

GIAN Course

South Indian Models of the Mind

Jointly taught by Prof. David Shulman (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)
and Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash (SAA-JNU).

Course Dates – 9th March – 22nd March 2016

Overview

In the first series of three lectures, Prof. David Shulman will explore notions of mind, self, and person in the oldest Tamil sources we have, the Sangam poems with their two categories of akam, "in-ness," and puram, "outerness." From this beginning-- in which the question of the relation between the inside and the outside of a person is critical—Prof. Shulman will move on to early Tamil bhakti poetry, in which a rather different model of mind and self is clearly present. In the next set of three lectures he will argue that beginning around the early sixteenth century, throughout the whole of South India, a civilizational shift was underway, evident in many kinds of sources, with clear historical (social, political, economic) components. In this context of major change, a new model of the human mind began to crystallize, in distinct patterns, in the various languages and cultures of the South. Theories of perception, memory, and altered states of awareness appeared in proto-modern forms. He will look at major texts that test this thesis, from the Tamil Naitatam to the Telugu prabandha texts from Vijayanagara. In his last three lectures, Prof. Shulman will explore a major element in the new humanism of the sixteenth century which is the sudden predominance of the imagination, usually referred to as bhavana, among the faculties of the mind and, in effect, as a defining feature of being human. The course will examine textual presentations of bhavana, including an allegorical Sanskrit play from Senji in which Bhavana is the heroine who falls in love with the mind imagining her into existence. Each set of lectures will be followed by two tutorial sessions.

In the second module, Prof. Shiva Prakash will trace the contours of Kannada Thought and Imagination from 9th century to the 18th century. In his first set of three lectures, he will trace the dialectics between pleasure and power, on the one hand, and asceticism, on the other, in the works of great Jain poets, particularly Pampa, to demonstrate how the Kannada Jaina imagination transcended "manoharirajyalakshmi" (enchantedress of the empire)—a composite metaphor for Sangam values of akam and puram (love and war) by resorting to the ideal of world-negation. The lectures will also look at the first work of Kannada poetics, *Kavirajamarga* probably co-authored by emperor Nripatunga of the Rashtrakuta empire and his court poet Sri Vijaya that brought poetics and politics together. In contrast, in the works of the Jain poets, Pampa, Ranna and Janna, poetic imagination juxtaposed imperial values of world conquest with those of self-conquest ('svakeeyaprabhute' in the words of Pampa). In his next set of three lectures, Prof. Shiva Prakash will look at the rise of *vachana* poetry of the 12th century, which though outwardly antagonistic to Jain values, has an interesting continuity with the theme of self-conquest. Though the *vachana* corpus is seen as the "revolution of Mystics" (Schouten) along the model of Western paradigms, it is more a call for self-transformation, inner alchemy through a handful of satoriological means: surrender (*sharanatva*), awareness (*arivu*) and *kayaka* (labour). Alchemy is a recurrent motif in the *vachanas*. The saint-poets of the period created a Kannada-specific concept and term - *anubhaava*, to connote this process. This theme will be discussed in the light of the enormous body of *vachana* corpus and hagiographic narratives like *Prabhulinga Leele* and *Sunya Sampadane*. He will then go on in the last set of three lectures to look at the works of imminent historical narratives like *Sirumana Charite* and *Ramanath Cherite* composed during the height of the Vijayanagara empire which spoke of the end of empires. However, anthological, exegetical and spiritual narratives like *Shunya Sampadane* and compositions of Kodekallu Basveshwara turn their back on this imminent history and announce the immanent history of the eternal city of Amara Kalyana, a theme that continues to be explored in dalit folk poetic narratives like *Manteswami* and *Male Madeshwara* and in the corpus of the *swaravachanas* of spiritual bards. The motif of 'kalajnana' (divining time) begins to figure prominently suggesting the end of imminent histories and the dawn of immanent histories in which the spirit transformed rejects 'kaliyuga' (decadent imminent history) and imagines another history. Each set of three lectures will be followed by two tutorials which will include readings, discussions and presentations.

Schedule

Wednesday, 9th March 2016

Module I – Prof. David Shulman

Lecture 1 – 5-6.00 pm - Classical Tamil Visions: What is In and What is Out

Lecture II - 6.15- 7.15 pm - Classical Tamil Visions: What is In and What is Out – contd.

Thursday - 10th March 2016 :

Lecture III –5-6.00 pm

Classical Tamil Visions: What is In and What is Out - contd.– Prof. David Shulman

Tutorials I and II – 6.15-8.15 pm

Friday, 11th March 2016 :

Module II - Contours of Kannada Thought and Imagination – Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash

Lecture IV – 5-6.00 pm - From World Conquest to Self Conquest

Lecture V - 6.15- 7.15 pm - From World Conquest to Self Conquest

Saturday, 12th March 2016 :

Module II – Contd. Contours of Kannada Thought and Imagination – Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash

Lecture VI – 5-6.00 pm - From World Conquest to Self Conquest

Tutorials III and IV –6.15-8.15 pm

Monday, 14th March 2016 :

Module II – Contd. Contours of Kannada Thought and Imagination – Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash

Lecture VII – 5-6.00 pm: Anubhaava-Transformation of Self and the World

Lecture VIII - 6.15- 7.15 pm – Contd. Anubhaava-Transformation of Self and the World

Tuesday, 15th March 2016

Module II – Contd. Contours of Kannada Thought and Imagination – Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash

Lecture IX – – 5-6.00 pm: Anubhaava-Transformation of Self and the World - Contd

Tutorials V and VI – 6.15-8.15 pm

Wednesday, 16th March 2016

Module I – contd. – Prof. David Shulman

Lecture X – 5-6.00 pm: The Sixteenth-Century Renaissance: What the Mind Can See -

Lecture XI – 6.15- 7.15 pm: The Sixteenth-Century Renaissance: What the Mind Can See Contd.

Thursday, 17th March 2016

Module I – contd. – Prof. David Shulman

Lecture XII – 5-6.00 pm: The Sixteenth-Century Renaissance: What the Mind Can See – Contd.

Tutorials VII and VIII – 6.15-8.15 pm

Friday, 18th March 2016

Module I – contd. – Prof. David Shulman

Lecture XIII– 5-6.00 pm: - Bhavana: Imagination and Being Human

Lecture XIV – 6.15- 7.15 pm - Bhavana: Imagination and Being Human – contd

Saturday, 19th March 2016

Module I – contd. – Prof. David Shulman

Lecture XV – 5-6.00 pm - Bhavana: Imagination and Being Human – contd

Tutorials IX and X – 6.15-8.15 pm

Monday, 21st March 2016:

Module II – Contd. Contours of Kannada Thought and Imagination – Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash

Lecture XVI – 5-6.00 pm: Kalaajnana: Towards Immanent History

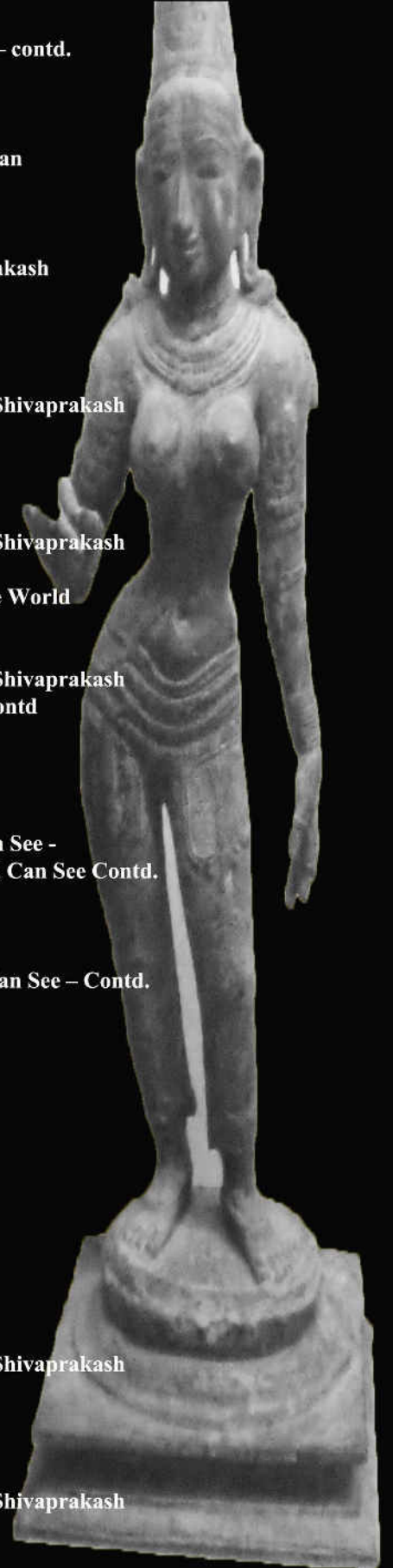
Lecture XVII - 6.15- 7.15 pm – Contd. Kalaajnana: Towards Immanent History

Tuesday, 22nd March 2016:

Module II – Contd. Contours of Kannada Thought and Imagination – Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash

Lecture XVIII – 5-6.00 pm: Contd. Kalaajnana: Towards Immanent History

Tutorials XI and XII – 6.15-8.15 pm



Course open to : Post Graduate Students and Faculty from Universities across India

Anyone else interested in the Subject

Fees:

JNU M.A Students - Free

JNU Research Students (M.Phil-PhD) and Faculty

: Rs.1000/-

Students from other recognized educational institutions

: Rs 1000/-

Faculty from other recognized educational institutions

: Rs 2000/-

Members of Government Research Institutions

: Rs 5000/-

Members of the Industry or Private Research

Institutions : Rs 10,000/-

Participants from Abroad

: \$ 500/-

The Faculty:

Prof. David Shulman is the Renee Lang Professor of Humanistic Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As an Indologist, he is regarded as one of the world's foremost authorities on the languages of India. His research embraces many fields, including the history of religion in South India, Indian poetics, Tamil Islam, Dravidian linguistics, and Carnatic music. He has authored or co-authored more than 20 books on various subjects ranging from temple myths and temple poems to essays that cover the wide spectrum of the cultural history of South India. His latest book, *More Than Real: A History of the Imagination in South India* was published by Harvard University Press in 2012. Bilingual in Hebrew and English, he has mastered Sanskrit, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu, and reads Greek, Russian, French, German, Persian, Arabic and Malayalam.



The Faculty:

Prof. Shiva Prakash teaches Theatre and Performance Studies at the School of Arts & Aesthetics, JNU. His areas of specialization are, apart from Indian Theatre, Bhakti Studies, Comparative Poetics and Aesthetics. He has combined his academic engagements with prolific creative writing in the genres of poetry and drama. He is also a well-known translator who has produced several translations from English into Kannada and from Kannada and Tamil into English. His translations include *I Keep Vigil of Rudra*, a selection of Kannada vachanas published by Penguin Classics. He has edited *Indian Theatre 2000* an anthology of essays on contemporary Indian theatre for Sahitya Akademi. His other English publications are *Traditional Theatres* and *Everyday Yogi* (Harper Collins) and three books of poems. His critical writings on literature, theatre and folklore in English and Kannada have appeared in several leading journals in India. He is a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards, and his works have been translated into major Indian and European languages. His plays have been staged all over India and in the USA.



Course Co-ordinator :

Dr. Brahma Prakash

Phone: +917838966326

Email: prakash.brahma@gmail.com