

Sensing the Past: Thematic Departures & 'Archival' Searches

Seven Day
international
Online Workshop



Department of History
Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady



Supported by KCHR



From 30th Sept 2020 to 30th Oct 2020



Sensing the Past: Thematic Departures and 'Archival' Searches

Dear Friends,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the Seven Day International Workshop on Sensing the Past: Thematic Departures and 'Archival' Searches being organised by the Department of History, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady from 30th September to 30th October 2020. The Workshop seeks to interact with renowned scholars who have distinguished themselves in conceptualizing historical processes through identifying new sets of sources or appropriating lesser known ones. The academic world of historians has continuously dissuaded scholars who dared to undertake new researches by cautioning them about the paucity of sources, to substantiate their arguments, thereby constituting the of-quoted dictum 'no data, no history' as truth. However, our readings reveal that, pathbreaking studies are often the product of the 'invention' of new sources or the innovative appropriation of hidden ones. Familiarising researchers and the academic community with this aspect opens up immense possibilities for the creation of new historical knowledge. It will underscore the idea that there is neither fact nor theory *a priori* to research but that they emerge in and through the processes of investigation.

The scholars invited include historians, from inside and outside Keralam, whose innovative contributions to the field of historical knowledge is well known. They moved away from the Rankean dependency on official archival documents (of course, acknowledging their importance as well) to the search for

numerous alternative sources: spatial, visual and oral; embracing literature, memory, archaeology, art, icons, etc. along with re-reading epigraphs and ancient texts with fresh insights. All such studies converged, in multiple ways, on the quest for knowledge about the human past and existence that intensely radicalised the discipline of history.

It would be highly beneficial to share the journeys of some of these forerunners - of re-conceptualising the discipline, of revising perspectives and themes for perceiving the past, of arriving upon new data/sources, of employing old sources to generate fresh theorisations - being endeavours that have instilled vibrancy and strength to the discipline as it stands now. History writing in Keralam still encounters the everyday crisis of 'lack of sources' in which circumstances it will be worthy to hear scholars who made pathbreaking journeys to cull data from hitherto unexplored terrains. Equally valuable would it be to pay attention to thematic departures and creation of varied 'archives' for writing the past. The series is planned here to enable young scholars and researchers to chart their paths through novel themes and source materials in order to understand how these could be approached and how fresh concepts could be generated through the processes of enquiry.

The Lectures will be on online platform and participation, on the basis of prior registration, will be awarded with a certificate. Teachers and researchers are eligible to apply. Full attendance will be a mandatory condition for obtaining the Certificate.

For registration use the Link

<https://forms.gle/HxsbtU6bHu1N6dpw6>

For further details :

webinarhistorysus@gmail.com

Anticipating your active participation and insightful interventions,

Warm regards,

Dr. A. Paslithil

Professor and Head, Department of History

Dr. Sheeba K.M.

Professor of History and Co-ordinator



Scholars and Themes

- Dr. Michael Tharakan Writing/ Finding a History of Migration
- Dr. Rajan Gurukkal Theoretical Sensing of the Past: Sources and Invisible Evidence
- Dr. Kesavan Veluthat Interrogating Sources Differently: Questioning the Answers
- Dr. K. N. Ganesh Reading *Granthavari* and Writing a History of the Dialectic of State Formation
- Dr. Janaki Nair Doing a History of Spatiality
- Dr. Dilip M. Menon The Colonial Archive and Beyond
- Dr. G. Arunima Legal Discourses and History Making
- Dr. Udaya Kumar Autobiographies and Writing Histories
- Dr. P. Sanal Mohan Histories of Dispossession via the Local and 'Vernacular'
- Dr. Mahesh Rangarajan 'Nature' in Human History
- Dr. Tapati Guha Thakurta Listening to the Past: Expertise, Empathy and Affect
- Dr. J. Devika Literature and the Creation of a Gender 'Archive'
- Dr. Ruth Vanita Recovering Histories of Sexuality
- Dr. Shahid Amin Walking In and Out of the Archives
- Dr. Kavita Panjabi Testimonies and the Making of Histories