

**TAMIL STUDIES NETWORK WORKSHOP 2013**  
***Rituals of Community and Political Ritual: The Making and Remaking of a  
Tamil People***

**June 7-8, 2013**

Held at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS), University of Göttingen  
Sponsored by SFB 619 "Ritual Dynamics" (University of Heidelberg), Subproject A6 and CeMIS

**Organisers:** Gabriele Alex (University of Tübingen), Michael Bergunder (University of Heidelberg), Torsten  
Tschacher (CeMIS), Ulrike Schröder (University of Heidelberg) and Rupa Viswanath (CeMIS)

**CONFERENCE VENUE:** *Convention Centre by the Observatory,  
Geismar Landstrasse 11, 37083 Göttingen* (<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/125324.html>)

**Day 1: June 7 2013**

**Welcome, self-introductions, lunch: 12:00-13:15**

**Panel 1: Religion as the Sign of Tamilness  
13:15-15:15**

*"Buddhism Among Tamils"*  
*Peter Schalk, University of Uppsala*

*"The Most Important Seat of Saiva Siddhanta Learning and Tamil Culture':The  
Thiruvavaduthurai Adhinam and Other Networks of Popularizing Saiva Siddhanta"*  
*Rafael Klöber, University of Heidelberg*

Respondent: Michael Bergunder

Discussion: 45 mins.

**Coffee Break: 15 mins.**

**Panel 2: Identity: Linguistic and Otherwise  
15:30-16:50**

*"The Roots of Tamil Identity"*  
*Emmanuel Francis, CNRS Paris*

*"Of Chinese, Klings, and Other Castes: Tracing the Making of 'Tamilness' from the Margins,  
1819-1942"*  
*Torsten Tschacher, CeMIS, University of Göttingen*

Respondent: Nathaniel Roberts

Discussion: 30 mins

**Drinks and dinner: 6pm**

**Bullerjahn Restaurant, Altes Rathaus, Göttingen**

***Day 2: June 8 2013***

**Panel 1: Tamilness, Contestation and the Modern State**

**9:00-1100**

“Pillars of Saivism’: Rituals of Community and the Making of Tamil Identity among South African Indians”

*Ulrike Schröder, University of Heidelberg*

“The Tamil Question - The Modern Roots of Sri Lankan Communalism”

*Harshan Kumarasingham, Alexander von Humboldt-Fellow, University of Potsdam*

Respondent: Gabriele Alex

Discussion: 45 mins.

**Coffee break: 15 mins**

**Panel 2: “The Tamil,” Politics and Representation**

**11:15-12:55**

“Canvases of political competition: Image production as politics in Tamil Nadu, India”

*Roos Gerritsen, University of Heidelberg*

“Culture and Nation in the Rāmāyaṇa: C. N. Annadurai’s Reading of India’s Epic”

*Jonas Buchholz, University of Heidelberg*

Respondent: Rupa Viswanath

Discussion: 30 mins

**Lunch: 45 mins.**

**Roundtable discussion (planning future of network): 13:40-14:40**

**Goodbyes and coffee: 14:40-15:15**