

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-24







Officiating Director Prof L Venkatachalam and Mr A Arivazhagan receive the certificates for Best Tamil Book award from Thiru M P Saminathan, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Development and Information Department, GoTN, 14 February 2024



Directors of the ICSSR institutes in South India at the one-day seminar on Social Sciences in India, 22 March 2024

# Annual Report

## 2023-24



*The MIDS Annual Report 2023-24*

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# **I. Mission**

Malcolm S. Adiseshiah and Elizabeth Adiseshiah founded the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) in 1971 with the following objectives:

- To undertake studies and research pertaining to development problems with special reference to the agro-rural aspects of Tamil Nadu, and the problems of the economically and socially backward sections of the population throughout the country.
- To conduct seminars and conferences on development problems and programmes of Tamil Nadu.
- To foster inter-university cooperation among social scientists of the universities of the four southern states.
- To promote interdisciplinary research and bring out publications relating to the above three functions.

In 1977, MIDS was reconstituted as a National Institute jointly funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi and the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN).

The research foci of the faculty are wide-ranging, from the concerns of development economics, such as agriculture, rural development, industry, urbanisation, and labour, to interdisciplinary areas, such as gender, environment and climate change, human development, social and political movements, and social criticism.

Through its seminars and workshops, MIDS has become a centre for critical thinking on development issues relating to India in general and Tamil Nadu in particular. The services of faculty members are sought by state and central government departments, autonomous agencies, universities and colleges, and non-governmental and international organisations.

## II. Governing Council

Ex-officio Chairperson	N. Gopalaswami Chairperson, MIDS
Representatives of Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN)	Principal Secretary Department of Finance, GoTN, Chennai  Additional Chief Secretary Department of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, GoTN, Chennai
Representative of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)	G. S. Saun Consultant and In-Charge Research Institutions & Regional Centres ICSSR, New Delhi
Representatives of four Southern Universities	Saji Gopinath Vice Chancellor Kerala University of Digital Sciences Thiruvananthapuram  Phanindra Goyari Professor, School of Economics University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad  S. Pushparaj Head, Department of Econometrics Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai  T. S. Somashekar Registrar National Law School of India University Bengaluru
Co-opted Social Scientists	Pami Dua Director, Delhi School of Economics University of Delhi, Delhi



	<p>Sugata Marjit First Distinguished Professor Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata</p>
Trustees	<p>M. Govinda Rao Member, 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Former Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi</p> <p>Girija Vaidyanathan Former Chief Secretary Government of Tamil Nadu</p> <p>Ajit Ranade Vice Chancellor Gokhale Institute of Politics &amp; Economics, Pune</p>
Representatives of Faculty	<p>L. Venkatachalam M. Vijayabaskar</p>
Ex-officio Member-Secretary	<p>L. Venkatachalam Officiating Director, MIDS</p>

### III. MIDS Trust

Ex-officio Chairperson

N. Gopalaswami  
Chairperson, MIDS

Members

C. T. Kurien  
Former Chairperson, MIDS

Ajit Ranade  
Vice Chancellor  
Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune

M. Govinda Rao  
Member, 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission  
Former Director, National Institute of Public  
Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi

Girija Vaidyanathan  
Former Chief Secretary  
Government of Tamil Nadu

P. Duraisamy  
Former Vice-Chancellor  
University of Madras

Ex-officio Invitee

L. Venkatachalam  
Officiating Director, MIDS

## IV. Academic Council

Ex-officio Chairperson	L. Venkatachalam Officiating Director, MIDS
External Members	Ram Singh Delhi School of Economics University of Delhi Delhi  Brinda Viswanathan Madras School of Economics Chennai  Chandan Gowda Shri Ramakrishna Hegde Chair Professor Institute for Social and Economic Change Bengaluru
MIDS Faculty	Ajit Menon S. Anandhi Ananta Kumar Giri K. Hafsal K. Jafar Karen Coelho A. Kalaiyarasan Kripa Ananthpur C. Lakshmanan M. Umanath A. R. Venkatachalapathy M. Vijayabaskar
MIDS Student Representative	A. Monish Shanmukh Kasyap



## V. Academic Staff

Ajit Menon, Professor	Political ecology; Environmental politics; Environmental history; Agrarian studies.
S. Anandhi, Professor (Retired on 30.06.2023 A.N.)	Gender; Caste; Identity politics.
Ananta Kumar Giri, Professor	Social movements and social transformation; Social theory; Criticism; Creativity.
K. Hafsal, Assistant Professor	Financial economics, Macroeconomics, Applied econometrics, Efficiency and Productivity analysis
K. Jafar, Assistant Professor	Education and development; Migration; Financial inclusion; Local planning; Informality; Intellectual property rights; Gender.
A. Kalaiyarasan, Assistant Professor	Labour markets and their link with poverty and inequality; Regional political economy in India.
Karen Coelho, Professor (Retired on 30.06.2023 A.N.)	Urban anthropology; Urban studies; State reforms; Urban water management and ecologies; Affordable housing; Slums and resettlement.
Kripa Ananthpur, Professor (Retired on 31.03.2024 A.N.)	Civil society and governance; Local institutions; Local governance; Farmers' movements; Women's political participation in local governance; Decentralisation; Mixed methods.
C. Lakshmanan, Associate Professor (Retired on 30.04.2023 A.N.)	Political theory and culture; Political economy; Dravidian politics; Subordinated social groups/movement; Governance; Film studies.
M. Umanath, Assistant Professor	Agricultural production; Natural resource management; Institutional arrangement for sustainable development.
L. Venkatachalam, Professor, RBI Chair and Officiating Director (17.03.2023 to 01.04.2024 F.N.)	Environmental economics; Ecological economics; Behavioural economics; Institutional economics.

A. R. Venkatachalapathy, Professor

Social and political change; Social history;  
Cultural history; Intellectual history.

M. Vijayabaskar, Professor  
(on deputation to State Planning  
Commission w.e.f. 01.03.2022)

Political economy of regional development;  
Agrarian change; Rural-urban interactions;  
Industrialisation; Value chains; Labour  
processes.

## VI. Non-Academic Staff

### Administration

Administrative Officer	B. Narasimhan
Assistant	E. Lakshmanakumar
Receptionist	N. Cibi
Junior Assistants	C. Anitha
	G. Karpagam
	R. Sumathi
Drivers	P. Pargunan
	S. Srinath
Record Clerk	A. Sampathkumar
Sweeper	K. Pencilamma

### Finance

Finance Officer	S. Janakavalli
Junior Assistant	B. Azhagarsami
	S. Dhinakaran (Relieved on 20.07.2023 A.N.)

### Information Technology

System Analyst	R. Dharumaperumal
System Assistant	P. Thyagarajan

### Library

Librarian	R. Murugan
Library Assistants	A. Tamil Selvi
	G. Murugan
	S. Ramakrishnan

### Publication

Publication Officer	M. R. Prasanna
Publication Assistant	A. Arivazhagan



## VII. Research Scholars

	Scholar	Title of Research	Supervisor
<b>Full-time</b>			
1	Seena K M	Development Economics	Venkatachalam L
2	Niranjana C J	Colonial Infrastructure and Uneven Urbanisation: The Making of Railways in Madras Presidency	Venkatachalapathy A R
3	Arya Sankar R	Environmental economics	Venkatachalam L
4	Prashant Kumar	Political ecology of groundwater abstraction in India	Ajit Menon
5	Zakiyya K	Gender and popular culture	Venkatachalapathy A R
6	Aishwarya G V N	Understanding state-society relations in the context of urban governance	Karen Coelho
7	Ajisha K V	An enquiry into the marine fishing technology and the approach of market towards sea: The case of Kerala	Ajit Menon
8	Anitha P C	Social and cultural change among tribal community	Vijayabaskar M (guide) Kalavathi S (co-guide) (Queen Mary's college)
9	Unnimaya U G	Labour economics	Umanath M
10	Jijin P	Investment impact of remittances: The case of India	Vijayabaskar M
11	Brinda G Krishnan	Climate change and regional farming systems: A study of spice production in Kerala	Vijayabaskar M
12	Muhammad Shafeeque Aliparambil	Institutional interventions and transaction costs in agriculture: A study of the weekly market programme in Kerala	Venkatachalam L
13	Titu Mahanta	Institutions, upgrading and livelihoods: Study of small tea growers of Assam	Vijayabaskar M
14	Rituparna Borah	Ecotourism in Majuli: Glocal assemblages in the changing political ecology of a river island	Ajit Menon Kalavathi S (co-guide) (Queen Mary's college)
15	Anjaly Baby	Poverty: A behavioural economics approach	Venkatachalam L

	<b>Scholar</b>	<b>Title of Research</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>
16	Rahul Reghu	Tribal development in Kerala: Discourse, the everyday state and Kadars in the Vazhachal-Malakkapara region	Ajit Menon Lakshmanan C (co-guide)
<b>Non-Stipendiary</b>			
17	Gargi Sridharan	Division of labour and subjective well-being: A household level study in Tamil Nadu, India	Venkatachalam L
<b>Synopsis Submitted</b>			
18	Muhammed Aslam E S (Part-time)	Social history of Mappilla muslims	Anandhi S
<b>Thesis Submitted</b>			
19	Saravanakumar R	Diffusion of new technologies in agriculture: An analysis of system of rice intensification	Vijayabaskar M
20	Andrew Michael	Impact of MGNREGS on rural development with special reference to a rights-based approach in Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu	Kripa Ananthpur John Sundar David VIT University (co-guide)
21	Boddu Srujana	Mobility and segmentation in urban informal labour markets: The case of Hyderabad city	Vijayabaskar M
22	Balamurugan S	Economic analysis of trade-offs between ecosystem services: A case study of Veeranil Lake, Tamil Nadu, India	Venkatachalam L
23	Pema Choden Bhutia	Estimating the recreational value of ecotourism benefits: Travel cost method	Venkatachalam L
24	Chandrasekar D	Dalits and access to common property resources	Ajit Menon
<b>Degree Awarded</b>			
	Pema Choden Bhutia	Estimating the recreational value of ecotourism benefits: Travel cost method	Venkatachalam L
	Andrew Michael	Impact of MGNREGS on rural development with special reference to a rights-based approach in Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu	Kripa Ananthpur John Sundar David VIT University (co-guide)
	Bhavana A	Special economic zones: Contributions and controversies	Ganesh Prasad G S

## VIII. Visiting Scholars

### Affiliates

	Scholar		Research Topic	Guidance
1	Eleanor Alice Power	Assistant Professor Department of Methodology London School of Economics and Political Science, UK	Social and Economic Inequality in Rural Tamilnadu	A Kalaiyarasan, Assistant Professor, MIDS
2	Theo Whitcomb	PhD Student University of Redland California, USA	Politics of Adaptation; Development, US-India Internationalism and the Climate Crisis	Karen Coelho Professor, MIDS
3	Mahishan Gnanasekaran	PG Student Department of History Princeton University New Jersey, USA	Nationalising Self- Respect: A History of Relation among Periyar, Ambedkar and Jinnah	A R Venkatachalapathy Professor, MIDS
4	Anjana Ramkumar	PhD Student Cornel University Department of Global Development New York, USA	Traditional Rice Varieties and Agricultural Development in Tamilnadu, India	Ajit Menon Professor, MIDS
5	Mark Edward Balmforth	Post-Doctoral Fellow Department of Historical and Cultural Studies University of Toronto Scarborough, Canada	Buried Legacies: Slavery, Caste and Dye Root	A R Venkatachalapathy Professor, MIDS
6	Emily Stevenson	Leverhulme Early Career Fellow Pitt Rivers Museum University of Oxford, UK	Studies Encounters: Photography and Cosmopolitanism in British South India	A R Venkatachalapathy Professor, MIDS
7	Preetha Laxmi Mani	Assistant Professor Rutgers University New Brunswick New Jersey, USA	Tamil New Poetry, Indian Literature, Poetic Modernism	A R Venkatachalapathy Professor, MIDS
8	Rajesh V	Associate Professor and Head Department of Humanities and Social Science, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali, Punjab	Literacy Progressivism in Tamilnadu and Sri Lanka	A R Venkatachalapathy Professor, MIDS



## **IX. Director's Report**

The Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) continues its unique tradition of multi-disciplinary research, followed over the past five decades, contributing to cross-fertilisation of knowledge among different social science disciplines. The research undertaken by the MIDS faculty and students has a rich diversity as it focuses on theoretical and empirical problems, structural and policy-oriented issues, regional, national and global issues, as also covering historical and contemporary subjects. In addition to path-dependent research, the research agenda of the institute also adequately responds to changing national and global scenarios such as post-COVID development thinking, and changing geopolitical dynamics. While the institute diligently carries out research, it is also intent on effectively communicating the research findings to the policymakers and other stakeholders through publications, seminars, workshops, and training programmes. The recently concluded Golden Jubilee celebrations were marked by a plethora of outreach programmes—the institute organized over 45 academic events and the cumulative audience at these events reached around 2500. It is only fitting that we celebrated the institute's momentous occasion by widely disseminating the academic knowledge that we accumulated in the past five decades.

In recent years, the institute has come to face a lot of challenges in its pursuit of quality and excellence in social science research. The institute has not had the luxury of adequate number of faculty members for the past one year or so even as recruiting new faculty is proving to be a difficult task due to non-implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC in the ICSSR institutions. Even the present faculty might probably consider moving out of the institute in near future if the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC implementation does not come through. Similarly, the number of doctoral students joining the institute is middling due to problems with accommodation facilities and fellowship grants including the ICSSR's. With the hope that all these issues would be resolved in the immediate future, we intend to make every effort possible to continue to move on with fulfilling our core objectives of quality research and publications as well as contribute to the society through our research. Let us now look at the academic and research activities of MIDS in 2023-24.

### **PhD Programme**

The PhD committee, with the support of faculty and administration, continues its efforts to improve the PhD programme at the institute while constantly looking to improve the quality of teaching and research outcomes through the biannual seminars. Scholars update the status of their research and receive detailed feedback from the discussants and faculty members in the biannual seminar as it remains an important academic event in preparing the scholars for the challenges at different stages of their research.

The PhD committee initiated the admission process for recruiting a new batch of students for the programme in February 2024. Given the institute's limited number of eligible guides, applications were invited only in economics, history, and development studies.

In 2023-24, three scholars were awarded their PhD degrees, four more submitted their doctoral theses, while two others submitted their synopses. Eighteen more scholars continue to work on their research. MIDS scholars continue to present their research at various academic events.

## **Policy Research**

MIDS continues to make remarkable contributions to development policy and programme evaluation in the state of Tamil Nadu in particular, and India in general. The MIDS faculty serve as members of numerous important commissions and in various high-level expert committees. MIDS has supported the formulation of planning documents for various plans for the state governments of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, and the Government of India, and it continues to assist and do more for the state. MIDS has two ongoing projects.

### **Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS)**

Prof Kripa Ananthpur, Prof L Venkatachalam and Dr K Jafar lead the *Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey* (TNHPS), sponsored by Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN). TNHPS is supported and funded under the TANII scheme from the department of Planning and Development, GoTN. The project is a collaborative effort of the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), the Department of Economics and Statistics (DES), GOTN, and the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Michigan.

TNHPS is designed as a longitudinal survey where a set of sample households in Tamil Nadu will be surveyed at specific intervals to analyse the change in their socio-economic conditions over time. The survey, being the first of its kind in the country, had a sizeable sample representing all districts and socioeconomic groups in the state. It followed the digital data collection method and marks an important step in informed and evidence-based policymaking in the state. As part of this initiative, an extensive house listing, or Pre-Baseline Survey (PBS) covering 2,01,282 households was conducted in 2018-19. Four rounds of the Tamil Nadu Covid Pulse Survey (TNCPS) conducted in 2020-21 provided robust and comprehensive data on specific socio-economic development indicators in the state. This was followed by the first wave, or Baseline Survey (BLS) conducted in 2022-23.

The Baseline Survey (BLS), also called Wave 1, was conducted between October 2022 and March 2023, with a sample size of 20,408 households, selected from the Pre-Baseline Survey sample frame, representing all 38 districts in the state, across 684 rural and 787 urban PSUs.

It collected detailed information on eight broad themes, namely employment, livelihoods, income, consumption, education, health, basic infrastructure, and governance and social capital. This report analyses crucial socio-economic and development indicators across these themes, which helps garner a deeper understanding of the Pre-Baseline Survey and the TN Covid Pulse Survey findings and make pre- and post-pandemic comparisons. The Baseline Survey State Report is soon due to be submitted to the government.

## **Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services of 61 Prioritised Wetlands in Tamil Nadu**

Led by Prof L Venkatachalam, *Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services* is a study of 61 prioritised wetlands in Tamil Nadu and is a new project initiated in March 2024 sponsored by State Planning Commission (SPC), Government of Tamil Nadu. The team has completed a field survey among 30 wetlands (covering 1800 households) and the survey for the remaining 31 wetlands is due to be completed by the end of November 2024. An Interim Report is going to be submitted to the SPC by September 2024 and the final report will be submitted by March 2025.

## **Publications**

MIDS is on a publication cycle that focuses on bringing frontier research in the area of economic, cultural and social development to the public, with equal importance on quality and reach.

MIDS faculty has a research output of 10 research papers in peer-reviewed journals, 11 articles in popular newspapers and magazines, 9 chapter contributions to edited books, 2 working papers, 33 research reports, and 2 book reviews during the year 2023-24.

Seven books were published by MIDS faculty (six by Prof Ananta Kumar Giri and one by Prof AR Venkatachalapathy) during this year. The work of the MIDS faculty continues to be covered by the press and media regularly.

The institute's flagship journal, *Review of Development and Change* (RDC), indexed in UGC Care List, co-published by SAGE, saw publication of its biannual issues on schedule in June and December 2023. The RDC featured 12 research articles and 5 book reviews across two issues of *Volume 28* in 2023.

We are proud to note that the book published by MIDS titled இந்தியப் பொருளாதாரம்: வரலாறு காட்டும் வழிகள், a collection of essays by Malcolm Adiseshiah, edited by Mr A Arivazhagan, has won the Government of Tamil Nadu's Best Tamil Book Award under the category of Economics, Commerce and Management for the year 2021 (announced in February 2024).

## Journal

The MIDS Journal *Review of Development and Change (RDC)*, now in its twenty-ninth year, is the successor to the monthly *Bulletin: Madras Development Seminar Series* started by Malcolm Adiseshiah. The last regular issue of the *Bulletin* was published in December 1994, and the journal *RDC* was launched in 1996. It is a biannual peer-reviewed journal and its objective is to examine diverse aspects of the changes taking place in our society and encourages multidisciplinary theoretical and applied scholarship that perceives problems of development and social change in depth, documents them with care, interprets them with rigour and communicates the findings in a way that is accessible to readers from diverse backgrounds. The journal focuses on multidisciplinary scholarship pertaining to issues related to industry, agriculture, urbanisation, environment, social sector, and poverty and inequality.

The journal received 115 manuscript submissions, as it continues to see wide circulation and online usage. The acceptance rate stands at a healthy 18% in 2023. The circulation includes 68 institutional subscriptions and 1865 package subscriptions with a 114% renewal rate. With respect to online usage of *RDC*, the journal saw 26,434 full-text downloads in 2023 and 21,811 full-text downloads until May 2024. All these developments were made possible due to the cooperation of members of the editorial advisory board, editorial committee members, reviewers, authors and readers.

## Books

We have brought out a book, authored by the late economist Prof. S. Neelakantan, titled *A Remembered Village, A Remembered Town*, co-published by Primus Books. Peppered with anecdotes, the book gives a first-of-its-kind account of socio-economic changes in a village, Appipalayam, and its nearest town, Karur, in the second half of the twentieth century. The author, Prof Neelakantan, former director of MIDS, brings his scholarship to bear on his lived experience and, whilst exploring labour, landed power, caste, and rural-urban linkages, provides an insightful account of the transformations, growth, and stagnation witnessed in the Kongu region across five decades.

We have also brought out a coffee table book compiling the rare photographs of our founder Malcolm Adiseshiah. Both the books were commissioned as part of our publications under golden jubilee. Three more commissioned titles are still in the works, namely, an edited two-volume publication of Adiseshiah's writings on Economy and Development and on Education while an edited volume on Revisiting India's Industrial Policy by Prof. Padmini Swaminathan is in press.

Among MIDS faculty, Prof A R Venkatachalapathy has written a book titled *Swadeshi Steam* that chronicles the story of freedom fighter V. O. Chidambaram Pillai and his battle against the British Maritime Empire. Prof Ananta Kumar Giri has authored / edited six books broadly based on his areas of research.

In the MIDS Working Papers series, Prof Kripa Ananthpur and Prof L Venkatachalam have contributed a paper each on ensuring data quality in a large-scale survey and on economic valuation of wetlands respectively.

Led by Prof Kripa Ananthpur, the TNHPS team has brought out 32 district reports as part of their project's pre-baseline survey findings.

## Academic Events

MIDS continues to be actively engaged in conducting academic events in its campus and 2023-24 saw the institute organize 11 workshops, 12 seminars, 5 public lectures, 2 book releases, 2 panel discussions, 1 symposium, and 4 library book exhibitions to a total of 37 academic events. These academic events were held as part of the MIDS Golden Jubilee celebrations. Over 2000 students and researchers took part in these events.

The highlights among these events are as follows: Coordinated by Dr M Umanath in May 2023, a three-day workshop on *Millet Economy* explored its current status and pondered upon future policies. MIDS Publication organized a state-wide *Essay Competition* for budding young scholars in May-June 2023 and a one-time *Adishesiah Best Essayist* prize was awarded under 9 different categories of participants. Dr M Umanath coordinated a three-day national workshop on *Data Science and Information Technologies* for social scientists in August 2023. An *Independence-Day Book Exhibition* organized by MIDS Library was held in August 2023. Dr K Jafar and Dr K Hafsal worked in tandem and coordinated the three-day *Doctoral Colloquium* on economics and development studies in August 2023. On Prof A R Venkatachalapathy's initiative, a five-day workshop on *Manuscriptology* was conducted in association with U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer Library in October 2023. Prof L Venkatachalam and Dr K Hafsal oversaw the organization of the Three-Day Workshop on the History of Economic Thought (HET) in November 2023. In the same month, Prof Kripa Ananthpur organized a workshop on *State Finance Commissions* which inspected the changing fiscal landscape in India based on the Tamil Nadu 6th SFC Report.

An official launch of the book *Swadeshi Steam* by AR Venkatachalapathy and a day-long seminar on V.O. Chidambaram Pillai which projected *VOC in New Light* were held in January 2024. A five-day workshop on *Open-Economy Macroeconomics* in Emerging Market Economies was organized by Prof L Venkatachalam in February 2024. A three-day national workshop on *Microeconometrics for Survey Data* was organized in March 2024 by Dr M Umanath, Dr K Hafsal, and Dr K Jafar.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations came to a conclusion with the one-day seminar on *Social Sciences in India* organized by Prof L Venkatachalam held on 22 March 2024. The seminar witnessed the participation of the Directors from all major ICSSR institutions in South India as the leading economists and social scientists carefully considered the current status and the way forward for Social Sciences.

All these events received widespread coverage in terms of participation and scholarly attention.

## **Conclusion**

Numerous reputed and international scholars visited the institute during the year and presented their research in the seminars and public lectures organised by MIDS. The areas of research themes dealt in these seminars and public talks also varied greatly. On the economy and policy front, themes included women and work in Tamil Nadu, India's medium-term growth, economic policy in India, creative social science and public policy, doing policy that prioritises people, and industrial policy in India. Some specific areas touched upon were labour trafficking and its impact, household electricity theft in India, sleep and time poverty using a gender lens, survey methods in India and evolution of national accounting in India.

On the anthropology side of things, topics included faith, hope and struggles for peace, social healing and integral development. A talk on Bharati and the struggle for India's independence was also held. Other notable themes included sensible research practices in doctoral life and macroeconomic uncertainties, possibilities and options.

The exhibitions organized by the vastly resourceful MIDS library individually and during the major institute events have garnered attention among the press and general public.

During the academic year 2023-24, eight (8) research affiliates were with the institute, three (3) scholars were awarded the PhD degree, twenty-three (23) scholars were still pursuing their research work, six (6) of whom have submitted their theses and are awaiting viva-voce.

MIDS intends to continue organizing seminars, workshops and policy discussions as it has done over the years and decades while also making social and developmental impacts through various spheres of research, publications and teaching.

## X. Research Projects

### Completed Projects

	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Sponsoring Agency</b>	<b>Principal Investigator(s)</b>
1	Managing Covid-19 in India's Cities: Reshaping People's Everyday lives in Poorer Urban Neighbourhoods	The University of Sheffield, Western Bank, UK	Karen Coelho

### Ongoing Projects

	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Sponsoring Agency</b>	<b>Principal Investigator(s)</b>
1	Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS)	Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, Government of Tamil Nadu	Kripa Ananthpur, K Jafar & L Venkatachalam
2	Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services: A Study of 61 Prioritised Wetlands in Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB), State Planning Commission (SPC), Government of Tamil Nadu	L Venkatachalam

# XI. Faculty Publications

## Bibliographic Information

### Books

#### Ananta Kumar Giri

Giri, A. K. (2023). *Social Healing*. Routledge, Print ISBN 9781032763910.

Giri, A. K. (2023). *Cultivating Integral Development*. Routledge, Print ISBN 9780367545185.

Giri, A. K., Sabita, & Charan, K. (Translated by) (2024). *Khalil Gibranka Amara Rachana Trayee: Pagala Paribrajaka, Baluka o Phena* (Three Immortal Works of Khalil Gibran: The Wanderer, Madman, Sand and Foam). Vidya Publishing.

Giri, A. K., & Varghese, S. (2023). *Towards a New Dharma of Peace Building: Conflict Transformations and Alternative Planetary Futures*. Springer, Print ISBN 9789819960651.

Giri, A. K. (2023). *Contemporary Critiques of Political Economy: Mapping Alternative Planetary Futures*. Routledge, Print ISBN 9781032271293.

Giri, A. K., Zirkler, M., Gupta, D. K., & Pradhan, M. (2023). *New Works in Consciousness Corridors: Dialogues with Subhash Sharma and Our Creative Planetary Futures*. Authors Press, Print ISBN 9789355295958.

#### Venkatachalapathy A R

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## XII. About the Books

### *Social Healing*

Ananta Kumar Giri

Routledge, 2023, ISBN 9781032497464



SOCIAL HEALING



*Social Healing* draws on a transdisciplinary approach—bringing sociology, philosophy, psychology, and spirituality together—to understand health, social suffering and healing in our contemporary world. It shows how we can transform the present discourse and reality of social suffering by multi-dimensional movements of social healing. The author argues for the need for a new art of healing in place of the dominant and pervasive technology and politics of killing. It discusses manifold creative theories and practices of healing in self, society, and the world as well as new movements in social theory, philosophy, and social sciences which deploy creative methods of art and performance in healing our psychic and social wounds. It explores the spiritual, social, ethical, and political dimensions of health and healing. This pioneering work will be of great interest to scholars and researchers of social theory, sociology, politics, philosophy, and psychology.

### *Cultivating Integral Development*

Ananta Kumar Giri

Routledge, 2024, Print ISBN  
9780367545185



CULTIVATING INTEGRAL  
DEVELOPMENT



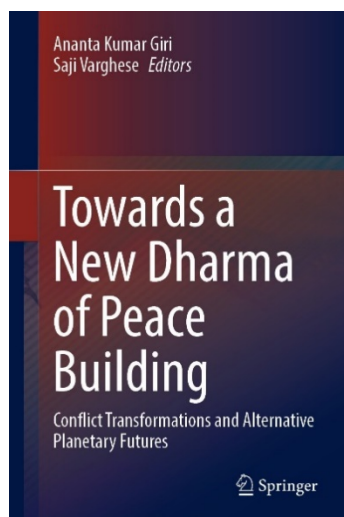
This book cultivates visions and practices of integral development of the self, society, and the world. It builds upon deconstructions of development discourse and practice and strives to reconstruct and reconstitutes it as integral development. It addresses entrenched dualisms in development studies and practices such as between the self and the other, the providers of development and its recipients, materialism, and spirituality, and cultivates pathways of integral development. The book explores the many challenges facing development studies and practice such as poverty, creativity, political economy, moral economy, leadership, sustainable development, and evolutionary flourishing. It also opens the discourse and practice of development to cross-cultural dialogues by undertaking

discussions between Euro-centric approaches to development and other visions and practices of development such as Purusartha, Swadhyaya, Sarvodaya, integral yoga, and Lokasamgraha from Indic traditions. Drawing on multiple cultural and philosophical resources and traditions, *Cultivating Integral Development* is a pioneering work and will be of great interest to scholars, researchers, and actors of development studies, political science, and philosophy as well as concerned human beings around the world.

*Towards a New Dharma of Peace Building: Conflict Transformations and Alternative Planetary Futures*

Edited by Ananta Kumar Giri & Saji Varghese

Springer, 2023, Print ISBN 9789819960651



This volume deals with a new Dharma of peacebuilding and conflict transformations, drawing on the world's philosophical, religious, and spiritual

traditions and many recent initiatives and experiments with peace. It deals with issues of sustainable peace, Dharma and Ubuntu of peace from African traditions, neurological insights of peacebuilding, traditions of conscientious objection, Satyagraha, possibilities of Gandhian Ahimsa, and moral and ethical limits of conflict and conflict resolution. It also presents the works of peace thinkers and activists such as Spinoza, Abhinavagupta, Tolstoy, Gandhi, Ulrich Beck, and others. It offers new initiatives and experiments in peace in different parts of the world—Palestine-Israel, Colombia, the Middle East, India, and South Africa. This pioneering and handy book is of interest to students, scholars, teachers, and activists working in peace and conflict studies, development studies, cultural studies, and religious studies as well as in different civil society organizations around the world.

*Khalil Gibranka Amara Rachana Trayee: Pagala Paribrajaka, Baluka o Phena*

Translated by Ananta Kumar Giri, Sabita, & K. Charan

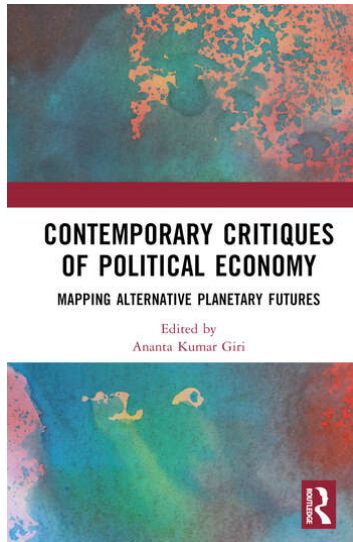
Vidya Publishing, 2024

*Pagala Paribrajaka, Baluka o Phena* is the translation work of three immortal works of Khalil Gibran namely *The Wanderer*, *Madman*, *Sand and Foam* into Odia by Ananta Kumar Giri, Sabita and Kahnu Charan in which Ananta Kumar Giri has translated Khalil Gibran's *Madman* and *Wanderer*.

*Contemporary Critiques of Political Economy: Mapping Alternative Planetary Futures*

Edited by Ananta Kumar Giri

Routledge, 2023, Print ISBN  
9781032271293



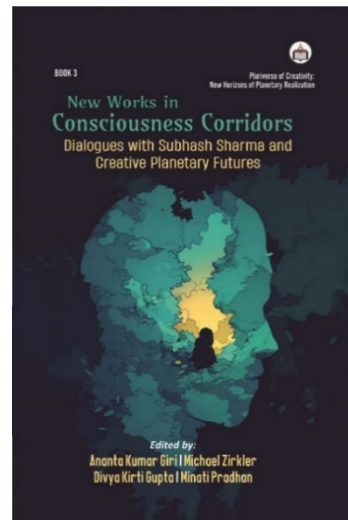
This book analyzes contemporary critiques of political economy and highlights the challenges to rethinking contemporary discourses and practices. It carries out a multipronged critical and transformative dialogue involving political economy, moral economy, moral sociology, moral anthropology, and spiritual ecology. The authors discuss diverse themes such as the relationship between consciousness and society, the dialogue between Karl Marx and Carl Gustav Jung, a critical sociology of morality and property relations, moral and political economy of the Indigenous peoples and a critique of modern civilization, economic evaluation, as well as alternative traditions of thinking in Marx, Thoreau, Gandhi, J.C. Kumarappa, Rammanohar Lohia, B.R. Ambedkar and Jayaprakash Narain. A unique transdisciplinary text, the book brings

together authors and approaches from both the Global North and South. It will be indispensable to students, research scholars and teachers of humanities and social sciences in such fields as economics, sociology, philosophy, cultural studies and development studies.

*New Works in Consciousness Corridors: Dialogues with Subhash Sharma and Our Creative Planetary Futures*

Edited by Ananta Kumar Giri, Michael Zirkler, Divya Kirti Gupta, & Minati Pradhan

Authors Press, 2023, Print ISBN  
9789355295958



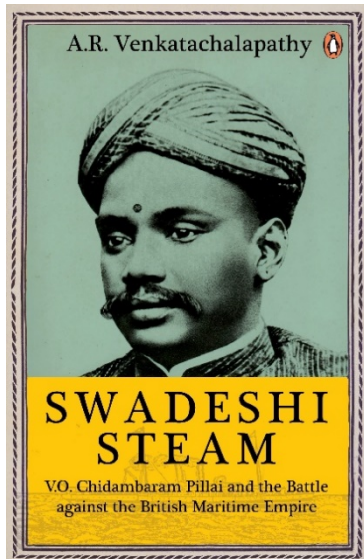
*New Works in Consciousness Corridors* is a book of essays co-edited by Ananta Kumar Giri which explores new horizons and practices of consciousness work for creating a different society of beauty, dignity and dialogues by carrying out dialogues with the works of Subhash Sharma, a creative management thinker of India and the world.



*Swadeshi Steam:  
V. O. Chidambaram Pillai and the  
Battle against the British Maritime  
Empire*

A R Venkatachalapathy

Penguin Random House, 2023, Print ISBN  
9780670099597



imperial state both backed its competitor, giving it deep pockets and brazen government backing. VOC and his allies would have to defy overwhelming odds to make their venture a success.

Swadeshi Steam is a tale of heroism and defiance in the face of colonial oppression. Based on four decades of research in archives around the world, this inspiring saga showcases the power of one individual's vision to ignite a movement.

In 1906, Britain's grip on the world was unassailable. Its navy ruled the seas, and its trade empire spanned the globe. But in the small port town of Tuticorin, a lawyer named V.O. Chidambaram Pillai—known to the world as VOC—had a revolutionary idea that would challenge the might of the empire itself.

VOC's plan was audacious: to launch the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company, a venture that would compete head-on with the British India Steam Navigation Company, the shipping giant that controlled the region. To make his dream a reality, he rallied native traders and patriotic citizens, raising the capital needed to launch his daring enterprise. But the company faced a formidable foe: British mercantile interests and the

## **XIII. Abstracts of Research Papers**

### **Articles in Journals**

#### **Ajit Menon**

##### **Tiger Conservation, Biopolitics and the Future of Indian Environmentalism**

Tiger conservation in India has been driven for the most part by a philosophy that prioritizes the need for inviolate tiger reserves free of human beings. Such reserves, it is argued, provide much needed territory to ‘care’ for the tiger. In this paper, we examine the biopolitics of tiger conservation in India and argue that the current approach to tiger conservation amplifies the nature-culture divide and ignores other imaginations of tiger conservation that are more cognizant of human–non-human entanglements in protected area landscapes. The paper argues that tiger conservation has been a mix of sovereign, disciplinary and neoliberal environmentalities, all built on a certain ‘truth’ about tigers. The paper raises questions and concerns about the ‘truth’ discourse that underlies tiger conservation and also argues that tiger conservation has marginalized the environmentalism of the poor. It makes the case for more debate and discussion about tiger truths and suggests the need for a more than human approach to tiger conservation that recognizes the adverse consequences of fortress conservation as well as its limits in caring for the tiger in more than human geographies.

Exploring the relationship between plural values of nature, human well-being, and conservation and development intervention: Why it matters and how to do it?

Globally, land and seascapes across the bioculturally diverse tropics are in transition. Impacted by the demands of distant consumers, the processes of global environmental change and numerous interventions seeking climate, conservation and development goals, these transitions have the potential to impact the relationships and plurality of values held between people and place. This paper is a synthesis of seven empirical studies within the Special Feature (SF) and focuses on what is lost in transition and capturing the impacts of conservation and development interventions on relational values and human wellbeing in the tropics. Through two Open Forum workshops, and critical review, contributing authors explored emergent properties across the papers of the SF. Six core themes were identified and are subsumed within broad categories of: (i) the problem of reconciling scale and complexity, (ii) key challenges to be overcome for more plural understanding of

social dimensions of landscape change and (iii) ways forward: the potential of an environmental justice framework, and a practical overview of methods available to do so.

## **Ananta Kumar Giri**

### **Transforming Caste Domination and the Challenges of Structural Transformations and Transformation of Consciousness: Ambedkar, Shankara and Beyond**

Caste is a multi-dimensional reality in history and society and it has manifested itself through varieties of structures of domination which is simultaneously cultural, economic, political and ideological as it has also been related in complex ways with structures of class and gender domination. These structures of domination have led to annihilation of self and society. This led Ambedkar to challenge us for annihilating caste. For Ambedkar, annihilation of caste calls for realization of each person as an individual and not just a caste person. It also calls for destruction of caste privileges, discrimination and their scriptural legitimation. But this call for annihilation mainly has been a structural project without enough attention to the project of transformation of consciousness—self and social. There is hint of this in Ambedkar's Annihilation of Caste when Ambedkar urges us to realize each of one of us as unique individuals beyond the holes of caste which is further deepened in his Buddha and His Dhamma. Transformation of consciousness is also suggested in Adi Shankara's treatise on self, Atmastakam. The essay engages itself with Ambedkar, Shankara, Gandhi and Sri Aurobindo, among others, as they help us in the transformation of caste domination and present a new hermeneutics of self-realization and social liberation. It deals with the simultaneous challenges of structural transformation of caste as well as consciousness of caste at the levels of both self and society which can draw on multiple sources of critique, creativity and transformations in India and the world

### **Truth, God and Justice: Walking and Meditating with Gandhi**

Truth is God is an enriching collection of writings of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi known as Mahatma Gandhi. It contains pearls of Gandhi's thoughts on many aspects of our life related to faith, God, truth, justice, Ahimsa etc. It shows us the deep spiritual journey of Gandhi as it is related to ethics, morality and politics. To begin with, Gandhi invites us to realize Truth as God which is not the same thing as God as Truth. Gandhi begins with God is Truth and then realizes Truth as God. Truth touches the reality and faith in God but is not confined to it. Truth has a demand quality, it calls upon us to realize Truth in our personal, interpersonal, social, worldly

and cosmic lives. Realizing Truth calls for us to realize non-violence and Ahimsa in our daily lives as well as in our interlinked wider ways of self and social institutions. This article explores some of these issues.

## **Hafsal K**

### **Economic policy uncertainty and sectoral level output in India: The implications on structural change**

This study assesses the impact of economic policy uncertainty on sectoral-level output in India during 2003M01- 2020M12. In order to do this, we execute the combined cointegration analysis to establish the long-run relationship, while the Fully Modified Ordinary Least Squares (FMOLS) and Dynamic Ordinary Least Square (DOLS) are used for impact assessment. The results show a long-run relationship between economic policy uncertainty and sectoral-level output. Moreover, we observe that sectoral level output slows down as economic policy uncertainty increases in India. The adverse impact of economic policy uncertainty is more visible in the services sector, followed by the industry and agriculture sectors, respectively. Thus, we can infer that the process of structural change is in turmoil in the presence of economic policy uncertainty. The consistency of the findings was confirmed using canonical cointegrating regression (CCR). Besides, the study offers some valuable policy suggestions for policymakers in India.

## **Jafar K**

### **Migration-Led Development in Kerala: Looking Beyond Growth and Remittances**

Kerala's development experience has been widely discussed for its unique features. Largely, discussions on the Kerala model of development and virtuous growth focus on growth and human development. Other dimensions and experiences of regions and groups within Kerala have been understood in a limited way. Its larger impact on Kerala society, including on gender relations, identities, politics, culture, their intersections, and new forms of marginalisation cannot be ignored. This paper explores some of these points and tries to extend the scope of discussion around Kerala's development experience.

## **Kripa Ananthpur**

### **Cash and Wages: A Need for a Dual Strategy for Empowering Women in Tamil Nadu**

The recent cash assistance scheme called the Kalaigiar Magalir Urimai Thogai for eligible female household heads, announced by the Tamil Nadu government, is a significant policy intervention aimed at further strengthening women's agency. Some of the implementation challenges that the scheme is likely to face are discussed while categorising the female beneficiaries within the households. The estimates from the Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey's Pre-Baseline Survey, 2018–19 are used to bring out the representativeness of the female population within the households. An equal amount of state investment in other aspects of gender inequality is called for.

## **Umanath M**

### **Agricultural credit in India: Determinants and effects**

Credit is used as an instrument to raise the capital required to increase farm productivity, income and welfare of farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers who lack the capital to buy necessary inputs in time for agricultural operation. But the question of whether the goals of credit policies were met still remains unanswered. This study, therefore, attempted to estimate the effect of farm credit on investment, input expenditure, income and other welfare indicators using national-level farm household survey data. We used the logit function to estimate the determinants of credit access and the propensity score matching algorithm to estimate the effect of credit policies. Results revealed that only 33% of farmers have access to credit facilities and that middle-aged farmers and farmers with a larger farm size have shown a higher probability of accessing credit facilities, whereas farmers from underprivileged castes have shown the least probability of credit access. Nevertheless, credit access, overall, has significant positive effects on farm investments, such as land-building, livestock and machinery. It also has a significant positive effect on the farm revenue expenditure, including the expenditure on seeds, machinery, labour, irrigation, plant protection chemicals and livestock inputs. As a result, credit access has an incremental effect on farm income per hectare, livestock income and monthly consumption expenditure. The results imply that although farm credit policies have improved the welfare of beneficiary farmers, the credit distribution system seems to be inefficient as more than 60% of farmers do not have access to credit. This demonstrates that there is a need for inclusive and holistic policy interventions to include all farmers in the credit system, specifically offering

term loans to small and marginal farmers. Apart from this, it is also suggested that simplified crop loan and Kisan Credit Card facilities be made available to tenant farmers.

#### Not Too Small to Benefit Society: Economic Valuation of Urban Lake Ecosystems Services

Although the importance of urban lake ecosystem services is widely recognised, the integration of associated values and benefits into decision-making is still under-developed. Therefore, this study has assessed the use and nonuse values of two urban lakes viz., Ukkadam Big Lake (UBL) and Sulur Lake (SL) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Primary data were collected from 208 respondents, comprising fishermen, local residents, and visitors, during 2021–22. The estimated total economic value (TEV) was Rs. 107.96 lakhs and Rs. 77.15 lakhs, for UBL and SL, respectively, of which, three-fourth of the value was accounted by use values and the remaining one-fourth by nonuse value services. Among use values, the provisional services were estimated at current market prices ranging from 8 to 11 per cent of TEV. The value of recreational services was assessed by the travel cost method and the estimated value was Rs. 75.85 lakhs and Rs. 49.92 lakhs for UBL and SL. The non-use values were assessed using the contingent valuation method, and the mean willingness to pay was found to be Rs. 979.63 and Rs. 801.23, respectively, for UBL and SL per annum. Logit regression estimates indicated that age, education, and income significantly influenced the willingness to pay for the lake's services. It is concluded that all stakeholders, including the government, should consider the conservation of the lakes by making the necessary efforts to charge entrance fees, desilt the lake, install more sewage plants, and allocate a sufficient budget under the smart city plan.

## Chapters in Books

### Ananta Kumar Giri

#### Gardens of God

Kingdom of God is a familiar and dominant discourse in religion, society and the world. It is also a dominant framing for thinking about a good society here on Earth. But the discourse of kingdom of God is many a time locked in a discourse of power. In dominant versions of political theology, it is linked to violence. In this essay, an attempt is made to rethink Kingdom of God as Gardens of God. There is also an interlinked attempt to rethink the discourse of Ramrajya to Ramvana where there is an attempt to transform violence to non-violence.

## **Kripa Ananthpur**

Using a longitudinal MMR design to capture the complexity of outcome and process driven governance in rural India

Measuring governance is a challenging exercise as governance outcomes are defined both by tangible and intangible indicators. Since good governance is linked with democracy, people's participation is seen as critical to achieving better governance outcomes. To understand this, an intervention to increase people's participation in local governance was undertaken using a longitudinal mixed methods design. The study included a large-scale Randomized Control Trial (RCT) with a five-year qualitative study to document process change. While the RCT data did not show any impact from the intervention, the qualitative research explained the 'failure' by unpacking the factors responsible and uncovered nuanced, process driven treatment effects that are difficult to capture in structured surveys. This chapter illustrates the importance of using mixed methods to measure complex concepts such as governance that are both outcome and process driven. While the use of mixed methods provides a more comprehensive understanding of governance processes that combine tangible and non-tangible outcomes, the challenge lies in ensuring an appropriate design.

From Last Mile Delivery Enablers to Political Leaders—How Rural SHG Women in Tamil Nadu Use Convergence Scheme as a Pathway to Political Participation

Affirmative action under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act has provided rural women with reserved political spaces in various tiers of Panchayat Raj Institutions, thus catalysing their participation in local democracy not just as vote banks but also as elected representatives. Several studies have unpacked the constraints and enabling factors that impact the effectiveness of women's political participation. However, over the years, rural women have started using various pathways to build political constituencies to gain access to these reserved spaces. One such avenue is the Self-Help Group movement that provides exclusive space for rural women's social and economic empowerment which in turn has begun to manifest as political empowerment. Further, "Convergence", one of the salient features of the State Rural Livelihood Mission, has provided rural SHG women with a new pathway to political participation. Based on a qualitative study of Trichy and Thiruvannamalai districts in Tamil Nadu, we show that while the SHG women helped in the state-wide implementation of the schemes, their involvement also led to their political empowerment. However, despite utilising these opportunities rural women continue to face everyday conflicts due to the entrenched caste and patriarchal structures that hamper their effectiveness as political leaders.

## Working Papers

### Kripa Ananthpur

How Good is Your Data? Challenges of Ensuring Data Quality in a Large-Scale Survey: Lessons from the Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS)



The growing popularity of population-based household surveys, especially in developing countries, brings with it its own set of challenges. These household surveys are expected to provide reliable estimates of the population that can influence policymaking. Thus, there is an increasing need to maintain the rigour of data collection by ensuring meticulous data quality practices so that the estimates are a true representation of the population. However, Indian statistical agencies, which have historically relied on paper-based interviewing techniques, are now faced with the challenges of adapting to computer-assisted interviewing (CAI) methods commonly implemented in the West. This paper highlights the experiences of transitioning from

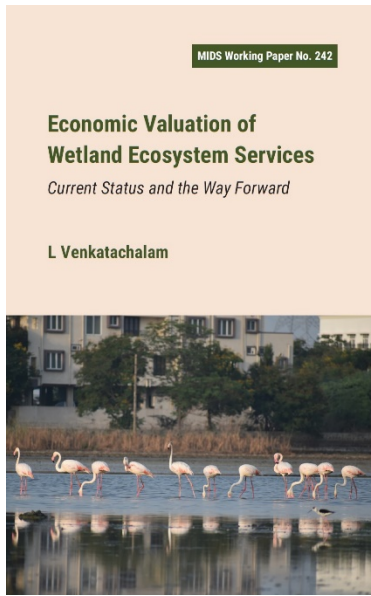
paper-based interviewing techniques to CAI methodology in the Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS), a longitudinal survey of a large household sample of over 2 lakhs. In addition, this paper highlights the various challenges faced in ensuring data quality in large population-level surveys and provides quality control guidance to minimise error and increase data quality.

### Venkatachalam L

Economic Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services: The Current Status and the Way Forward

Wetlands act as an important natural capital and supply highly valuable ecosystem services that are utilised for innumerable consumption and production activities in an economy. However, most of their ecosystem services are non-marketed in nature and therefore, their benefits are not getting reflected anywhere in the system. As a result, the economic importance of wetlands is undermined in the public policy domain, subjecting these natural assets to severe depletion and degradation. To





internalise various negative externalities that harm wetlands, it is necessary to obtain information on the economic values of ecosystem services utilised and their losses thereof in order to determine if the allocation of scarce resources for improvements in wetlands produces positive net benefits to the society. Across the globe, many economic valuation studies have been carried out to monetise the non-marketable ecosystem services of wetlands, and the results of these studies are used for creating awareness among stakeholders as well as for evidence-based policymaking in the area of wetland management. In this study, we critically review some of the important valuation studies to assess the current status, highlight the issues involved in generating such values and propose measures to strengthen wetland valuation practices in the future.

## XIV. Academic Activities: Faculty

### Paper Presentations

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#### Ajit Menon

Menon, A. (2023, October 4). *Entangled Histories in the Nilgiri-Wayanad: People, Conservation and Conviviality*. Reimagining Conservation Futures, Wageningen University, Bengaluru.

#### Ananta Kumar Giri

Giri, A. K. (2023, April 12–13). *Conversing with the other within and across: Cultivating Transformative Faith and a New Ecology of Hope and Integrating the Horizontal and the Vertical Dimension of Conversation and the Calling of Planetary Realizations* [Presentation]. Seminar on Religious Otherness, Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras.

Giri, A. K. (2023, April 14–16). *Sustainable Development Goals and Gandhian Constructive Programmes*. Gandhian School of Socialism and Democracy, ITM University, Gwalior.

Giri, A. K. (2023, April 28–30). *Social Sciences and the Regional Imagination of India: Sociology, Philosophy and Literature*. Indian Sociological Society Mid-Term Conference on Regional Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Lucknow.

Giri, A. K. (2023, August 9–12). *Towards a New Anthropology of World Spheres*. World Congress of Anthropology, KISS University, Bhubaneswar.

Giri, A. K. (2023, September 23–26). *Cultivating Contemplative Civilization and a New Civilization of Love and Ahimsa*. International Seminar on Sustainability and Contemplative Civilization: Integral Vision of Sri Aurobindo, California Institute of Integral Studies.

Giri, A. K. (2023, September 27–30). *Integral Consciousness and a New Yoga and Tantra of Integral Development: Sri Aurobindo, Mahatma Gandhi, Teilhard de Chardin, Jean Gebser and the Challenges of Evolutionary Flourishing and Planetary Realizations*. The Emergence of Integral Consciousness: Jean Gebser, Sri Aurobindo, Carl Jung & Teilhard de Chardin. Jean Gebser Society and California Institute of Integral Studies.

- Giri, A. K. (2023, October 10–12). *Rethinking Philosophy, Nationalism and Patriotism*. Nation, Culture, and Patriotism: Philosophical Debate on Nationalism in Contemporary India, Lady Keane College, Shillong.
- Giri, A. K. (2023, October 21). *Aesthetics of Business and Management*. Workshop on Aesthetics of Business and Management, Indus Business Academy, Bangalore.
- Giri, A. K. (2023, August 8). *New Works in Consciousness Corridors*. Book Release Symposium on New Works in Consciousness Corridors, Indus Business Academy, Bangalore.
- Giri, A. K. (2023, December 28). *Towards a Listening Sociology*. Indian Sociological Society Annual Conference 27–30 December 2023, Indian Sociological Society and VIT, Vellore.
- Giri, A. K. (2024, Jan 19–20). *With and Beyond Sociology and Indian Knowledge: Bharat Hind India Vishwa—An Upanishadic Sociology and an Ecology of Hope*. Idea Workshop on Revisiting Sociology, G. B. Pant Social Sciences Institute, Prayagraj.
- Giri, A. K. (2024, Jan 29–30). *Rethinking Poverty and Tribal Development*. National Seminar on Gujarat's Growth Trajectory, Sardar Patel Institute of Social and Economic Research (SPISER).
- Giri, A. K. (2024, Feb 3–5). *Tradition, Modernity and Transmodernity*. World Odia Conference, Department of Culture and Language, Government of Odisha, and Siksha O Anusandhan (SOA) University.
- Giri, A. K. (2024, Feb 11). *Dakhata, Kaushala o Srusti Prajapati: Uttama Samaja, Uttama Sashana o Uttama Jibanara Anekanta Patha of Diganta (Competence, Skill and Creative Butterflies: Manifold Pathways and Horizons of Good Society, Good Governance and Good Life)*. Annual Meet of Odisha Knowledge Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar.
- Giri, A. K. (2024, Feb 23). *Transfaith Movements and Climate Social Healing: Social and Ecological Bodicitta and an Advaita Ubuntu Mind, Body and Heart*. Fireflies Annual Dialogue, 21–23 Feb 2024, Fireflies, Bangalore.
- Giri, A. K. (2024, Feb 23–24). *Natural Farming and the Calling of Anna, Ananda, and Integral Development: Towards a New Dance of Soil, Soul, Society, Mother Earth, and Cosmos*. National Conference on Natural Farming, Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad.

- Giri, A. K. (2024, March 1-2). *Rethinking Historiography and Cultural Creativity*. International Conference on Cultures in Transformation: A Subcontinent Experience, Ram Lal Anand College, University of Delhi.
- Giri, A. K. (2024, March 6-7). *Inner Climate Change*. International Conference on the Social Consequences of Climate Change, Department of Sociology, University of Madras.
- Giri, A. K. (2024, March 14). *With and Beyond the Cross-Roads of Culture: The Calling of a New Consciousness Work for Freedom, Responsibility and Transcultural and Transcivilizational Dialogues and Planetary Realizations*. International Seminar on Culture at the Cross-Roads, 14-15 March 2024, Vanama Trust and Department of Anthropology, University of Madras.
- Giri, A. K. (2024, March 18). *Social Healing, Integral Development and Global Responsibility*. International Symposium on the Recent Works of Ananta Kumar Giri, MIDS.
- Giri, A. K. (2023, October 1). *With and Beyond Epistemic Injustice*. National Seminar on Epistemic Injustice, Department of English, Allahabad University.

## **Jafar K**

- Jafar, K. (2024, Jan 23). *Social Security Measures in Modern India: Impact on Organized and Unorganized Workers*. Labour Reforms and its Impact on the Future of Labour and Social Security Measures in India, Loyola College, AITUC and V V Giri National Labour Institute.
- Jafar, K. (2024, March 1). *Challenges for higher education in Kerala*. Narratives of Kerala's Fiscal Stress: Debates and the Way Ahead, Department of Economics, St. Paul's College, Kalamassery, Ernakulam.

## **Kalaiyarasan A**

- Kalaiyarasan, A. (2023, October 28). *Structural inequality of Muslims*. International Workshop, Princeton University.

## Venkatachalam L

Venkatachalam, L. (2024, March 6–7). *Role of Wetlands in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A Case Study of Prioritised Wetlands in Tamil Nadu*. Global Conclave on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Progress, Challenges and Way Forward, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

Venkatachalam, L. (2023, November 2–4). *Environmental Economics and Ecological Economics*. Workshop on History of Economic Thought, MIDS, Chennai.

## Venkatachalapathy A R

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (September 2023). *Nationalism and Tamil Literature*. Cambridge History of Indian Literature, The University of Chicago Center in Delhi.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (April 2023). *Right is Wrong, Wrong is Right: Polemics and Print Culture in Colonial South India* [Schaffner Visiting Professor Lecture 1]. Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (May 2023). *Swadeshi Steam: Economic Nationalism and Maritime Rivalry in Colonial India* [Schaffner Visiting Professor Lecture 2]. Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago.

## Participation in Seminars / Conferences / Workshops

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### Ajit Menon

Chair of the Lecture by Vijayendra Rao on 'Doing Policy That Prioritizes People: The Challenge of Reflexivism', 10 January 2024, MIDS.

Discussant, Deliberation on Inequality and Intervention, 18-19 January 2024, NIAS, Bengaluru.

### Ananta Kumar Giri

Invited Lecture, Rethinking Satyagraha, 3 April 2023, Department of Philosophy, Sri Shankar Sanskrit University, Kalady, Kerala.

Invited Lecture, Rethinking Satyagraha: Truth, Travel, and Translation, 4 April 2023, School of Gandhian Thought and Gandhian Studies, MG University, Kottayam.

Invited Dialogue, Synthesis Talk with Rajat, Prof. Aloka Parashar Sen, 8 April 2023, SynTalk, Mumbai.

Invited Lecture, Corporate Spiritual Responsibility, 8 May 2023, Department of Management, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh.

Invited Lectures, on Social Healing and on Integral Development, 20 May 2023, USTM, Meghalaya.

Invited Lecture, Critiques of Political Economy, 20 May 2023, Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University.

Invited Lecture, Rethinking Politics, 25 May 2023, Department of Politics, Cotton University, Guwahati.

Invited Lecture, Pluriversal Politics and Integral Development, 25 May 2023, Dept. of Politics, Guwahati University.

Invited Lecture, Integral Development, 26 May 2023, Kokrajhar Government College, Bodoland, Assam.

Invited Lecture, Pluriversal Politics and Integral Development, 28 May 2023, Dept. of Political Science, North Bengal University, Siliguri.

Invited Lecture, Sri Aurobind and the Task of Rethinking Language, Literature and Society, 29 May 2023, Dept of Odia, Visva Bharati.

Participation, Parliament of the World's Religions, 14-18 August 2023, Parliament of the World's Religions, Chicago.

Invited Lecture, Presentation on the book The Calling of Global Responsibility, 30 August 2023, Rumi Forum, American Turkish Friendship Association, Chantilly, Virginia.

Invited Lecture, Global Responsibility, 6 Sept 2023, Earth Charter Center, UN University of Peace, Costa Rica.

Invited Lecture, Reflections on 9/11, 11 September 2023, Fielding Graduate University (Online).

Invited Lecture, Rethinking Mysticism: Gardens of God, 11 September 2023, Loyola Mary Mount University, Los Angeles, USA.

Invited Lecture, Rethinking Religion, 11 September 2023, Loyola Mary Mount University, Los Angeles, USA.

Invited Lecture, Purusartha and a New Poetics of Development, 11 September 2023, Loyola Mary Mount University, Los Angeles, USA

Invited Lecture, Corporate Spiritual Responsibility, 13 September 2023, College of Business Administration, Loyola Mary Mount University, Los Angeles, USA.

Invited Lecture, Towards a New Dharma of Peace Building, 9 October 2023, School of Gandhian Studies and Development Thought, MGU, Kottayam.

Invited Lecture, Transdisciplinarity and a New Pragmatics and Hermeneutics of Self Discipline and Society, 9 Oct 2023, School of Letters, MGU, Kottayam.

Participation, IUAES World Congress of Anthropology, 14-20 October 2023, IUAES World Congress of Anthropology, Delhi.

Invited Online Lecture, Contemporary Contributions to Critiques of Political Economy: Political Economy, Moral Economy, Moral Sociology and Spiritual Ecology, 27 Oct 2023, Swami Viekananda Chair at Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam.

Invited Online Lecture, Dialogue and Responsibility, 15 November 2023, India Dialogue Foundation, New Delhi.

Invited Lecture, Rethinking and Transforming Literature, Philosophy and Society: Poetics of Development and Social Healing, 18 January 2024, Faculty of Arts, Allahabad University, Prayagraj.

Invited Lecture, Cultivating Integral Development, 18 January 2024, Center for Development Studies and Globalization, Allahabad.

Invited Lecture, Cultivating Alternative Anthropologies of India and the World: Walking and Meditating with the Pioneering Works of JPS Uberoi, 23 January 2024, Dept. of Anthropology, Allahabad University.

Invited Lecture, Rethinking Media Studies: Media, Meditation and Communication, 8 Feb 2024, School of Journalism, KIIT University.

Invited Lecture, Social Healing, 8 February 2024, KISS Deemed University.

Invited Online Lecture, Indigenous Knowledge, Pluriversal Development and Good Governance, 8 Feb 2024, Refresher Course at Dept of Anthropology, Utkal University.

Invited Lecture, Atomic Planetary Leadership and a New Purusartha of Management and Development, 27 Feb 2024, Gatisakti University, Baroda.

Invited Online Lecture, Presentation on Mahatma Gandhi and Sri Aurobindo, 12 March 2024, Book Discussion on Mahatma Gandhi and Sri Aurobindo, at India International Center.

Invited Online Lecture, Poetry of the Earth, World Poetry Day, 21 March 2024, Srujani Paribara, Chennai.

Invited Online Lecture, Contemporary Cultural Crises and the Challenges of Renewal and Transformations: New Horizons and Pathways of Consciousness Work for Freedom, Responsibility and a New Civilization, 28 March 2024, Srujani Paribara Webinar, Chennai

Invited Lectures on Creative Social Research, Refresher Course in Social Research Methods, September 2023, MAANU, Hyderabad.

## **Jafar K**

Panelist, Assessing the Impact of Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana in Thiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu, Advancing girl child empowerment: Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana and the path to sustainable development, 16 Feb 2024, Centre for Rural and Entrepreneurship Development, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chennai.



## **Kalaiyarasan A**

Organizer and discussant, Why Industrial Policy Matters, Workshop on Industrial Policy in Indian States, 20 March 2024, MIDS, IIT-Bombay and KREA.

Invited Talk, How Do Inheritances Shape Wealth Inequality? Evidence From India, 30 January 2024, International Inequality Institute, LSE.

Moderator, Truth and Narrative: The Survey Methods in India, 9 November 2023, MIDS.

Invited Talk, Competing Inequalities: Does Caste in India Mirror Racialized Economy in the US? 24 October 2023, University of Virginia.

Panelist, Identity and Labour Market, State of Working India 2023 report, 26 September 2023, Azim Premji University, Bangalore.

Invited Talk, Indian Muslims: Educational (Im)Mobility and Emerging Deprivations, 23 June 2023, Kings College London.

Special Lecture, Peasantry, Caste and Economic Transformation in India, 16 June 2023, Oxford Department of International Development (ODID), University of Oxford.

Special Lecture, Crisis of Dominant Caste Farmers, India's Political Economy Workshop Programme, 14-15 June 2023, King's India Institute, Strand Campus.

## **Kripa Ananthpur**

Panelist, 64<sup>th</sup> ISLE Annual Conference, 30 March 2024, University of Hyderabad.

Resource Person, 3-day Econometric Workshop, 13-15 March 2024, MIDS.

Resource Person, 10-day Research Methodology Course on Quantitative Methods and Women's Studies, 18-28 March 2024, CWDS, New Delhi and CWS, University of Hyderabad.

Discussant, Bridging Data Divides: Mapping Unpaid Domestic and Care Work, 3 October 2023, India International Centre, CWDS, New Delhi.

Keynote Speaker, International Conference on Gender Dynamics, 30-31 January 2024, Stella Maris College, Chennai.

Presenter, TNHPS-PBS and BLS Comparison to Dr Gopal, ACS P&D Department, GOTN, October 2023, Secretariat, Chennai.

Presenter, TNHPS-PBS and BLS Comparison to Mr Meena, ACS P&D Department, GOTN, March 2024, Secretariat, Chennai.

## **Umanath M**

Resource Person, Dynamics of Derivative markets, National Training Programme on Market Intelligence for Global Competitiveness, 15 June 2023, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi in collaboration with National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad (Online).

Guest Lecture, Changes in Food Production and consumption pattern and its implication on diet and health, Millet Conclave, 16 June 2023, Kumaraguru Institute of Agriculture, Erode.

Resource Person, Hands-on experience with statistical software (STATA), Certificate Course in Methods and Applications in Social Science Research (CCMASSR), 15 September 2023, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru.

Resource Person, Inferential statistics (t-tests, ANOVA, regression, etc.), Certificate Course in Methods and Applications in Social Science Research (CCMASSR), 15 September 2023, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru.

Guest Lecture, Theory of Profit Function and its Application in Agricultural Production, 27 January 2024, Department of Agricultural Economics, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Resource Person, Panel Data Analysis, 5-day Collaborative Training Programme on Basic Econometric Tools and Techniques in Data Analytics, 2 February 2024, ICAR Central Institute of Fisheries Technology and Department of Economics, School of Management, Pondicherry University.

## **Venkatachalam L**

Chair, The Sociological Smith by Alex Thomas, MIDS Lecture Series, 12 April 2023, MIDS, Chennai.

Chair, Panel Discussion on Future Food of Millets and Scope of Agriculture and Food Policy, 3 May 2023, MIDS, Chennai.

External Member, Presentation of Master's Theses by the Port Management Students, 16 May 2023, Indian Maritime University, Chennai.

Guest Speaker, Identifying Research Issues, Research Advisory Committee Meeting for the Faculty, 27 May 2023, Karpagam Academy of Higher Education, Coimbatore.

Chair, A Session on Environment, Institute's PhD Seminar Series, 29 May 2023, Madras School of Economics, Chennai.

Resource Person, Economic Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services, Training Programme for the TN Forest Officials, 6 June 2023, GIZ and Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore.

Member, Interview Panel to select the Research Consultants, 7 June 2023, State Planning Commission, GoTN.

Resource Person, Economic Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services, Training Programme for the TN Forest Officials, 13 June 2023, GIZ and Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore.

Chair, Prospects and Challenges for India's Medium-Term Growth by M Suresh Babu, 15 June 2023, MIDS Seminar Series.

Resource Person, Economic Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services, Training Programme for the TN Forest Officials, 19 June 2023, GIZ and Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore.

Guest Speaker, Fundamentals of Doing Research, Faculty Enrichment Programme, 24 June 2023, Karpagam Academy of Higher Education, Coimbatore.

Resource Person, Public-Private Partnership, Training Program on Issues in Public Finance and Policy, 5 July 2023, Centre for Public Finance, Madras School of Economics, Chennai.

Guest Speaker, SDGs and Wetland Management, G-20 Lecture Series, 7 July 2023, ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad.

Guest Speaker, Behavioral Economics for Public Policy, G-20 Lecture Series, 7 July 2023, ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad.

Resource Person, Green GDP, Training Program on Issues in Public Finance and Policy, 11 July 2023, Centre for Public Finance, Madras School of Economics, Chennai.

Inaugural Address, Environment and Sustainable Development, National Seminar on Environmental Sustainability in Post-Independence India, 12 July 2023, Post-Graduate Department of Economics, Government Arts College, Nandanam, Chennai.

Chair, Local Cultural Cleavages and Prosocial Behaviour: Evidence from household electricity theft in India by Sitakanta Panda, IIT Bhubaneswar, 12 July 2023, MIDS, Chennai.

Resource Person, Recent Developments in Behavioral Economics (2 lectures), UGC-Sponsored Online Refresher Course in Economics, 17th July 2023, HRDC, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

Resource Person, Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services, Training on Wetland Conservation & Management in Tamil Nadu for Community-Based Organizations / Non-Governmental Organizations, 19 July 2023, GIZ and Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore.

Keynote Speaker, Contemporary Issues in Indian Agriculture, Two-Day National Seminar on Indian Agriculture@75: Achievements, Challenges and Way Forward, 20 July 2023, Department of Economics, Pondicherry University.

Inaugural Talk, Scope of Development Studies, Inauguration of Development Studies Programme, 21 July 2023, Department of Development Studies, Madras School of Social Work, Chennai.

Discussant, Session on Environment and Climate Change, National Doctoral Colloquium, 23-25 August 2023, MIDS, Chennai.

Inaugural Address, Non-market Instruments for Behavioral Change, Inauguration of Nudge Club, 28 August 2023, GVG Vishalakshi College for Women, Udumalpet (online).

Inaugural Address, Women and Economics, Inauguration of the Economics Association, 5 September 2023, Department of Economics, Meenakshi College, Chennai.

Resource Person, Information in Economics, Online Refresher Course on Economics and Social Development in Information and A.I. Era, 16 September 2023, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai.

Resource Person, Economic Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services, Training on Wetland Conservation & Management in Tamil Nadu for Community-Based Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations, 21 September 2023, GIZ and Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore.

Resource Person, Economic Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services, Training on Wetland Conservation & Management in Tamil Nadu for Community-Based Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations, 25 September 2023, GIZ and Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore.

Invited Speaker, Role of Information in Wetland Protection and Management, Workshop on Ecosystem Approaches for Reducing Climate Vulnerabilities for the Coastal Communities, 10 October 2023, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority, GoTN.

Invited Speaker, Economic Instruments for Reducing Tobacco Consumption, Consultative Meeting on Tobacco Tax: Issues, Possibilities and the Way-forward, 13 October 2023, Madras School of Social Work, Chennai and Nava Jeevan Trust.

Special Address, Nobel Prize in Economics 2023, Inauguration of Economic Association, 16 October 2023, Department of Economics, Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore.

Valedictory Address, Environment-Induced Inequality in India, International Conference on Reduced Inequalities - Challenges and Solutions for Sustainable Development Goals 2023, 2 November 2023, SRM University, Chennai.

Resource Person, Ecological Economic Thought, Three-Day Workshop on History of Economic Thought, 2 November 2023, MIDS, Chennai.

Resource Person, Evolution of Behavioral Economics, Three-Day Workshop on History of Economic Thought, 4 November 2023, MIDS, Chennai.

Resource Person, Institutional Economics, Refresher Course in Economics, Commerce, and Management, 17 November 2023, The Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

Resource Person, Institutional Economics, Refresher Course in Economics, 29 November 2023, Department of Econometrics, University of Madras, Chennai.

Guest Speaker, Recent Developments in Environmental Economics, Guest Lecture Series, 6 December 2023, Department of Economics, Lady Doak College, Madurai.

Panellist, How to deal with the future floods in Chennai city? Times of India Conclave, 21 December 2023, Times of India Group, Chennai.

Resource Person, Green GDP: Concept and Application, National Training Programme on Natural Resources Accounting, 12 January 2024, International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED), Jaipur.

Resource Person, Survey and Experimental Methods in Social Sciences, Capacity Building Programme (CBP) on Research Methodology and Academic Writing for Faculty in Social Sciences, 15 January 2024, Department of Studies and Research in Economics, Tumkur University, Karnataka.

Panelist, Environmental Basis of India's Economy, International Conference on Adaptation to Change, 19 January 2024, Department of Corporate Secretaryship, Loyola College, Chennai.

Endowment Lecture, Making the Macroeconomics Green, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Memorial Lecture, 24 January 2024, Department of Economics, Stella Maris College, Chennai.

Inaugural Address, Behavioural Change to Make the Indian Economy Climate Resilient, National Seminar on Economics of Climate Change and Environment, 5 February 2024, Department of Economics, JBAS College for Women (SIET College), Chennai.

Valedictory Address, Redirecting the Economy Towards Green Growth, National Seminar on Rethinking Business for Sustainable Future, 7 February 2024, Dr MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women, Chennai.

Resource Person, Economic Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services, International Seminar on Exploring Wetland Ecosystem Services for Human Wellbeing, 13 February 2024, Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Inaugural Address, India's Challenges in Leading the Global South, Panel Discussion on Leading the Global South – India's Priorities, Performance and Prospects, 20 February 2024, School of Political and International Studies, University of Madras, Chennai.

Panelist, Growth and Environmental Challenges in India, National Symposium on India's Growth Trajectories and Challenges, 27 February 2024, Department of Economics, Loyola College, Chennai.

Chief Guest, Inaugural address, Exhibition on Game Theory, 29 February 2024, Department of Economics, Madras Christian College, Chennai.

Inaugural Address, Trillion-Dollar Economy and Sustainable Development in Tamil Nadu, Genz Economic Summit 2024, 14 February 2024, Department of Economics, Kumaraguru Institutions, Coimbatore.

Panelist, Resources for Trillion-Dollar Economy, Genz Economic Summit 2024, 14 February 2024, Department of Economics, Kumaraguru Institutions, Coimbatore.

Guest Lecture, Environmental Economics, Ecological Economics and Non-Market Valuation, Guest Lecture Series, 19 March 2024, Department of Economics, JadHAVpur University, Kolkata.

Resource Person, Measuring Hicksian Compensating and Equivalent Variation for Non-Market Environmental Goods and Services, Workshop on Environmental Economics, 20 March 2024, Department of Economics, Victoria Institution (College), Kolkata.

Panelist, Social Science Research in India: The Current Status and the Future Directions, One-Day Seminar on Current Status of Social Sciences in India and the Way-Forward, 22 March 2024, MIDS, Chennai.

## Awards and Honours

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### Venkatachalapathy A R

1. Mahakavi Bharati Award, Makkal Sinthanai Peravai, Erode, 11 December 2023
2. Nalla. Palanisamy Award, NGP Arts & Science College, Coimbatore, 16 December 2023

## Other Academic Activities

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### Ajit Menon

- Associate Editor, *Maritime Studies*, Since 2014
- Editor, *Conservation and Society*, Since 2020
- One of the coordinators of one-day seminar on 'The Current State of Social Sciences in India and the Way Forward', 22 March 2024, MIDS.
- Selection panel for recruitment of faculty at BML Munjal University, 18 May 2023.
- Selection panel for PhD students' admission, Gitam University, Visakhapatnam, 29 December 2023.
- Was part of CAS at CUSAT (Kochi), 6 February 2024.
- PhD viva of Santosh T. Kaleb from MG University, Kottayam, on 4 August 2023.
- Conducted English language and grammar classes at MIDS for PhD students. Also included classes on summarizing and paraphrasing, critical reading and writing. This was a commitment of 10-15 hours a week.
- Member of Advisory Committee, Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission (SPC) Study on Coastal Fishing Communities as part of a wider SPC initiative to prepare a Social Justice report for Tamil Nadu.
- Two lectures on Research and Publication Ethics and nine lectures on Introduction to Development Studies/Development Thought as part of MIDS PhD Coursework.

### Ananta Kumar Giri

- Member, The Club of Rome, an organization of intellectuals and business leaders whose goal is a critical discussion of pressing global issues.
- Coordinator, Book Offering and International Symposium on Social Healing, Integral Development and Global Responsibility, 18 March 2024.



## Hafsai K

- Three manuscripts under preparation:
  1. Effect of Political Connections on Public Sector Employment in India
  2. Testing Asset Price Bubbles: An Alternative Approach
  3. Higher Order Connectedness between Green Bond and Green Cryptos
- Coordinator of One-day Workshop on the History of Economic Thought, 8 May 2023, MIDS
- Coordinator of Doctoral Colloquium on Development Studies and Economics, 23–25 August 2023, MIDS
- Coordinator of Three-Day Workshop on the History of Economic Thought, 2–4 November 2023, MIDS
- Coordinator of Workshop on Microeconometrics for Survey data, 13–15 March 2024, MIDS
- Reviewed two manuscripts for the MIDS journal *Review of Development and Change*, 18 July 2023 and 23 December 2023.

## Jafar K

- Associate Editor of the MIDS Journal, *Review of Development and Change*
- Refereed 2 chapters: ‘Informal Economy and Sustainable Development Goals: Ideas, Intervention and Challenges’ (Emerald)
- Refereed manuscripts for journals:
  - Local Development and Society (Taylor & Francis), May 2023
  - Review of Development & Change (SAGE), September 2023
  - Journal of Social and Economic Development (Springer), Feb 2024
  - Review of Development Economics (Wiley), March 2024
  - Review of Education (Wiley), March 2024
- Six lectures on *Research and Publication Ethics* and one lecture on *Introduction to Development Studies* as part of MIDS PhD Coursework
- 25 hours of lectures on Institutional Economics at MSE.
- Coordinator for:
  - Three-Day Doctoral Colloquium on Economics and Development Studies, 23–25 August 2023, as part of MIDS Golden Jubilee
  - Three-Day National Training Workshop on Microeconometrics for Survey Data, 13–15 March 2024, as part of MIDS Golden Jubilee
- Evaluated 3 master’s dissertations from Madras School of Economics, Chennai

- Served as examiner for comprehensive viva examination of one PhD candidate at Madras School of Economics, Chennai
- Guided 2 internship students: V. Jayaraj, MA Economics, Central University of Kerala (April–May 2023) and Sriman C, MA History, Loyola College, University of Madras (Sept 2023–March 2024)
- Served as an expert to evaluate ‘Naan Mudhalvan’: A massive industry-relevant skill enhancement initiative for the Youth of Tamil Nadu (with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation and UNICEF Chennai)
- Serve as Doctoral committee member: MIDS (4), MSE (3), Stella Maris College (1)

## Kalaiyarasan A

- Manuscript titled “Inclusion through Modernity: Dravidian Urbanization in Tamil Nadu,” accepted for publication in the journal *Urban Studies*.
- Submitted a manuscript titled “Crisis of Labour Transition as Agrarian Crisis in India” for publication in *Journal of South Asian Development*.
- Was interviewed by Pon Vasanth (2023, October 13) titled ‘Should the 50% legal ceiling on reservation be reconsidered?’ Published in *The Hindu*.
- RAC member for Arya Sankar, MIDS
- Doctoral Committee Member for Manimadan, IIT Madras, Chennai
- Two lectures on Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Indian Development, eight lectures on History of Social, Political and Development Thought in India, and five lectures on Introduction to Development Studies/Development Thought as part of MIDS PhD coursework.
- Organiser:
  - One-day workshop on Industrial Policy in Indian States, 20 March 2024
  - Panel discussion titled Truth and Narrative: The Survey Methods in India? 9 November 2023
- Was cited in an article published in *The New York Times*, 23 March 2024.

## Kripa Ananthpur

- Member of Selection Committee, State Planning Commission, 28 February 2024
- Doctoral Committee Internal (for 2 students at MIDS, 2023-24)
- Doctoral Committee External (for 2 Students from Stella Maris College & School of Social Work, 2023-24)

- Two lectures on History of Development Thought and 10 lectures on Qualitative Research Methods as part of MIDS PhD Coursework
- Organised the one-day workshop on State Finance Commissions and the Changing Fiscal Landscape in India: The Tamil Nadu 6th SFC Report—Highlights and Key Recommendations on 8 November 2023
- Organised the Public lecture on Doing Policy that Prioritises People: The Challenge of Reflexivism by Dr. Vijayendra Rao on 10 January 2024.

## **Umanath M**

- Editorial Board Member, GreenariA, Since 2023
- Reviewed a Monograph for Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, February 2024
- Reviewed manuscripts for:
  - Journal of Social and Economic Development, February 2024
  - International Journal of Social Economics, September 2023
- External reviewer for evaluating students' dissertation work for Madras School of Economics, May 2023
- Coordinator of the MIDS seminar "The Dravidian Paradox: Women and Work in Tamil Nadu" by A Kalaiyaran
- Organiser of:
  - Workshop on Millet Economy: Current Status and Future Policies, 3 May 2023
  - Panel Discussion on Future Food of Millets and Scope of Agriculture and Food Policy Measures for Diversified Diet and Nutritional Security in India & Tamil Nadu in specific, 3 May 2023
  - Three-day national workshop on Data science and information technologies for social scientists, 9–11 August 2023
  - A National Training Workshop on Microeconometrics for Survey Data, 13–15 March 2024
- Submitted four research papers for publication in various peer-reviewed journals.
- Two research project proposals have been submitted to the concerned funding agencies.
- Eight hours of lectures on Research Methodology and eight hours of lectures on Quantitative Research Methods Advanced Econometrics as part of MIDS PhD Coursework.

## Venkatachalam L

- Editor-in-Chief (until 31 March 2024) and Managing Editor, *Review of Development and Change*
- Served as the Officiating Director of MIDS (20 March 2023 to 31 March 2024)
- Referee for *Journal of Social and Economic Development*, 4 October 2023 and for *Economic and Political Weekly*, 23 September 2023
- Member, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority, Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Member, Sub-Group on Tamil Nadu Heat Mitigation Strategy, Government of Tamil Nadu
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, MOP Vaishnav College, Chennai, 2022-24.
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, 2023-2025.
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, 2022-23.
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, St. Berchmans College, Changanassery, 2021-24.
- Member, RAC, Mr Jonathan Adjin Quaye, Amrita School of Business, Amritapuri, Kerala.
- Member, Committee to select Public Policy Consultants and Research Assistants at SPC, GoTN, 7th June 2023.
- Member, Committee to select Innovation Fellow, SPC, GoTN, 15th February 2024.
- Member, Committee to select Team Leaders in Research & Documentation, and Communication Specialists for Social Welfare Department, GoTN, organised by the University of Madras, 19th June 2023.
- Member, Faculty Selection Committee (Economics), Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, 5th August 2023.
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, Annamalai University from February 2024 to January 2027.
- Reviewed a research paper for Ecology, Economy and Society journal, 24th Sept. 2023.
- Reviewed A Research Proposal for IITM (on CSR and Environment), submitted the review report on 2nd July 2023.
- Reviewed a Research Paper submitted to Water Alternatives Journal, review report submitted on 16th July 2023.
- External Examiner, Ph.D. viva-voce examination, Ms. Selvi, Department of Economics, New College, Chennai, 14th September 2023.

- External Examiner, Ph.D. viva-voce examination, Mr. Philomen Joel, Department of Economics, Vivekananda College, Chennai.
- Evaluated 32 entries submitted to Policy Challenge Essay Competition by the RBI 1st November 2023.
- Expert Member, Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, 2024.
- Member, RAC, Ms. Smayuktha, Ph.D. student, Stella Mari's College, Chennai
- Member, RAC, Ms. Aryama Sarkar, Ph.D. student, HSS, IITM.
- Member, RAC, Ms. Gouri Sreekumar, Ph.D. student, HSS, IITM.
- Member, RAC, Ms. J. Gajalakshmi, Ph.D. student, Department of Economics, St. Peter's College, Chennai.
- Member, RAC, Ms. Sruthi Kesh, Ph.D. Scholar at MSE.
- Member, RAC, Mr. Shanmugaraja, NIT, Tiruchirapalli.
- Member, RAC, Mr. Karthikeyan, NIT, Tiruchirapalli.
- Member, RAC, Mr. Vineesh, NIT, Tiruchirapalli.
- Member, RAC, Mr. Anees, Department of Economics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore
- Member, RAC, Ms. Aditi, Department of Economics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore
- Member, RAC, Ms. Smrithi Rajya, Department of Economics, Madras Christian College, Tambaram.
- Member, RAC, Ms. Rida Wanbha Nongbri, HSS, IIM.
- Member, RAC, Ms. Gauri Sreekumar, HSS, IITM.
- Member, RAC, Ms. Aryama Sarkar, HSS, IITM.
- Member, RAC, Ms. V. Samyuktha, Department of Economics, Stella Mari's College.
- Member, RAC, Ms. TSK Durgesh Nandini, Department of Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University.
- Guided six interns from MCC, Stella-Maris, and Loyola colleges.
- Events Coordination:
  - Coordinator for Panel Discussion on Indian Economy and Climate Change: Issues and the Way Forward (with RBI), 23rd March 2023
  - Coordinator, Seminar on 'The Sociological Smith' by Dr Alex M Thomas, 12th April 2023
  - Chair, Panel Discussion on Future Food of Millets and Scope of Agriculture and Food Policy Measures for Diversified Diet and Nutritional Security in India & Tamil Nadu in specific, 3rd May 2023
  - Chair, Prospects and Challenges for India's Medium-term Growth by Prof. M. Suresh Babu, 15th June 2023

- Coordinator, One-Day Faculty Development (Online) Workshop on Effective Proposal Writing and Funding Landscape in Social Science Research by Dr Richa Sharma, ICSSR, 8th July 2023
- Chair, Local Cultural Cleavages and Prosocial Behaviour: Evidence from household electricity theft in India by Dr Sitakanta Panda, IIT Bhubaneswar, 12th July 2023
- Coordinator, The Four Key Moments in Economic Policy in India by Dr Rahul De, Azim Premji University, 10th November 2023
- Coordinator, The Evolution of National Accounting in India by Mr. Pramit Bhattacharya, 17th November 2023
- Coordinator, Open-Economy Macroeconomics in EMEs, 19–23 February 2024
- Coordinator (with Prof. Ajit Menon), One-Day Seminar on The Current Status of Social Sciences in India and the Way Forward, 22nd March 2024
- Was interviewed by Doordarshan Podhigai and broadcast on 11 July 2023 on Population Growth & Environmental Awareness. <https://youtu.be/-jja3VWfDjk>

## Venkatachalapathy A R

- Advisor, The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy, Since 2013
- Organiser, National Workshop on Manuscriptology (jointly with Dr UV Swaminatha Iyer Library, Chennai), 09–13 October 2023.
- Organiser, One-day workshop titled V.O. Chidambaram Pillai in New Light, 4 January 2024.
- General Editor, MIDS Publications, commissioned and overseen the publication of the book by the economist late Prof S Neelakantan, titled *A Remembered Village, A Remembered Town*.
- Interviewed by Sushila, R. (2024, January 5). ‘VOC dreamed big. More than a century later, it remains difficult to trace the roots of this dream,’ says historian A.R. Venkatachalapathy. *The Hindu*.
- Interviewed by Kolappan, B. (2023, September 09). The evolution of Subramania Bharati via his writings in *The Hindu* | An interview with historian A.R. Venkatachalapathy. *The Hindu*.

## **XV. Academic Activities: Research Scholars**

### **Publications**

#### **Gargi Sridharan**

Ananthpur, K., de Jong, J., Sridharan, G., & Shrivastava, B. (2023). How good is your data? Challenges of ensuring data quality in a large-scale survey: Lessons from the Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS) (*MIDS Working Paper No. 243*). Madras Institute of Development Studies.  
[https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP\\_243.pdf](https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP_243.pdf)

Sridharan, G. (2023, October 26). Reading Claudia Goldin's Nobel-winning research on women's labour in the Indian context. *The News Minute*.  
<https://www.thenewsminute.com/india/reading-claudia-goldins-nobel-winning-research-on-womens-labour-in-the-indian-context>

Sridharan, G., & Ananthpur, K. (2023). Cash and wages: A need for a dual strategy for empowering women in Tamil Nadu. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 58(39), 13-16.  
<https://www.epw.in/journal/2023/39/commentary/cash-and-wages.html>

Sridharan, G., Ananthpur, K. (2023, April 8). Challenges of implementing Magalir Urimai Thogai (Women's Rights Grant Scheme). *The New Indian Express*.  
<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2023/apr/08/challenges-of-implementing-magalir-urimai-thogai-2563824.html>

#### **Niranjana C J**

Niranjana, C. J. (2023). Ecology, representation, and space: Trends in the post-colonial historiography of railways in India. *South Indian History Congress Proceedings vol. 41*.

#### **Titu Mahanta**

Mahanta, T. (January 2024). Institutional value chain upgrading and small tea growers of Brahmaputra valley of Assam. *Dogo Rangsang Research Journal*, XI(XXII).

Mahanta, T. (n.d.). Opportunities and challenges of upgrading: Trajectory of small tea growers(STGs) of rural Assam towards Organic Tea (Manuscript submitted to *IJRM*).

## Papers Presentations

### Aishwarya GVN

Aishwarya, G. V. N. (2024, January 8–9). *Women's work and welfare: A qualitative study on how women's labour mediates welfare provisioning in a state-run subsidised meal scheme* [Paper presentation]. International Workshop on Rethinking Labour: Gender, Informality and Politics, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, India.

### Arya Sankar R

Arya Sankar, R. (2024, Jan 31–Feb 2). *A PES scheme promoting carbon sequestration in Indian agricultural sector: A literature review and a conceptual model* [Paper presentation]. Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) Conference, New Delhi.

### Gargi Sridharan

Sridharan, G. (2023, July 12). *Domestic labour and well-being in married couples: Evidence from Tamil Nadu* [Paper presentation]. Advance Graduate Workshop, Azim Premji University and the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET), Bengaluru.

### Unnimaya U G

Unnimaya, U. G. (2024, March 30). *Participation of women and persons of disability in location-based delivery gig work: A case study from Kochi, Kerala* [Paper presentation]. 64<sup>th</sup> Annual ISLE Conference, University of Hyderabad.

## Biannual Presentations at MIDS

26 June 2023

Jijin P	Investment Impact of Remittances: The case of India
Rituparna Borah	Ecotourism in Majuli: Glocal Assemblages in the changing Political Ecology of a river island
Aishwarya GVN	Understanding State–Society relations in the context of Urban Governance
Ajisha K V	An Enquiry into the Marine Fishing Technology and the Approach of Market Towards Sea: The Case of Kerala
Anitha P C	Social and Cultural change among Tribal Community
Prashant Kumar	Political Ecology of Groundwater Abstraction in India



**27 June 2023**

Unnimaya U G	Labour Economics
Zakiyya K	Gender and Popular Culture
Anjaly Baby	Financial Inclusion of Urban Poor: A Study of households in the Urban slums of Chennai
Gargi Sridharan	Division of Labour and subjective well-being: A household-level study in Tamil Nadu, India
Arya Sankar R	Environmental Economics

**14 December 2023**

Zakiyya K	Gender and Popular Culture
Niranjana C J	Colonial State Space and Uneven Urbanisation: The Making of Railways in the Madras Presidency
Aishwarya GVN	Understanding State-Society relations in the context of Urban Governance
Titu Mahanta	Institutions, Upgrading and Livelihoods: Study of Small Tea Growers of Assam
Prashant Kumar	Political Ecology of Groundwater Abstraction in India
Rahul Reghu	Tribal Development in Kerala: Discourse, the everyday state and Kadars in the Vazhachal-Malakkapara Region

**15 December 2023**

Arya Sankar R	Payment for Ecosystem Services
Gargi Sridharan	Division of Labour and subjective well-being: A household level study in Tamil Nadu, India
Anjaly Baby	Financial Inclusion of Urban Poor: A Study of households in the Urban slums of Chennai
Brinda G. Krishnan	Supply Chains and Local Ecology
Ajisha K V	An Enquiry into the Marine Fishing Technology and the Approach of Market Towards Sea: The Case of Kerala

## **XVI. Events@MIDS**

### **Seminars**

20 April 2023	The Dravidian Paradox: Women and Work in Tamil Nadu by A Kalaiyarasan
15 June 2023	Prospects and Challenges for India's Medium-Term Growth by M Suresh Babu
30 June 2023	The Economic, Social and Psychological Drivers of Labour Trafficking and its Impact: A Case Study on Returned Bangladeshi Survivors by Ahmed Abidur Razzaque Khan
5 July 2023	Faith, Hope and Struggles for Peace: Albert Schweitzer's Message for Us Today by Christian Bartolf
12 July 2023	Local Cultural Cleavages and Prosocial Behaviour: Evidence from Household Electricity Theft in India by Sitakanta Panda
13 July 2023	Real Utopias of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century: Eco Femme, Auroville, and Beyond by Cansu Gurkaya
17 July 2023	Sleep and Time Poverty Using a Gender Lens by TS Kavita Rajeshwari
10 November 2023	The Four Key Moments in Economic Policy in India by Rahul De
17 November 2023	The Evolution of National Accounting in India by Pramit Bhattacharya
27 November 2023	Complexity, Creative Social Science and Public Policy by Naresh Singh
4 January 2024	VOC in New Light—One-day Seminar on V.O.Chidambaram Pillai based on the six new books by AR Venkatachalapathy
18 March 2024	Social Healing, Integral Development and the Calling of Global Responsibility and Peace—Book Offering and International Symposium on the Recent Books by Ananta Kumar Giri
22 March 2024	The Current Status of Social Sciences in India and the Way Forward

## **Public Lectures and Talks**

12 April 2023	The Sociological Smith by Alex M Thomas
17 August 2023	Bharati and the Struggle for India's Independence by R Raman
23 August 2023	Not Afraid of the Dark: Sensible Research Practices in Your Doctoral Life by Naresh Keerthi
24 August 2023	Post-Covid 'New Normal' and Macroeconomic Uncertainties: Possibilities and Options by Pinaki Chakraborty
10 January 2024	Doing Policy that Prioritises People: The Challenge of Reflexivism by Vijayendra Rao

## **Panel Discussions**

3 May 2023	Future Food of Millets and Scope of Agriculture and Food Policy Measures for Diversified Diet and Nutritional Security in India & Tamil Nadu in specific
9 November 2023	Truth and Narrative: The Survey Methods in India

## **Workshops**

3 May 2023	Millet Economy: Current Status and Future Policies
8 May 2023	History of Economic Thought
8 July 2023	Effective Proposal Writing and Funding Landscape in Social Science Research by Richa Sharma—Faculty Development Programme
9–11 August 2023	Three-Day National Workshop on Data Science and Information Technologies for Social Scientists
23–25 August 2023	Three-Day Doctoral Colloquium on Economics and Development Studies
9–13 October 2023	Five-Day Workshop on Manuscriptology (in association with UVS Library)
2–4 November 2023	Three-Day Workshop on the History of Economic Thought (HET)

8 November 2023	State Finance Commissions and the Changing Fiscal Landscape in India: The Tamil Nadu 6 <sup>th</sup> SFC Report—Highlights and Key Recommendations
19–23 February 2024	Five-Day Workshop on Open-Economy Macroeconomics in EMEs
13–15 March 2024	Three-Day National Workshop on Microeconometrics for Survey Data
20 March 2024	Industrial Policy in Indian States

## Book Releases

4 January 2024	<i>Swadeshi Steam: V.O.Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire</i> by AR Venkatachalapathy
9 March 2024	<i>Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay: The Art of Freedom</i> by Nico Slate (in association with Prakriti Foundation)

## Library Exhibitions

14–18 August 2023	Independence Day Book Exhibition by MIDS Library
21–22 August 2023	Madras Day Book Exhibition by MIDS Library
9–13 October 2023	A Display of Literature on Manuscripts and Publications
2–4 November 2023	A Display of Literature on the History of Economic Thought

## Competition

5 June 2023	Prize Distribution Ceremony for Golden Jubilee Essay Competition
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## Summary

- ☐ 13 Seminars
- ☐ 5 Public Lectures and Talks
- ☐ 2 Panel Discussions
- ☐ 11 Workshops
- ☐ 2 Book Releases
- ☐ 4 Book Exhibitions
- ☐ 1 Competition
- ☐ 38 Total Events

## XVII. MIDS Publications

### Books

Neelakantan, S. (2024). *A Remembered Village, A Remembered Town*. Primus Books and MIDS Publication. ISBN: 9789358521856.

MIDS Archives. (2024). *Malcolm Adiseshiah in Pictures*. MIDS Publication. ISBN: 9788194753377.

### Journal

*Review of Development and Change*, the MIDS Journal, indexed in UGC Care List, published biannually in association with SAGE, New Delhi. ISSN: 0972-2661.

- a. Volume 28 Issue 1 (June 2023)
- b. Volume 28 Issue 2 (December 2023)



### Working Papers

Venkatachalam, L. (2023). *Economic Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services: Current Status and the Way Forward* (Working Paper No. 242). Madras Institute of Development Studies. [https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP\\_242.pdf](https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP_242.pdf)

Ananthpur, K., de Jong, J., Sridharan, G., & Shrivastava, B. (2023). *How Good is Your Data? Challenges of Ensuring Data Quality in a Large-Scale Survey: Lessons from the Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS)* (Working Paper No. 243). Madras Institute of Development Studies. [https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP\\_243.pdf](https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP_243.pdf)

### Books in Press

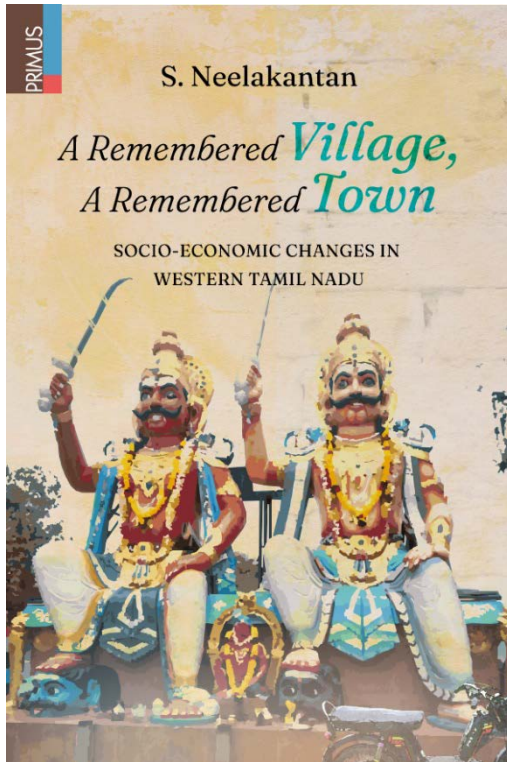
Adiseshiah, M. (Press). *Adiseshiah Writings on Economy and Development, Vol. 1*. Madras Institute of Development Studies. ISBN: 978-81-947533-9-1.

Adiseshiah, M. (Press). *Adiseshiah Writings on Education, Vol. 2*. Madras Institute of Development Studies. ISBN: 978-81-947533-4-6.

Padmini Swaminathan. (Press). *Industrial Policy towards Growth and Employment since Colonial Times*. Primus Books and MIDS Publication.

## About MIDS Books

### *A Remembered Village, A Remembered Town* by S Neelakantan



Western Tamil Nadu has witnessed tremendous changes in the last many decades, which have underpinned its contemporary economic, social and political importance. However, the region in general has remained largely understudied.

*A Remembered Village, A Remembered Town* gives an impressionistic account of socio-economic changes in a village, Appipalayam, and its nearest town, Karur, in the second half of the twentieth century. As a trained economist, S. Neelakantan brings his scholarship to bear on his lived experience and, whilst exploring labour, landed power, caste, and rural-urban linkages, provides an insightful account of the transformations, growth, and stagnation witnessed in the region across five decades. Peppered with anecdotes, this book makes for a gripping read.

### **Praise for the book**

Combining an economist's academic training with personal experience, Neelakantan weaves an absorbing tale of the transformation of a town and a village over fifty years. The book has ample data required for social research and yet it is eminently readable.

—Perumal Murugan, Indian writer and scholar

Rich in empirical detail, this book offers a grounded perspective on changes that have come about in the social and economic life of Tamil Nadu. It imaginatively brings together lay observations of a local resident over a lifetime with the craft of a professional economist. What we get in the process is an account of change that is both creative as well as scientific. Neelakantan manages to weave a compelling narrative and a perspective on the development process. The book thus goes beyond the conventional binary framings of rural and urban and shows how the two need to be approached together, without any presumption of a linear progression.

—Surinder S. Jodhka, Professor of Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University

## XVIII. Support Services

### Administration

The Administration section reported the following activities:

**Grants:** Correspondence with the funding agencies—ICSSR and Government of Tamil Nadu; submitting proposals towards sanction and release of salary and maintenance grants; monitoring the grants received as per the sanction order; ensuring the grant-in-aid bill and audited utilisation certificate are periodically submitted to the funding agencies.

**Projects:** Supporting the faculty for preparation of detailed project report (DPR) / project proposal and vetting of MOU before execution and signing of the projects. Preparation and maintenance of all project-related appointments, issue of relieving orders, experience certificates, etc. Submission of Audited Utilisation Certificate, Statement of Expenditure, returning of unspent amount and final report of the project to the clients.

**Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah (M&EA) Trust:** Handling of all correspondence requesting support for the Research and Academic activities, PhD fellowship, Founder's Day Lecture, and other academic programmes.

**RBI Chair and other Endowments:** Supporting the RBI Chair for conduct of academic events as per the MOU with RBI; Assisting in periodical submission of progress report; forwarding of Audited Utilisation Certificate and Statement of Expenditure periodically; Maintenance of records pertaining to the endowments fund of Ford Foundation and Union Planning Commission.

**Affiliation:** Dealing with Affiliate-related issues, including obtaining approval, preparation of academic certificates, and updating of details of Affiliate (joining, academic performance and exit, etc.) in the website of Foreigners Regional Registration Officer from time to time.

**Appointment of Fellows:** (ICSSR Senior Fellow, Visiting Professor/Fellow, Post-Doctoral Fellow): Preparing the approval note and issuing appointment letters, forwarding of joining reports, forwarding six-month reports, and submitting grant-in-aid bill to ICSSR.

**PhD programme:** Facilitated the PhD programme, by issuing the advertisement for admission; assisting the PhD Committee in admission (shortlisting of candidates, conduct of written test and oral interview, publication of results, issue of admission letters); coordinating with candidates to get their University admission, registration and formation of Research Advisory Committee; conducting biannual seminars; and assisting scholars in submission of synopsis and thesis, facilitating viva-voce exams, etc.

**Establishment:** Handling the service-related matters of academic and non-academic employees of MIDS, conducting the process of recruitment, preparation of minutes, issue of appointment letters, fixation of pay, coordinating DA-related matters, obtaining sanction of annual increment, promotion, maintenance of leave records, correspondence with LIC of India for periodical remittance of premium for Employees Group Gratuity and Encashment of Leave and following up for getting funds for settlement of the terminal benefits of the employees, monitoring the superannuation of employees and timely settlement of their terminal benefits, etc. Maintenance of personal files and service records of all the employees. Proposing for CAS for faculty, constitution of IQAC, conduct of interview and promotion thereon.

**Maintenance and Logistics:** Carrying out routine Repairs and Maintenance works such as civil, electrical etc.; booking of air and train tickets for delegates; making arrangement for accommodation, transport; providing logistics and coordinating with the vendors for all the institute meetings and academic events; renewal of insurance for office buildings and cars; floating of tender for outsourcing services such as housekeeping, security etc., and selection thereon.

**Conduct of Statutory Meetings:** All statutory meetings of the Institute for the year 2023-24 are conducted as per the schedule.

## Finance

The Finance section reported the following activities:

**Sources of Finance:** Handled funding from ICSSR, matching grant from Government of Tamil Nadu, Corpus endowed by RBI, Corpus endowed by Planning Commission, Corpus fund of the institute, M&EA Trust (for Fellowship and Founder's Day Programme), UGC fellowships to students and Other receipts (such as affiliation charges, user charges for the use of auditorium for public affairs events by other agencies).

**Accounting:** Accounting all receipts and monitoring the proper utilisation of receipts; Payroll for regular staff and project staff; maintaining separate accounts for each funding agency; preparing the detailed financial statement for each account and consolidated financial statement; preparation of budget estimates for 'Plan' and 'Non-Plan' under Institute's main accounts for approval by the FC/EC/GC/BOT; preparation of Cash Flow and Funds Flow Statement.

**Statutory Compliance:** Ensuring statutory compliance, return filing, and remittance are within the due date for PF, ESI, GST, TDS, IT Return, and FCRA.



**Projects:** Preparing the utilisation statement for the funding agency as per their prescribed format; sending the monthly utilisation statement of project accounts to the Project Director to intimate the funds position and availability of funds under each budget head.

**Coordination:** With academic, non-academic, and project staff; with EC/FC/GC/AC/BOT (meeting detail preparation); with funding agencies; With auditors (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Local Fund Audit department of Government of Tamil Nadu, and Statutory auditor) related to Finance matters.

**Investment:** Maintaining the investment and ensuring the plough back deposit as per the condition of the endowments. Monitoring the maturity date of the investment to intimate the management to take an appropriate decision.

## Information Technology

The IT infrastructure in MIDS consists of state-of-the-art computing facilities with latest hardware, software and supporting equipment. As on March 2024, the Institute has around 80 Intel-based Desktops and 13 Notebooks, 23 multi-function printers, laser printers, scanners, LCD Projectors and digital display for presentation. The Desktops and notebooks are loaded with Windows 10 / 8.1 / 7 / XP. Office automation package used at MIDS include Open Office, MS Office 2016, Adobe Readers, Statistical software (SPSS, Stata, Eviews), DTP software (Adobe Creative Cloud for Teams), Accounting software (Tally ERP), under windows environment.

### Services

A Linux based web server is hosted in the campus and it works round the clock on all days. A structured Ethernet based Local Area Network and Wi-Fi is configured in the campus. A Linux based library automation server is configured using LIBSYS software.

The Institute has two Internet Service Providers i.e., from National Knowledge Network, Government of India and Tata Communications Ltd for email and Internet facilities.

A centralized antivirus EPO server is installed in the campus using McAfee Endpoint Protection Suite to prevent virus threat in the internal network. The systems department provides IT support for the members of faculty, staff and students.

The following are the activities of the systems department from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

## **Procurement / Upgrades / Maintenance**

1. During this period, HP Pavilion laptop and Lenovo Tab was purchased for the use of Tamil Nadu House Hold Panel Survey Project. An Ado package, ASDOCX.STATA tool was also purchased for TNHPS project.
2. The annual subscription and maintenance related to firewall licenses, anti-virus licenses, Tally ERP subscription, Adobe Creative Cloud for Teams license and AMC for server room UPS were renewed.

## **Development Activities**

1. The Institute's website ([www.mids.ac.in](http://www.mids.ac.in)) is constantly using php, html and java scripts. The website has been made compatible for the current generation devices.
2. The systems department is also in the process of updating the Institute's library software with Koha, a widely used open-source automation software. Accordingly, the systems department installed and customized Koha software under Linux (Ubuntu) environment for the library. The installation and customization is completed. The data migration from the existing Libsys has been exported in ASCII format with the support of Library staff members.

## **IT Support**

1. Manage the web server in the campus, which works round the clock on all days without any annual maintenance contract.
2. Manage the emailing solutions using G-Suite.
3. Manage library automation server and take back-up of library data on a regular basis.
4. Manage McAfee EPO Server in the campus, and ascertain the daily updates to the server and clients to prevent virus threat.
5. Provides hardware (PC, Laptop, Tab, Printers), software related issues and network troubleshooting (LAN / Wi-Fi) to faculty, staff and students on a daily basis.
6. Provides data processing support to the faculty, students and project members.
7. Publications like working papers, discussion papers and other reports published in MIDS are updated periodically.
8. Periodic updates to the Institute's website.
9. Provide technical support for the workshops/conferences/seminars/meetings organized by the Institute both offline and online using video conferencing tools namely Zoom and Google Meet.

# Library

The MIDS Library is an integral part of the institute administered to meet the information and research needs of its faculty and students. It is one of the leading libraries in the South for social science research and it caters to the study and reference requirements of research scholars and, where possible, the general public in their intellectual pursuits with a unique collection of books, extensive archives of journals old and new, working papers, government publications and reports. The Library has about 62,671 printed documents and subscribes to 105 journals.

## I. Services Available

### A. Online Services

- ❑ Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) Service
- ❑ *E-Journals*: MIDS library subscribes to 105 academic journals, out of which 58 journals are available online and the members can access these journals in the campus. The ICSSR, through NASSDOC, provides remote access to JStor, IP-based Econlit and Indiastat on an annual consortium basis.
- ❑ *Databases*: MIDS library procures electronic databases such as Census of India, NSSO, ASI etc on a regular basis. The library subscribes to Economic Outlook from CMIE and EPWRF time series databases. The ICSSR supports the library in subscribing to Indiastat annually. The Library Collection also includes DLHS, NSSO (mainly consumer expenditure, employment and unemployment, household assets, morbidity and health care, etc).
- ❑ *Digital Archives*: The library provides documents, reports, journal articles, etc. in electronic format from the Institute's archive, public domain and from other libraries to its users on request.

### B. Customised Services

- ❑ *Reference Services*: The library provides reference services to the readers in the library. The library staff assist the users in locating their reference materials from the archive.
- ❑ *Document Delivery*: The library arranges to provide documents on request from other libraries to its faculty members and students. The Library facilitates this by networking with other institutional libraries in and around Chennai.
- ❑ *Reprography*: The library provides photocopying services to its members and other library users.
- ❑ *Updates*: A regular update on the arrival of new books/reports added in the library is intimated to the students and faculty periodically.
- ❑ *Bibliographic Information*: The library provides bibliography details to its faculty and students based on their specific requirements.

- ❑ *Inter-Library Loan Services (ILS)*: The MIDS Library is a member of Anna University Central library and British Council Library. With this facility, the library arranges inter-library loan facilities to the faculty and research scholars in the Institute.

## **II. Software / Digitization**

MIDS Library is using Libsys software for its in-house operations while steps are also being taken to implement Koha. The documents and databases available in the library are digitized from time to time and made available electronically on request to cater to the requirements of students and faculty.

## **III. Collection of Back Volumes of Journals / Periodicals**

MIDS library has added a back volume collection of 341 during the year.

## **IV. Subscription of Journals**

MIDS Library currently subscribes to 55 International journals and 50 Indian periodicals.

## **V. New Additions**

MIDS Library has added 197 new books to its collection in 2023-24.

## **VI. Orientations**

The Library regularly conducts Orientation Programmes for databases such as EPWRFIT, CMIE, Prowess IQ, Census of India, EBSCO, Econlit, EOL, etc. to enrich the knowledge base of research scholars at the Institute.

## **VII. Exhibitions**

In order to display the rare documents and books in the archive, the Library has begun conducting exhibitions to mark important occasions. In August 2023, the library conducted two such consecutive events to commemorate the Independence Day and Madras Day. About 360 rare books related to India's freedom struggle and 145 such rare documents related to the history of Madras were displayed in those two events. The exhibitions were visited by around 300 people including researchers and general public from all over the state as the events garnered widespread media and press coverage. Two more thematic displays were also organised during the workshops on History of Economic Thought and Manuscriptology.

## Publication

The MIDS Publication continued to be active offering editorial and technical support to the institute faculty and coordinating academic events as part of the golden jubilee at the institute during 2023-24.

### Review of Development and Change (RDC)

The MIDS Publication copyedited and proofread all the articles and book-reviews published in RDC issues of June and December 2023 and continued to handle correspondence with the publisher SAGE on plagiarism check, editorial, technical support, and billing. The Publication ensures that the RDC issues are published on time continuously, without any delay.

### Books Published

The book *A Remembered Village, A Remembered Town* authored by late Prof S Neelakantan has been published by Primus Books in association with MIDS. A coffee table book titled *Malcolm Adiseshiah in Pictures* which collects the rare photographs of the MIDS founder has also been published.

### Working Papers and Reports

In the MIDS Working Papers series, two new papers have been brought out as the MIDS Publication copyedited, typeset and published the paper in print and online.

The MIDS Publication compiled and submitted the *Academic Council Report*, the institute's *Annual Report*, *Annual Report to ICSSR* (in summary and full) and continued to provide its support in preparing official documents and reports as per the Director's instructions. The Publication continued to work with MIDS faculty in copyediting research reports and manuscripts from time to time and also coordinated their printing requirements.

### Signing of Agreements

An agreement with Primus Books has been signed in March 2024 for the book by former director Prof Padmini Swaminathan tentatively titled *Revisiting India's Struggle for a credible Industrial Policy towards Growth and Employment since Colonial Times: Insights from Tamil Nadu's Experience*. The book is slated for release in early 2025.

### Event / Programme Coordination

The MIDS Publication continued to work with the faculty members in organizing the academic events as part of the golden jubilee from preparing content for posters, to copyediting speaker profiles, individual session summaries and overall coordination. The MIDS Publication disseminates information on the MIDS monthly seminars, public

lectures, panel discussions, book releases and workshops organized at the institute. The MIDS Publication also works closely with the MIDS Library in organizing book exhibitions at the institute. The MIDS publication played its part in coordinating all major events at MIDS as proposed by MIDS faculty to ensure smooth proceedings. The Publication continued to provide notes, write-ups, reports on various events for website upload.

In addition, the publication officer handled five sessions on Research and Publication Ethics for the first year PhD students as part of the PhD coursework classes in June 2023.

## XIX. Finances

### Balance Sheet as on 31 March 2024

Source of Funds	Amount in Rs.
1. Corpus fund	42,41,00,247.58
2. Current liabilities	
(i) Sundry creditors	1,49,74,633.55
(ii) Other current liabilities	7,76,437.73
Total	43,98,51,318.86
Application of Funds	Amount in Rs.
1. Non-current assets	
Fixed assets	
(i) Computer assets	1,32,16,920.55
(ii) Library assets	5,26,53,281.56
(iii) General assets	1,03,89,706.73
2. Current assets	36,35,91,410.02
Total	43,98,51,318.86

sd/-                      sd/-  
**M. Suresh Babu**      **S. Janakavalli**  
*Director*              *Finance Officer*  
For Madras Institute of Development Studies  
79, Second Main Road, Gandhi Nagar  
Adyar, Chennai 600020

**For Kalyanasundaram & Associates**  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN 05455S  
sd/-  
**K M Sethu**, B. Com, FCA  
Partner, Membership No. 231703

Place: Chennai  
Date: 18-09-2024





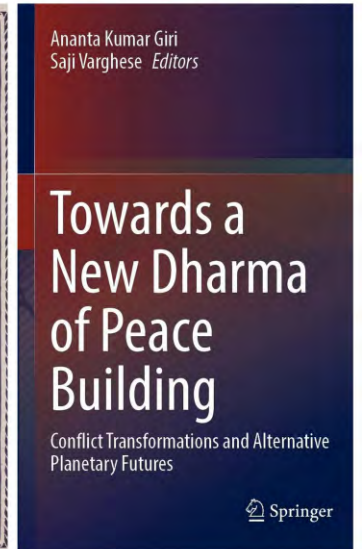
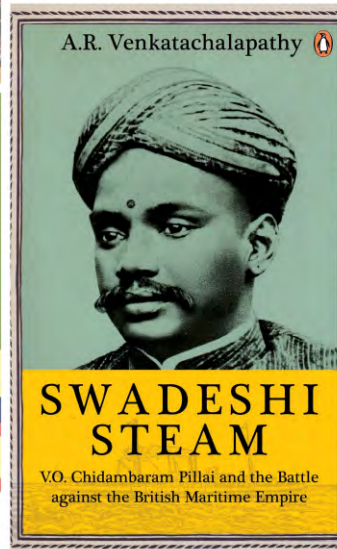
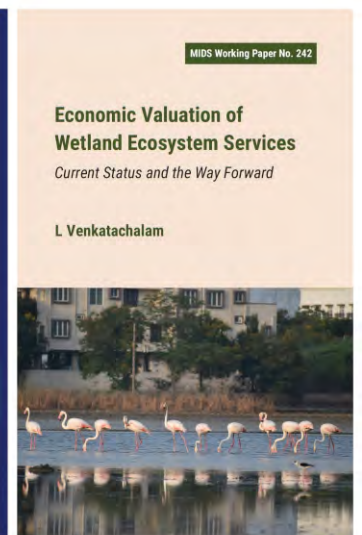
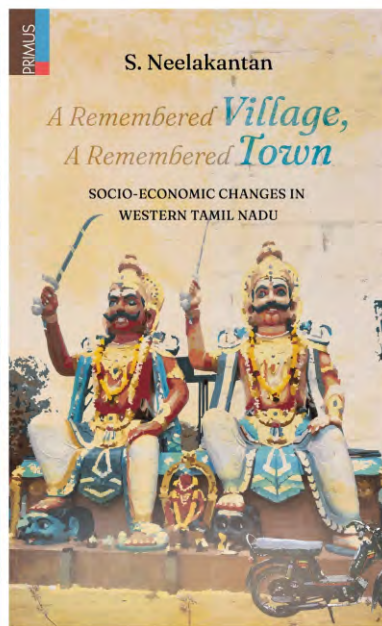


MIDS faculty at the public lecture Post-Covid 'New Normal' and Macroeconomic Uncertainties by Prof Pinaki Chakraborty, 24 August 2023



Mr N Gopalaswami IAS inaugurating the Independence Day Book Exhibition organized by MIDS Library, 14 August 2023





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