: Also working on my first novel tentatively titled ‘**For theirs shall be the kingdom**’

Poetry: have published poetry in numerous Sri Lankan and international journals. Almost all of my poems deal with the painful and the funny arising from the situation of political violence, ethnicity and postcoloniality.

Songs: Worked with a group of musicians on producing a CD of Tamil songs, mostly written by me, on the theme of violence, war, gender and society, for NIPU in 2001.

Translated numerous Tamil poems into English

Translated the narratives of 12 displaced women in Puttalam for the paper, “Salt, Sand, and Water.”

Translation of the novel *mmm* by Shoba Shakthi. In progress. Selections of the translation were presented at the 3rd Galle Literary Festival, 2009.

Workshops and Seminars: I have conducted and facilitated more than 200 workshops facilitating inter-ethnic dialogues, on critical thinking and writing, pedagogical concerns, raising awareness on the subject and on gender and ethnicity and social equity. These workshops were carried out for women’s organizations, other activist organizations and for state agencies.

Presented creative work at the WIPSA conference on Women Combatting Communalism, held in New Delhi from 21st to the 24th of March, 2004.

Presented creative and theoretical work at the Women Writers’ Conference in Delhi, February, 2003, organized by British Council. Women from South Asia and Britain participated in this conference.