

Neena Mahadev

neena.mahadev@yale-nus.edu.sg

(+65)83366626 and (+1)9067748065

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Yale-NUS College, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Social Sciences Division, July 2017 – present

Max Planck Institute, Religious & Ethnic Diversity, Research Fellow, Oct 2015 – May 2017

University of Göttingen, Trans-regional Research Network, Postdoctoral Fellow, Oct 2013 – Sept 2015

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Columbia University, Visiting Affiliate, Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, 2022 – 2023

Inter-Asian Engagements Cluster, Associate, Asia Research Institute, NUS, September 2023 – present

Religion & Globalization Cluster, Associate, Asia Research Institute, NUS, July 2018 – present

EDUCATION

PhD Johns Hopkins University, Anthropology, degree conferred October 2013

MA Johns Hopkins University, Anthropology, and ABD qualified, December 2008

MA University of Chicago, Social Sciences, degree conferred, August 2003

BA Carleton College, Sociology/Anthropology; minor, South Asian Studies, June 2000, *Distinction for Senior Capstone Thesis, Recipient of the David Okada Memorial Prize in the Social Sciences*

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Karma and Grace: Religious Difference in Millennial Sri Lanka. Series on Religion, Culture, and Public Life. New York: Columbia University Press, 2023.

Winner, Claremont Prize in the Study of Religion (2021), awarded for book manuscript, by the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life (IRCPL) at Columbia University.

Journal Articles

“The *Charism* of the Christian Left: Political Dissidence as Religious Habit in Times of Bi-polar Theopolitics.” *Cambridge Journal of Anthropology*. Spring 2022, Vol 40(1), 84–103.

“Religion & the COVID-19 Pandemic: Mediating Presence and Distance.” Critical Introduction by Lorea, Mahadev, Lang, and Chen. *Religion*, April 2022, 52:2, 177-198. (Special edited collection, p 177-321.)

“Karma & Grace: Rivalrous Reckonings of Fortune and Misfortune.” *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, Volume 9(2). 2019. 421-438.

“Postwar Blood: Sacrifice, Anti-Sacrifice, and the Rearticulations of Conflict in Sri Lanka,” special section on “Siting Pluralism,” in Walton and Mahadev (eds). *Religion & Society: Advances in Research*. Volume 10. 2019. 130-150.

“Siting Pluralism: Spatialities of Religious Difference.” Critical introduction by J.F. Walton & N. Mahadev. *Religion & Society: Advances in Research*. Vol.10. Dec 2019. 81-91. (collection, p. 81-170.)

“Economies of Conversion and Ontologies of Difference: Buddhism, Christianity, and Adversarial Political Perception in Sri Lanka.” *Current Anthropology*. December 2018. 59(6): 665-690.

“The Maverick Dialogics of Religious Rivalry in Contemporary Sri Lanka: Inspiration and Contestation in a New Messianic Buddhist Movement.” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. March 2016, Vol. 22(1): 127-147.

Book Chapters

“Spectral Buddhist Magic, and Buddhist Modernism: Hungry Ghosts (*Prēta*) in Cross-Cultural Perspective,” invited submission, *Oxford Encyclopedia of Lived Buddhism*, 2024.

“Sonic Fields of Protection in Sri Lanka’s COVID-19 Pandemic.” N. Mahadev and N. Gajaweera, in *CoronAsur: Asian Religions in the Covidian Age*, ed. Hertzman, Lang, Larsen, Lorea, Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press. 2023, 199-202.

“Kuweni & Vijaya Retold: Sri Lanka’s Postwar Iconography as an Affirmation of Inter-Community Mixing.” *Multi-religiosity in Contemporary Sri Lanka*, Whitaker et al (eds). Routledge. 2021.

“Secularism and Religious Modernity in Singapore and Sri Lanka: Transregional Revivalism Considered.” In *Secularism in South, East and Southeast Asia*, Peter van der Veer and Kenneth Dean (eds). Global Diversities series, Palgrave Press. 2019. 289-311.

“Conversion and Anti-Conversion in Contemporary Sri Lanka: Christian Evangelism and Buddhist Views of the Ethics of Religious Attraction,” in *Proselytizing and the Limits of Religious Pluralism in Asia*, ed. Finucane, Feener. Singapore: Asia Research Institute_(ARI)-Springer. 2014. p. 211-235.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Yale-NUS College, as Assistant Professor, 2017 - present

Christianities in Cross-Cultural Perspective (cross-listed, Anthropology & Global Affairs)

Religion and the Media Turn (cross-listed, Anthropology & Global Affairs)

Political Theologies in Asian Lifeworlds (cross-listed, Anthropology & Global Affairs)

Anthropology of Violence (cross-listed, Anthropology & Law and Liberal Arts Program)

RESEARCH AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Fellowship, National University of Singapore, 2023; Research leave granted for Semester 1 of AY 2024-25.

Claremont Prize, 2021. Book prize awarded by the Institute of Religion, Culture, and Public Life, and Columbia University Press.

Yap Kim Hao Memorial Fund, Yale-NUS College. Project on Religion, Media, COVID-19 “Pandemic Innovations: Religion going Viral,” grant S\$10,000, 2020.

1st alternate (runner-up), CAORC-NEH, Senior Research Fellowship, 2020

Faculty Start-up Grant, Yale-NUS College, 2017-2023

Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, 2009-2010

National Science Foundation, (U.S.) Graduate Research Fellowship, \$30,000 per annum stipend 2004-2007, for doctoral study.

William J. Fulbright Foundation Fellowship, 2000-2001, 10 months of fieldwork in Sri Lanka

INVITED LECTURES

Princeton University, “Ecstatic Devotions: the Indian Ocean World Ritual and Performance,” roundtable invitation, History and International Studies Departments. (Invited and fully paid) April 12-13, 2024.

Centre d'études interdisciplinaire sur le Bouddhisme, at l'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, and Campus Condorcet, Paris. “Conversion in Buddhist contexts.” (invited & fully paid). June 2022.

Cornell University, Buddhist Studies, on “Religious Revival and the Management of ‘Harmony’: Singapore and Inter-Asian Movements” (invited & fully paid). April 2022.

Oxford University, St. Anthony's College, *Social Categorization & Religiously Framed State-Making in Southeast Asia*. (Invited & fully paid) workshop participation, June 2018

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE AND ARCHIVAL INVESTIGATIONS

2023	United States, Archival work at Union Theological Seminary, Manhattan, NYC
2022	Singapore, Dhamma-following Singaporeans and the Theravadin Turn, 2 months
2020-2021	Singapore, digital ethnography on “Religion, Media & the Pandemic”
2019	Sri Lanka, Yale-NUS Start-up Grant, 1 month
2018	Sri Lanka, Start-up Grant, on Liberation Theology and Christian activism, 2 months
2016	Singapore, 3 months, on Buddhist and Christian revival and secularity, Max Planck
2016	Sri Lanka, Max Planck Institute, 2 months
2009-2011	Sri Lanka, Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, 24 months
2005	Sri Lanka, Johns Hopkins Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program, 3 months
2000-2001	Sri Lanka, William J. Fulbright Fellowship, 2000-01, 10 months
1998	Sri Lanka, ISLE (Inter-collegiate Sri Lanka Experience) Program 1998, 4 months

RESEARCH IMPACT, SERVICE, AND EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS

Advisory Team – Research

Pew Research Center, International Religion Project, Advisory Team member, invited consultant for study on South and Southeast Asian Religions, February 2023 – present

Editorial Board Membership

Journal of Global Buddhism, Editorial Board Member, May 2020 – present

New Directions in the Anthropology of Christianity, Book Series Board, Bloomsbury Academic, 2021-
Samaja Viggraha (Sociology Journal, of University of Colombo, Sri Lanka), Editorial Board, 2023 –

Advisory Board Membership

OMNIA Institute, Inter-Religious Peacemaker Teams (January 2021- 2023)

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

English – Native Fluency
 Sinhala – Advanced/Proficient
 Tamil – Intermediate/Advanced
 Pāli – Beginner/Intermediate