



International Association of Tamil Research (IATR)
உலகத் தமிழ் ஆய்வு மன்றம்



11th International Conference – Seminar on Tamil Studies Singapore, June 16 – 18, 2023

Dear Scholar

Ever since the International Association of Tamil Research (IATR) was formed in 1964, ten (10) International Conference- Seminars on Tamil studies have been held in different countries of the world. In continuation, to maximize and to uphold the importance given to Tamil research, the 11th International Conference – Seminar on Tamil Research (“Conference”) is being held in Singapore between June 16th and 18th, 2023. Many of these previous conferences were co-sponsored by political or government entities, but this conference is sponsored by IATR and “The Millennial Tamils” of Singapore.

The principal objective of IATR is “to promote multidisciplinary research on modern scientific lines in all aspects of Dravidian studies in general, and of Tamil studies in particular, and in allied fields with the active collaboration of international organizations and scholars interested in such studies.” Consistent with this objective the Academic Committee of the Conference has come up with the following theme for this Conference:

“The New Historicist Study to rewrite the history of the Tamils, Tamil Language, Literature, Culture and Civilization based on Tamil Classics and revaluations of early and recent excavations and other scientific evidences.”

Specific topics that cover the conference theme are attached to this letter with guidelines for the submission of abstracts and research papers. The same can also be obtained by visiting the IATR website at www.iatrofficial.org or <https://www.icsts11.org> or email contact@icsts11.org.

We wish you the best in your research and hopefully, we will see you at the Conference.

Prof. Dr. P. Marudanayagam
Chair, Academic Committee
11th Conference-Seminar on Tamil Studies

‘Pulavar,’ Dr. Francis S. Muthu
Co-Chair, Academic Committee
11th Conference-Seminar on Tamil Studies

Dr. M.S. Shri Lakshmi
Member, Academic Committee
11th Conference-Seminar on Tamil Studies



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11th International Conference – Seminar on Tamil Studies
Singapore, June 16 - 18, 2023
(Research Topics)

The aim of the 11th International Conference – Seminar of IATR (“Conference”) to be held in Singapore in June 2023 is to motivate and initiate the rewriting of the history of Tamils, Tamil Language, Literature, Culture, and Civilization by re-evaluating Tamil Classics and also based on early and recent excavations and other scientific evidence. The conference also encourages scholars to focus on modern trends in Tamil literature, technology, and performing arts and the contribution of the Tamil diaspora to Tamil. With a view to achieving this, well-researched and well-written articles on the following topics are welcome for presentation.

Conference Theme

“The New Historicist Study to rewrite the history of the Tamils, Tamil Language, Literature, Culture and Civilization based on Tamil Classics and revaluations of early and recent excavations and other scientific evidences.”

Topic Categories

1. Tamil Classical Literature
2. Ancient Tamil Civilization
3. Tolkaappiyam
4. Tirukkural
5. Contributions of Tamil during the Middle Ages (5th – 12th Century) to World Civilization
6. Contributions of very distinguished individual scholars
7. Tamil Music and Performing Arts
8. Modern Tamil Literature
9. Tamil Language, Linguistics, Manuscriptology and Early Printing History
10. The flourishing of music, dance, painting, sculpture and architecture in ancient Tamilnadu



Topics - Detailed

Tamil Classical literature

1. Tamil Classical literature as compared with any other classical literature.
2. Puranaanuru, Patirruppattu, Pattappaattu, and other Sangam texts as cultural documents.
3. Nature in Sangam Classics.
4. Egalitarianism in the Sangam Era.
5. Women in Sangam Classics.
6. The marginalized in Sangam Classics.
7. Education during the Sangam period.

The ancientness and the global spread of Tamil civilization.

1. Study of the origin and spread of the Tamils based on genetic and genographic data.
2. Historical, literary, archeological and geological evidences for the existence of the ancient land of "Kumari Kandam", the home of Tamil Sangams and civilization, and Port city of Poompuhar.
3. Ancient Tamil Culture as compared with any classical culture including, Egyptian, Hebraic, Hellenic, Roman and Chinese.
4. The contribution of Tamils to any of the other ancient civilizations:
Indus Valley, Sumerian, Mesopotamian and Acadian, Egyptian and Mediterranean civilizations
5. The findings of Rev. Fr. H. Heras S.J.
6. The findings of Asko Purpola.
7. The findings of Professor K. Rajan of Pondicherry University.
8. Adichanallur, Porunthal, Keezhadi and other recent excavations in South India.
9. Engineering and Technology in ancient Tamilnadu.
10. Epigraphy

Tolkaappiyam

1. Tolkaappiyam and Western linguistics.
2. The Date of Tolkaappiyam.
3. Interpolations in Tolkaappiyam.
4. The concept of Tinai and the Tamil Akam tradition.
5. Tolkaappiyam as compared with other grammatical works in Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and other classical or modern languages.
6. The continuity of Tamil grammatical tradition from Tolkaappiyam to Nannul.



Tirukkural

1. Tiruvalluvar as “the Bard of the Universal Man.” (Rev. G.U.Pope)
2. Tirukkural as the treasure trove of ancient Tamil culture and civilization.
3. Tirukkural and ‘the art of living.’
4. The relevance of Tirukkural today.
5. Tirukkural in comparison with Book of Ethics of other languages
6. The reception of Tirukkural in other countries of the world.
7. Tirukkural as the “Book of the World.”

Contributions of Tamil during the Middle Ages (5th – 12th Century)

1. The uniqueness of Cilappatikaaram
2. Kamban's Ramayana compared with the epics in Greek, Latin, Italian and Sanskrit
3. The contribution of Bhakti literature to the cultural and literary traditions in India

Contributions made by the following scholars to studies in ancient, medieval and modern Tamil language, literature and culture:

R E Asher

George L Hart

Gregory James

Ilakkuvanar

Kalaingar Mu. Karunanidhi

Kamil Zvelebil

Thiru. Vi. Kalyanasundaranar

Maraimalai Adikal

Mayilai Seeni Venkatasami

T.P. Meenakshisundaram

Paritimaar Kalaingar

Rev. G.U. Pope

Pulavar Nannan

Dr. M. Rajamaanikkanaar

A. K. Ramanujan

Tevaneyappavanar

Thani Nayaga Adikal

Vipulanantha Adikal

Tamil Music and Performing Arts

1. The Ancientness of Tamil Isai and Performing Arts
2. The impact of Tamil Isai on Carnatic music
3. Musical instruments of ancient Tamil society
4. Impact of Sangam literature on the lyrics of Tamil film music

Modern Tamil Literature

1. Contemporary Tamil literature - Prose, Poetry Drama and Fiction.
2. Computer technology and its potential contributions to Tamil studies



3. Learning and teaching Tamil to the Tamil diaspora including Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, North America, Europe and other countries.
4. Tamil literary works by the Tamil diaspora: Creative and Critical Writings in Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, North America, Europe and other countries.

Tamil Language, Linguistics, Manuscriptology & Early Printing History

1. Linguistic insights in Tolkaappiyam.
2. The contribution of the Tamil Nikantus to lexicography
3. Manuscriptology and early printing history.
4. Beschi's Caturakaraati.

The flourishing of music, dance, painting, sculpture, folklore, and architecture in ancient Tamilnadu





Abstract and Research Paper Guidelines

1. The research paper should contain original research not published elsewhere.
2. Before to submitting the actual research paper, the scholars must submit an Abstract of the proposed paper. The Abstract should be a Microsoft Word document double spaced, with font size not less than 12, in Unicode format, and shall not exceed two pages in length. The Abstract can be in English or Tamil.
3. The Abstracts should be submitted electronically to academic-committee@icsts11.org on or before October 31, 2022. All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by a committee of experts and the authors will be notified on or before November 15, 2022, whether their Abstract is accepted or not.
4. Authors of the selected abstracts must submit their research papers on or before February 15, 2023. The Research Paper shall be a Microsoft Word document in double space, with font size not less than 12, in Unicode format, and shall not exceed 30 pages in length. The Research paper can be either in English or Tamil. However, the research paper shall be in the same language as the original Abstract.
5. Each Research paper should include a brief biodata (not more than 200 words) of the author
6. The number of papers that are selected for presentation at the conference and the respective authors shall be notified on or before February 28, 2023. The Conference organizers shall be responsible for the cost of registration for the conference, accommodation, food, and local travel for the invited authors. Other details related to travel will be provided later.

Other Information

7. The authors invited to make presentations at the conference are encouraged to meet their travel expenses or secure travel aid from the government, or other foundations and charitable organizations. In case the author is not able to find a sponsor for travel aid, the organizers will try to identify a sponsor for the primary author.
8. The authors are advised to get their Passports ready by February 28, 2023, so that if their paper is selected there will be no delay in obtaining the Visa for travel to Singapore.
9. The authors must also procure health insurance on their own to meet any costs related to any sickness or medical emergencies during the conference.
10. All selected papers will be posted on the Conference website. Papers selected for presentation will be included in the Conference Proceedings.



For Student Researchers

11. To encourage student researchers, IATR and the organizers are working to sponsor the travel for ten (10) individual students, less than 30 years of age, whose research papers are selected.

For Women Research Scholars

12. An organization has come forward to sponsor the travel for five (5) women scholars from Tamilnadu, who are the primary authors and whose research papers are selected.

