

SLSNet- NewsletterVolume II (10th ICSLS Issue) December 2005

SLSNet- Newsletter Index

<http://www.geocities.com/slageconr/slsnetnewsletterindex.html>**SLSNet**Sri Lanka Studies Network

(Networking for

Academic Excellence)

This special issue of SLSNet-News aims to celebrate the historic event of the 10th ICSLS. This issue is printed for dissemination and expects to have a larger impact than the standard e-newsletter. Contents presented in this issue are extracted from previous issues of the newsletter and depicts the diversity of content presented in SLSNet-News and the nature of the contents. Full contents of the past issues are available at the Sri Lanka Studies Network Homepage (<http://www.geocities.com/slageconr/slsnetindex.html>)

10th ICSLS: Making the History

The 10th Conference on Sri Lankan Studies will strengthen the rich tradition of intellectual discourse of the ICSLS. The conference will explore various facets of the past and the future of Sri Lanka in the global context. The theme "Sri Lanka after 500 Years of Western Colonization and Future Perspectives" signifies the arrival of Portuguese in Sri Lanka and the beginning of an era of unequal interactions with the West. The 10th ICSLS, yet another step in the long journey of ICSLS expects to be a landmark in the research arena of Sri Lanka. 10th ICSLS participants indicate a rich diversity. The conference explores yet untouched areas as defense studies and Sri Lanka East Asia relations and also be a path setter in future research funding in Sri Lanka.

University of Kelaniya: 10th ICSLS Host Institution

The direct successor to the Vidyalandara Pirivena, one of the leading center of traditional higher learning in Sri Lanka (established in 1875), Kelaniya University has five faculties; humanities; commerce and management studies; science; medicine; and social sciences that involve in undergraduate level teaching and in research. The Faculty of Graduate Studies, Post Graduate Institute of Archeology; and Post Graduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies involve in graduate level research and training. Institute of Aesthetic Studies and Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurvedic Institute are also affiliated to the University. Today, University of Kelaniya is the home for 7000 undergraduate and 500 postgraduate students. The university reaches a large segment of the society through its external degree program in which there are 25000 registered students.

University of Kelaniya Homepage: <http://www.kln.ac.lk/>

Introduction to Sri Lanka Studies Network (Networking Towards Academic Excellence)

9th ICSLS Business Meeting emphasized the need for increased interactions among researchers, a clearer focus on the studies conducted and fast dissemination of findings. Although the ICSLS served the purpose of a formal academic venue for such interactions, lack of activities in between conferences was a hindrance to achieve these goals. The aim of the Sri Lanka Studies Network is to facilitate frequent interactions among scholars studying Sri Lanka. The network membership is open to participants of the past ICSLSs.

The mission of the Sri Lanka Studies Network is knowledge networking for academic excellence. The network will harness the strengths of an international, multi disciplinary, and experienced membership to make Sri Lankan studies community more interactive and open. The rich diversity and resourcefulness of members and closer interactions will increase the impact of research through a clearer focus and better policy relevance. Network activities will include knowledge dissemination, promoting identifying and undertaking of thematic research, and facilitating dialogue leading to a sustained social science research capacity. The steering committee of the SLSNetwork would depict adequate diversity in academic disciplines, institutions and gender.

Challenges to the growth and sustainability of similar initiatives often emerge from inadequate institutional and personal commitment. The steering committee recognizes the need for a nodal point to coordinate the network activities. Department of Sociology at the University of Ruhuna functions as the Sri Lanka Studies Network Nodal Point during the initial years. The experience gained by University of Ruhuna in organizing the 9th ICSLS has brought momentum to the SLSNET activities and has made the professional interactions more frequent and vibrant. SLSNetwork Newsletter is published quarterly and available electronically for free distribution.

In Search of Excellence

(*) Vision of Indira Samarasekera (*SLSNET-News Vol II (1)*)

SLSNET Newsletter in its April 2005 Issue, recognized the achievements of Dr. Indira Samarasekera, a Sri Lankan born women scientist. Samarasekera's five year term as the President of the University of Alberta began in July. Read more about her career at retrospective and the vision for the new venture.

Website: <http://www.president.ualberta.ca/>

(*) Sri Lankan Researcher Tops in a nine-country Competition (*SLSNET-News Vol I (3)*)

Ajith Samarajeewa, a researcher from Coconut Research Institute, Sri Lanka, won the first place as the team leader in a nine-country competition on innovative approaches in using coconut based farming systems for poverty alleviation. The competition was a part of the research program implemented jointly by Asian Development Bank and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR). The program included three sub themes as improving income, diversifying products and conserving farmers' genetic resources. Samarajeewa and his team conducted the research in three locations in Sri Lanka and the site in Dodanduwa was adjudged as the best research site in all participating countries.

(*) SSRC-South Asia Regional Fellowship Program: Winners from Sri Lanka (*SLSNET-News Vol II (1)*)

Three researchers from Sri Lanka, Oscar Amarasinghe, University of Ruhuna; Nalani Hennayake, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and Jagath Munasinghe, University of Moratuwa are among the eighteen winners of the 2005/06 South Asia Regional Fellowship Program of the SSRC(USA). The general theme for this year was " The Long 50s.

SLSNET congratulates their achievement and also expects them to be a source of inspiration for their peers.

For more information visit: <http://sarn.ssrc.org/sarfp/yr4theme.shtml>

South SARFP of SSRC is usually announced in early months of the year. Visit

<http://sarn.ssrc.org/sarfp/>

Young Researchers' Corner

(*) Graduate Studies Opportunities Abroad

One way to promote a healthy academic culture is to learn from others. Graduate study opportunities abroad are an important means of learning the academic practices of other countries and making networks.

(**) Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program(*SLSNET-News Vol I (1)*)

The program supports postgraduate studies in economics, management, science and technology, and other development-related fields at participating academic institutions in the Asian and Pacific Region.

<http://www.adb.org/JSP/default.asp>

(**) Joint Japan World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program(*SLSNET-News Vol I (1)*)

<http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/scholarships/scholarshipsEnglish/jjwbgs/overview.html>

(**) British Chevening Scholarships (*SLSNET-News Vol I (3)*)

These awards are funded by the Foreign and the Commonwealth Office of the British Government and administered by the British Council. Scholarships are available for talented and young scholars from other countries for postgraduate studies or research at the higher education institutes in the UK. It is expected that the skills gained would benefit the respective countries. More details on eligibility and application guidelines are available at: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/srilanka-education-british-chevening-scholarships.htm> or at the Chevening Website: <http://www.chevening.com/>

(**) German Academic Exchange Service(*SLSNET-News Vol II (1)*)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is continuing its aid program for the areas in South Asia that were worst hit by the tsunami by introducing new scholarships to enable the training of experts about how best to act when a catastrophe hits. Supported financially by the German Foreign Office, the DAAD will be sponsoring stays in Germany for graduates, doctoral students and scientists from India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka who would like to carry out further studies or research in such fields as the geosciences, ecology, medicine and, crisis and conflict management. The deadline for applications for 2006 is 30th November 2005. Also learn how they can help you in reaching your career goals.

German Academic Exchange Service Homepage:

<http://www.daad.de/deutschland/index.en.html>

(*) Preparation for Graduate Studies: Resources for Potential Test Takers(*SLSNET-News Vol II (1)*)

Securing a placement in good graduate programs require good scores from aptitude tests such as Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT). Universities in English speaking countries require proof of English language proficiency through Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Requirements are set by the respective universities.

Details of the following tests are available through the respective websites.

For Graduate Record Examination (GRE) <http://www.gre.org>

Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT) : <http://www.gmat.org>

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) <http://www.toefl.org>

International English Language Testing System (IELTS). <http://www.ielts.org/>

(**) Test Preparation Help in Sri Lanka

GRE/GMAT/TOEFL

United States-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission facilitates test takers by providing reference material. Registration material for GRE/GMAT/TOEFL are available free of charge at the office or may be requested by post. Address of the Fulbright Commission of Sri Lanka United States-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission Website: <http://www.fulbrightsrilanka.com/>
Address: United States - Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission, No 7 Flower Terrace (off Flower Road) Colombo 7, Sri Lanka Phone : + 94 11 256 4176, Fax : + 94 11 256 4153

IELTS

Material for preparation for IELTS is available at the British Council Information Resource Center. British Council Sri Lanka Website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/srilanka.htm>

(**) Online Resources

Test Preparation Help from University of California Gateways

Online test preparation for GRE is available through University of California System. Registration is required. The site includes a vocabulary builder and a system to monitor the progress. Website Address: <http://www1.ucgateways.org/gre/>

Holmesglen IELTS Preparation Website

Holmesglen Institute of TAFE, Australia through its International Program Services offers materials for IELTS preparation.

Website Address: <http://international.holmesglen.vic.edu.au/IELTS01.htm>

Funding and fellowship Opportunities

(*) International Foundation of Science (IFS) (SLSNET-News Vol I (1))

Research Grants for Young Researchers from the South are available from IFS. Researchers below 40 years are eligible to apply. Closing date for submission for the next round of the competition is 31 December 2004. Details are available at:
<http://www.ifs.se/>

(*) Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowships (SLSNET-News Vol I (3))

The scheme aims to provide highly qualified early career postdoctoral researchers to conduct research at a German host institution. Selection is based on internationally published previous research of the applicant and the quality and feasibility of the research proposal. Applications can be submitted any time directly after agreeing with a German host on research stay arrangements.

For More Details: http://www.avh.de/en/programme/stip_aus/stp.htm

Useful Books on Research Methods and Academic Writing

(**) Writing Your Thesis (SLSNET-News Vol I (1))

PAUL OLIVER (University of Huddersfield School of Education and Professional Development)

This book uses simple language and easy-to-read style to advise students on how to write a thesis. It is an essential reading for students working on their MPhil and PhD thesis

June 2004 Sage India/Vistar Imprint
ISBN 81-7829-392-7

http://www.indiasage.com/browse/book.asp?bookid=806&Subject_Name=&mode=1

(**) The Academic's Guide to Publishing (*SLSNET-News Vol II (1)*)

Rob Kitchin: National University of Ireland at Maynooth and
Duncan Fuller: University of Northumbria, Newcastle-upon-tyne, UK

This definitive guide to successfully publishing social science research demonstrates that completing a project is only the first phase of research. Dissemination is the second phase, and it requires specific skills and knowledge. The book explains the different ways in which research can be disseminated: in journals, books, reports, the Internet, popular media, and conferences; demonstrates how the structures, practices and procedures involved work—making them easily understood and transparent; and situates research in the larger and changing context of higher education.

Professor Rob Kitchin is the Director of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis of the National university of Ireland, Manooth and also Professor of Human Geography

Visit Prof. Kitchin's academic homepage:

<http://www.nuim.ie/nirsa/people/admin/kitchin.shtml#publications>

Dr. Duncan Fuller is Lecturer in Human Geography within the Division of Geography at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

Visit Dr. Fuller 's academic homepage:

<http://northumbria.ac.uk/sd/academic/sas/staffbiog/geog/duncanf/>

July 2005, Sage (India): Vistar Imprint

ISBN: 817829592X

http://www.indiasage.com/browse/book.asp?bookid=929&Subject_Name=&mode=1

Resources for Researchers

(*) GDN's Toolkit for Proposal Writing and Fundraising (*SLSNET-News Vol I (1)*)

Obtaining funding for research is a difficult achievement. Global Development Network (GDN) provides as a part of its resource base, a toolkit for proposal writing. Based on interviews with experienced research fundraisers, this toolkit provides tips and practical suggestions for applying for funding and proposal writing.

http://www.gdnet.org/online_services/toolkits/proposal_writing/index.html

GDN Homepage: **<http://www.gdn.org/>**

(*) UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Homepage (*SLSNET-News Vol I (1)*)

UNESCO's social and human sciences is one of its five specialized Sectors, The mission of the sector is advancing knowledge, standards and intellectual cooperation in order to facilitate social transformations where the values of justice, freedom and human dignity can be fully realized. The sector is organized around five themes, ethics, human rights, philosophy, poverty eradication, prospective studies and social transformation.

UNESCO HSS Home: **[http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-](http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=5280&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)**

[URL_ID=5280&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=5280&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

(*) Ethnic Studies Report Past Issues Now Online (*SLSNET-News Vol II (1)*)

The Ethnic Studies Report (ESR), an internationally-circulated research journal on ethnicity, ethnic conflict and related issues is produced in January and July every year and is in its 18th year of publication. The ESR is abstracted in International Political Science Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, PAIS International in Print and ICSSR Journal of Abstracts and Reviews. Past issues of ESR (1997-2002) is currently available for downloading as PDF files.

Visit ESR Homepage : **<http://www.ices.lk/publications/esr.shtml>**

International Center for Ethnic Studies Homepage: **<http://www.ices.lk>**

Learning and teaching Resources

(*) MIT OpenCourseWare (SLSNET-News Vol I (2))

Open Courseware initiative of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is a free and open educational resource. Aimed at the teachers, students, and self-learners around the world, the website provides access to more than 500 courses ranging from aeronautics and anthropology to women's studies and writing and humanistic studies. Listed courses include brain and cognitive sciences and nuclear engineering.

MIT-OCW Main page <http://ocw.mit.edu/index.html>

Go to the list of available courses : <http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Global/all-courses.htm>

SLSNET: Technology Corner

Electronic Theses and Dissertations

(*) Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) (SLSNET-News Vol I (3))

Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) is an international organization dedicated to promoting the adoption, creation, use, dissemination and preservation of electronic analogues to the traditional paper-based theses and dissertations. The organization has 30 effective (active) members, 144 associated members. Members include universities, university consortia, national libraries and university departments. Full theses and dissertations from several participating institutions are available through Open Public Access Catalogues (OPAC). <http://www.ndltd.org/>

(*) National Library of Australia Preserving Access to Digital Information :
<http://www.nla.gov.au/padi/topics/232.html>

(*) Digital Library and E-Scholarship Portal (Indian Electronic Dissertations Project)
http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in/statics/about_us.asp

Institutional Profiles

(*) Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) (SLSNET-News Vol I (1))

Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science is the largest learned society in Sri Lanka. Established in 1944, its membership consists of scientists from all institutions and academic disciplines across the nation. SLAAS promotes its objectives of fellowship, science situation and science education. SLAAS operates under seven sections of which social sciences section (section F) covers areas of economics, sociology, anthropology, archeology, political science, management studies, history, defense studies, education, and geography. The most important contribution by SLAAS is its annual scientific sessions. Sessions are usually held in December. Social sciences section of the SLAAS has pioneered in assisting the growth of young social scientists and expects to continue its mission in the future. Become a member of SLAAS section F and be a part of the social science community and explore the multi-faceted nature of science.

SLAAS Website Address: <http://www.naresa.ac.lk/slaas/>

(*) American Association for the Advancement of Science (SLSNET-News Vol I (3))

Established in 1848, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest scientific society. AAAS history over the last 150 years is interwoven with the growth of science in the United States. Working towards the mission " seeking to

advance science and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people" the Association's activities are organized around 24 sections that represents all branches of science. It has 120,000 individual and institutional members and has 262 affiliated societies and academies of science. AAAS publishes weekly, " Science" the peer-reviewed general science journal that records the largest paid circulation and with an estimated readership of one million people. Visit AAAS Website: <http://www.aaas.org/>

(*) University of Peradeniya (*SLSNET-News Vol I (2)*)

The University of Peradeniya (UPSL) is the heir to the oldest university tradition in Sri Lanka as the successor to the University of Ceylon (Founded on July 1, 1942). The mission of the UPSL is to promote excellence in higher education and research and to contribute towards national development of Sri Lanka. The university consists of seven academic faculties, and two postgraduate institutes is the home for over 6000 undergraduate and over 1000 postgraduate students. UPSL library Network has over 700,000 items and is a national depository center for all books published in Sri Lanka.

University of Peradeniya Homepage: <http://www.pdn.ac.lk/>

Publications on Sri Lanka

(*) Kingship, Kingdom and Religion: C 3BCE to C 3AD (*SLSNET-News Vol I (3)*)

Rajyathvaya, Rajyaya ha Agama (Publication in Sinhala)

Ven. Hanguranketa Dheerananda (University of Peradeniya)

The book is based on literary and archeological research on the relationship between the religion and the kingship in Sri Lanka during the period, C 3BCE to C 3AD. Adopting a multifaceted approach the book offers a detailed and scholarly review of the interwoven and indissoluble relationship between the religion and the kingship and its effects on the contemporary Sri Lanka society. It describes the origins of kingship, and kingdom, its developments and the relationship with the religion.

2004, Ariya Publishers, ISBN: 955-553-388-1

(*) Blowback: Linguistic Nationalism, Institutional Decay, and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka Neil DeVotta, Hartwick College (*SLSNET-News Vol I (3)*)

The book argues that the Sinhalese linguistic nationalism led to the Tamils' mobilizing, first politically then militarily, and by the mid-1970s demanded for creating a separate state. Author Neil DeVotta is assistant professor of political science, Hartwick College, New York, USA.

2004, Stanford University Press, ISBN 080474923X cloth, ISBN 0804749248 paper

Publishers website: http://www.sup.org/book.cgi?book_id=4923%204924%20

(*) The Evolution of an Ethnic Identity : The Tamils in Sri Lanka C 300BCE To C 1200 CE

K. Indrapala (*SLSNET-News Vol I (3)*)

The book is an attempt to describe the process of evolution of Tamils in Sri Lanka as a group with separate ethnic identity. The book argues that the process has completed by the time of 12th Century AD.

2005, MV Publications for The South Asian Studies Center, Sydney

ISBN: 0-646-42546-3

Author: Dr. Karthigesu Indrapala taught history at the University of Peradeniya (1960-1975) and was the Foundation Professor of History in Jaffna University, Sri Lanka

(*) Economy, Culture, and Civil War in Sri Lanka (*SLSNET-News Vol I (2)*)

Editors: Deborah Winslow and Michael D. Woost

Contributors: Francesca Bremner, Michele Ruth Gamburd, Newton Gunasinghe, Siri T.

Hettige, Caitrin Lynch, John M. Richardson, Jr., Amita Shastri, Deborah Winslow, and Michael D. Woost.

An interdisciplinary examination of the relationship between the economy, broadly defined, and the reproduction of violent conflict, this volume argues that the war is grounded not just in the goals and intentions of the opposing sides, but also in the everyday orientations, experiences, and material practices of all Sri Lankan people.

Indiana University Press, 2004

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iupress/books/0-253-34420-4.shtml>

(*) Peace in Sri Lanka : Obstacles and Opportunities (*SLSNET-News Vol I (2)*)

World Alliance for Peace in Sri Lanka (WAPS) Oslo Conference Proceedings

Editors: Rohan Gunaratne, Paul Harris

Contributors: Rohan Gunaratne, Paul Harris, Susantha Goonatilake, H.L.D. Mahindapala, Harendra De Silva, Shantha Hennayake, Neville S. Ladduwahetty, F. Rovik, Asoka Bandarage, Mahinda Weerasinghe

World Alliance for Peace in Sri Lanka, 2005

ISBN: 955-1165-004

(*) Balancing Irrigation and Hydropower: A Case Study from Southern Sri Lanka

Molle, F.; Jayakody, P.; Ariyaratne, R.; Somatilake, H. S. (*SLSNET-News Vol II (1)*)

Construction of Samanlawewa Reservoir and diversion of water from the main river course of Walawe River for power generation has led to a conflict between the farmers of Kaltota Irrigation Scheme and the Ceylon Electricity Board. This study analyses the conflict and proposes solutions for better use of water.

International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Colombo, Sri Lanka:

ISSN 1026-0862, ISBN 92 9090 607 3

Full Paper (PDF format) : <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/pubs/pub094/RR94.pdf>

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Website Address: <http://www.geocities.com/slageconr/slsnetindex.html>

(c) Sri Lanka Studies Network Secretariat

Department of Sociology,

University of Ruhuna,

Matara – 81000

Sri Lanka

E-mail: srilankastudies@gmail.com

[*] Contribute to the SLSNet Newsletter

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