

**Srilata Raman
Curriculum Vitae**

A BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. PERSONAL

- Srilata Raman Department for the Study of Religion
170, St. George Street,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, ON M5R 2M8
Office Phone: 416 978 3189

2. DEGREES

- Ph.D. in Indology 1998 University of Tübingen, Germany

Dissertation Title: Self-Surrender to God in Śrīvaiṣṇavism.
Supervisors: Professors Friedhelm Hardy and Heinrich von Stietencron

- M.Phil. Classical Indian Religions 1988 Oxford University
Dissertation Title: The Vaṭakalai and Teṅkalai Dispute in Śrīvaiṣṇavism with reference
to *Bhagavadgītā* 18.66.
Supervisor: Professor G.J.S. Alexis Sanderson

- B.A. Honours in English Literature 1985 Lady Shriram College,
University of Delhi

3. Employment

Department for the Study of Religion

- Professor of Hinduism April 2022 - present
- Associate Professor of Modern Hinduism 2014 September –present
- Assistant Professor of Modern Hinduism 2008 July – 2015 July
- Assistant Professor for Hindu Studies
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
University of Michigan 2006 September -2008 June
- Maternity Leave 2006 November – 2007 September
- Tenured Faculty and Research Fellow
(Wissenschaftliche Angestellte für Besondere Aufgaben)
South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg 2002-2006
- Lecturer in Classical Indology/Research Fellow
South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg 1998-2001

Date of Appointment to Graduate School: September 2008

Date of Tenure: July 2014

Head of Sub-Project on “The Temple Rituals of Kāñcipuram”, in the Heidelberg Collaborative Research Centre: The Dynamics of Rituals between 2001-2005.

4. Honours

5. Professional Affiliations and Activities

- 2021-2023 Member of the Hinduism Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- 2021 Editorial Board, *Religion Compass*
- 2015- 2021 Sections Co-Editor, Asian Religious Traditions, *Religion Compass*
- 2011-present Editorial Review Board for SASA (South Asian Studies Association)
- 2011-present Editorial Board Member of *Fragments: Journal of Pre-Modern Cultures*, University of Michigan
- 2008-2010 Co-Editor of *The Proceedings of the Annual Tamil Studies Conference*, University of Toronto. Joint Publication with the French Institute Pondicherry/Paris
- 2008-present Member of the Academic Advisory Committee, *Tamil Worlds Initiative*, UTSC
- 2011-2012 Advisory Committee Member of JHI Working Group “Exiles, Refugees and Diaspora in Early Modernity”
- 2009-2012 Hindu Studies Colloquium, Founder and Co-Convener, Department for the Study of Religion, UTSG.

B. ACADEMIC HISTORY

6. i. RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS

Sanskrit and Tamil intellectual formations in South India
Modern Hindu movements
Colonial Sainthood
Hagiography and Historiography
Literatures of Famine

ii. RESEARCH AWARDS

- 2021-2023** SSHRC Insight Development Grant for project on “Dalit Vedānta: Religious Assertion and Cast Sublimation in Colonial South India”. \$57,795.
- 2021-22** Jackman Humanities Institute Workshop Award for Tamil Studies: A Discipline in Motion. \$3000
- 2020-2021** Faculty Research Fellow at the Centre for South

	South Asian Civilizations (CSAC), University of Toronto \$2000
2020-2021	Jackman Humanities Institute Workshop Award for Tamil Translations \$3000
2019-2020	Jackman Humanities Institute Workshop Award for Tamil Literary Histories \$3000
November 2019	Ho Centre for Buddhist Studies Workshop Grant for Workshop on Tamil Buddhist Literature \$6000
2018-2019	UofT-CNRS (Paris) Joint Research Award for collaboration with the French Institute, Pondicherry India towards a book workshop on Tamil literatures of hunger. \$15,000
October 25th 2018	The Genealogies of Dalit Learning and Humanist Buddhism in 19 th -20 th century India. A conversation with Stalin Rajangam and Jon Keune. Workshop funded by the Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Toronto. \$5000
2015-2018	SSHRC Insight Development Grant for project titled, "Colonial Calamities: Hunger, Fasting and Feeding in Tamil South India." \$72,244
2014	Grant from All Souls College, Oxford University towards the symposium, "Śaivism and the Tantric Traditions". £ 12,000
2008-2010	Connaught Start-Up Research Grant, University of Toronto \$10,000
2006	Research Grant for New Faculty at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor \$10,000 USD
2002-2006	German Research Foundation Grant (DFG) for "The Temple Rituals of Kāñcīpuram" € 360,000
1993-1995	Doctoral stipend from the State Government, the Landesgraduiertenförderung des Landes Baden-Württemberg, Germany € 36,000
1988-1989	Boden Sanskrit Scholarship, Oxford University, UK
1986-1988	Charles Wallace/Edward Boyle Memorial Scholarship, Oxford University, UK Overseas Student Research Scholarship, Oxford University, UK

- 1985** Lady Shriram Prize for Outstanding Student, B.A. Honours in English Literature, Lady Shriram College, University of Delhi, India
- 1985** Lady Shriram Prize for Academic Excellence, B.A. Honours in English Literature, Lady Shriram College, University of Delhi, India
- 1983-85** Annual Delhi University Scholarship for standing first in B.A. Honours in English Literature, University of Delhi, India for each degree year.

C. Scholarly, Creative and Professional Work

7. i. Books Authored

- 2022** *The Transformation of Tamil Religion: Ramalinga Swamigal and Modern Dravidian Sainthood.* Routledge, South Asian Religions Series.
- 2007** *Self-Surrender (Prapatti) to God in Śrīvaiṣṇavism. Tamil Cats and Sanskrit Monkeys.* Routledge Hindu Studies Series. Series Editor: Gavin Flood. Routledge: London and New York.

ii. Articles

- 2017** Unlearned Knowing (*Ōtātu Uṇartal*): The Genealogy of Wisdom in Ramalinga Swamigal (1823-1874) and the Tamil Śaiva Siddhānta. *Journal of Hindu Studies*.10.2.145-163.
- 2016** The Brass Bugle of Mantras: Vedānta Deśika's *Tiruccinṇamālai*. *Journal of Vaishnava Hindu Studies*. 24.2. 163-177.
- 2014** Justifying Filicide. Ramalinga Swamigal, the *Periyapurāṇam* and Tamil Religious Modernity. *International Journal of Hindu Studies*. 18.1.33-66.
- 2013** The Spaces Inbetween. Ramalinga Swamigal (1823-1874), Hunger, and Religion in Colonial India. *History of Religions* 53.1.1-27.
- 2011** Tamil, Vaidika and Vaiṣṇava. Kīruṣṇacuvāmi Aiyāṅkāṅ, IrāmānujaTātācāriyār and Modern Tamil Literary History. *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 39:647-676
- 2011** "Religion", Religious Identity and the Frustrations of Modernity. In Review Symposium of "Religion and the Spectre of the West" by Arvind-Pal S. Mandair, 2010 . Columbia University Press. *Religions of South Asia*.4.2.213-219.

- 2004 Departure and Prophecy. The Disappearance of Irāmalīṅka Aṭikaḷ in the Early Narratives of his life. *Indologica Taurenensia*. XXVIII.119-135.
- 2004 Soteriology in Rāmānuja: Bhakti or Prapatti? *ZDMG*.154.1.85-129.

iii. Book Chapters

- 2022 (In Press) Sources of Authority in Hinduism. In *A Cultural History of Hinduism in the Age of Empires*, edited by Valerie Stoker and Karen Pechilis. Bloomsbury. 45 pages
- 2020 Reflections on the King of Ascetics (*Yatirāja*): Ramanuja in the Devotional Poetry of Vedānta Deśika. In Dominic Goodall, Shaman Hatley, Harunaga Isaacson and Srilata Raman (eds.), *Śaivism and the Tantric Traditions. Essays in Honour of Alexis Sanderson*. Brill. 160-180.
- 2019 The Evasive Guru and the Errant Wife. Anti-Hagiography, Śaivism and Anxiety in Colonial South India. In Martin Fuchs and Vasudha Dalmia (eds.), *Religious Interactions in India Modern India*. Oxford University Press. 62-98.
- 2009 Who are the Velalas? Twentieth century Constructions and Contestations of Tamil Identity in Maramalai Adigal (1876-1950), In Kelly Pemberton and Michael Nijhawan (Eds.), *Shared Idioms, Sacred Symbols, and the Articulation of Identities in South Asia*. Routledge. 78-95.
- 2009 The Tale of the Righteous King. King Maṇu in Ramalinga Adigal. In N. Kannan and Jennifer Clare (eds.), *Passages: relationship between Tamil and Sanskrit*. Pondicherry/Berkeley: All India Press. 237-250.
- 2007 Initiation and Conversion in Medieval South India. Pañcasamskāra as Historical Practice in the Śrīvaiṣṇava Hagiographical Literature. In Gerhard Oberhammer and Marion Rastelli (Eds.), *The Relationship between Viśiṣṭādvaita and Pāñcarātra*. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences. 263-286.
- 2005 Samāśrayaṇa as Ritual and Non-Ritual in Śrīvaiṣṇavism. In Jörg Genganagel, Ute Hüsken and Srilata Raman (Eds.), *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia*. Vienna: Harrasowitz. 91-114.
- 1998 The Face Behind the Mask: Ambai on Women. In Vasudha Dalmia and Theo Damsteegt (Eds.), *Narrative Strategies. Essays on South Asian Literature and Film*. Leiden CNWS Publications. 110-122.

iv. Books Edited

- 2022** (In Press) *Religious Authority in South Asia*. Edited by Srilata Raman and István Keul. Routledge.
- 2020** *Śaivism and the Tantric Traditions. Essays in Honour of Alexis G.J.S. Sanderson*. Edited by Dominic Goodall, Shaman Hatley, Harunaga Isaacson, and Srilata Raman. Leiden: Brill
- 2005** *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia*. Edited by Jörg Gengnagel, Ute Hüsken and Srilata Raman. Vienna: Harrassowitz Verlag

8. Non-Refereed Publications

- 2004** *Tiruvayppadi: The Tamil Gokula in Vaishnavite Devotional Literature*. In Harsha Dehejia (ed), *The Romantic Heroine (Nayika) in the Indian Arts*. New Delhi: Roli Books. 266-273.
- 2000** *Antiquity and Sacred Writing: Tamil Literary Histories in the Late-19th early 20th centuries*. *Kolam*. University of Cologne Internet Publications. 8-22.

Reviews

- 2009** Review of *The Historical Dictionary of the Tamils* by Vijaya Ramaswamy. The Scarecrow Press, 2007. *JAOS*.128.4.813-814.
- 1999** Review of *Passions of the Tongue: Language Devotion in Tamil India, 1891-1970* by Sumathi Ramaswamy. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977. *Journal of Asian Studies*.58.4.1179-1182.

Encyclopedia Entries

- 2005** Vaiṣṇavism. An Overview [Further Considerations]. In Lindsay Jones (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Religions*. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA. 10088-89.

9. Manuscripts and Work-in-Progress

- 2022 A Crypto-Christian and an Atheist. Publication of the de Nobili Lecture, University of Vienna.
- 2022 Śiva's Play. Article for a Journal volume on Hindu-Christian Comparative Approaches to Divine Play.
- 2022 A Guru, an Ātīnam and a Book. Article for a Journal Volume on Śaivism after the Śaiva Age.

D. List of Courses

13. i. Undergraduate Courses Taught

Select Undergraduate Courses Taught between 2013-2022 (University of Toronto)

- 2021-2022 RLG317 Religion, Violence and Non-Violence
RLG205H1 Hinduism
RLG358H1 Hindu Royalty
- 2019-2020 RLG361H1 Literatures of Hinduism: The
Bhagavadgītā
- 2018-2019 RLG 363H1 Caste and the "Other"
- 2013-2014 RLG 311H1 Gender in Asian Traditions
RLG366H1 Godless India: Theories of
Indian Atheism
RLG363H1 Bhakti Hinduism

ii. Graduate Courses Taught

Select Graduate Courses Taught between 2008-2022 (University of Toronto)

- 2021-2022 RLG3460/4741 H1 The Śrībhāṣya of Rāmānuja.
- 2019-2020 RLG3771 After the Śaiva Age: Tamil Śaiva Literature of
the Second Millennium
- 2018-2019 RLG 371H1 Vaiṣṇavism
- 2013-2014 RLG3760H1 Vedānta through the Ages
Advanced Sanskrit Readings: *Mīmāṃsā*-
paribhāṣā II

iii. Theses supervised.

Primary Supervision

Eric Steinschneider, "Among the Warring Sects". Defended August 2015 and currently Assistant Professor for Religions at Ithaca College.

Nika Kuchuk, "Female Gurus and Transnational Religion in 19th century India". Defended September 2021.

Tamara Cohen, "Early Haṭhayoga in the Mokṣopāya Recension of the Yogavāsiṣṭha". Fall 2014- to present

Krisitina C. Rogahn, "Writing the Life of Literature". Fall 2017-present.

Jesse Pruitt, "The Smile of Murugan and Tamil Religious Nationalism" Fall 2018-present.

Janani Mandayam Comar, "Caste and Purāṇic Hinduism in South India" Fall 2019-present.

Mirela Stosic, "The Caramopāyanirṇaya as the Guru Bhakti in Śrīvaiṣṇavism" Fall 2017-present.

Liwen Liu, "Textualizing Violence: the Hindu Animal Sacrifice", Fall 2017-present.

Stephanie Duclos-King, "Inter-religious medical philanthropy in rural South India", Fall 2018-present

Ph.D. Committee Membership

Defended

Bryan Levman, "Translation and Transmission in Early Middle-Indic Buddhist Literature." Defended 2013

Smita Kothari, "Dān and Dhyān in Jaina Yoga." Defended 2014

Alexander O' Neill, 'Pustaka Pujā or Book Worship in Nepal and India'. defended 2021. .

Jonathan Peterson, "Polemical Literature from Maharashtra". Defended 2021.

Ongoing

Anthony Scott, "The Nissaya Literature in Burma" Fall 2015 – present

Rachel Saruya, "The Education of Burmese Nuns" Fall 2015-present.

M.A. Students

Rajni Mala Khelawan working on rituals for Indo-Fijian women (finished 2021).

Jinesh Patel working on the Vallabhite traditions.

Mayadevi Murthy on Tamil cinema.

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Mark Balmforth, Post-doctoral FAS, UofT Award for project titled: Slavery, Caste and Dye Root in the Indian Ocean, 1660-1960. 2019-2021.

External Reader/Committee Member in Doctoral Committees

Jason Smith (Harvard University, defended 2020)

Manasicha Akapeyapornchai (Cornell University, Defended 2022)
Sophia Nasti (Harvard University, Defended 2022)
Morgan Curtis (Harvard University, ongoing)

