

ANNEX I
RAMAYANA: REINTERPRETATION IN ASIA
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME & SPEAKERS' BIO

17 July 2010, Saturday

- 0830-0900 Registration
- 0900-0915 Welcome remarks by Director, ACM
- 0915-1015 **Keynote Address**
- Robert Goldman | Professor of Sanskrit, University of California,
Berkeley, USA
- 1015-1035 Morning tea break

PANEL I: TEXTUAL TRADITIONS OF THE RAMAYANA

- 1035-1105 **Gods, Kings and Narrators: The Impact of Religion and Sovereignty on the Ramayana Tradition**
- John Brockington|Emeritus Professor of Sanskrit, University of
Edinburgh, UK &
- Mary Brockington |Research Fellow of the International Association of
Sanskrit Studies, UK
- 1105-1135 **Ramayana in Southeast Asian Oral and Literary Tradition**
- Singaravelu Sachithanatham | Professor Emeritus, University of
Malaya, Malaysia
- 1135-1205 **Candravati's Ramayana: An Epic Tale of Sita's Suffering**
- Mandakranta Bose | Professor Emerita, University of British Columbia,
Canada
- 1205-1330 Q&A | Lunch

PANEL II: THE RAMAYANA IN VISUAL ARTS

1330-1400 **Visualising and Performing Kingship: The Ramayana Murals at Mattanceri Palace, Kerala**

Mary Heston | Professor of Asian Art, College of Charleston, South Carolina, USA

1400-1430 **Yuddhakanda in Mewar Painting**

Ratan Parimoo | Director of Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum, Ahmedabad, India

1430-1500 **Ramakien at Wat Bo (Cambodia)**

Vittorio Roveda | Independent scholar, Thailand

1500-1530 **The legend of Rama at Baphuon and Angkor Wat Temples**

Rachel Loizeau | Independent scholar, France

1530-1600 Q&A | Afternoon tea break

DANCE PERFORMANCE

1600-1645 **Ramayana Ku (My Ramayana)**

Sardono W. Kusumo | Sardono Dance Theatre, Indonesia

1645-1700 Q&A

1700-1815 **Tour of Ramayana Revisited: A Tale of Love and Adventure**
exhibition at the Peranakan Museum

18 July 2010, Sunday

0900-0930 Registration

PANEL III: WOMEN IN THE RAMAYANA

0930-1000 **Women at the Margins: Valmiki, Women, and Religious Anxiety**

Sally Sutherland Goldman | Lecturer, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, USA

1000-1030 **Voices of Ramayana Women: The Snare, Old Hag, or Damsel in Distress?**

Gauri Krishnan | Deputy Director, Research and Publication Unit & Senior Curator (South Asia), Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore

1030-1050 Morning tea break

1050-1120 **Sita Svayamvara in Poetry and Images**

Vidyut Aklujkar | Research Associate (Hon), University of British Columbia, Canada

1120-1245 Q&A | Lunch

PANEL IV: THE RAMAYANA IN PERFORMING ARTS

1245-1315 **Ramayana in Southeast Asian Traditional Theatre Performances: Adaptation and Localisation**

Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof | Lecturer, International Islamic University, Malaysia

1315-1345 **Inspiration, Idea and Innovation: Ramayana as Chinese Opera**

Chua Soo Pong | Founding director, Chinese Opera Institute, Singapore

1345-1415 **Cross Cultural Choreography of the Ramayana in Singapore**

Siri Ramaswami | Independent scholar, Singapore

1415-1445 Q&A | Afternoon tea break

PANEL V: THE RAMAYANA IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

1445-1515 **Short Stories about Sita from Modern South India**

Paula Richman | Professor of Religion, Oberlin College, Ohio, USA

1515-1545 **Interacting with Ram**

Sandria Freitag | Faculty member and Advisor, Department of History,
North Carolina State University, USA

1545-1615 **Shaping Southeast Asia's Regional identity: the Ramayana as an Ideational Force?**

Marshall Clark | Lecturer, School of International and Political Studies,
Deakin University, Australia

1615-1645 Q&A | Closing address by Gauri Krishnan, DD/RPU & End of conference

SPEAKERS' BIO

Keynote speaker: Robert Goldman

Robert P. Goldman received his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1971. He is Professor of Sanskrit at the University of California at Berkeley, where he has taught Sanskrit for many years. He is the General Editor of the *Valmiki Ramayana* Translation Project, published by Princeton University Press of which of the six volumes are completed. He is the principal translator and co-annotator of the Balakanda and co-translator of the *Sundarakanda*, *Yuddhakanda* and the *Uttarakanda* (forthcoming). He has lectured, taught, and published widely in the areas of Sanskrit literature, epic, and traditional Indian culture. He is the recipient of numerous grants, awards, and honors both in the United States and in India and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is co-author of the *Devavanipravesika: An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language*.

Vidyut Aklujkar

Vidyut Aklujkar is currently a Research Associate (Hon) in the Centre for India and South Asia Research, University of British Columbia, where she had received her PhD in Philosophy in 1973. Her research interests lie in Classical and Contemporary Indian Literature, the Indian diaspora and their literature, Bhakti literature and women's literature. To date, she has published eight books in India, including two edited volumes on Konkani proverbs and Marathi short stories from Ekata. She received the Balshastri Jambhekar Award for the Best Translation Book in 2008 for her translation of an anthology of short stories, *Athara Dhanyance Kadbole*.

Mandakranta Bose

Mandakranta Bose is Professor Emerita at the University of British Columbia, Canada where she taught Asian religions in the Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies Studies Department, as well as in the Womens Studies program. She studied Sanskrit in Calcutta and Oxford Universities and has authored many articles and books. She has published two edited books in Ramayana studies: *A Varied Optic: Contemporary Studies in the Ramayana* and *The Ramayana Revisited*. Her latest books are: *Women in the Hindu Tradition: Roles, Rules and Exception*, and a critical edition of *Sangitanarayana*, a 17th century Sanskrit work.

John and Mary Brockington

John and Mary Brockington have worked on the Sanskrit epics, especially the *Ramayana*, for many years, as well as on narrative strategies and folk narrative (Mary) and the history of Hinduism (John). John is emeritus Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Edinburgh and Mary is Research Fellow of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies. Their publications include a joint translation, *Rama the Steadfast: an early form of the Ramayana*.

Chua Soo Pong

Chua Soo Pong is the Founding Director of the Chinese Opera Institute and Artistic Director of the Singapore Chinese Opera Performing Ensemble. He was the President of World Dance Alliance (Singapore) from 2005-2007 and taught at Nanyang Technological University between 2002 and 2006. Chua is the Founding Director of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts School of Performing Arts (1999-2000) and the first Senior Specialist (Performing Arts) at SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA) (1989-1995). He obtained his PhD from Queen's University in Belfast, UK in 1979. Chua is an anthropologist and ethnomusicologist by training. He taught at the National University of Singapore from 1980 to 1988. He was the editor of *Performing Arts*, the first journal on the arts in Singapore, published by the National Theatre Trust, from 1983 to 1989.

Marshall Clark

Marshall Clark is a lecturer in Indonesian studies at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. His most recent publication is *Maskulinitas: Culture, Gender and Politics in Indonesia* (2010). He has also published a book on contemporary Indonesian interpretations of the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* epics, entitled *Wayang Mbeling* (2008). His current research study is a book project entitled *Indonesia-Malaysia Relations: Media, Politics and Regionalism in Southeast Asia*.

Sandria Freitag

Sandria Freitag is "special faculty" at the North Carolina State University Department of History. Her interests are in various aspects of the history of South Asia's visual culture. Her publications include "Consumption and identity: Imagining 'Everyday Life' Through Popular Visual Culture", "South Asian Ways of Seeing; Muslim Ways of Knowing", "Visual Vocabularies in 20th Century India: Negotiating the Imperial and the Local Through the Treatment of Place", "The Realm of the Visual: Agency and Modern Civil Society" and *Community and Collective Action: Public Arenas and the Emergence of Communalism in South Asia*.

Sally J. Sutherland Goldman

Sally J. Sutherland Goldman received her PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 1979, where she has taught Sanskrit and related subjects since 1981. She is the Associate Editor of the Valmiki Ramayana Translation Project. She is the co-annotator of the *Balakanda*, and co-translator of the *Sundarakanda*, *Yuddhakanda*, and the *Uttarakanda* (forthcoming). She has lectured, taught, and published widely in the areas of Sanskrit epic and literature and traditional South Asian constructions and representations of gender. She is coauthor of the *Devavanipravesika: An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language*.

Mary Heston

Mary Heston teaches courses on the visual arts and visual culture of South Asia, China, and Japan; she also teaches in Asian Studies, and is the founding Director of the Asian Studies Program. Her research has focused on the arts of the Kerala region of south India; her publications and current projects examine constructions of the body; architecture and kingship; defining a regional visual tradition; painting and its patronage as expressions of authority; and visual narratives.

Sardono W. Kusumo

Sardono Kusumo is acclaimed as one of the most cutting-edge contemporary choreographers and brilliant theatrical imagists of Asia. His command of the several performance styles of Javanese classical performance earned him recognition as a unique performer excelling in interpreting a wide range of characters in the popular epics such as the Ramayana. Kusumo established the Solo Heritage Society which has launched extensive research on city morphology, and by working with organisations such as the Biodiversity Foundation on environmental issues. Kusumo's continuous contributions to the international cultural field have recently been acknowledged by the International Society for Performing Arts with the prestigious Distinguished Artist Award.

Iskandar K. Loedin

Iskandar K. Loedin has been actively involved in designing various Indonesian theatre and dance performances since 1995. He worked with many Indonesian choreographers and theatre directors, such as Sardono W. Kusumo, Retno Maruti, Gusmiati Suid, Boy G. Sakti, Hartati, Martinus Miroto, Mugiyono Kasido, Jecko Siompo, Garin Nugroho, N. Riantiaro, Putu Wijaya, etc. Iskandar K. Loedin was professionally trained at the Design Department at the Yale School of Drama, Yale University, USA.

Rachel Loizeau

Rachel Loizeau completed her PhD thesis entitled *The Epics and Krishna Legend in Hoysala Sculpture 12th-13th Centuries* at the Paris IV Sorbonne University in 2006. She studied the iconography of some early Chola temples in the Kaveri Delta area and expanded her research to Cambodia where she studied the Khmer narrative traditions from 10th to 13th centuries. She was the recipient of the ACM research fellowship in 2009.

Ratan Parimoo

Ratan Parimoo is the director of the Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum in Ahmedabad. He headed the Department of Art History & Aesthetics at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for twenty five years (1966-1991). He is a painter and an art historian and was awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship in 1991-1993. He recently edited a publication entitled *Historical Development of Contemporary Indian Art 1880-1947*.

Siri Ramaswami

Siri Ramaswami (alias Siri Rama) is a Bharata Natyam and Kuchipudi dancer, teacher and choreographer based in Singapore. She is also the founder-director of the twenty-five year old dance institution in Mumbai, the Kanaka Sabha Performing Arts Centre. She holds a PhD in the Fine Arts from the University of Hong Kong, under Dr. Mrs Rajeshwari Ghose. Siri has performed to critical acclaim, presented group performances, and lectured, in many different cities of India and in many parts of the world including the USA, Singapore, Germany, the Middle East, Hong Kong and Thailand.

Nimmy Raphel

Nimmy Raphel has a Diploma from Kerala Kalamandalam in Mohiniyattam and Kuchipudi dance forms which she has learnt over ten years and which she has performed all over India. She is currently a resident actor, dancer, musician and puppeteer at Adishakti, practicing its methodology of theatre since 2001. Nimmy has performed with Adishakti in *Brahannala* and *Ganapati* both in and outside of India. She also performs in Adishakti's *The Hare and The Tortoise* and *Rhinoceros*. Since 2008, she has operated the lights for *Impressions of Bhima*. Nimmy conducts workshops at Adishakti on the Adishakti's performance method which relates the tantric centers in the body to movement behavior, psychological and vocal expression.

Paula Richman

Paula Richman, William Danforth Professor at Oberlin College, USA, is best known for a trilogy of edited volumes: *Many Ramayanas*, *Questioning Ramayanas*, and *Ramayana Stories in Modern South India*. Her monographs include *Extraordinary Child: Poems from a South Indian Devotional Genre* and *Ramayanas of South India*, forthcoming from Permanent Black, New Delhi.

Vittorio Roveda

After completing his PhD on the carved narrative reliefs of Angkor Wat, Vittorio Roveda continued his research on Khmer Narrative, myths and legends and published four books on Khmer art, and two books on Buddhist art of Cambodia. He is a co-director with APSARA of project for the restoration of mural painting in the *vihara* of Wat Bakong (Siem Reap). He was a consultant to UNESCO in 2002-2004.

Singaravelu Sachithanatham

Singaravelu Sachithanatham is Professor Emeritus (Indian Studies) in the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His academic and professional qualifications include: the Bachelor of Arts with Honours, the Master of Arts, and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees of the University of Malaya; and the Bachelor of Laws degree of the University of London, and the Certificate of Legal Practice (CLP) of the Qualifying Board, Malaysia. In recognition of his services to the nation he was conferred with the award of Johan Setia Mahkota Negara (JSM) in 1991 by the Government of Malaysia.

Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof

Ghulam-Sarwar Yousof is a leading scholar of traditional Southeast Asian theatre. His other academic interests include classical and modern Asian literature. He is also a poet and a playwright. He is currently Senior Academic Fellow in the English Department of the International Islamic University Malaysia, as well as Adjunct Professor at the Cultural Centre, University of Malaya.