



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia
Department of Political Science

**Marrying for a Future: Transnational Sri Lankan Tamil Marriages in
the Shadow of War**

By
Sidharthan Maunaguru

The talk will be based on the author's newly published book "Marrying for a Future: Brokering Transnational Sri Lankan Tamil Marriages in the Shadow of War" (University of Washington Press). The book examines the life of the Sri Lankan Tamil community in the time of war and migration. Three decades of war in Sri Lanka ended in 2009, but the prolonged violence during the war devastated the Sri Lankan Tamil community, leading to a serious disruption of ordinary life and mass migrations to escape the violence of the state and of Tamil militants. Jaffna Tamils are now widely dispersed across the world - predominantly in Canada, and UK. The book focusses on marriage processes (arrangements of transnational marriages), transit places where the actual marriage performance takes place, figures (e.g. marriage brokers, photographers) who facilitate marriages, visual documents (e.g. wedding photos), and laws (e.g. spousal immigration laws, and Sri Lankan colonial/ customary laws), in order to understand how Sri Lankan Tamils, who have been dispersed across spaces, rebuilt and shaped their fragmented lives and communities through these spaces/zones.



Dr. Sidharthan Maunaguru is currently an assistant professor at Department of Sociology and South Asian Studies at National University of Singapore. His research interests cover the areas of marriage, migration, religion, diaspora, politics, conscience and law. He was awarded a Newton Fellowship by British Academia and Royal Society which was held at University of Edinburgh before he joined NUS. Maunaguru's work is placed within the South Asian regions and beyond, it often includes multi-site fieldwork and intersects with anthropology, history and philosophy. He has published in *Modern Asian Studies*, *Comparative Studies on Society and History*, *Religion and Society* and *Contribution to Indian Sociology*. Maunaguru's book titled *Marrying for a Future: Transnational Tamil Marriages in the Shadow of War* is published in 2019 with University of Washington Press, and another of his article is forthcoming in *Current Anthropology*.

Date: Monday, July 22, 2019

Time: 16:00 - 18:00

Venue: CATS, EG SR 01 (010.00.21)

All are cordially invited!