

**SWARNAVEL ESWARAN PILLAI**  
**Associate Professor**  
Department of English and the School of Journalism  
**Michigan State University**

619 Red Cedar Road  
C 643 Wells Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
eswaran@msu.edu  
Tel: 5173486187

**Educational Qualification:**

- PhD Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature (Film Studies), University of Iowa- Iowa City, IA. May 2010.
- M.A. Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature (Film Studies), University of Iowa- Iowa City, IA. May 2004.
- D.C. Diploma in Cinema (Direction),  
The Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. April 1981.
- B. Com. Bachelor of Commerce,  
University of Bombay, India. April 1978.

**Academic Employment:**

Associate Professor, Department of English and the School of Journalism, Michigan State University (August 2020 onward)

Associate Professor, English, and Media and Information Departments, Michigan State University (August 2016 - June 2020)

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

**Publications: Books:**

- ï *Tamil Cinema Vimarsanangal: 1931-1960/Tamil Cinema Reviews: 1931-1960* (Coedited with T. Arasu) (Chennai: Nizhal, 2020)
- ï *Manudamum Mandiyiduthalum: Marivarum Cinemavum Maaratha Agathedalum/ Humanity and Reparation: Changing Cinema and Its Unchanging* (Chennai: Parisal Pathippagam, Dec. 2019). This book is an anthology of scholarly essays in Tamil on fiction and nonfiction films regarding the transition from the celluloid to the digital.
- ï *Madras Studios: Narrative, Genre, and Ideology in Tamil Cinema* (Sage Publications, Jan. 2015)
- ï *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.

**Forthcoming Books:**

- ï The Early Indian Cinema Songbooks (To be published by Summer 2022)
- ï History of the Tamil Gramophone Records (1900-1947) [To be published by Fall 2022)

### Edited Journals:

- i “Special Issue: Locating Muslim Cinemas.” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*. 33.3 (Fall 2021). Coeditor.

### Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed/Invited Contributions):

- \* “Death Rides a Horse and Its Influence on Indian Cinema.” *FemAsia: Asian Women’s Journal*. 25 Oct. 2020. <http://femasiamagazine.com/death-rides-a-horse-and-its-influence-on-indian-cinema/>
- \* “Kalki Alias Karnatakam: Tamil Cinema’s First Critic. Kalki Enum Karnatakam: Tamil Cinemavin Muthal Vimarsagar” Bilingual English/Tamil Essay *Aran eJournal*, 2 (5) Jan.2020, <https://www.aranejournal.com/article/5875>
- \* “Adaptation as Cultural Appropriation: Transnational Frames and Local Flavors,” (Based on my Keynote address at the Caesurae Annual Conference) *Caesurae: Poetics of Cultural Translation*, (3:2 & 4: 1) 2019/2020. [https://91b33d06-5e91-4fe5-919c-f23e70d3e168.filesusr.com/ugd/cc0cb5\\_f272fa85dc8a4962a8c0782e025c4a5c.pdf](https://91b33d06-5e91-4fe5-919c-f23e70d3e168.filesusr.com/ugd/cc0cb5_f272fa85dc8a4962a8c0782e025c4a5c.pdf)
- \* “Contemporary Tamil cinema and its departure from the mainstream: *Manusangada/Cry Humanity and To Let.*” *Jump Cut* (2019) 59 (Fall Issue), <https://www.ejumpcut.org/currentissue/Eswaren-Tamil/text.html>
- \* “Periyar as Biopic: Star Persona, Historical Events, and Politics.” *Biography* (Winter 2017) 40 (1), pp. 93-115.
- \* “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 Pisasu (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](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:

- i "Shakespeare and Tamil Cinema – The Pioneer, Thespian, and Special Effects," (Invited Essay/Contribution) *Muse India*, Issue 98 (Jul-Aug 2021), *Museindia.com*  
<https://museindia.com/Home/ViewContentData?arttype=feature&issid=98&menuid=9668>
- ii "Meet Kodak Krishnan: Eastman's Man from the East." *Scroll.in*. 16 May 2021.  
<https://scroll.in/reel/994501/meet-kodak-krishnan-eastmans-man-from-the-east>
- ii "[Periyar, Dravidian Ideologues, and Tamil Cinema](#)," *Periyarproject.com*, 4 Jan. 2021,  
<https://theperiyarproject.com/2021/01/04/periyar-dravidian-ideologues-and-tamil-cinema/> (Invited Essay/Contribution)
- ii "Tamilnadu: Emergent Media and the Contemporary Documentary." In Saron Benny ed. *Documentary: Immediacy and Significance*. Chennai: Oliviyam Publications, 2017, pp. 11-20. Reprinted in Priya Krishnan ed. *Aran Internatinal e-Journal of Tamil Research*, 1(3), Oct. 2019, <https://www.aranejournal.com/article/5827>
- ii "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).
- ii "Tamil Comics: New media, Revival, and the Recovery of History," *South Asian Popular Culture*, 2016, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14746689.2016.1241355>>
- ii "Local Sentiments and Global Spectacle: Deewar and Slumdog Millionaire," *East-West Cultural Passage*, 13 (2), Dec. 2013, pp. 23-52.

### Essays in Edited Collections:

- "Post Millennial Tamil Cinema: Transitional Generation and the Traces of Continuity." In Selvaraj Velayutham and Vijay Devadas. eds. *Tamil Cinema in the Twenty-First Century: Caste, Gender, and Technology*. Abingdon, Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2021, pp. 161-178.
- "Tamil Comics: New Media, revival, and the recovery of history." Reprint in Rajinder Dudrah and Dawosn Varughese E. eds., *Graphic Novels and Visual Cultures in South Asia*. New York: Routledge: 2020.
- "Periyar as Biopic: Star Persona, Historical Events, and Politics." *Biography* (Winter 2017) 40 (1), pp. 93-115. Reprinted in Charu Gupta and S. Shankar eds., *Caste and Life Narratives*, Delhi: Primus Books, 2019, pp. 97-119.
- "The trajectory of Amitabh Bachchan's Young/Old Man Persona From Mainstream to Indie Cinema." In Ashvin Immanuel Devasudaram ed. *Indian Cinema Beyond Bollywood: The New Independent Cinema Revolution*. New York: Routledge, 2018, pp. 161-182.
- "Tamilnadu: Emergent Media and the Contemporary Documentary." In Saron Benny ed. *Documentary: Immediacy and Significance*. Chennai: Oliviyam Publications, 2017, pp. 11-20.
- "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.

### **Creative Work: Feature Films, Documentaries and Shorts**

- ï ***Kattumaram*** (Catamaran), **2019** (Writer, Director, and Producer), Fiction, 73 min.
- \* "Film Screening and Discussion: Kattumaram (Catamaran)." Center for the Arts, Wesleyan University. 30 Sept. 2021.
- \* Kattumaram: Screening and Discussion. "Seminar Series." South Asia Institute: The University of Texas at Austin. 4 March 2021.  
Official Selection Pink Apple Film Festival,  
Switzerland, 22 & 29 at Frauenfeld, Nov. and 1 & 8 Zurich, Dec. 2020.
- \* Official Selection, Perlen Queer Film Festival,  
Hannover, Germany. 17 October. 2020.
- \* Selected for Channel Four's Prestigious Indian Film Season,  
Telecast on 15 Sept. 2020.
- \* Official Selection, AKS International Minorities Film Festival  
Lahore, Pakistan, 27 March. 2020.
- \* Official Selection, Roze Film Dagen LGBTQ Film Festival,  
Amsterdam, 15 & 22 March. 2020.
- \* Official Selection, Annual South Asian/Bollywood Festival  
Honolulu Art Museum, Hawaii, 23 & 27 Jan. 2020.
- \* Official Selection, Kashish Chalchitra Utsav/Film Festival,  
Bombay Art Society, Mumbai, 19 Jan. 2020.
- \* Official Selection, New York Indian Film Festival,  
East Village Cinema, New York. 10 May 2019.
- \* Official Selection, InsideOut Toronto LGBT Film Festival,  
TIFF Bell Lighthouse, Toronto, 31 May 2019.
- \* Official Selection, 10th Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival,  
Liberty Cinema, Mumbai, 15 June 2019.
- \* Official Selection, London Indian Film Festival,  
BFI Southbank, London, 21 June 2019.
- \* Official Selection, 43rd Frameline LGBTQI Film Festival,  
Roxie Theater, San Francisco, 23 June 2019.
- \* Official Selection, 43rd Frameline LGBTQI Film Festival,  
Landmark Shattuck Cinemas, San Francisco, 27 June 2019.
- \* Official Selection, London Indian Film Festival,  
Cineworld, Leicester Square, London, 29 June 2019.
- \* Official Selection, aGLIFF LGBTQ International Film Festival,  
Austin, Texas, 25 August 2019.
- \* Official Selection, Regional Film Festival: New Genres in Indian Cinema,  
Goethe Institute, Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi, India. 31 August 2019.

- \* Official Selection, Singapore South Asian International Film Festival, Singapore, 1 Sept. 2019
  - \* Official Selection, Lonavala International Film Festival, Lonavala, Maharashtra, India, 14 Sept. 2019
  - \* Official Selection, Chicago South Asian Film Festival, Icon Show Place Cinema, Chicago, 21 Sept. 2019.
  - \* Official Selection, Scotland Queer International Festival, Glasgow, 4 Oct. 2019.
  - \* Official Selection, 14th Tasveer South Asian Film Festival, Seattle, 5 Oct. 2019.
  - \* Official Selection, Outwatch LGBTQI Film Festival, Sebastopol, California, 5 Oct. 2019.
  - \* Official Selection, Tampa Bay International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Florida, 9 Oct. 2019.
  - \* Official Selection, Seattle Queer Film Festival, Three Dollar Bill Cinema, Seattle, 16 Oct. 2019.
  - \* Official Selection, InsideOut Ottawa LGBTQ Film Festival, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada, 27 Oct. 2019.
- ï ***Nagapattinam Waves from the Deep, 2018*** (Director, Editor, Videographer and Producer), Documentary, 73 min.
- \* Official Selection, Social Justice Film Festival, Chennai, India. 18 Sept, 2021.
  - \* Official Selection. Indian World Film Festival, Hyderabad, India. 8 March 2020.
  - \* Official Selection. Darbhanga International Film Festival – 2019, Sahil Cineplex, Darbhanga, Bihar, India. 2 Feb. 2019.
  - \* Official Selection. 6th Noida International Film Festival – 2019, Noida, Delhi, India. 27 Jan. 2019.
  - \* Official Selection. 11th Jaipur International Film Festival – 2019, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. 22 Jan. 2019.
  - \* Official Selection. World Premiere. Madurai International Documentary and Short Film Festival, 20th Anniversary. Madurai. 10 Dec. 2018.
  - \* Earlier, my decade long work- documentary on Tsunami relief and rehabilitation (2004 - 2014) at Nagapattinam, the coastal town in South India was screened for response and revisions. The First Cut. Chicago Tamil Forum. Foster Hall, University of Chicago. 20 May 2016.  
<[https://d3qi0qp55mx5f5.cloudfront.net/anthropology/images/global\\_i/Nagapattinam\\_-\\_Waves\\_from\\_the\\_Deep.pdf](https://d3qi0qp55mx5f5.cloudfront.net/anthropology/images/global_i/Nagapattinam_-_Waves_from_the_Deep.pdf)
- ï ***Silences, 2018*** (Director, Editor, and Co-Writer/Producer), Short Film, 30 min.
- \* Official Selection, India Global Short Film Festival, Chennai, India, 9 December 2018.
  - \* Official Selection, Genre Celebration Festival, Tokyo, Japan, 15 November 2018
  - \* Official Selection, Delhi 7th Shorts International Film Festival, Delhi, India, 28 October 2018, ***Special Jury Mention***



- \* Official Selection. Queens International Film Festival (New York, 2013).
- ï ***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>
- ï ***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).
- ï ***Waves from the Deep***, 2005, (Director, Videographer, Editor and Producer), 57 min.
  - Screened at the Crossing Borders Seminar at the University of Iowa (2005).
- ï ***Karugaththiruvulamo/The Quagmire***, 1999, (Director and Videographer)
  - \* Best Documentary of the Year (The Tamil Progressive Writers Association).
  - \* Official Selection. Mumbai International Film Festival (2000).
- ï ***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).
- ï ***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.
- ï ***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:**

- \* "Swarnavel Retrospective" - a retrospective of six of my documentaries, organized by the Documentarian/Curator Amudhan Pushpam Ramalingam, Marupakkam and Periyar Self-Respect Media at Periyar Thidal, Chennai. (23 December 2017).
- \* "Retrospective: Swarnavel Eswaran's Documentaries," organized by Tamil Studio, at Pure Cinema Screening Hall, at Vadapalani, in Chennai. These screenings were part of the events leading to the award conferred on me. (14 August 2017). The screenings also took place in cities like Madurai and Coimbatore, and in many villages, through the filmsocieties, during the second week of August 2017.
- \* The Tamil Studio Lifetime Achievement Award/Editor Lenin Award (August 2017).
- \* The Prestigious MSU Teacher-Scholar Award (February 2017).
- \* 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:**

- ï "Contemporary Tamil Cinema: Traversing the Old and Searching for the New." Film Society. Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Zoom Talk. 6 May 2021.
- ï "Teaching Film in Contemporary Times: Challenges and Possibilities." Zoom Talk. Hindusthan College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, 8 June 2020.
- ï "Digital Tamil Cinema: Tendencies, Trends, and Possibilities," *CSAS [Center for South Asian Studies] Lecture Series*, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 7 Dec. 2018.
- ï Responder, Priyanka Basu, "The Cultural Politics of 'Folk': Perspectives from India and Bangladesh," *Seminar* on "Dissecting South Asia: Development and Culture," James Madison College, MSU, 16 Oct. 2018.
- ï "Screenplay: Mainstream and Art Cinema," Pure Cinema Screening Hall, Chennai, India, 31 Dec. 2017.
- ï "Short Film and Structure: Duration and Narration," Nizhal's 50th Workshop on Cinema at Appakkoodal, near Erode, in Tamilnadu, India, 29 Dec. 2017.



- ï "Workshop on Film and Creative Writing." Department of Media Sciences, Anna University, Chennai, India, 13 Dec. 2017.
- ï "Experimental Theater in Tamil." Guest Lecture during the of the play Staging of *Nomads of Water* (dir. Muruga Boopathy), P.S.G. College of Arts and Sciences, Coimbatore, 31 Oct. 2017.
- ï "Digital Era and Documentaries." EFLU (English and Foreign Languages University), Hyderabad, India, 6 Oct. 2017.
- ï "Is It Too Much To Ask?: Representation and Reflexivity." Osmania University, Hyderabad, India, 6 Oct. 2017.
- ï "Literature and Cinema: Translation and Adaptation." In the context of *Macbeth, Throne of Blood, King Lear and Ran*. Osmania University, Hyderabad, India, 5 Oct. 2017
- ï "Form and Content: Short Story and Short Film," Loyola Institute of Vocational Education, Loyola College, Chennai, India, 21 Sept. 2017.
- ï Respondent to the screening of Prof. Joyojeet Pal's documentary on Rajnikanth, *For the Love of a Man* (2016), 14 Oct. 2016.
- ï "On Rathan's Subversive Counter Cinema" 29 March 2015, JCG Hall, Scarborough, Toronto, Canada.
- ï "Response to Prof. Rajan Kurai's Seminal *Kathanayaganin Maranam/Death of the Hero*." Discovery Book Palace, Chennai. 21 Dec. 2014.
- ï "What's Indian About Indian Cinema." Invited Talk at the Indian Cinema Centennial Celebrations, at the University of Windsor, in Canada. 16 Nov. 2013.
- ï "Folklore Cinema." Invited Talk. National Folklore Support Center, at Chennai, in India. 17 Oct. 2007.
- ï "Cinema in the New Millennium," Nizhal Short Film Workshop held at Dharmapuri, in Salem, 5 Feb. 2007.

### Professional Presentations:

- \* "Caste: Cinema and Spatiality." Paper presented at the *Conference on "Anti-Caste Thought: Theory, Politics and Culture."* Univ. of Wolverhampton. Online. 29 Oct. 2021.
- \* "Cinema of Fragments/Cohesions: Musical, Comic, Progressive, and Corporate Impulses in Contemporary Indian Cinema." Organized and Chaired the Panel at the 49th South Asia Conference (Madison, Wisconsin). Online. 22 Oct. 2021.
- \* "Globalization and the Ghats: Displacement of a Community/Culture." Paper presented at the 49th South Asia Conference (Madison, Wisconsin). Online. 22 Oct. 2021.
- \* "Film Studies in the Times of OTT." Keynote Address. Pondicherry University. 18 Oct. 2021.
- \* "Contemporary Approaches to Film Studies: Digital Turn and Cinema." In the International Webinar *Emerging Trends in Literature and Film Studies*. Department of English Studies, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur. 26 Aug. 2021.
- \* "Satyajit and His Realism: Aesthetics as Refracted Through the Sociocultural Lens." Father Francis Jayapathi *Endowment Lecture: Satyajit Ray Centenary*. Loyola College Visual Communications Department, Chennai, 16 April 2021.
- \* Discussant. *Book Launch: In Celebration of Lalitha Gopalan's New Publication, Cinemas Dark and Slow in Digital India*. South Asia Institute, The University of Texas at Austin, 15 April 2021.
- \* Co-Organizer of the 4th Annual International Conference of Caesurae Collective

- \* Society: Aesthetics of Cultural Translation: Art and Architecture, Online Conference via Zoom. 25-28 March 2021.
- \* "Contemporary Tamil Cinema: Changing Paradigms/Emerging Trends." Organized and Chaired the Panel at SCMS [Society for Cinema and Media Studies] Annual Conference, Online, 21 March 2021.
- \* "Tamil Cinema of the New Millennium: Transitional Generation and the Traces Continuity." Paper presented at SCMS Online Conference. 21 March 2021.
- \* Discussant. Hari Krishnan's book, "Early Tamil Cinema and the Making of Modern Bharatanatyam." Bangalore International Centre. 25 Feb. 2021.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiEDn2Btan8>
- \* "Tamil Image in Cinema." Chicago Tamil Forum (Online/Zoom). 10 October 2020. Respondent to "Tamil New Wave Cinemas," (Lalitha Gopalan). 10 October. 2020.
- \* "Tamil Cinema and Its Tropes: Men and the Abalaippen/Forlorn Woman," South Asia Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, 19 Oct. 2019.
- \* "The Local and the Universal in Modern Buddhist Communities," Chair, Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 4 Oct. 2019.
- \* "Tamil Cinema and Anjali Devi: Celestial Beings and the Sensuous Maidens," ACLA Conference, Georgetown University, 8 March 2019.
- \* "The New Impulse in Tamil Cinema: Manusangada (2017), To Let (2017), Merku Thodarchi Malai (2018), and Pariyerum Perumal (2018)," Conference on Contemporary Indian Cinema: Contestations and Consolidations, Savitribhai Phule Pune University, India, 9 Feb. 2019.
- \* "Recent Tamil Cinema: Response to a Critique." *From the Grassroots to the Global: 9th International Small Cinemas Conference*. Florida Atlantic University, Boca Rotan, Florida, 9 Nov. 2018.
- \* "Tamil Cinema, Nation, and the Subnation: *Thirumbippaar* (look Back, 1953) and *Irumbuthirai* (Iron Curtain, 1960)," *Annual Conference on South Asia*, Madison, Wisconsin, 12 Oct. 2018.
- \* "Remakes and Adaptations: Culture, Industry, and Translations." 16 March 2018. *SCMS [Society for Cinema and Media Studies] Annual Conference*, Toronto, Canada.
- \* "Social Justice and Cinema," Keynote Speaker, Social Justice Film Festival, Goethe Institute, Chennai, India, 14 Sept. 2017.
- \* "Adaptations and Remakes: Cinema as Cultural Translation," Plenary Speaker, Caesurae Conference, Amrita University, Coimbatore, India, 23 Aug. 2017.
- \* "*Is It Too Much to Ask?: Representation of Others.*" SAPC (South Asian Popular Culture) Conference, Birmingham City University, Birmingham, London, 28 June 2017.
- \* "*Nandalala: Searchers and Travelers on the Road.*" *Screen Studies Conference*, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, 25 June 2017.
- \* "Caste and Life Narratives: An Overview," (Roundtable) IABA (The International Association for Biography and Autobiography) Conference, King's College, London, 7 June 2017.
- \* "*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. ShankarSubramaniam 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.
- \* "*Enthiran (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 more than 50 essays in serious Tamil cinema magazines, and special issues of journals on invitation):

- i Foreword: Rathan, "Ehirarasiyal/Karuppina Cinem/Counterpolitical/Black Cinema, Chennai: Nizhal, 2021.
- ii "Katharanathanum Cinemavin Thadangalum/ Ketharanathan and the Footprints of Cinema." *Nizhal*, Oct-Dec. 2021, pp. 56-58.
- ii "Leena Manimekalaiyin Maadathy/Leena Manimekalai's Maadathy." *Nizhal*, Oct-Dec. 2021, pp. 65-67.
- ii "Munnathi Aer" Jean Claude Carriere Uzhutha Kathaiyadal Kalam/Obituary: Jean Claude Carriere." *Nizhal*, May-June 2021, pp. 71-75.
- ii "Marxin Aviyum Pothuvudamayil Manathai Parikodutha Jananathanum/Obituary: S.P. Jananathan." *Nizhal*, May-June 2021, pp. 76-78.
- ii "To Let: Maiya Neerotta Tamil Cinemavum Thelliya Neerodayum/ To Let: Off the Mainstream (Tamil Cinema)." Trans. Veli Rangarajan. *Kanali.in*, 22 June 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/3wr29hcy>
- ii "Varlatrin Uraividam/Book Review of Priya Jaikumar's Where Histories Reside: India as Filmed Space." *Padachurul*. May 2021, pp. 59-65.
- ii "Hindutvam Enum Arasiyal Egathuvam/ Orirai Kotpadu/ Book Review: Austup Basu's Hindutva as Political Monotheism." *Padachurul*, April 2021, pp. 72-73.
- ii "Kalki Enum Karanatakam: Tamil Cinemavin Muthal Vimarsagar/Kalki alias Karnatakam: Tamil Cinema's Preeminent Critic." [*The Longer Initial Version*] *Manal Veedu* (Sandcastle), 41 (March 2021), *Manalveedu.org*, <https://manalveedu.org/>
- ii "Samakaala Tamil Cinemavum Maiyya Neerotta Pokkugalilirunthu Athan Vilagalgalum: Manusangada Matrum To Lettai Munvaiththu." *Nizhal* (Shadow), Jan-March 2020, pp. 44-72.
- ii "Contemporary Tamil cinema and its departure from the mainstream: *Manusangada*/Cry Humanity and *To Let*." *Jump Cut* (2019) 59 (Fall Issue), <https://www.ejumpcut.org/currentissue/Eswaren-Tamil/text.html>. Trans. Tamil playwright and writer Veli. Rangarajan.
- ii Kurosawavin Cinema: Kanavil Kanindha Vazhvu/ Kurosawa's Cinema: Life Mellowed by Dreams." 27 Jan. 2021. *Kanali.in*. Accessed 14 Feb 2022. <https://kanali.in>.
- ii "Arunmozhi Sivaprakasam - Mannum Makkalum: Alainthu Asaviya Kalaigananin Agathadal/Arunmozhi Sivaprakasam – The Land and Its People: The Quest of the Wandering Explorer," *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 5 (8), (Dec. 2019), pp. 68-73.

- ï "Manifestos Patriya Sila Kurippugal/Some Notes on Manifestos," *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 5 (8), (Dec. 2019), pp. 28-32.
- ï "Vimbam: Kurumbada Veliyum Ulavoorum Aaazhmana Bimbangalum/Vimabam: Short Film Space, Trauma, and the Subconscious Imagery," *Nizhal* (Shadow), 59 (July – Sept. 2019), pp. 51 -53.
- ï "Ilakkiya Veliyidaiyil Irappin Idaiveli/Literary Seamlessness and Ruptures of Death," *Manal Veedu* (Sandcastle), 37-38 (April – Sept. 2019), pp. 27 - 37.
- ï "An Obituary: Mrinal Sen," *Nizhal* (Shadow), 58 (April - June 2019), pp. 48 - 50.
- ï "Bressoniya Kuriipugal/Bressonian Notes," *Manal Veedu* (Sandcastle), 36 (Jan. 2019), pp. 121-125.
- ï "Koreedavin Cinema: Ozuvin Padangalin Maiyyamana Kutumabathin Thakkam/Koreeda's Cinema: The Ozuvin Influence of the Family," *Nizhal* (Shadow), 57 (Dec. – Jan. 2019), pp. 59 - 61.
- ï "Ritwik Ghatak: Melodramavum Ninaivekkamum/"Ritwik Ghatak: Melodrama and Nostalgia," *Nizhal* (Shadow), 57 (Dec. - Jan. 2018), pp. 43 - 45.
- ï "Padathoguppu: Andrum Indrum/Film Editing: Past and Present," *Manal Veedu*/Sand House, 34-35 (September 2018), pp 211 - 216.
- ï "Rainer Werner Fassbinder," *Padachurul* (Film Reel), LGBT Special Issue, 3 (8) (December 2017), pp. 49-51.
- ï "Thirunangaigalin Pirathipalippu Aavanappadam: Is It Too Much to Ask?/Documentary and the Representation of Transgender: Leena Manimekalai's Is It Too Much to Ask?" *Padachurul* (Film Reel), LGBT Special Issue, 3 (8) (December 2017), pp. 23-25.
- ï "Kurumbadangalum Vimbam '17 Thiraippada Vizahvum/Short Films and Vimbam '17 Film Festival)." *Nizhal* (Shadow), 54 (June - Aug. 2017), pp. 57- 60.
- ï "Don't Shoot Me: Tadaigalai Udaikkum Kalaaignargal/Don't Shoot Me: Artists Against Censorship," *Andhimazhai* (Twilight Rain), 5 (8) (April 2017), pp. 24-27.
- ï "Interview with (Early Indian Cinema Scholar) Virchand Dharamsey," *Padachurul* (FilmReel), 2 (10), (Feb. 2017), pp. 16-21.
- ï "Interview with Indie Filmmaker Arunmozhi," *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (9), (Jan. 2017), pp. 6-19.
- ï "Thiraippada Vizha Andrum Indrum/Film Festivals: Then and Now," Invited Essay for the 50th issue of *Kaalam*, the preeminent literary magazine from the Tamil diaspora in the West. *Kaalam* (Time), 50 (Jan. 2017), pp. 85-93.
- ï "Suyatheena Cinema (Independent Cinema)." *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (8) (Dec. 2016), pp. 6-12.
- ï "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.
- ï "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.
- ï "Bressonin Ariya Kurippugal (Bresson's Rare Notes)," *Nizhal* (Shadow), July 2016, pp.34-38.
- ï "Christine Vachonudanaana Naerkanal (Interview with Christine Vachon)." *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (2) (June 2016), pp. 8-13.
- ï "Indraya Talaimuraiyinarum Aavanappada Arasiyalum (Present Generation and the Politics of Documentary)." *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (1) (May 2016), pp. 26-29.

- ï "Kurosawa: Manudamum Mandiyiduthalum (Kurosawa: Humanity and Forgiveness)." *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (10) (Feb. 2016), pp. 21-25.
- ï "Film Festival Enum Chandaiveli/ Film Festival as a marketing space," *Padachurul*, 1 (8), December 2015, pp. 4-7.
- ï "Film Festival Enum Nambikkaiveli/ Film Festival as a space of hope," *Padachurul*, 1 (8), December 2015, pp. 95-103.
- ï "Vetri Maaranin Visaranai: Tamil Cinemavin Munnagarvu/Vetri Maran's Visaranai: Tamil cinema's furtherance." *Kalachuvadu*, 27 (11), (Nov. 2015), pp. 14-16,
- ï "Andralarnta Agnes/ The lively Agnes Varda," *Padachurul*, 1 (7), November 2015, pp. 4-11.
- ï "Manathirku Rammiyamana Manorama/ Homage to Manorama (the veteran Tamil actress)," *Padachurul*, 1 (7), November 2015, pp. 103-104.
- ï "Aavana Kappagamum Aavanakappaga Vilaiyum/Archives and the archive effect," *Padachurul*, 1 (6), September 2015, pp. 58-64.
- ï "V.K. Murthy: Kooraiyilirunthu Oru Keetru/ V.K. Murthy: A ray of light from the roof," *Kaatchippizhai*, 3 (9), September 2015, pp. 44-48.
- ï "Nangal Pesugiom. Neengal Vilagiyirunthu Ketkappazhagungal/We (sublaterns) can speak. Please listen attentively," *Padachurul*, 1 (5), August 2015, pp. 3-5.
- ï "Digital Yugathil Cinema/Cinema in the Age of the Digital." *Nizhal*, 49 (June-August, 2015) pp. 42-47.
- ï "An Incident at Owl Creek Bridge." *Vimbam 8th International Tamil Short Film Festival Brochure*, July 2015, Eastham, London: Vimbam; pp. 7-14.
- ï "Pulampeyar Cinema/Cinema of the diaspora." *FeTNA Anniversary Issue*. San Francisco:Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America, July 2015, pp. 128-31.
- ï "Ulaga Aavanappada Karutharangu/Conference on International Documentaries." *Kaalam*, 45 (Dec. 2014), pp. 90-1.
- ï "Arumugam Rudhraiyya: Niraiveratha Kanavu/Arumugam Rudhraiyya: The unrealized dream." *The Hindu* (Tamil), 21 Nov. 2014, <<http://tamil.thehindu.com>>.
- ï "Christine Vachon Ennum Suyatheena Thiraipada Thayarippu Tharagai/Christine Vachon, the preeminent indie cinema producer." *Nizhal*, 46 (Aug. 2014), pp. 61-64.
- ï "Balu Mahendra: Azhaghiyalum Aazhmanamum/Balu Mahendra: Aesthetics and the Subconscious." *Kaalam*, 44 (June 2014), pp. 48-52.
- ï "Thiraikathaiyum Athan Alasalilulla Niravinmaiyyum/Screenplay: Structure and its discontents." *Nizhal*, 45 (Feb. 2014), pp. 33-38.
- ï "Manjil Mukilndha Oviyam/Painting in the Mist." *The Hindu* (Tamil), 14 Feb. 2014, <<http://tamil.thehindu.com>>.
- ï "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>>.
- ï "Cinemakkam/Adaptation and cinema (*Ran*: Akira Kurosawa's adaptation of *King Lear*)." *Padapetti*. 9 (Jan. 2014), pp. 30-35.
- ï "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.
- ï "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.
- ï “Padaththoguppum Azhagiyalum: Sergei Eisensteinai Munvaithu/ Editing and aesthetics: In the context of Sergei Eisenstein.” *Padappetti*, 8 (Oct. 2012), pp. 2-18.
  - ï “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).
  - ï “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.]
  - ï “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.]
  - ï “Godardum Markerum (Godard and Marker).” *Nizhal*, 35 (Oct.-Nov. 2011), pp. 19-23.
  - ï “Yatharthavathigalum Uruvaviyalalargalum/Realists and formalists.” *Nizhal*, 37 (July-Aug. 2011), pp. 43-44.
  - ï “Aavanappadam: Yatharthamum and Yatharthathanmaiyum/ Documentaries: Reality and realism.” *Nizhal*, 36 (Feb.- March 2011), pp. 30-32.
  - ï “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).]
  - ï “Antonioni: Anniyamathalum Aan Pen Uravum/Michelangelo Antonioni: Alienation, men, and women.” *Nizhal*, (Oct./Nov. 2007), pp. 25-27.
  - ï “Ingmar Bergman and Michelangelo Antonioni: Iruttai Punaintha Kavignargal/IngmarBergman and Michelangelo Antonioni: The poets of the dark.” *Uyirmmmai*, 49 (Sept. 2007), pp. 12-22.
  - ï “Arun Mozhiyan Nagulan/Arunmozhi's Nagulan.” *Nizhal*, (July/Aug 2007), p 24.
  - ï “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*.]
  - ï “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*).]
  - ï Lumiere Brothers: “The Cinematograph.” *Kanaiyazhi* (Dec. 2001) pp. 41-42.

### Interviews (by me):

- ï "Interview with (Early Indian Cinema Scholar) Virchand Dharamsey," *Padachurul* (FilmReel), 2 (10), (Feb. 2017), pp. 16-21.
- ï "Interview with Indie Filmmaker Arunmozhi," *Padachurul* (Film Reel), 2 (9), (Jan. 2017), pp. 6-19.
- ï "Naerkaanal 'Chezhian: Enathu Asiriyargal'/Interview with Chezhian: My Mentors." *Kaatchipizhai* 2 (6), May 2014, pp. 20-35.
- ï "Naerkaanal Chezhian: Cinamavum Azhagiyalum/Interview with Chezhian: Cinema and Aesthetics." *Kaatchipizhai* 2 (4), March 2014, pp. 6-15.

- ï "P.N. Sundaram Naerkaanal Santhippu - Swarnavel/P. N. Sundaram's interview by Velippadugiraan/The one who is unaware of the history is an incomplete artist." *Kaatchippizhai* 1 (2), Feb. 2013, pp. 36-41.
- ï --- "Interview Part 2: Tamil Cinemavai Pathiththa Hollywoodkarargal/ Tamil cinema and the Hollywood influence." *Kaatchippizhai* 1 (3), March 2013, pp. 52-57.
- ï --- "Interview Part 3: Cinema Suniyathilo Vetridathilo Uruvagak Koodiya Ondralla/Cinema does not originate in a void." *Kaatchippizhai* 1 (4) April 2013, pp. 26- 31.
- ï --- "Interview Part 4: Back Projection." *Kaatchippizhai* 1 (5) May 2013, pp. 18-23.
- ï --- "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:

- ï Janakiramanin Padaippugal Patriya Katturaigal/Essays on Janakiraman's Creative Universe, "Vanthum (Thiraikku) Varaatha Amma (The Mother Who Did Not Arrive)," Janairamam: Thi. Janakiramanin Padaippugal Patriya Katturaigal/Essays on Janakiraman's Creative Universe, Ed. Kalyanaraman. Nagerkoil: Kalachuvadu Publications, (April 2021), pp. 262-270. An invited essay on Tamil's preeminent writer T. Janakiraman's works—an important (scholarly) anthology published as a part of his centennial celebrations.
- ï "Aninthurai/Foreword," Jeeva Ponnuchamy. *Padathoguppu: Kalaiyum Azhagiyalum/Film Editing: Art and Aesthetics.* Chennai: Nizhal Pathiyam Film Academy, (Oct. 2018), pp. 11-15.
- ï "Aninthurai/Foreword," Kalaiselvan. *Kathai, Thiraikkathai, Iyakkam/Story, Screenplay, Direction.* Chennai: Nizhal Pathiyam Film Academy, (Dec. 2017), pp. 3-8.
- ï "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.
- ï "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.
- ï "Foreword - Cinema: Porukku Pinthaya Nizhakkatchi/Cinema: Landscape after the battle." In Rathan. *Ethir Cinema/Counter Cinema.* Chennai: Kalachuvadu Publications, Dec. 2014, pp. 11-21.
- ï "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.
- ï "Afterword: Ezhuthenba... Lacaniya Paarvayil Devibharathiyin Kathaigal/On writing... Devibharathi's narratives through a Lacanian lens." *Veedenba...* Chennai: Kalachuvadu Publications, 2014, pp. 195-206.
- ï "Devathaigal Mattrum Piran: Yatharthamum Meelalippum/ Goddesses and Other(s): Reality and Representation." In Sripathi Padmanabha ed. *Devathaigal: Screenplay by Leena Manimekhalai.* Chennai: Kanavu Pattarai, 2013, pp. 45 -60.
- ï "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:

- ï Theodore S. Baskaran. Tamil Cinema Reviews: 1931-1960. *The Hindu (Tamil)*, 11 Sept. 2020.
- ï Hrishikesh Ingle, “Book Review: Madras Studios: Narrative, Genre, and Ideology in Tamil Cinema,” *BioScope: South Asian Screen Studies*, 9 (1) [June 2018], pp.110-113.
- ï Archana. “Madras Studios - A Review.” *MCPH Film Club- The Journal*, 1 (2), (Nov. 2017),  
ï <<http://mcphfilmclub.org/madras-studios-review/>>.
- ï Amshan Kumar. “Kotpadugal Vayilaga Cinema Aayvugal/ Theoretical analyses of cinema.” *Kalachuvadu*, 1 7 0 (Feb. 2014), <<http://www.kalachuvadu.com/issue-170.htm>>.
- ï Devakanthan. Nool Mathippurai Cinema: Sattagamum Salaralum/ Book Review of Cinema: Frame and a Window.” *Nizhal*, 44 (Nov. 2013), pp. 55-8.
- ï S. Theodore Baskaran. “Cinema: Azagiyalum Aayvum/ Cinema: Aesthetics and research.” *Uyirmai*, June 2013,  
ï <<http://www.uyirmai.com/ContentDetails.aspx?cid=6250>>.

#### Reviews of Creative Works:

- ï Louise Cainkar, “Migrations of Islam: Muslim American Voices in the 21st Century,” *Journal of Muslim Studies*, 1 (1) (May 2016), pp 92-95.
- ï 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):

- ï Gouthami, “Nam Virundhinar/Our Guest,” Interview, *Pothigai Channel*, Doordarshan, [The equivalent of Indian PBS], 28 Dec. 2018. “Nam Virundhinar 28-12-2018,” *Youtube.com*, 28 Dec. 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50pE58MDIXY>
- ï Vedyappan. “Ayal Cinema Enpathu Oru Azhagiyal Kuriyeedu: Iyakkunar Swarnavel/Other Cinema Signifies a Difference in Aesthetics: Director Swarnavel,” *AyalCinema*, 6 (January 2018), pp. 54-66.
- ï Lama, Saro. “Aavanappadangalthaan Oru Padiappalikkaana Suthanthirathai Vazhanga Mudiyyum: Aavappada Iyakkunar Swarnavel Naerkaanal/Documentaries Offer the Freedom for Artists: Documentarian Swarnavel,” *Andhimazhai/Twilight Rain*, 21 Nov. 2017.  
<http://andhimazhai.com/news/view/documentary-filmmaker-swarnavel-22112017.html>
- ï Express News Service. “He Does Justice to Celluloid.” *The New Indian Express*, 13 Sept. 2017. <http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2017/sep/13/he-does-justice-to-celluloid-1656780.html>
- ï Jayanthan, R.C. “Aavanappadame Migachchirantha Oodagam/Documentary is an Affective Medium.” *Tamil Hindu*, 18 Aug. 2017.  
<http://tamil.thehindu.com/cinema/cinema-others/article19509879.ece>
- ï Swarnavel/Balu Mahendra's Women Dress Up for Men.” *Thaiveedu* (Sept. 2015), pp. 86- 89.

- ï 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>>.
- ï N. Vinoth Kumar. "Documenting the Black Movement." *The New Indian Express*, 25 July 2013, <[www.newindianexpress.com](http://www.newindianexpress.com)>.
- ï Kadarkarai. "Interview: Swarnavel," *Theeranadhi*, 6.3 (Aug. 2007), pp. 6-16.
- ï Chandralekha, "First Person: Cinema was a Means to Interpret His Childhood Fantasies." *The Hindu* (Downtown), 18 March 2007, p 9.
- ï P. Thirunavukkarasu, "Chris Markarey Enathu Adarsham (Chris Marker is my ideal): Aavanappada Iyakkunar Swarnavel (Documentary Filmmaker Swarnavel)." *Sollappadatha Cinema* (Lesser-known Cinema), Chennai: *Nizhal*, 2004: pp. 180-197.
- ï S. Ramakrishnan. Interview: Swarnavel. *Atcharam*, Sept./Nov. 2001.
- ï M. Senthil Kumar. "Kanneeraal Neitha Padam/I.N.A.: A poignant film." *Ananda Vikatan*, 73 (28), (12 July 1998), pp. 134-135.
- ï Vanithan. "Celluloidil Oru Kanneer Kathai/I.N.A.: A poignant story on celluloid." *Tamil Arasi* 7 (17), (9 Aug. 1998), pp. 58-60.
- ï K.N. Baalu. "Asaththiya I.N.A./Amazing I.N.A." *Kalki*, 57 (11), (18 Oct. 1998), pp. 33-34.

### Research Grants:

- ï Harp Production Award. April 2021. \$ 7000.
- ï Koo Endowment, Michigan State University. Spring 2021. \$ 5000.
- ï Department of Culture and Creative Arts [The Education University of Hong Kong], "Knowledge Transfer Through Short Film Production: Research on Silence and Mindfulness," 15 May 2018. \$ 1700.
- ï 2017 CAL Faculty Summer Fellowship. "Tamil Horror Films: Digital Image and Subversion." 30 Nov. 2016. \$ 11,910.
- ï CAL URI (Undergraduate Research Initiative) Funds. Research for Film Collective. 20 Oct. 2016. \$ 500.
- ï 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.]
- ï 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.]
- ï Koo Endowment, Michigan State University, Fall 2014. \$ 5000.
- ï Humanities Without Walls Consortium, (Co-PI). The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Fall 2014. \$ 30,000.
- ï Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Activities, (Co-PI). Michigan State University, 2014/15. \$ 7500.
- ï Koo Endowment, Michigan State University, Spring 2014, \$5000.
- ï American Institute of Indian Studies Fellowship, Waitlisted for the Year 2012/13.
- ï T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Grant, University of Iowa, Spring

2006. \$ 5000.

- ï Crossing Borders Fellow, University of Iowa, 2005-2008.

### **Teaching Awards:**

- ï Recipient of the Prestigious Teacher-Scholar Award (February 2017).
- ï Nominated for ASMSU (Associated Students of Michigan State University), Senior Class Council's, Spring 2015 Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award (Spring 2015).
- ï Nominated for College and Arts and Letter's Teacher-Scholar Award (2015).

### **Significant Awards/Accolades for My Students:**

- ï Curated students films as part of the 23rd Madurai International Documentary and Short Film Festival, Madurai, India on 10 Dec. 2021. The films included works of students from Brooklyn College, University of Southern California, and Michigan State University. The screenings were in person and it was well attended. The focus was on race, environment, displacement, and sexual orientation. The Madurai Festival is the longest running and the largest festival for documentaries and short films in India.
- ï *What Happened to Henry* (Dir. Andrew Acchiaioli, 2020). Won the prestigious NATAS(The National Academy of Television Art and Sciences, Michigan Chapter Award for the Best Student Film. **‘What Happened to Henry?’** on the disappearance of Henry Baltimore, the first African American drum major in Michigan State Spartan Marching Band, who disappeared in 1973.  
<https://www.messagemakers.com/2020/05/12/what-happened-to-henry-wins-student-production-award/> Andrew’s film is topical and heartfelt, and he was in three of my classes.
- ï *Composing Our Stories* (Dir. Zoe Kissel, 2017), Accolade Global Film Competition - Award of Recognition for Documentary Short (Student), *Impact Docs Awards*, August 2017. Zoe Kissel made the documentary as a project for the Introduction to Documentary Production class (MI 311, Spring 2017), and later worked on a longer version during the summer.
- ï *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.
- ï 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>>
- ï *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:**

- ï Media History (DS 103)

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

**Study Abroad:**

Film in Britain (2013 and 2015)

**Ph.D. Dissertation Committees:**

**Advisor:**

- ï Amrutha Kunapulli, "Situating Tamil Cinema," (Successfully Defended, 4 March 2021)

**Committee Member:**

- ï Amit Sharma, "Exploration of Children's Experience of Joyful Learning Through (Math) Toys." (Fall 2020 Onward)
- ï Kaustav Mukherjee, "Chasing Ghosts and Making History: Ghosh, Tagore, and Postcolonial India," (Defended, Summer 2014).
- ï Rituparna Mitra, "States of Affect: Trauma in Partition/Post-Partition South Asia," (Defended, Spring 2015).
- ï Kirk Faith, "Troubled Vision: Tracing the Visual Protocols of 20th Century Ethnographic Travelogue Writing and Film," (Projected Defense, Fall 2015).

**External Examiner/Adjudicator:**

- ï Lili Kumari Padhy, "Effectiveness of Activity Based Learning Strategies in English Language Teaching: A Case Study in Government Elementary Schools in Odisha," KIIT, Odisha, India, Nov. 2019.
- ï Anoop Kumar, "Mutual Shaping of Digital Media Technologies and Journalism: Emergent Journalistic Practices in Indian Newsrooms," School of Media and Mass Communication, Pondicherry University, India, March 2019.

**Academic Service:**

**Department of English:**

- ï Equity and Justice Committee (Fall 2020; Spring 2021; Fall 2021; Spring 2022)
- ï Policy Committee (Spring 2020)
- ï Curriculum Committee for B.A. in Film Studies (Spring 2014; Fall 2014)
- ï Policy Committee (2013/2014/Fall 2019)
- ï Salary Committee (Spring 2013, Spring 2017)
- ï Film Studies Committee (2012/2013/2014/2015/2016/2018/2019)
- ï Creative Writing Committee (2012/2013/2014/2015/2016/2018/2019)
- ï Member of Search Committee for Film Specialist (Spring, Summer 2012)
- ï Member of Search Committee for the Director of Film Studies (Spring, Summer 2012)
- ï Search Committee for Department Chair (Summer 2012)

- ï Crossing Borders Education (China Documentary) Committee (Fall 2011)
- ï Undergraduate Creative Writing Award Committee (Spring 2011/2012/2013/2014/2015/2016/2017/2019/2020)
- ï Film Studies Curriculum Committee (Fall 2011)
- ï Graduate Studies Committee (2010/2011; 2011/2012, 2016/2017)
- ï Speakers Committee (2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2016/2017)
- ï Study Abroad Committee (2009/2010)

**The School of Journalism:**

- ï Syllabus (Core Course DS) Committee (Fall 2021 & Spring 2022)
- ï Curriculum Committee for Digital Story Telling (Spring & Fall 2020: Spring 2021)
- ï Curriculum Committee for B.A. in Cinematic Arts/Film Production (2014/2015/2016, 2018/2019)
- ï Sandbox Committee (2011/ 2012/2013/2014/2015/2016/2018/2019)
- ï M.A. Curriculum Revision Committee (2015/2016; 2016/2017)

**College of Arts and Letters:**

- ï Digital Humanities Learning Committee (2012/2013)
- ï Consultant for CAL Fiftieth Anniversary Video (2011/2012)
- ï Committee for Transmedia Graduate Studies (Fall 2011)

**Advisory Council:**

- ï Asian Studies Center Advisory Council Member (Two Years: Fall 2020 to Spring 2022)

**Editorial and Peer Review Work:**

- ï Member Advisory Board, *Centennial Review* (2012 to the present)
- ï Member Advisory Board, *Padachchurul/Film Reel*, Tamil Cinema Journal (2015 to the present)
- ï Editorial Board, *Studies in South Asian Film and Media* (2020 to the present)
- ï Reviewer, Book Proposal, Routledge (2015, 2020)
- ï Reviewer, *Studies in South Asian Films and Media*, Intellect (2016/2017/2018/2020)
- ï Reviewer, Focal Press (2013, 2019)
- ï Reviewer, Postcolonial Studies (2019)
- ï Reviewer, *South Asian Popular Culture*, Routledge (2014/2015/2016/2018)
- ï Reviewer, Open Library of the Humanities (2018)
- ï Reviewer, Book Proposal, Sage Publications (2014, 2015)
- ï Reviewer Book Proposal, Oxford University Press (2013, 2014, 2016)

**Outreach and Engagement:**

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

- ï “My Journey as a Filmmaker: Challenges as Opportunities.” Interaction with the Students of Balu Mahendra Film School and Library, Sri Lanka. Online. 8 Oct. 2021.
- ï “Tamil Cinema: Heteropatriarchy and Women.” Webinar Series 21: Vasantham Wellness Center (Working for the Mental Health of the Tamils), Toronto, Canada. 19 July 2021.
- ï “Discussion: Maadathy.” On Caste, Women, and Cinema. Nizhal Pathiyam Academy Series, Chennai. 4 July 2021.
- ï “Representation of Transgressive Women.” T. Jankiraman: Centennial Discussion. Ilakkiyaveli, Toronto, Canada. 28 June 2021.
- ï “Portrait of Women in South Asian Cinema: Kattumaram.” Screening and Discussion.

- Fundraiser for SAWA (South Asian Women's Association, Greater Lansing Area, Michigan) 2 May 2021.
- ï Respondent to the Screening of the Documentary, *Dark Forest in the Mountains*, on the forced displacement/genocide of Armenians. Directed by Roger Kupelain. 2 Dec. 2020.
  - ï Moderating Discussion with Young/Graduate Diasporic Film Directors on “Cinema, Post COVID,” Thamizh Studio, 11 October 2020.
  - ï Speaker on the Celebration Event of Tamil’s preeminent writer Ki. Ra’s (Ki. Rajanarayanan’s) 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday, 15 Sept. 2020.
  - ï Talk on “The Film Festival Space,” Nizhal Pathiyam Film Academy, 18 July 2020.
  - ï Workshop on Screenplay for the students of Padimai, Chennai. Padimai is a free (no-fees) film school for diverse students across demographics. 20 April 2020.
  - ï Respondent to the Screening of the Documentary, *Matangi Maya M.I.A.* on the life and times of the iconic Sri Lankan Tamil singer of the diaspora, M.I.A. 6 Feb. 2019.
  - ï Organized Musician and Musicologist Divakar Subramaniam’s Presentation on the Centrality of Music in Indian Cinema, Asian Studies Center, MSU, 28 Jan. 2019.
  - ï “Introduction to African-American Cinema: History, Aesthetics, and Politics,” Koogai Film Society, Valasarawakkam, Chennai, 23 Dec. 2018. Spoke to a large and discerning audience about the parallels between racial and casteist oppression of the African-Americans and the Dalits in India.
  - ï Conducted a day long workshop on screenwriting for raising funds the Independent Film Festival of Chennai, a festival which focuses on filmmakers on the fringes and topics that are excluded by the mainstream, Pure Cinema Hall, 22 Dec. 2018.
  - ï Guest of Honor at the Book Release Function, Jeeva Ponnuchamy’s *Padathoguppu: Kalaiyum Azhagiyalum/Film Editing: Art and Aesthetics*, Le Magic Lantern and Lissy Lakshmi Studios, Chennai, 16 Oct. 2018.
  - ï Organized Prof. Anupama Kapse’s guest lecture on “Shanta Apte and the Aesthetics of Anger,” Wells Hall, MSU, 5 Oct. 2018.
  - ï "Swarnavel Eswaran Retrospective" - a retrospective of six of my documentaries, with an introduction and Q and A facilitated by me, was organized by the Documentarian/Curator Amudhan Pushpam Ramalingam, Marupakkam, and Periyar Self-Respect Media at Periyar Thidal, Chennai. (23 December 2017).
  - ï "Retrospective: Swarnavel Eswaran's Documentaries," organized by Tamil Studio, at Pure Cinema Screening Hall, at Vadapalani, in Chennai. These public screenings were part of the events leading to the award conferred on me. (14 August 2017). The screenings of my documentaries also took place in cities like Madurai and Coimbatore, and in villages nearby, through the film societies, during the second week of August 2017.
  - ï *The Tamil Studio Lifetime Achievement Award/Editor Lenin Award* (15 August 2017). This was a huge public event attended by more than 700 people including filmmakers, documentarians, and students. The award was conferred on me by the internationally renowned director Adoor Gopalakrishnan, in the presence of iconic cinematographers P.C. Sriram and Chezhiyan, the legendary painter Marudu Trotsky, and the preeminent contemporary Tamil cinema director Mysskin, the award-winning documentarian Amshan Kumar, and the pioneer of Tamil cinema studies, Prof. Venkatesh Chakravarthy.
  - ï Screening and Discussion of *Migrations of Islam*, S 107 South Kedzie, MSU, 29 March 2017.
  - ï "Dravidian Movement and Cinema," Organized and curated the daylong (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) event at 302 International Center. There were three sessions of screenings and

discussion which included segments from canonical Tamil films like *Parasakthi*, *Velaikkari*, *Nam Naadu*, and *Anna Mittakai*. The event was organized on the passing away of the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Ms. Jayalalitha. 15 Dec. 2016.

- ï Film Collective: *Borders and Blurs* (Fall 2016). Organized and facilitated the q and a for the 13 films screened on behalf of the MSU Film Collective for students, scholars, and the larger Lansing community at B 122 Wells Hall on Thursdays from 7 p.m. onward. Fall Semester. 8 Sept. 2016 to 8 Dec. 2016.
- ï Respondent, *For the Love of a Man* (Dir. Prof. Joyojeet Pal, 2016), a documentary on Tamil superstar Rajinikanth, South Asian Studies Program, the University of Michigan, 14 Oct. 2016.
- ï *Nagapattinam: Waves from the Deep* (2016), Chicago Tamil Forum, the University of Chicago, 20 May 2016.
- ï Prof. Venkatesh Chakravarthy: "Representation and the Reformist Vision in the Context of *Madras* (2014)." Organizer of the event, 302/303 International Center. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 11 April 2016.
- ï Documentarian Nakul Sawhney: *Muzzafarnagar Baaqi Hai/Muzzafarnagar Eventually ...* (dur. 136 min., 2015). Organizer of the screening and discussions at 303 International Center at 6 p.m. 4 April 2016.
- ï 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).
- ï 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*.
- ï 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).
- ï 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*.
- ï 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).
- ï "Figuring the Nation: Indian Cinema 1950s to the Present," Co-organizer with Prof. Jytsna 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**

- ï *Devdas* (2002), Fall 2009.

#### **Film Collective Screenings: Introduction and Post-Screening Discussions**

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

### **Korean Month Film Events: Introduction and Post-Screening Discussions**

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

### **Japanese Month Film Events: Introduction and Post-Screening Discussions**

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

### **Public Library Screening: Introduction and Post-Screening Discussions**

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

### **Jury Member/ Advisor/Workshops:**

- ï Jury Member. Ottawa Indian Film Festival, Canada. 22-26 June 2021.
- ï Jury Member. Nepal International Film Festival. Nepal. 6-10 May 2021.ï Jury Member. *Children's Film Competition on COVID Awareness*. San Francisco Bay Area Tamil Mantram, California. June-July 2020.
- ï Advisor, Nizhal-Koogai Festival for Alternative Films, Koogai Film Society, Valasaravakkam, Chennai, (20 & 21 December 2019).
- ï Koogai Workshop on Screenwriting, Koogai Film Society, Valasaravakkam, Chennai, (19 & 20 August 2019).
- ï Member of the Jury, Short Film Competition held by FETNA 2019 (Federation of Tamils in North America, Schaumburg Convention Center, IL, 4 - 7 July 2019).
- ï Member of the Jury, Sri Lankan Tamil Short Screenplay Competition organized by Kakkachiraginile Publications (Chennai) and Mukunthan Kandiah Mukilan (Paris), in honor of writer K.P. Aravindan (Awards announced on 31 Jan. 2019).
- ï Member of the Jury, Ooty Film Festival 2017, Ooty, Tamilnadu, India, 9-12 Nov. 2017.
- ï Chairperson of the Jury, Vimbam Tamil Short Film Festival, Ninth Edition (Trinity Center, East Ham, London, 17 June 2017).
- ï Member of the Jury, Short Film Competition held by FETNA 2017 (Federation of Tamils in North America, Minneapolis Convention Center, Minnesota, 30 June - 3 July 2017).
- ï Member of the Jury, Short Film Competition held by FETNA 2016 (Federation of Tamils in North America, New Jersey, 1-4 July 2016).
- ï Chairperson of the Jury, Vimbam Tamil Short Film Festival, Eighth Edition (Trinity Center, East Ham, London, 18 July 2015).
- ï Member of the Jury, Short Film Competition held by FETNA 2015 (Federation of Tamils in North America, San Jose, California, 4 July 2015).
- ï Chairperson of the Jury, Short Film Competition held by FETNA 2014 (Federation of Tamils in North America, St.Louis, Missouri, 3-5 July 2014).
- ï Scriptwriting workshop for Independent Art Film Society of Toronto at Scarborough, Canada, 14 July 2015.
- ï Guest Speaker, Nizhal's Documentary and Short Film Workshop, Pondicherry, 30 Dec. 2014.
- ï Workshop on short film writing and production at FETNA, St. Louis, MO, USA on 5 July 2014.
- ï Scriptwriting workshop for Independent Art Film Society of Toronto at Scarborough, Canada on 31 Aug. 2013.
- ï Chairperson of the jury of the award committee for the short film competition at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu, South India, 19 - 21 June 2013.
- ï Member of the jury for the competition held by the Documentary and Short-film Creators Association of Tamilnadu in Nov. 2007.



- ï Member of the jury, *Nizhal* Short Film Festival, Chennai, April 2007.
- ï 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:**

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

**Other Projects and Experience:**

- ï *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.
- ï 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.
- ï 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.
- ï Jan. - Dec. 2005- As part of my production course, I directed and edited the experimental short/documentary *Hawkhidees*.
- ï 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.
- ï Jan. - Dec. 2001: Directed five episodes (each 40 min.) for the reputed television production house Minbimbangal in Tamil: “Kal Mulaiytha Aasai,” (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.”
- ï 2000: Directed the training film for the automobile manufacturer Ashok Leyland: *Namakkal Driving Institute* on safe driving practices.
- ï Jan. 1999 - Dec. 2000: Worked as the creative advisor in Vikatan Televistas.
- ï 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.
- ï Jan. 1994 - Dec. 95: Shot *Pothigai Malai* telecast in Rai-3, the Italian channel, in Hi8 format. Collaborated with Iliaria 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*.
- ï 1981-1993: Worked in Bombay on several advertising and corporate films, and television serials, besides directing significant documentaries in the low-band video format. My documentaries *The Copper River* (on the river Tamirabharani 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.