

SRILATA RAMAN  
Curriculum Vitae

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Department for the Study of Religion  
Toronto, Ontario University of Toronto  
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**Degrees**

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|------|---|
| 1998 | Ph.D. in Indology, University of Tübingen,<br>Germany<br>(Dissertation Title: “Self-surrender to God<br>in Śrīvaṣṇavism,” Advisors: Friedhelm<br>Hardy, Heinrich von Stietencron)   |
| 1988 | M.Phil in Classical Indian Religions,<br>Oxford University, UK<br>(Dissertation Title: “The Vaṭakalai and<br>Teṅkalai Dispute in Śrīvaiṣṇavism with<br>reference to Bhagavadgītā 18.66,” Advisor:<br>Professor G. J. S. Alexis Sanderson) |
| 1985 | B.A. Honours in English Literature,<br>University of Delhi, India   |

## Employment

2013 July – present	Associate Professor of Hinduism, University of Toronto
2008 July – 2013 July	Assistant Professor for Hinduism, University of Toronto
2006 Sept – 2008 June	Assistant Professor for Hindu Studies, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan
2006 Nov – 2007 Sept.	Maternity Leave
2005 February	Offered Lecturer in Sanskrit (tenured) at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and declined
2002-2006	Tenured Faculty and Research Fellow (Wissenschaftliche Angestellte für Besondere Aufgaben) at the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany  Head of Sub-Project on “The Temple Rituals of Kāñcīpuram”, in the Heidelberg Collaborative Research Centre – The Dynamics of Rituals
1998-2001	Lecturer in Classical Indology and Research Fellow at the Department of Classical Indology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany

## ACADEMIC HISTORY

### Research Endeavours

Sanskrit and Tamil intellectual formations in South India  
From pre-colonial times to modernity  
Modern Hinduism  
Colonial Sainthood  
Hagiography and Historiography  
Modern Tamil literature

### Research Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

2014-2015	<i>Shivdasani Fellowship</i> at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, UK (pending)
2008-2010	<i>Connaught Start-Up Research Grant</i> , University of Toronto
2006	Research Grant for New Faculty at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2001-2003	<i>German Research Foundation Grant (DFG)</i> for project on “The Life and Works of Ramalinga Swami”.
1993-1995	<i>Doctoral stipend from the state government, the Landesgraduiertenförderung des Landes Baden-Württemberg</i> , Germany
1988-1989	<i>Boden Sanskrit Scholarship</i> , Oxford University, UK
1986-1988	<i>Charles Wallace/Edward Boyle Memorial</i>

- Scholarship*, Oxford University, UK  
Overseas Student Research Scholarship, Oxford University, UK
- 1985 Shortlisted for the *Rhodes Scholarships*, India
- 1985 *Lady Shriram Prize for Outstanding Student*, B.A. Honours in English Literature, Lady Shriram College, University of Delhi, India  
*Lady Shriram Prize for Academic Excellence*, B.A. Honours in English Literature, Lady Shriram College, University of Delhi, India  
*Annual University Scholarship* for standing first in B.A. Honours in English Literature, University of Delhi, India
- 1983-85 *Annual University Scholarship* for standing first in B.A. Honours in English Literature, University of Delhi, India

## SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

### Refereed Publications

#### Single Authored Books

2007. *Self-Surrender (Prapatti) to God in Śrīvaiṣṇavism. Tamil Cats and Sanskrit Monkeys*. Routledge Hindu Studies Series. Series Editor: Gavin Flood. Routledge: London and New York.

#### Edited Volumes

- 2005 *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia*. Jörg Gengnagel, Ute Hüsken and Srilata Raman (eds.). Vienna: Harrassowitz Verlag.

## Journal Articles

2014. Justifying Filicide. Ramalinga Swamigal, the Periyapurāṇam and Tamil Religious Modernity. *International Journal of Hindu Studies*. 18.1.33-66.
2013. The Spaces Inbetween. Ramalinga Swamigal (1823-1874), Hunger, and Religion in Colonial India. *History of Religions* 53.1.1-27.
2011. Tamil, Vaidika and Vaiṣṇava. Kuruṣṇacuvāmi Aiyāṅkāṅ, Irāmānuja Tātācāriyār and Modern Tamil Literary History. *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 39:647-676
- 2011 "Religion", Religious Identity and the Frustrations of Modernity. In Review Symposium of "Religion and the Spectre of the West" by Arvind-Pal S. Mandair, 2010 . Columbia University Press. *Religions of South Asia*, 4.2.213-219.
2004. Departure and Prophecy. The Disappearance of Irāmaliṅka Aṭṭikal in the Early Narratives of his life. *Indologica Taurenensia*. XXVIII.119-135.
2004. Soteriology in Rāmānuja: Bhakti or Prapatti? *ZDMG*.154.1.85-129.

## Refereed Book Chapters

2012. (Accepted for Publication. 2013-2014).  
Tamil Vaiṣṇavas, The Vedas and the Demands of Modernity. In Vasudha Dalmia and Martin Fuchs (eds.), *Multiplicities and Monoliths. Religious Transformation in India, 1800-2000*. Oxford University Press. 29 pages.
2009. Who are the Velalas? Twentieth century Constructions and

- Contestations of Tamil Identity in Maramalai Adigal (1876-1950),  
In Kelly Pemberton and Michael Nijhawan (Eds.), *Shared Idioms, Sacred Symbols, and the Articulation of Identities in South Asia*.  
Routledge. 78-95.
2009. The Tale of the Righteous King. King Maṇu in Ramalinga Adigal.  
In N. Kannan and Jennifer Clare (eds.), *Passages: relationships between Tamil and Sanskrit*. Pondicherry/Berkeley: All India Press. 237-250.
2007. Initiation and Conversion in Medieval South India.  
Pañcasamskāra as Historical Practice in the Śrīvaiṣṇava Hagiographical Literature. In Gerhard Oberhammer and Marion Rastelli (Eds.), *The Relationship between Viśiṣṭādvaita and Pāñcarātra*. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences. 263-286.
1998. The Face Behind the Mask: Ambai on Women. In Vasudha Dalmia and Theo Damsteegt (Eds.), *Narrative Strategies. Essays on South Asian Literature and Film*. Leiden CNWS Publications. 110-122.

### Works in Progress

*The Transformation of Tamil Religion. Ramalinga Swamigal and Modern Dravidian Sainthood*. (Target release 2015.) 250-300 pages. Accepted for publication with Routledge.

Kampan's Irāmāvatāram: War, Part One. Translation and Annotation for the *Murty Classical Library of India Series*, Chief Editor: Sheldon Pollock. Harvard: Harvard University Press. (Target release January 2015)

"Medieval Tamil Literature" In the *Oxford Handbook on Hindu Literature* edited by W.J. Johnson and James Hegarty. (Target release December 2014)

## Non-Refereed Publications

### Articles

2005. Samāśrayaṇa as Ritual and Non-Ritual in Śrīvaiṣṇavism. In Jörg Genganagel, Ute Hüsken and Srilata Raman (Eds.), *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia*. Vienna:Harrasowitz. 91-114.
2004. Tiruvayppadi: The Tamil Gokula in Vaishnavite Devotional Literature. In Harsha Dehejia (ed), *The Romantic Heroine (Nayika) in the Indian Arts*. New Delhi: Roli Books. 266-273.
2000. Antiquity and Sacred Writing: Tamil Literary Histories in the Late-19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. *Kolam*. University of Cologne Internet Publications. 8-22.

### Reviews

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

### Encyclopedia Entries

- 2013 Śrīvaiṣṇavism. In *Oxford Bibliographies Online*. (Under Contract)
2005. Vaiṣṇavism. An Overview [Further Considerations]. In Lindsay Jones (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Religions*. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA. 10088-89.

## Invited Lectures

- 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014. South Asia Seminar Series, University of Pennsylvania. Lecture Title: *The Evasive Guru and the Errant Wife. Anti-Hagiography and Anxiety in Colonial South India*. 45-50 minutes.
- 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Tamil Worlds Initiative, University of Toronto at Scarborough. Lecture title: “*Religious Difference and the Making of the Modern “Tamil-Hindu”*”. 45 minutes.
- 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013. South Asia Seminar Series, University of Chicago. Lecture title: *Anti-Hagiography and Public Controversy in Colonial South India*. 45-50 minutes.
- September 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 *Vaitika vaṇava caṅka illakiyamā? Kirusṇacuvāmi Aiyānkārum Tamil Illakiya Varalārum*. Tamil Lecture delivered at the National University of Singapore, Singapore.
- August 2013. *Śaiva Polemics in 19<sup>th</sup> century India. The Public Sphere and the Formation of Religion*. Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, India.
- April 2011. *Bhakti Excesses in Tamil Vaiṣṇavism* . Public Lecture, Roja Muthaiah Research Centre, Chennai, India.
- 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Tamil Modernity and the encounter with Christianity. *Symposium on Convening the interreligious theological conversation: the Hindu-Christian case*. Harvard University.
- November 16<sup>th</sup> 2009. *Hunger and Prophecy. Ramalinga Adigal and Religion in Early Colonial India*. Public Lecture at the *Centre for Modern Indian Studies*, University of Göttingen Germany.



- April 8<sup>th</sup> 2009. *Theorizing Vernacularization. Medieval Tamil Literature and the Issue of Maṇipravāḷam*. Public Lecture, Yale University.
- 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2009. *Questioning the Paradigm of Socio-Religious Reform, Colonialism and the Native on South Asia*. Public Lecture, Hindu Studies Colloquium, Harvard University.
- 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2009. *Death comes not to a Stranger. Conceptions of Death in colonial Tamil literature*. University of Austin, Texas.
- January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. *Departure and Prophecy. Ramalinga Adigal, Theosophy and the New World Order*. Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Toronto.
- November 2006. *Death, Dying and Apocalyptic Visions in the Writings of Ramalinga Adigal*. Talk given at the Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan.

### **Papers presented at Meetings, Symposia and Workshops**

- October 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2012. How to be a Vaidika Vaiṣṇava: Vedānta Deśika's Saccharitrarakṣā. In *Intramural and Extramural Perspectives on Vedānta Deśika*. Double Panel at the Madison Conference on South Asia organized by Whitney Cox (SOAS), Larry McCrea (Cornell) and Yigal Bronner (Chicago).
- 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Tamil, Vaidika and Vaiṣṇava: Krishnaswami Iyengar and the Brahmin in the Shadows of Dravidian Modernity. Talk in *Conference on Modernity, Diversity and the Public Sphere: Negotiating Religious Identities in 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century India*. 23-25<sup>th</sup> September, Erfurt, Germany.

- October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009. The Righteous King in Cōḷa literature. Paper presented at the *Panel in Honour of James Heitzmann*. Modern South Asia Conference, University of Madison, Wisconsin.
- May 2008. Saving the Body, Killing the Soul. Tamil Śaiva Theology between Pre-Colonialism and Colonialism. *Tamil Studies Conference*, Toronto.
- September 2007. *Sanskrit and Tamil at the emergence of neo-Śaiva literature in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century*. Conference of Tamil and Sanskrit. French Institute, Pondicherry, India.
- March 2006. Śiva as ryan, Śiva as Dravidian. Neo-Śaivism and Orientalism in 19<sup>th</sup> century South India. *Buddhism and Orientalism Conference*, University of Toronto.
- July 23-26 2003 The Bhakta as Social Reformer: The Nantānār caritirakīrtanai of Kōpālakiruṣṇa Pāratiyār. In the 9<sup>th</sup> *International Bhakti Conference*, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

### **Panels and Lectures Organized and Co-Chaired**

- May 17<sup>th</sup> 2014 Chair of Panel, "Belonging to the Divine". Eight Tamil Studies Conference, University of Toronto
- May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. Religion and its Discontents. Special South Asia Roundtable at the Arab Studies Conference, UC Davis, California.  
Paper titled: Tamilizing the Passion of Christ: Early Colonial South India and the Encounter with Christianity.
- November 6<sup>th</sup> 2013 The Many Languages of Hobson-Jobson. Lecture by Prof. Kate Teltscher (Roehampton University, London) in the *Jackman Humanities Thematic Lecture Series on Translation and the Multiplicity of Languages*.

Organized and Chaired by Srilata Raman.

October 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2013

Spaces of Utopia out of South Asia Part I and II. A double panel jointly organized with Smriti Srinivas (UC Davis) at the *Annual Conference on South Asia, Wisconsin, Madison*.

October 18<sup>th</sup> 2013

The Utopic Body of Ramalinga Swamigal. Paper presented at Spaces of Utopia out of South Asia Part I and II. A double panel jointly organized with Smriti Srinivas (UC Davis) at the *Annual Conference on South Asia, Wisconsin, Madison*.

May 15<sup>th</sup> 2010

Engaging with Kartigesu Sivathamby's Work. Chair and Discussant, *Tamil Studies Conference, University of Toronto*

November 8<sup>th</sup> 2009.

Vaiṣṇavism as the only real religion of the Tamils. Paper presented at the Panel co-organized with Katherine Young (McGill University) on *Śrīvaiṣṇava Modernity and the Rhetoric of Reform*. AAR Annual Meeting, Montreal.

### **Working Groups**

2009-2011

Founder and Co-Convener of Hindu Studies Colloquium  
Lecture Series and Discussion Group at the Department of Religion, University of Toronto

2012-2013

Chair of Hindu Studies Reading Group: India and Europe, *An Essay in Understanding* by Wilhelm Halbfass.

2010-2011  
Humanities

Member and Participant in the Jackman

Institute, University of Toronto Working Group: Early Modern Exiles. Gave a talk on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011 on the dynamics of conversion in the context of fluid identities in South Asia.

## Manuscript and Journal Reviewer

2011 – to date Editorial Review Board for SASA (South Asian Studies Association).

2011- to date Peer Reviewer for *International Journal of Hindu Studies*

2008- to date Peer Reviewer for *South India for State University of New York Press (SUNY)*

Peer Reviewer of manuscript of *Colonizing the Realm of Words* by Sascha Ebeling for publication for SUNY Press, March 2008

Peer Reviewer of manuscript *Songs to the Divine Child. The Periyatirumoli of Periyālvār* by Lynn Ate for publication for SUNY Press, November 2009

Peer Reviewer of manuscript *Embodiment of Love in Colonial Kerala: Malayalam Text and Devotional Hermeneutics in the Work of Kumaran āśān* by George Pati for publication for SUNY Press, December 2010

2007 – to date Peer Reviewer for *Journal of the American Oriental Society*

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION AND ACTIVITIES

2011- to date	<i>Fragments. Journal of Pre-Modern Cultures</i> , University of Michigan (First Issue July 2011), Editorial Board Member.
2008-2010	Proceedings of the Annual Tamil Studies Conference of the University of Toronto, (Joint Publication of the French Institute, Pondicherry/Paris and Toronto), Co-editor

2008-to date	Academic Advisory Committee, Tamil Studies Conference, University of Toronto
2011-2012	Advisory Committee Member of Jackman Humanities Working Group “Exiles, Refugees and Diaspora in Early Modernity”, 2011-2012.
2009-2012	Hindu Studies Colloquium, Department of Religion, University of Toronto, Founder, and Co-Convener 2009-2011