

Mahalakshmi Ramakrishnan

Associate Professor

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**Education:**

Ph.D., Ancient Indian History, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, 2006.

*'The Making of the Goddess Korravai-Durgā in the Tamil Religious Tradition, circa AD 600-1300'*.

M. Phil., Ancient Indian History, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, 1995.

*'The Crystallization of the Goddess Korravai-Durgā in Tamilakam, c. 300 BC – AD 900'*

M.A. History (with theme specialization in Socio-economic history), Central University, Hyderabad, 1993.

**Research Interests:**

Evolution of state structures in the early medieval period in south India; Tamil influences in early historic and early medieval Sri Lanka; interrogating gender and patriarchy in early India; growth and transformation of brahmanical religious traditions and institutions in the early medieval period in India; the development of brahmanical and Buddhist art and architecture in South Asia; and tribal histories of South Asia, particularly the Brahmanical/ Buddhist-tribal interactions in the pre-modern period.

**Profile:**

**Employment:**

Jawaharlal Nehru University, Centre for Historical Studies, New Delhi since April, 1999.

**Awards and Honours:**

Prof. Hira Lal Gupta Research Award for outstanding research work [*The Making of the Goddess*, Penguin, 2011] published by an Indian woman Historian, presented by the Indian History Congress, 74<sup>th</sup> session, 2013.

**Collaboration/Consultancy:**

Co-Director with Prof. Vyjyanthi Raghavan, centre for Korean Studies, JNU, and Researcher in the International Project on 'India and Korea: A Comparative Study of Colonialism', funded by the AKS, Korea.

Organized a student field trip with 15 students and one staff member to Sri Lanka from 10<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2012, with financial support from the India-Sri Lanka Foundation.

Member of the History and Civics Course Revision Board, Indian Council for Secondary Education since July, 2011.

**Grants/ Fellowship:**

Indo-Sri Lanka Foundation grant for field study in Sri Lanka, December, 2012.

Indo-Sri Lanka Foundation grant for field study in Sri Lanka, August, 2011.

Departmental Special Assistance programme, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, ASIHSS grant for field-work to Jharkhand, December 2008 – January 2009.

Indo-Sri Lanka Foundation grant for my panel in the 20<sup>th</sup> International Association of Asian Historians Conference, JNU, 14-17 November, 2008.

Indian Council for Historical Research grant to conduct field-work in Sri Lanka in November-December, 2007.

Departmental Special Assistance programme, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, ASIHSS grant for field-work to Chennai and Pondicherry in June-July, 2007.

## **Representative Publications:**

### **Books**

*The Making of the Goddess: Korravai-Durga in the Tamil Traditions*, Penguin India, Delhi, 2011.

*The Book of Lakshmi*, Penguin Viking, Delhi, 2009.

### **Articles**

‘Intimately Bound: Woman and Family in early Tamil History, c. 300 BCE – 1300 CE’, in Saxena, Ashish, ed., *Mapping Marginality and Social Justice*, Rawat Publication, 2013.

‘Introduction to the Life and Work of Ananda Coomaraswamy’, in Coomaraswamy, Ananda, *The Dance of Shiva*, revised edition with a new introduction, Rupa and Co., Delhi, 2013.

‘Accommodating the Goddess: Structural Shrines for Independent Female Deities in Early Medieval Tamilakam, c. 600 – 1300 CE’, in RP Bahuguna et al (eds.), *Negotiating Religion: Perspectives from Indian History*, Manohar, 2012.

‘Benevolent Consort or Dangerous Adversary? The Accommodation of the Goddess in the Hymns of the Tamil Saiva Saint Appar’, *Studies in History*, August 2011, 27: 2, pp. 269-80.

‘Political Economy and Society in India: A Historiographical Survey’, *Asian Research Trends New Series*, Toyo Bunko, 2011, No. 6, pp. 23-50.

‘Ramanujan’s Three Hundred Ramayanas: Transmission, Interpretation and Dialogue in Indian Traditions’, *Mainstream*, XLIX: 49, November 26, 2011, pp. 7-9.

‘Unraveling the Family in Early India: A Historiographical Analysis’, in Suresh Jnanaswaran (ed.), *Historiography: Structure and Practice, Festschrift in Honour of Professor TK Ravindran*, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 2010.

‘Gender Relations in Early India: A Historiographical Analysis’, in Suresh Jnanaswaran et al (eds.), *Historiography: Structure and Practice A Festschrift in Honour of Dr. TK Ravindran*, Suresh Jnanaswaran, 2010.

‘*Carīkam* Literature as a Social Prism’, in BD Chattopadhyaya (ed.), *Social History of India in the First Millenium AD*, ICPR & Pearson, Delhi, 2009, pp. 29-42.

‘Scrutinizing Goddesses, Interrogating Religious Traditions: Some Methodological Issues’, in Journal of Social Sciences- Sri Lanka, Vol. 1, No.1, March 2009.

‘Outside the Norm, Within the Tradition: Kāraikkāl Ammaiṃār and the Ideology of Tamil *Bhakti*’, *Studies in History*, Jan-June 2000, 16:1, pp. 17-40.

## **Courses**

### **Lecture Courses:**

[\*Ancient Society\*](#), MA core course for Ancient, Medieval and Modern history students.

[\*Aspects of Indian Art and Architecture\*](#), M.A. optional lecture course.

[\*Religion and Society in Early India\*](#), M.A. optional lecture course.

[\*Religion and Society in South India\*](#), MA optional lecture course.

[\*State, Society and Economy in Sri Lanka, c. 300 BCE- 1300 CE\*](#), optional M.A. non-Indian history lecture course.

[\*The Cōla State: Power and Legitimacy\*](#), M.A. compulsory/ optional lecture course.

*English as an Additional Language (EAL)*, non-credit course for students with English language challenges.

### **Seminar Courses:**

*Religion and Society in Early India*, M.A./ M.Phil Seminar course.

*Religion and Society in South India*, MA/ M.Phil Seminar course.

*Aspects of Indian Art and Architecture*, MA/ MPhil Seminar course.