



Merinnage Nelani De Costa

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Academic History

University of Colombo, Faculty of Graduate Studies – Sri Lanka

Master of Arts (MA) in Gender and Women's Studies (Pending)

Postgraduate Diploma in Gender and Women's Studies : Merit

University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of English and Linguistics – Sri Lanka

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English (Special) with Honors

- Second Class (Upper) Honors - GPA
- 3.55 Thesis : Completed and Published

Alliance Francaise de Colombo & de Kotte – Sri Lanka

Diploma DELF B1 (Diplôme d'études en langue Français)

- Intermediate Level Certificate
- Beginners Level Certificate

Musaeus College – Sri Lanka

Completed Primary and Secondary Education (2010)

- G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination (2010)
- G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examination (2007)

Tower Road School –Canada

Completed one year in Primary School (1997-1998)

Referees

Dr. M.A.S.F. Saadiya

Head, Department of Languages

Faculty of Arts and Culture

South Eastern University of Sri

Lanka saadhiyaf@seu.ac.lk

Prof. Ramanee Wijesekera

Head, Department of

Chemistry Faculty of Science

University of Colombo

ramanee@chem.cmb.ac.lk

Professional Experience

Lecturer (Probationary) in English

South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Department of Language January 2019 -present

- Conducting lectures in English Literature and English Linguistics
- Member of the Writing team and Sub Committee for the Institutional Review 2019

Assistant Lecturer (Temp.)

University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Department of English and Linguistics | August 2017 to January 2019

Tutor (Temp.)

University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Department of English and Linguistics | October 2016 to August 2017

- Conducting lectures in English Literature for the Bachelor of Arts in English (Special) and (General) Degrees.
- Conducting lectures in English Literature for the Bachelor of Arts in English (General) External Degree.
- Thesis supervisions of students following the Bachelor of Arts in English (Special).
- Resource person at the Staff Development Centre (SDC) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura: conducting a lecture for the English Language Training Programme of the SDC for Library Attendants, Lab Attendants and Clerical Staff of the university.
- Reviewing abstracts for the International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) 2018 and editing abstracts for the IRCHSS 2016 of the university.
- Member of the Panel of Writers for the Programme Review Team: for the Self Evaluation Report of the Bachelor of Arts (General) Degree Program of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (for the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka).
- Invigilating exams at internal and external examinations of students (including differently-abled students).

Journalist

Ceylon Newspapers (Pvt.) Ltd., (News) for the English Newspaper April 2016 - September 2016

- Researching local incidents and developments, interviewing professionals in their relevant fields, writing feature news articles and covering media press conferences and events
- Translating articles from Sinhala to English and vice versa.

Entertainment Editor

Boston Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd., USLanka Magazine and the Boston Lanka Radio E-Newspaper

July 2014 - January 2016

- Interviewing Sri Lankan celebrities and covering local events.
- Writing feature articles and interviews based on local personages and events.

Publications & Research

Journal Publications

- “Disciplining Women through ‘Respectable’ Attire: A Study among Undergraduates in University”, Special issue on "Gender Issues and Development", (2019), VISTAS Journal, The Open University of Sri Lanka.

Full-Paper Publications

- “The Disciplining Mechanism of Power in Selected Literary Works by Albert Camus and Franz Kafka.” 15th Open University Research Sessions (OURS 2017), hosted by the Open University of Sri Lanka.

- De Costa, Nelani. “Trivialization of the Sri Lankan Experience for Bland Comic Effects: Chhimi Tenduf-La’s The Amazing Racist.” (Bi-Annual Publication). The Politics of Sri Lankan Literature. Kandy: Creative Printers Pvt. Ltd. November 2016.

- De Costa, Nelani. “The Stereotyping of Queer Identities in Sri Lankan English Fiction.” Colombo, State Literary Advisory Board. September 2018.

Published Abstracts

- “The Fashioning of Homosexuality;Queering Contemporary Sri Lankan English Fiction” (Accepted for publication at the International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) 2018, University of Sri Jayewardenepura).
- “The Absurd Heroes of Resistance in Translated Works of Literature.” 7th Annual Research Symposium UVPA 2017, hosted by the University of the Visual & Performing Arts, Sri Lanka, November 2017.
- “The Politics of Power, Resistance and the Disciplining Gaze of Overbearing Institutions in Selected Works of Literature.” Vavuniya Campus International Research Symposium 2017, hosted by the Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna, August 2017
- “Striving for Freedom: Sylvia Plath’s engagement with abjection in relation to the female body and sexuality as a mode of freedom and empowerment from patriarchy and gender stereotypes.” The International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences 2016, hosted by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, November 2016.

Presented Research (Accepted for Full-Paper Publications)

The Depiction of Queer Identity in the Contemporary Sri Lankan Novel.” Gender Studies Conference on the Construction, Deconstruction and Reconstruction of Culture & Cultural Productions with a Focus on the South Asia Region, hosted by Women’s Education Research Centre (WERC), November 2017.

Extra-curricular Activities

- Treasurer of the Undergraduate Research Colloquium 2019 at the Faculty of Arts and Culture, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka.
- Member of the Judge panel of Best Communicator at the J’PURA Employability Skills Award 2017 organized by the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.
- Member of the Academic Panel of the Sri Jayewardenepura University Wiki Club. A student-centered collaborative education program by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University, implemented in 2018 with the collaboration of the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF) in U.S.
- Session Coordinator of the Vidyodaya Undergraduate Research Day (VURD) 2017 organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.
- Organizing committee member of the Ranrasu Talent Show 2017 organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.
- Secretary of the Gavel Club of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (2012).
 - * Semi Finalist of Speech Master 2014 (an all -island Best Speaker contest for local University Students). Vice President Matching, Team Leader, Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR) Coordinator and Member of AIESEC at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.
 - *Organized programs and workshops for schools (urban and rural) on gender and women empowerment, health and culture, coordinated CSR programmes at orphanages, interviewed and selected foreign interns for organizing committees and worked with public relations and marketing.
 - *Volunteer at the International Volunteers Day 2014 organized by United Nations (UN) as a representative of AIESEC in Sri Lanka.
- Article Writer at Japura Flames: The official student newspaper and photography club of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (2013-2015).
- Editor of the French Circle of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (of the French Magazine Illumination) released in 2013.
- Volunteer at the International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) 2012 and 2014 organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura
- Member of the Rotaract Club of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (2012-2013).