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Associate Professor
Departments of English, and MI (Media and Information)
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Education:

- Ph.D Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature (Film Studies), May 2010
University of Iowa- Iowa City, IA
- M.A. Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature (Film Studies), 2004
University of Iowa- Iowa City, IA
- D.C. Diploma in Cinema (Direction),
The Film and Television Institute of India, Pune B.Com.
- B.Com. Bachelor of Commerce,
University of Bombay, India

Academic Employment:

Associate Professor, English, and Media and Information Departments, Michigan State University (August 2016 - onward)
Assistant Professor, English, and Media and Information Departments, Michigan State University (August 2009 - 2016)

Publications:

Books:

- *Madras Studios: Narrative, Genre, and Ideology in Tamil Cinema* (Sage Publications, January 2015)
- *Cinema: Sattagamum Saalaramum /Cinema: Frame and Window*. Chennai: Nizhal Pathippagam, Dec. 2012. This book is an anthology of scholarly essays in Tamil on documentaries and experimental films.

Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed):

- * "Cinematography and the Poetics of 1950s Tamil Cinema: Maruthi Rao and Visual Style." *Screen* (2017) 58 (1), pp. 73-81. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/screen/hjx009>
- * "The Legacy: John Grierson, Basil Wright, and the Films Division." *Caesurae: Poetics of Cultural Translation*, 2 (1), (ISSN 2454 -9495) Special Issue, Jan. 2017, pp. 61-91.
- * "Secularism and Its Discontents: Moor's Last Sigh and Riot." *ART (Analyses, Rereadings and Theories)*, 4 (1), 2016, pp. 1-15.
- * "Tamil Documentary Naali: Low-End Technology and Subaltern History." *TransMissions: The Journal of Film and Media Studies*, 1 (1) , 2016, pp. 5-20.

- * "Mysskin's Pisaasu (2014): Ghost as the goddess." *Studies in South Asian Film & Media*, 7 (1+2), 2016, pp. 89–101.
- * "The Texture of Interiority: Voiceover and Visuals," *Studies in Visual Arts and Communication*, 2 (1), (2015), <http://journalonarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/SVACij-Vol2_No1_2015-Pillai-Texture-Voiceover-and-Visuals.pdf>
- * "Sri Lankan Conflict and Tamil Nadu: Terror, Bare Life and Necropolitics." *Sanglap: Journal of Literary and Cultural Inquiry*. Issue: Terror and the Literary, 1(1), July 2014, pp. 1-22, <<http://sanglap-journal.in/index.php/sanglap/article/view/35/25>>.
- * "Mirugavidusagam: Theater of the Body, Ritual and Land," *Studies in South Asian Film and Media* (Intellect), 5 (1), Spring (April) 2013 (The Body: Indian theatre Special Issue), pp. 37-46.
- * "1970s Tamil Cinema and the Post-Classical Turn," *South Asian Popular Culture* (Routledge), 10 (1), April 2012, pp. 77-89. Reprinted as "The 1970s Tamil Cinema and the Post-Classical Turn," In Priya Joshi and Rajinder Dudrah eds. *The 1970s and its Legacies in India's Cinemas*. Eds. England, UK: Routledge 2014, pp. 76-88.
- * "Leena Manimekalai's Poems and Documentaries: Participation and Performance" in *Widescreen* (Leeds, UK; Dec. 2012), "Art and Music in Documentary," special issue: <<http://widescreenjournal.org/index.php/journal/article/view/140/178>>.

Journal Articles:

- "Popular Hindi Cinema and the Conflictual Figure of the Mother/Nation: Radha (Mother India) and Sumithra Devi (Deewar)". *Cafe Dissensus*. Vol. Online Publication. No. 30. <<https://cafedissensus.com/2016/12/05/popular-hindi-cinema-and-the-conflictual-figure-of-the-mothernation-radha-mother-india-and-sumithra-devideewar/>> (December 2016).
- "Tamil Comics: New media, Revival, and the Recovery of History," *South Asian Popular Culture*, 2016, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14746689.2016.1241355>>
- "Local Sentiments and Global Spectacle: Deewar and Slumdog Millionaire," *East-West Cultural Passage*, 13 (2), Dec. 2013, pp. 23-52.

Essays in Edited Collections:

- * "Enthiran, the Robot: Sujatha, Science Fiction, and Tamil Cinema." In Jennifer L. Feeley and Sarah Ann Wells eds. *Simultaneous Worlds: Global Science Fiction Cinema*. Minnesota: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2015, pp. 119-136.
- * "Tamil B Movie Westerns: The Global South and Genre Subversion," In Mary Ellen Higgins, Rita Keresztesi, and Dayna Oscherwitz eds. *The Western in the Global South*. Abingdon, UK and New York: Routledge, 2015, pp. 165-179.
- * "Dubashi: Indian Film, Cross-Cultural Communication and Screenings for Children." In Karin Beeler and Stan Beeler eds. *Children's Film in the Digital Age: Essays on Audience, Adaptation and Consumer Culture*. Jefferson, N. Carolina: Mcfarland 2015, pp. 148-159.
- * "The 1970s Tamil Cinema and the Post-Classical Turn." In Priya Joshi and Rajinder Dudrah eds. *The 1970s and its Legacies in India's Cinemas*. England, UK: Routledge 2014, pp. 76-88. Reprinted from "1970s Tamil Cinema and the Post-Classical Turn," *South Asian Popular Culture* (Routledge), 10 (1), April 2012, pp. 77-89.
- * "Iruvar: The Duo" on Mani Ratnam's Tamil Film. In Lalitha Gopalan ed. *The Cinema of India*. London: Wallflower Press, 2009, pp. 226-235.

Book Chapters:

Book Chapters in the book on *Manmohan Desai*: (Coauthor with Dennis Hanlon and Sushmita Banerji), Forthcoming in 2018.

Creative Work: Documentaries and Short Films

- *Nagapattinam: Waves from the Deep*, 2016, (Director, Editor and Producer), 71 min. My decade long work- documentary on Tsunami relief and rehabilitation (2004-2014) at Nagapattinam, the coastal town in South India. 20 May 2016. Chicago Tamil Forum. Foster Hall, University of Chicago.
<https://d3qi0qp55mx5f5.cloudfront.net/anthropology/images/global_i/Nagapattinam_-_Waves_from_the_Deep.pdf>
- *Hmong Memory at the Crossroads*, 2015, (Co-director with Safoi Babana-Hampton and Cyril Payen, and Associate Producer), 97 min.
 - * Official Selection. Indie Fest USA (IFF), California, 16 Oct. 2015.
 - * The 2017 MLA Annual Convention, 6 Jan. 2017 Presentation on the documentary by Prof. Safoi Babana-Hampton.
 - * University of Maryland. 4 Nov. 2016, Screening and Lecture.
 - * University of Wisconsin-Madison. 26 April 2016, Screening with Discussion.

 - * University of Notre Dame. April 14, 2016, Screening and Discussion.
 - * Musée de l'Histoire de l'Immigration (The Museum of the History of Immigration) at the Palais de la Porte Dorée, Paris, France, 17 March 2016, Screening and Round-table discussion.

 - * University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. 2 March 2016, Screening followed by panel discussion.

 - * Michigan State University Film Premiere, East Lansing, Michigan. 15 Feb. 2016, Film screening and discussion.
- *Migrations of Islam*, 2013, (Director, Videographer, and Editor), 56 min.
 - * Official Selection. Ethnogra Film Festival, Paris, 2015
 - * Official Selection. World Documentary Film and Television Conference (Falmouth, UK, 2014).
 - * Screened at the SOAS (The School of Oriental and African Studies) Conference, London, 2014.
 - * Official Selection. East Lansing Film Festival, 2013.
 - * Official Selection. Queens International Film Festival (New York, 2013).
- *Book Trailer*, 2012, (Director, Trailer for Marcia Aldrich's Award-Winning Novel, *Companion to an Untold Story*, Univ. of Georgia Press, 2012), 5 min.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbW7KQrOuA0>
- *Unfinished Journey: A City in Transition*, 2011, (Co-director, Co-producer, and Co-Editor with Mark Huelsbeck), 26 min.
 - * Officially Selected by the African World Documentary Film Festival (2014)
 - * Screened at IRepresent International Documentary Film Festival in

- Lagos, Nigeria.
- * Screened at the Molefi Kete Asante Institute for Afrocentric Studies, Philadelphia.
 - * Screened at Missouri History Museum, University of Missouri at St. Louis.
 - * Screened at Jacksonville, Florida at the Museum of Science and History (March 21, 2013).
 - * Screened at Excelsior Museum and Cultural Center, St. Augustine (Feb. 5, 2013).
 - * Official Selection. St. Augustine Film Festival—a part of the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival (2012).
 - * Official Selection. East Lansing Film Festival (2011).
 - * Official Selection. San Diego Black Film Festival (2012).
- *Waves from the Deep*, 2005, (Director, Videographer, Editor and Producer), 57 min.
 - Screened at the Crossing Borders Seminar at the University of Iowa (2005).
 - *Karugaththiruvulamo/The Quagmire*, 1999, (Director and Videographer)
 - * Best Documentary of the Year (The Tamil Progressive Writers Association).
 - * Official Selection. Mumbai International Film Festival (2000).
 - *Villu /The Bow*, 1997, (Writer, Director and Producer).
 - * Best Ethnographic Documentary of the year 1997 (*Oli Vattam/The Circle of Light*)
 - * Official Selection. The International Tamil Short and Documentary Film Festival at West End in London, Oct. 2001.
 - * Official Selection. Mumbai International Film Festival (1998).
 - * Official Selection. Tirunelveli International Film Festival (2007).
 - *I.N.A./The Indian National Army*, 1997, (Director and Producer).
 - * Best Documentary of the year 1997 (Santhome Communications Award)
 - * Official Selection. The International Tamil Short and Documentary Film Festival at West End in London, Oct. 2001.
 - * Screened at The Don Bosco Institute of Communication Arts
 - * Kanchanai Film Society's Festival of Documentary films (March 2000) at Kilpauk, Chennai.
 - *Thangam*, (1995), (Co-director with Ilaria Freccia), Produced by Rai-3, the Italian Television channel.
 - * Best Documentary of the Year 1995 (The Tamil Progressive Writers' association).
 - * Screened by Lignite City Film Society at Neyveli, India, June 2013.
 - * Official Selection. Input '96,
 - * Echo '96
 - * Filmmaker/Doc.
 - * Archipelago '96,
 - * Maremma International Doc Festival.
 - * Official Selection. The International Tamil Short and Documentary Film Festival at West End in London, Oct. 2001.
- * Screened at The Don Bosco Institute of Communication Arts and Kanchanai Film Society's Festival of Documentary films, at Kilpauk, Chennai, March 2000.

Significant Recognitions:

- * The Prestigious MSU Teacher-Scholar Award (2016).
- * Recognition from the Office of the Provost, MSU, for Special Academic Competitiveness. October 2015.
- * "The Tamil Literary Garden Award" for Madras Studios: Narrative, Genre and Ideology in Tamil cinema. June 2015, Toronto, Canada.
- * FeTNA Award for "Outstanding Contribution as a Short Filmmaker." July 2014, St. Louis. Missouri.

Invited Talks:

- Respondent to the screening of Prof. Joyojeet Pal's documentary on Rajnikanth, *For the Love of a Man* (2016), 14 Oct. 2016.
- "On Rathan's Subversive Counter Cinema" 29 March 2015, JCG Hall, Scarborough, Toronto, Canada.
- "Response to Prof. Rajan Kurai's Seminal *Kathanayaganin Maranam*/Death of the Hero." Discovery Book Palace, Chennai. 21 Dec. 2014.
- "What's Indian About Indian Cinema." Invited Talk at the Indian Cinema Centennial Celebrations, at the University of Windsor, in Canada. 16 Nov. 2013.
- "Folklore Cinema." Invited Talk. National Folklore Support Center, at Chennai, in India. 17 Oct. 2007.
- "Cinema in the New Millennium," Nizhal Short Film Workshop held at Dharmapuri, in Salem, 5 Feb. 2007.

Professional Presentations:

- * "*Is It Too Much to Ask?: Humor, Performance, and Reflexivity.*" In the panel on "Film, Literature, and the Global South." Critical Institutions Conference, Michigan State University, 25 Feb. 2017. Kellogg Center, East Lansing.
- * "*Periyar as a Biopic: Star Persona, Historical Events, and Politics.*" Workshop on Caste and Life Narratives, for a Special Issue of *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly*. Eds. Profs. Shankar Subramaniam and Charu Gupta. 1 Sept. 2016. Center for Biographical Research, University of Hawaii at Manoa.
- * "*Mysskin's Pisaasu (2014): Ghost as the Goddess.*" 21 May 2016. Chicago Tamil Forum: Margins of Dravidianism. University of Chicago.
- * "Nehru and Tamil Cinema: *Thirumbippaar and Irumbuththirai*. 18 March 2016. "Revisting Politics in Indian Films II." ACLA Seminar, at Harvard University.
- * "*Tamilness in Cinema: Deconstruction, Interrogation, and Entrenchment of Stereotypes.*" 25 Oct. 2015. Organized and Chaired the Panel at the Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- * "*Family in Tamil Cinema: United We Stand.*" 25 Oct. 2015. Presentation at the Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- * "Kamal Haasan's *Hey Ram*: The Catharsis of Kamalahasan." 23 May 2015. Chicago Tamil Forum: Margins of Dravidianism. University of Chicago.
- * "*Experiments Across Genre in Narrativizing the Self/Others.*" 28 March 2015. Organized and Chaired the Panel at the SCMS [Society for Cinema and Media Studies] Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada.

- * *"Mani Kaul: Process as Intervention ."* 28 March 2015. Presentation at the SCMS [Society for Cinema and Media Studies] Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada.
- * "Naali: Globalization, Low-end Technology, Documentary Intervention." 5 Sept. 2014. World Documentary Film and Television Conference, Falmouth University, UK.
- * "Vijaya Vauhini and Prasad: Representation and Others." 11 April 2014. Tamil Cinema: An Interdisciplinary Perspective Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- * "Madras Studios and Backlots." 4 April 2014. Digital Media, New Cinemas and Global South, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.
- * "Mani Kaul: Process as Intervention." 13 Dec. 2014. A Dialogue across Media on the Fiction of Found Objects, Visible Evidence 21 Conference, New Delhi, India.
- * "Folklore and Tamil Cinema." 27 Oct. 2013. Invited Presentation at Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, at East Lansing.
- * "Utopia and Dystopia: Dravidian Movement and Tamil Cinema." 22 March 2013. Association for Asian Studies: Annual Conference at San Diego, CA.
- * "Referentiality, Authorship, and Stardom in Hindi Popular Cinema." 10 March 2013. Organized and chaired the panel, at Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, at Chicago.
- * "Manmohan Desai and Amitabh Bachchan: Star, Superstar and the Multi-starrer." 10 March 2013. Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, at Chicago.
- * "Folklore and Tamil Cinema." 27 Oct. 2013. Invited Presentation at Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, at East Lansing.
- * "Producing Community Videos with Professionalism and Imagination: Documentary Advocacy and Service Learning." 8-11 August, 2012. UFVA (University Film and Video Association) Conference, at Chicago.
- * "Documentary: Public History and Service Learning." 8-11 August, 2012. UFVA (University Film and Video Association) Conference, at Chicago.
- * "*Enthriran (Robot, 2010)*: Asimov, Sujatha and Transnational Travels." 13 April 2012. "Visions of the Future: Global Science Fiction Cinema Conference," at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City.
- * "Mourning Revolution in Indian Parallel Cinema." 21 Oct. 2011. Organizer and Chair of the Panel, The Annual Conference on South Asia, at Madison, Wisconsin.
- * "John Abraham's *Amma Ariyan*: History, Mother and Specter." 21 Oct. 2011. The Annual Conference on South Asia at Madison, Wisconsin.
- * "1970s Tamil Cinema and the Post-Classical Turn." 14-16 April 2011. "The 1970s and its Legacies: A Workshop on India's Cinemas," at Temple University.
- * "Leena Manimekalai's *Goddesses*: the Performative Mode and its Specificity." 16-17 April 2010. "Cinema South Asia," a conference on documentaries, at the Univ. of Pennsylvania.
- * "Folklore, Cinema, and Authenticity." 5 March 2010. "Public Culture: Tamil Milieu." My paper was read (in my absence by the poet Bhooma Eswaramurthy) in English and Tamil, at the bilingual conference, at Madras University.
- * "*Uthamaputhiran*: The Man in the Iron Mask Across Borders." 26-29 March 2009. "Re-making and Adapting in Trans/National Contexts. ACLA Seminar, at Harvard University.

Journal Articles in Tamil (I have published 40 essays in serious Tamil cinema magazines, and special issues of journals on invitation):

- "Suyatheena Cinema (Independent Cinema)." *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (8) (Dec. 2016), pp. 6-12.
- "Shakespearin King Lear: Gregory Kozintsev, Peter Brook, and Akira Kurosawa (Shakespeare's King Lear: Gregory Kozintsev, Peter Brook, and Akira Kurosawa)." *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (4) (August 2016), pp. 8-11.
- "Shakespearin Macbeth: Akira Kurosawavin Throne of Blood (Shakespeare's Macbeth: Akira Kurosawa's Throne of Blood)." *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (3) (July 2016), pp. 94-98.
- "Bressonin Ariya Kurippugal (Bresson's Rare Notes)," *Nizhal* (Shadow), July 2016, pp. 34-38.
- "Christine Vachonudanaana Naerkanaal (Interview with Christine Vachon)." *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (2) (June 2016), pp. 8-13.
- "Indraya Talaimuraiyinarum Aavanappada Arasiyalum (Present Generation and the Politics of Documentary)." *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (1) (May 2016), pp. 26-29.
- "Kurosawa: Manudamum Mandiyiduthalum (Kurosawa: Humanity and Forgiveness)." *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (10) (Feb. 2016), pp. 21-25.
- "Film Festival Enum Chandaiveli/ Film Festival as a marketing space," *Padachurul*, 1 (8), December 2015, pp. 4-7.
- "Film Festival Enum Nambikkaiveli/ Film Festival as a space of hope," *Padachurul*, 1 (8), December 2015, pp. 95-103.
- "Vetri Maaranin Visaranai: Tamil Cinemavin Munnagarvu/Vetri Maran's Visaranai: Tamil cinema's furtherance." *Kalachuvadu*, 27 (11), (Nov. 2015), pp. 14-16,
- "Andralarntha Agnes/ The lively Agnes Varda," *Padachurul*, 1 (7), November 2015, pp. 4-11.
- "Manathirku Rammiyamana Manorama/ Homage to Manorama (the veteran Tamil actress)," *Padachurul*, 1 (7), November 2015, pp. 103-104.
- "Aavana Kappagamum Aavanakappaga Vilaivum/Archives and the archive effect," *Padachurul*, 1 (6), September 2015, pp. 58-64.
- "V.K. Murthy: Kooraiyilirunthu Oru Keetru/ V.K. Murthy: A ray of light from the roof," *Kaatchippizhai*, 3 (9), September 2015, pp. 44-48.
- "Nangal Pesugiroom. Neengal Vilagiyirunthu Ketkappazhagungal/We (sublaterns) can speak. Please listen attentively," *Padachurul*, 1 (5), August 2015, pp. 3-5.
- "Digital Yugathil Cinema/Cinema in the Age of the Digital." *Nizhal*, 49 (June-August, 2015) pp. 42-47.
- "An Incident at Owl Creek Bridge." *Vimbam 8th International Tamil Short Film Festival Brochure*, July 2015, Eastham, London: Vimbam; pp. 7-14.
- "Pulampeyar Cinema/Cinema of the diaspora." *FeTNA Anniversary Issue*. San Francisco: Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America, July 2015, pp. 128-31.
- "Ulaga Aavanappada Karutharangu/Conference on International Documentaries." *Kaalam*, 45 (Dec. 2014), pp. 90-1.
- "Arumugam Rudhraiyya: Niraiveratha Kanavu/Arumugam Rudhraiyya: The unrealized dream." *The Hindu* (Tamil), 21 Nov. 2014, <<http://tamil.thehindu.com>>.
- "Christine Vachon Ennum Suyatheena Thiraiпада Thayarippu Tharagai/Christine Vachon, the preeminent indie cinema producer." *Nizhal*, 46 (Aug. 2014), pp. 61-64.
- "Balu Mahendra: Azhaghiyalum Aazhmanam/Balu Mahendra: Aesthetics and the

- Subconscious." *Kaalam*, 44 (June 2014), pp. 48-52.
- "Thiraikathaiyum Athan Alasalilulla Niraivinmaiyyum/Screenplay: Structure and its discontents." *Nizhal*, 45 (Feb. 2014), pp. 33-38.
 - "Manjil Mukilndha Oviyam/Painting in the Mist." *The Hindu* (Tamil), 14 Feb. 2014, <<http://tamil.thehindu.com>>.
 - "Thiraipadam: Thozhilnutpamum Ethirpaarpum/Cinema: Changing technology and expectations." *Kalachuvadu*. Special Issue: Cinema 100 (Special Issue celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Indian Cinema), 26 (1), (Jan. 2014), pp. 80-87, <<http://www.kalachuvadu.com/issue-169/page80.asp>>.
 - "Cinemakkam/Adaptation and cinema (*Ran*: Akira Kurosawa's adaptation of *King Lear*)." *Padapetti*. 9 (Jan. 2014), pp. 30-35.
 - "Tamil Cinemavil Padalkal/Songs in Tamil Cinema": Swarnavel, "Tamil Cinemavil Padalgalin Avasiyamum Anavasiyamum/The necessity and the superfluity of songs in Tamil cinema." *Nizhal*, 44 (Nov. 2013), pp. 37-38.
 - "John Griersonum British Documentary Iyakkamum, Part 2 (John Grierson and the British documentary movement, Part 2)," Trans. Kalaichelvan, *Nizhal*, 41(Oct.-Nov. 2012), pp. 21-27.
 - "Padaththoguppum Azhagiyalum: Sergei Eisensteinai Munvaithu/ Editing and aesthetics: In the context of Sergei Eisenstein." *Padapetti*, 8 (Oct. 2012), pp. 2-18.
 - "Edisanin Kurumbadamum Varalaarum (Edison's short film and history). *Sunday Indian* (Tamil Edition), (2 Sept. 2012), p 33. In the same issue, they have rated my documentary *INA* (The Indian National Army) as the second best Tamil documentary in their list of Top Ten Tamil Docs. (Ref: the box item on page 31).
 - "Mani Kaul: Mannil Maraintha Maamatha Yaanai/Mani Kaul: The mad elephant which disappeared in the mud." *Nizhal*, 40 (July-Aug. 2012), pp. 27-33. [My homage to the preeminent experimental filmmaker, Mani Kaul, on his first death anniversary.]
 - "John Griersonum British Documentary Iyakkamum, Part 1: Perarasum Naadum, Trans. Kalaichelvan, (John Grierson and the British documentary movement, Part 1: Empire and the nation)," *Nizhal*, 39 (March-April 2012), pp. 78-80. [This is the first part of a detailed essay on the British documentary movement which had a lasting influence on the Films Division in India and many of the documentaries it produced.]
 - "Godardum Markerum (Godard and Marker)." *Nizhal*, 35 (Oct.-Nov. 2011), pp. 19-23.
 - "Yatharthavathigalum Uruvaviyalalargalum/Realists and formalists." *Nizhal*, 37 (July-Aug. 2011), pp. 43-44.
 - "Aavanappadam: Yatharthamum and Yatharthathanmaiyyum/ Documentaries: Reality and realism." *Nizhal*, 36 (Feb.-March, 2011), pp. 30-32.
 - "Ten Documentaries," *Kumudam* (15 Dec. 2010), pp. 92-95. [The popular Tamil weekly *Kumudam* published my list along with the brief of ten documentaries, recommended for students, scholars, and researchers, starting from Robert Flaherty's *Nanook of the North* (1922) to Agnes Varda's *Gleaners and I* (2000).]
 - "Antonioni: Anniyamathalum Aan Pen Uravum/Michelangelo Antonioni: Alienation, men, and women." *Nizhal*, (Oct./Nov. 2007), pp. 25-27.
 - "Ingmar Bergman and Michelangelo Antonioni: Iruttai Punaintha Kavignargal/Ingmar Bergman and Michelangelo Antonioni: The poets of the dark." *Uyirmmmai*, 49 (Sept. 2007), pp. 12-22.

- “Arun Mozhiyan Nagulan/Arunmozhi's Nagulan.” *Nizhal*, (July/Aug 2007), p 24.
- “Korkovo Thokukkavo/To weave or to edit,” *Nizhal*, (April/May 2007), pp. 23-27. [This review/essay focuses on the pram in the iconic Odessa-Steps sequence in *Battleship Potemkin*.]
- “Bombay Talkies.” *Nizhal*, 4 (Jan./Feb. 2002), pp. 1-4. [This essay is a translation and paraphrasing from the writings of the legendary B.D. Garga on Himanshu Rai's Bombay Talkies (*So Many Cinemas: The Motion Picture in India*).]
- Lumiere Brothers: “The Cinematograph.” *Kanaiyazhi* (Dec. 2001) pp. 41-42.

Interviews (by me):

- "Naerkaanal 'Chezhian: Enathu Asiriyargal'/Interview with Chezhian: My Mentors." *Kaatchippizhai* 2 (6), May 2014, pp. 20-35.
 - "Naerkaanal Chezhian: Cinamavum Azhagiyalum/Interview with Chezhian: Cinema and Aesthetics." *Kaatchippizhai* 2 (4), March 2014, pp. 6-15.
 - "P.N. Sundaram Naerkaanal Santhippu - Swarnavel/P. N. Sundaram's interview by Swarnavel: Varalaatru Pragnyai Illathavan Muzumaiyadiyaatha Kalaignaagave Velippadugiraan/The one who is unaware of the history is an incomplete artist." *Kaatchippizhai* 1 (2), Feb. 2013, pp. 36-41.
 - --- "Interview Part 2: Tamil Cinemavai Pathiththa Hollywoodkarargal/ Tamil cinema and the Hollywood influence." *Kaatchippizhai* 1 (3), March 2013, pp. 52-57.
 - --- "Interview Part 3: Cinema Suniyathilo Vetridathilo Uruvagak Koodiya Ondralla/Cinema does not originate in a void." *Kaatchippizhai* 1 (4) April 2013, pp. 26-31.
 - --- "Interview Part 4: Back Projection." *Kaatchippizhai* 1 (5) May 2013, pp. 18-23.
 - --- "Interview Part 5: Pagalai Iravakkum Olivadikaddi/ Day for Night Filter." *Kaatchippizhai* 1 (12) Dec. 2013, pp. 26-31.
- [This series of interview with the iconic cinematographer P.N. Sundaram will be published by Kayalkavin, the publications wing of *Kaatchippizhai*, as a book.]

Book Chapters/Forewords in Tamil:

- "Aakkamum Cinemakarargalin Seyarpaangum (Creation and the Methodology of Cinema Practitioners)." Anand Pandian. *Thirai Agam: Tamil Cinema Padaippulagin* (Inside Tamil Cinema's Creative Universe). Trans. Kamalalayan. Chennai: Pesaamozhi Publications, (Dec. 2016), pp. 9-16.
- "Nadigai: Pen Vazhvum Arasiyalum (Actress: Women's Lives and Politics)." Jeevasundari Balan, *Rasigai Paarvai* (Cinephile's Perspective). Chennai: Kayal Kavin Publications (June 2016), pp. 7-19.
- "Foreword - Cinema: Porukku Pinthaya Nizhakkatchi/Cinema: Landscape after the battle." In Rathan. *Ethir Cinema/Counter Cinema*. Chennai: Kalachuvadu Publications, Dec. 2014, pp. 11-21.
- "Foreword: Kalai Veliyum Kasiyum Manudamum (Art, Space, and the Heart of Humanity)." In A. Jesuraja. *Thiraiyum Arangum: Kalaiveliyil Oru Payanam/Cinema and theatre: Journey through cinematic art and space*. London: Tamiliyal and Chennai: Kalachuvadu Publications, Jan. 2014, pp. 15-45.
- “Afterword: Ezhuthenba... Lacaniya Paarvayil Devibharathiyin Kathaigal/On writing...

Devibharathi's narratives through a Lacanian lens." *Veedenba...* Chennai: Kalachuvadu Publications, 2014, pp. 195-206.

- "Devathaigal Mattrum Piran: Yatharthamum Meelalippum/ Goddesses and Other(s): Reality and Representation." In Sripathi Padmanabha ed. *Devathaigal: Screenplay by Leena Manimekalai*. Chennai: Kanavu Pattarai, 2013, pp. 45 -60.
- "Foreword - Aavana Padangal: Yatharthamum Prathinithithuvamum/ Documentary Films: Reality and representation." In JD Jery. *Nadhaswaram*, Chennai: Sandhya Pathippagam, 2009, pp. 11-16.

Reviews of My Work:

Reviews of Book:

Sattagamum Saalaramum/Cinema: Frame and window [An anthology of essays on documentary and experimental films].

- Amshan Kumar. "Kotpadugal Vayilaga Cinema Aayvugal/ Theoretical analyses of cinema." *Kalachuvadu*, 170 (Feb. 2014), <<http://www.kalachuvadu.com/issue-170.htm>>.
- Devakanthan. Nool Mathippurai Cinema: Sattagamum Salaralum/ Book Review of Cinema: Frame and a Window." *Nizhal*, 44 (Nov. 2013), pp. 55-8.
- S. Theodore Baskaran. "Cinema: Azagiyalum Aayvum/ Cinema: Aesthetics and research." *Uyirmai*, June 2013, <<http://www.uyirmai.com/ContentDetails.aspx?cid=6250>>.

Reviews of Creative Works:

- Louise Cankar, "Migrations of Islam: Muslim American Voices in the 21st Century," *Journal of Muslim Studies*, 1 (1) (May 2016), pp 92-95.
- Yamuna Rajendran, *Sollappadatha Ulagam/The untold universe*. Chennai: Amritha Publications, 2006, pp. 31; 58; 100-108. Rajendran has reviewed my documentaries, *Thangam, I.N.A./The Indian National Army*, and *Villu* (The Bow).

Interviews (of me):

- Rathan. "Balu Mahendravini Pengal Aangalukkaaga Aadai Anigiraargal-Perasiriyar Swarnavel/Balu Mahendra's Women Dress Up for Men." *Thaiveedu* (Sept. 2015), pp. 86-89.
- Shankar Ramasubramanian. "Yaanaiyum Helicopterum Vendaam: Aavanapada Iyakkunar Swarnavel/ No need for elephants and helicopters: Interview with documentary film director Swarnavel." *The Hindu* (Tamil) 22 Feb. 2014. <<http://tamil.thehindu.com>>.
- N. Vinoth Kumar. "Documenting the Black Movement." *The New Indian Express*, 25 July 2013, <www.newindianexpress.com>.
- Kadarkarai. "Interview: Swarnavel," *Theeranadhi*, 6.3 (Aug. 2007), pp. 6-16.
- Chandralekha, "First Person: Cinema was a Means to Interpret His Childhood Fantasies." *The Hindu* (Downtown), 18 March 2007, p 9.
- P. Thirunavukkarasu, "Chris Markarey Enathu Adarsham (Chris Marker is my ideal): Aavanapada Iyakkunar Swarnavel (Documentary Filmmaker Swarnavel)." *Sollappadatha Cinema* (Lesser-known Cinema), Chennai: *Nizhal*, 2004: pp. 180-197.
- S. Ramakrishnan. Interview: Swarnavel. *Atcharam*, Sept./Nov. 2001.

- M. Senthil Kumar. "Kanneeraal Neitha Padam/I.N.A.: A poignant film." *Ananda Vikatan*, 73 (28), (12 July 1998), pp. 134-135.
- Vanithan. "Celluloidil Oru Kanneer Kathai/I.N.A.: A poignant story on celluloid." *Tamil Arasi* 7 (17), (9 Aug. 1998), pp. 58-60.
- K.N. Baalu. "Asaththiya I.N.A./Amazing I.N.A." *Kalki*, 57 (11), (18 Oct. 1998), pp. 33-34.

Research Grants:

- 2017 CAL Faculty Summer Fellowship. "Tamil Horror Films: Digital Image and Subversion." 30 Nov. 2016. \$11,910.
- CAL URI (Undergraduate Research Initiative) Funds. Research for Film Collective. 20 Oct. 2016. \$ 500.
- Humanities Without Walls Consortium, (Co-PI). The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Fall 2015. \$ 60,435. [For the sequel, *Growing Up Hmong at the Crossroads*.] Proposal Date: 14 October 2015. Date of Funding: 16 December 2015. [Project Duration: 10 Jan. 2016 to 31 August 2017.]
- Knight Center Environmental Documentary Grant, Michigan State University, Spring 2015. \$3500. *Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation*. Proposal Date: 20 March 2015. Date of Funding: 5 April 2015. [Project Duration: 10 Jan. 2015 to 16 August 2017.]
- Koo Endowment, Michigan State University, Fall 2014. \$ 5000.
- Humanities Without Walls Consortium, (Co-PI). The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Fall 2014. \$ 30,000.
- Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Activities, (Co-PI). Michigan State University, 2014/15. \$ 7500.
- Koo Endowment, Michigan State University, Spring 2014, \$5000.
- American Institute of Indian Studies Fellowship, Waitlisted for the Year 2012/13.
- T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Grant, University of Iowa, Spring 2006. \$ 5000.
- Crossing Borders Fellow, University of Iowa, 2005-2008.

Teaching Awards:

- Recipient of the Prestigious Teacher-Scholar Award (2016).
- Nominated for ASMSU (Associated Students of Michigan State University), Senior Class Council's, Spring 2015 Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award (Spring 2015).
- Nominated for College and Arts and Letter's Teacher-Scholar Award (2015).

Significant Awards/Accolades for My Students:

- *From Flint: Voices of a Poisoned City* (2016), a documentary by Elise Conklin, Izak Gracy, Liv Larsen, Jenna Ange and Lauren Selewski, won the third prize in the prestigious student academy award competition for documentaries. Their film competed among 1700 entries.
- Eve Hinz's film *Mom I'm Not Having Fun Come Pick Me Up* won the Best Film Award at the prestigious Young Michigan Filmmakers Festival, 2015. Eve made this film as a

student of my class TC 491: Short Film: Writing and Directing. The film was her final project for the class. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPSYM0zINXQ>>

- *Publicly Defended: Michigan's Fight for Public Defender Reform* (by Nicholas Baker, Stephanie Sparks, and Gary Cox), made as part of the Documentary Capstone class (TC/ENG 411) that I co-taught with Prof. Bob Albers was nominated for the highly competitive Student Emmy Award, and has been telecast on WKAR (PBS).

Teaching Experience:

Undergraduate Courses:

- Introduction to Digital Cinema and Media (FLM 260)
- Screenwriting (ENG/FLM: 334)
- Historical Approaches to Film (ENG 332)
- Documentary Technologies (TC/ENG/JRN/WRA 233)
- Introduction to Documentary History, Theory, and Production (MI/ENG/JRA/WRA 311)
- Documentary Design (TC/ENG/JRN/WRA 411 and 491)
- Seminar in Film and Media Theory: Authorship and Genre (ENG 430)
- Aesthetics of Film Editing (FLM 336)
- Gangster Film (ENG 333)
- Popular Hindi Cinema (ENG 333)
- Postcolonial Cinema and the Diaspora (ENG 360)
- Short Film: Writing and Directing (TC/ENG 491)
- Creative Process (IAH 241E)
- The Power of Nonviolence (MC 300)

Study Abroad:

Film in Britain (2013 and 2015)

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees:

Committee Member:

- Kaustav Mukherjee, "Chasing Ghosts and Making History: Ghosh, Tagore, and Postcolonial India," (Defended, Summer 2014).
- Rituparna Mitra, "States of Affect: Trauma in Partition/Post-Partition South Asia," (Defended, Spring 2015).
- Kirk Faith, "Troubled Vision: Tracing the Visual Protocols of 20th Century Ethnographic Travelogue Writing and Film," (Projected Defense, Fall 2015).

Academic Service:

Department of English:

- Curriculum Committee for B.A. in Film Studies (Spring 2014; Fall 2014)
- Policy Committee (2013/2014)
- Salary Committee (Spring 2013)
- Film Studies Committee (2012/2013; 2013/2014; 2014/2015)
- Creative Writing Committee (2012/2013; 2013/2014; 2014/2015)
- Member of Search Committee for Film Specialist (Spring, Summer 2012)
- Member of Search Committee for the Director of Film Studies (Spring, Summer 2012)
- Search Committee for Department Chair (Summer 2012)
- Crossing Borders Education (China Documentary) Committee (Fall 2011)

- Undergraduate Creative Writing Award Committee (Spring 2011/2012/2013/2014/2015/2016)
- Film Studies Curriculum Committee (Fall 2011)
- Graduate Studies Committee (2010/2011; 2011/2012, 2016/2017)
- Speakers Committee (2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2016/2017)
- Study Abroad Committee (2009/2010)

Department of Media and Information/TISM (Telecommunication, Information Studies, and Media):

- Curriculum Committee for B.A. in Cinematic Arts (2014/2015/2016)
- Sandbox Committee (2011/2012; 2012/2013; 2013/2014; 2014/2015) College of Arts and Letters:
- Digital Humanities Learning Committee (2012/2013)
- Consultant for CAL Fiftieth Anniversary Video (2011/2012)
- Committee for Transmedia Graduate Studies (Fall 2011)

Editorial and Peer Review Work:

- Member Advisory Board, *Centennial Review* (2012 to the present)
- Member Advisory Board, *Padachchurul/Film Reel*, Tamil Cinema Journal (2015, 2016)
- Member Advisory Board, *Padapettil/Film Can*, Tamil Cinema Journal (2013)
- Reviewer, Book Proposal, Routledge (2015)
- Reviewer, Book Proposal, Sage Publications (2014, 2015)
- Reviewer, *Studies in South Asian Films and Media*, Intellect (2016)
- Reviewer, *South Asian Popular Culture*, Routledge (2014)
- Reviewer Book Proposal, Oxford University Press (2013, 2014, 2016)

Outreach and Engagement:

Film Series/Events Organized: Introduction, Pre and Post-screening Discussions:

- Organizer and Presenter, "Early Indian Cinema." 30 Nov. 2015. "Early Indian Cinema: Homage to Prabhat Studio and Indian Cinema Pioneer V. Shantaram," 303 International Center. Films screened were *Manoos* (1939), *Shejari* (1941), and *Kunku* (1937).
- Chinese Documentary Film Series, Spring 2015, "Future Returns: Contemporary Art from China," Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. Films Screened were *Where Should I Go*, *Classmates*, *The Lost River*, *China Gate*, and *Flood*.
- Organizer of Asian Documentary Series, Fall 2011. Films Screened were *Repatriation* (Korea), *Laskar Pelangi* (Indonesia), *Siddheshwari* (India), and *Vaastu Marabu* (India), and *Last Train Home* (China).
- Organizer of the Indian Film Series, Spring 2011: Films screened were *Omkara* (discussions along with Prof. Jyotsna Singh), *Nayakan* (and its inspiration *The Godfather*), *Dubashi* and *Sholay*.
- Beloit International Film Festival, Spring 2011, Selected the Tamil Films, and helped getting the copies of *Naan Kadavul* (2009) and *Angadi Theru* (2010), and the documentaries *Goddesses* (2007) and *Burning Memories* (2008).
- "Figuring the Nation: Indian Cinema 1950s to the Present," Co-organizer with Prof. Jyotsna Singh, Spring 2010. Films Screened *Fiza*, *Pyaasa*, *A Wednesday*, *Garm Hawa* and

Sahib, Bibi Aur Ghulam. The Sky Below was screened with the invited speaker, producer-director Sarah Singh in attendance.

Student Advisory Board Screening: Introduction and Post-Screening Discussions

- *Devdas* (2002), Fall 2009.

Film Collective Screenings: Introduction and Post-Screening Discussions

- Organizer of the Fall 2016 Film Collective Screenings: "Borders and Blurs"
- *Mirch Masala/Spices* (dir. Ketan Mehta, 1987), Spring 2015.
- *Party* (dir. Govind Nihalani, 1984), Spring 2014.
- *Jalsaghar/ The Music Room* (dir. Satyajit Ray, 1958), Fall 2012.
- *Siddheswari* (dir. Mani Kaul, 1989), Spring 2012.

Korean Month Film Events: Introduction and Post-Screening Discussions

- *The Man from Nowhere* (dir. Lee Jeong-beom, 2010), Spring 2013.

Japanese Month Film Events: Introduction and Post-Screening Discussions

- *Sansho the Bailiff* (dir. Kenji Mizoguchi, 1954), Spring 2013.
- *Ran* (dir. Akira Kurosawa, 1985), Spring 2012.

Public Library Screening: Introduction and Post-Screening Discussions

- *Migrations of Islam* (2013), East Lansing Public Library, 10 Nov. 2014.

Jury Member/ Advisor/Workshops:

- Member of the Jury, Short Film Competition held by FETNA 2015 (Federation of Tamils in North America, New Jersey, 1-4 July 2016).
- Chairperson of the Jury, Vimabam Tamil Short Film Festival, Eighth Edition (Trinity Center, East Ham, London, 18 July 2015).
- Member of the Jury, Short Film Competition held by FETNA 2015 (Federation of Tamils in North America, San Jose, California, 4 July 2015).
- Chairperson of the Jury, Short Film Competition held by FETNA 2014 (Federation of Tamils in North America, St.Louis, Missouri, 3-5 July 2014).
- Scriptwriting workshop for Independent Art Film Society of Toronto at Scarborough, Canada, 14 July 2015.
- Guest Speaker, Nizhal's Documentary and Short Film Workshop, Pondicherry, 30 Dec. 2014.
- Workshop on short film writing and production at FETNA, St. Louis, MO, USA on 5 July 2014.
- Scriptwriting workshop for Independent Art Film Society of Toronto at Scarborough, Canada on 31 Aug. 2013.
- Chairperson of the jury of the award committee for the short film competition at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu, South India, 19 - 21 June 2013.
- Member of the jury for the competition held by the Documentary and Short-film Creators Association of Tamilnadu in Nov. 2007.
- Member of the jury, *Nizhal* Short Film Festival, Chennai, April 2007.
- Member of the selection committee for the 15 films screened on the hundredth anniversary of cinema in 1995 by M. Balasubramanian (The General Secretary of the Movie Appreciation Society, Chennai).

Professional Affiliations:

- Society for Cinema and Media Studies
- University Film and Video Association
- Association for Asian Association
- American Comparative Literature Association

Other Projects and Experience:

- *ALM* (2007): A documentary on “Active Learning Methodology,” introduced in 2007 in the government schools in Tamil Nadu. This framework based on visualization and creativity for learning had great potential but also faced stiff resistance from the teachers and some of the union members. So I went to the schools in village, suburban, and urban settings, and shot the documentary and edited its first installment in Chennai.
- Summer 2007: Taught classes on the subject of documentary cinema and realism, and experimental documentaries for the final year students at the Prasad Academy in Chennai.
- Jan. 2007: Went to Sri Lanka and shot 25 hours of mini dv tape mainly on the post-Tsunami water situation, and the human suffering caused by the ethnic conflict.
- Jan. - Dec. 2005- As part of my production course, I directed and edited the experimental short/documentary *Hawkhidees*.
- Jan. 2004 - May 2006: I taught classes to the undergraduates in the Film Studies department at the University of Iowa. Three of my classes were on the theory and history of documentary films and one was on the “Introduction to Film and Video Production” in the production department.
- Jan. - Dec. 2001: Directed five episodes (each 40 min.) for the reputed television production house Minbimbangal in Tamil: “Kal Mulaiytha Asai,” (based on Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* and inspired by Kurosawa’s *Throne of Blood*), was telecast on Raj TV, and was critically acclaimed. Also collaborated with popular writer S. Ramakrishnan in the television project “Vaazhkai Paadangal.”
- 2000: Directed the training film for the auto giant Ashok Leyland: *Namakkal Driving Institute*.
- Jan. 1999 - Dec. 2000: Worked as the creative advisor in Vikatan Televistas.
- Jan. 1996 - Dec. 2001: I was busy teaching and lecturing in the Media, Journalism, and Visual Communications departments in Madras University, SRM College and other private colleges, and conducting documentary workshops in the villages for students.
- Jan. 1994 - Dec. 95: Shot *Pothigai Malai* telecast in Rai-3, the Italian channel, in Hi8 format. Collaborated with Ilaria Freccia, who got the funding from RAI-3 in Italy. Went to Rome for post-production, and worked with Simona Paggi, the editor of such films as *Life is Beautiful* and Amelio’s *Stolen Children*, on the editing of *Thangam*.
- 1981-1993: Worked in Bombay on several advertising and corporate films, and television serials, besides making several documentaries in the low-band video format. My documentaries *The Copper River* (on the river Tamirabarani in South India) and *The Fogged Vision* (on caring for the eyesight of poor children with vitamin-A deficiency) were screened in schools and colleges, and were critically acclaimed.