



# NEWSLETTER

## FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA



**2023**

**VOLUME 01**

**ISSUE 02**

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## Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management

### **Book Launching of 'Janakapura Megalithic Mortuary Complex; Excavation Report 2022'**

## BOOK LAUNCHING

of

### *Janakapura Megalithic Mortuary Complex Excavation Report*



We would like to cordially invite you to the book launching of "*Janakapura Megalithic Mortuary Complex Excavation Report*" the research report based on the excavation conducted by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management; and published by the Research and Publication Committee of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2023  
9.00 am onwards

Hall No: 20, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities,  
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

From 2020, the Department of Archeology and Heritage Management has been launching a research project related to Ma Oya Lower Valley in Mullaitivu District. In association with the mentioned project, the excavation based on megalithic burial site in Janakapura was conducted in January 2022. The excavation report was compiled as a book which includes the information discovered from the excavation, exploration conducted in the peripheral area as well as a series of researches based on the environmental and social conditions. The book named 'Janakapura Megalithic Mortuary Complex; Excavation Report 2022' was launched on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in the premises of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Furthermore, an academic discussion about various research topics

which have been included in the book was held together with the launching and certificates were of awarded to the excavation team as an acknowledgment. Academic, non-academic staff members and students representing various departments and faculties participated in this program.



**Artifact Exhibition**

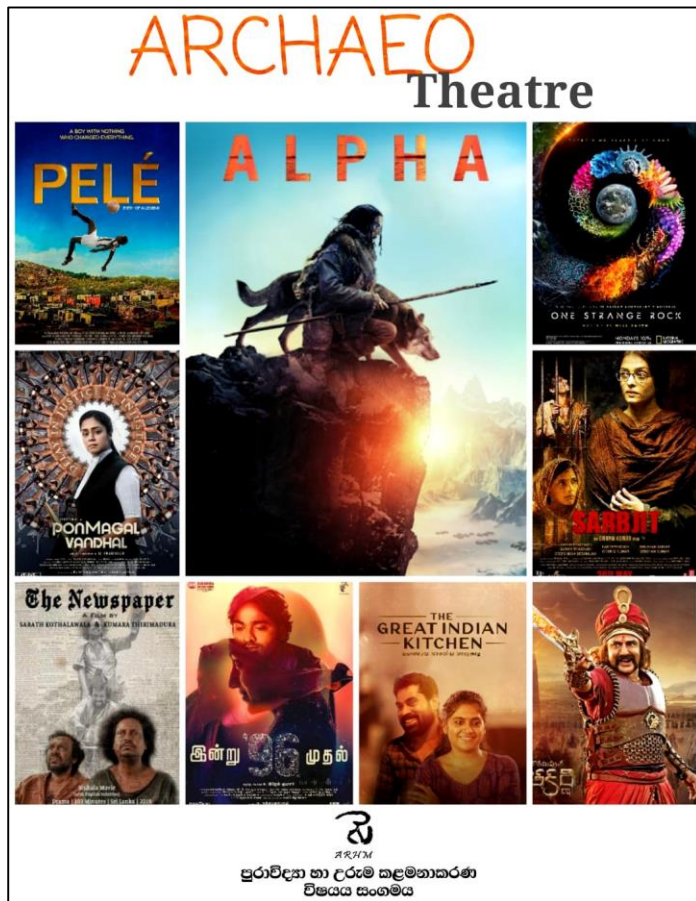
In association with the book launching of 'Janakapura Megalithic Mortuary Complex; Excavation Report 2022', an artifact exhibition was organized in the Dr. Siran U. Deraniyagala Research Museum of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and it contained the artifacts retrieved from different archaeological researches conducted by the department since 2013. Significantly, the exhibition was filled with rare material facts which belong to the time period between Pre-historic and Early-historic era. This is the first exhibition that revealed the archaeological finds reported from Janakapura megalithic burial site to the public.



### **Artifact Conservation Program**

A number of different artifacts retrieved from Janakapura megalithic burial site were taken to the department laboratory for post excavation work. As the first stage of conservation process, a Program organized by the department and Mrs. Menaka Rodrigo, the main artifact conservator of Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa projects – Central Cultural Fund joined as a resource person. It was held in March 2023 and students of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year batches were engaged in activities to fulfill the practical requirement of honors degree program in Archaeology and Heritage management. This Program was assisted by the temporary staff members of the department and students were trained in post excavation work done in laboratories, sampling, indoor recording, laboratory analyzing, consolidating pottery and metal artifacts, organizing artifact exhibitions respectively.



**'Archaeo-Theatre' Movie and Documentary Exhibition**

The Society of Archeology and Heritage Management of the Department of Archeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has started a weekly movie and documentary exhibition named 'Archaeo-Theatre' on 22nd of February 2023. This can be identified as a small effort which helps to create an outstanding graduate; full of wisdom and humanity. The aim of the association is to screen a number of subject related and various themed movies and documentaries based on national and international contexts.

**Field Visit based on Proto-historic Sites in Yan Oya Middle Basin**

According to archaeological studies, it can be identified that most of proto-historic sites in Sri Lanka are located in Yan Oya basin. In order to fulfill the field requirement of courses based on Pre-history and Proto-history of Sri Lanka, a field visit was organized by the department and students enrolled for BA and BA (Honors) in Archaeology and Heritage Management degree program were taken to the archaeological sites in Diwulwewa, Kok-ebe, Gurugalhinna, Thammannagodella, Kiralagala, Palipbothana and Wewalketiya. It was conducted on 02<sup>nd</sup> of May 2023.





### ***Workshops on Enhancing the Academic Career***



The Society of Archeology and Heritage Management of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has organized a series of workshops related to academic context in the year 2023 with the aim of developing students' academic knowledge and skills. The first workshop was held on 24th February 2023 in Hall No. 20 of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, with the contribution of Vipula Thero, Assistant Lecturer of the

Department of Languages. The workshop was based on the "Use of Sources and Language Usage for Research Papers" and it was held successfully with the participation of students of the Society of Archeology and Heritage Management as well as many other academics.



**Rajarata Kavaya - Discussion Session**

'Rajarata Kavaya' is an open discussion session organized as a weekly activity by Society of Archeology and Heritage Management with the aim of developing knowledge, attitude and skills of the students. Through this discussion session, students can share their knowledge and experience from the field work and research they are involved in, share the challenges faced by the students in their individual research with other people, and exchange knowledge about political, economic and social contexts through a conversational manner. The first session was held on 08th of May 2023 at 5.30pm by the final year students and they shared their experience gained through the excavation of Janakapura megalithic burial site with other junior batches.



**Reminiscence of Heritage (2nd Stage) - Webinar Series**



The 2nd stage of the 'Reminiscence of Heritage' Webinar Series, organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was started from January, 2023 under the theme of 'New perspective for the Proto-history of Sri Lanka'. 04 webinars have been presented so far connecting with public audience and it is hoped that the

students will be enlightened about the proto-history in our country.



"New Perspectives for the Proto-history of Sri Lanka"  
**Reminiscence of Heritage**  
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 SECOND WEBINAR SERIES

ARHM 01<sup>st</sup> Webinar

**"Chronology of the Proto-history of Sri Lanka"**

DR. NIMAL PERERA  
 Former Deputy Director General,  
 Department of Archaeology, Sri Lanka

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
 8.00 P.M. - 9.00 P.M.

Meeting ID: 368 555 5668 Passcode: ARHM.rh2

Organized by: Department of Archaeology & Heritage Management, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

"New Perspectives for the Proto-history of Sri Lanka"  
**Reminiscence of Heritage**  
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 SECOND WEBINAR SERIES

ARHM 02<sup>nd</sup> Webinar

**"Contribution of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka in Proto-Historic Researches of Sri Lanka"**

PROF. THUSITHA MENDIS  
 Professor in Archaeology - Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management,  
 Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023  
 8.00 P.M. - 9.00 P.M.

Meeting ID: 368 555 5668 Passcode: HOF.lec2

Organized by: Department of Archaeology & Heritage Management, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

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 REMINISCENCE OF HERITAGE  
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**"කටුපොත කිවිලේකඩ මෙගලිතික සුසාන පර්යේෂණය"**

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2023 පෙබරවාරි 23 වන මුහුණපත්තින්දා  
 රාත්‍රී 8.00 සිට 9.00 තෙක්

Meeting ID: 368 555 5668 Passcode: HOF.lec2

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**රමණමය ආවරණය**  
 REMINISCENCE OF HERITAGE  
 දෙවැනි වීදියාව

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**"පාලිපොතා මහා ශිලා සුසාන සංකීර්ණයෙන් අනාවරණය වූ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ මහා ශිලා සුසාන දියුණුම කීරීම පිළිබඳව නව සාධකයක්"**

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 සමාජ විද්‍යා සහ මානව විද්‍යා විද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකා විශ්ව විද්‍යාලය

2023 මාර්තු 24 වන සිකුරාදා  
 රාත්‍රී 7.30 සිට 8.30 තෙක්

Meeting ID: 368 555 5668 Passcode: HOF.lec3

සංවිධානය: පුරාවිද්‍යා සහ උරුම කළමනාකරණ අධ්‍යයනායතන, සමාජ විද්‍යා හා මානව විද්‍යා විද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකා විශ්ව විද්‍යාලය.

**Museum Session for Schools in Anuradhapura**

Dr. Siran U. Deraniyagala Research Museum is meant not only for internal research purposes but also to accelerate the programs based on public awareness. As one of these programs, a museum session was held on 28th of April 2023 for students of schools in Anuradhapura area. The session was based on pre-history, proto-history and early history of Sri Lanka and it was assisted by undergraduates enrolled to the honors degree program in Archaeology and Heritage Management

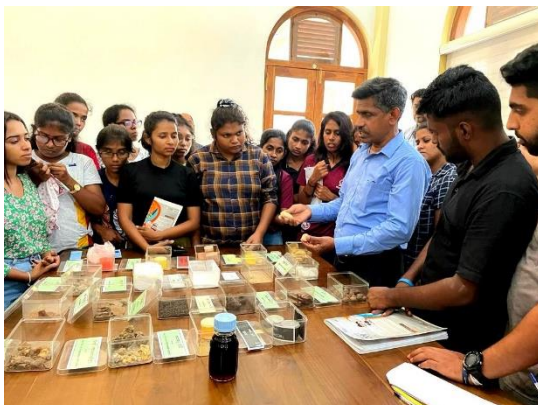




**Workshop on Mural Conservation**



3rd year and 4th year students of the Department of Archeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka participated in the mural conservation workshop organized by the Central Cultural Fund - Dambulla project in association with mural conservation course. It was held at Dr. Roland Silva Mural Conservation and Research Centre, Dambulla on 09th and 10th of March 2023. Workshop was mainly focused on traditional mural design techniques and the use of traditional colors in mural conservation. The staff members of Central Cultural Fund - Dambulla project contributed as resource persons and the students were also given permission to visit the special store of paintings. As well, they were taught about the artifact management system use for the museum of paintings.



## **Department of Environmental Management**

**The Department of Environmental Management has been awarded VC Award for the Department with the highest number of indexed journals**



The Department of Environmental Management has been awarded VC Award for the Department with the highest number of indexed journal articles published in the Year 2022, Research Excellence Awards Ceremony 2022, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, on 20th January 2023.

***Prof. Manjula Ranagalage has been awarded seven awards in the Research Excellence Awards Ceremony 2022, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, on 20th January 2023.***

- RUSL Research Excellence Gold Award
- RUSL Excellence Award for Researcher with the highest number of indexed journal articles in RUSL (First Place)
- RUSL Excellence Award for Researcher with the highest h-index in RUSL (First Place)
- RUSL Excellence Award for Researcher with the highest number of citations in RUSL (First Place)
- VC Award for Researcher with the highest number of indexed journal articles in the FSSH (First Place)
- VC Awards for Researcher with the highest h-index in the FSSH (First Place)
- VC Awards for Researcher with the highest number of citations in the FSSH (First Place)





***Dr. DMSLB Dissanayake has been awarded Five awards in the Research Excellence Awards Ceremony 2022, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, on 20th January 2023.***

- Most Outstanding Senior Researcher of RUSL
- RUSL Excellence Award for Researcher with the highest h-index in RUSL (Second Place)
- RUSL Excellence Award for Researcher with the highest number of citations in RUSL (Second Place)
- VC Award for Researcher with the highest h-index in the FSSH (Second Place)
- VC Awards for Researcher with the highest number of citations in the FSSH (Second Place)



**Prof. Manjula Ranagalage was selected for the Best 20 Researcher of the RUSL**

Prof. Manjula Ranagalage was selected for the Best 20 Researcher of the RUSL, The recognition ceremony of the “Top 20 Researchers of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for 2022” was held on 21st April 2023 in the Auditorium, Administrative Building, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



**Research Publication**

- Zhang, X., Dong, X., Xu, C., Wang, R., Lv, T., & Ranagalage, M. (2023). Landscape ecological risk assessment in the Dongjiangyuan region, China, from 1985 to 2020 using geospatial techniques. *Geomatics, Natural Hazards and Risk*, 14(1), 2173662.

- Zhang, X., Fan, H., Zhou, C., Sun, L., Xu, C., Lv, T., & Ranagalage, M. (2023). Spatiotemporal change in ecological quality and its influencing factors in the Dongjiangyuan region, China. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 1-17.
- Kalapuge, V., Maduranga, D., Alahacoon, N., Edirisinghe, M., Abeygunawardana, R., & Ranagalage, M. (2023). Overview of Lightning Trend and Recent Lightning Variability over Sri Lanka. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information*, 12(2), 67.
- Adikari, A. P., Liu, H., Dissanayake, D. M. S. L. B., & Ranagalage, M. (2023). Human Capital and Carbon Emissions: The Way forward Reducing Environmental Degradation. *Sustainability*, 15(4), 2926.
- Zhang, X., Dong, X., Liu, F., Lv, T., Wu, Z., & Ranagalage, M. (2023). Spatiotemporal dynamics of ecological security in a typical conservation region of southern China based on catastrophe theory and GIS. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, 195(1), 90.
- Rajapakshe, S., Termansen, M., & Paavola, J. (2023). Public Preferences for the Improvements of Existing Piped Water Provision: Application of Choice Experiment in Sri Lanka. *Frontiers in Water*, 5.

### **Academic matters**

Inauguration of the Diploma in Environmental Management Intake III, 2023, was held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023



## **Department of Economics**

### ***Rajarata University Honors Top 20 Researchers for 2022***

The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka held its award ceremony to recognize the outstanding achievements of its top 20 researchers for the academic year 2022. The event took place on April 21, 2023, in the main administrative building's auditorium. Among the distinguished researchers were two senior academics from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Prof. SK Naradda Gamage, from the Department of Economics, secured the 9th position in the esteemed Top 20 list. Additionally, Prof. Manjula Ranagalage was also recognized for his exceptional research contributions.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, the university's Vice Chancellor, served as the chief guest. Accompanying her were the Deans of the faculties of Agriculture, Applied Sciences, Management Studies, and Technology and other esteemed university officials. The event celebrated the dedication and achievements of these researchers and highlighted the university's commitment to research excellence.

### ***Department of Economics Launches "Research Readiness" Online Webinar Series***

The Department of Economics is excited to announce the launch of its new webinar series, "Research Readiness," aimed at equipping researchers with essential skills and knowledge. The series commenced on March 31, 2023, with the first webinar titled "Utilizing Google Forms for Preparing Questionnaires" conducted by Dr. SK Illangarathne, Senior Assistant Librarian at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

Following the successful inaugural webinar, the second session, held on April 7, 2023, explored the topics of "Qualitative and Quantitative Research." conducted by Professor RPIR Prasanna shared insights and methodologies during this engaging session.

Continuing the momentum, the department hosted the third webinar on April 28, 2023, with Professor RH Kuruppuge from the University of Peradeniya. The session delved into "Hypotheses Development and Conceptual Model Development," providing attendees with valuable guidance on constructing robust research frameworks.

The webinars have been instrumental in fostering a research-driven mindset among participants, encouraging innovative exploration within the field of economics. These insightful sessions have been organized under the guidance of the Head of the Department, Professor SK Naradda Gamage.

The "Research Readiness" webinar series reflects the department's commitment to promoting a culture of research excellence and equipping scholars with the necessary tools to undertake impactful studies. Stay tuned for future sessions as the department continues to empower researchers and advance knowledge in the field of economics.

**Department of Economics Launches "Guruda Arthika Sakachcha" for In-Depth Economic Discourse**

The Department of Economics is proud to introduce its latest initiative, "Guruda Arthika Sakachcha," a platform for meaningful discussions on current economic issues. The series commenced on March 28, 2023, with an enlightening lecture on the new tax policy and IMF, conducted by esteemed resource persons Professor SK Naradda Gamage and Professor RPIR Prasanna from the Department of Economics at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

Continuing the momentum, the second lecture, focusing on IMF conditions for Sri Lankan economic recovery, was held on April 4, 2023, featuring Professor SWGK Bulankulama and Mr. Kolitha Nissanka Bandara, who provided valuable insights into pressing economic matters.

The third lecture on April 27, 2023 explored different options for Sri Lankan economic recovery from the current crisis. Dr. Prageeth Weerasingha from the Faculty of Management Studies at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka shared his expertise on important economic topics.

Under the visionary guidance of the Head of the Department, Professor SK Naradda Gamage, "Guruda Arthika Sakachcha" aims to foster an environment of intellectual discourse and critical thinking among students and faculty.

These engaging lectures have sparked vibrant discussions, encouraging participants to delve deeper into current economic challenges and explore potential solutions. The Department of Economics remains committed to facilitating platforms that promote knowledge-sharing and understanding of contemporary economic issues. Stay tuned for upcoming lectures as we continue our journey towards economic enlightenment.

***Prof. Sedat from Cankiri Karatekin University Delivers a Successful Guest Lecture on Development Economics***

The Department of Economics at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka welcomed Prof. Sedat from Cankiri Karatekin University, Turkey, for an insightful guest lecture on development economics. The event, held on April 19, 2023, at the Soft Skills Laboratory, drew the participation of BA Hons in Economics students. Prof. Sedat's expertise and engaging teaching style left a lasting impact on the attendees, providing them with valuable insights into the dynamics of economic development. The lecture fostered an environment of knowledge exchange and inspired the students to delve deeper into the field. The success of the event highlighted the university's commitment to providing holistic education to its students.



## Department of English Language Teaching

### **Research Stay at DELT-RUSL on Epicentres in World Englishes**



Ms. Nina Funke from Justus Liebig University (JLU) of Giessen, Germany, who is from the research project on “Epicentres in World Englishes” led by Prof. Stefan Th. Gries and Dr. Tobias Bernaisch, stayed at the Department of English Language Teaching-Rajarata University of Sri Lanka from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for research into Sri Lankan English and for a sociolinguistic survey. During her stay she conducted a workshop on ‘Corpus Linguistics and World Englishes’ on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023, which was delivered both on site and online.



**A TALK ON**  
**CORPUS LINGUISTICS**  
**IN WORLD ENGLISHES**

**11 MAY, 2023**  
10:00AM - 12:00 NOON  
AT THE LANGUAGE LABORATORY,  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE TEACHING

RESOURCE PERSON

NINA FUNKE

JUSTUS LIEBIG UNIVERSITY OF GIESSEN,  
GERMANY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LINGUISTICS

ORGANIZED BY  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING**  
**RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**

ENTRANCE: FREE

### **B.A (Hons.) TESL Degree Programme**



The Department of English Language Teaching embarked on introducing B.A (Hons.) TESL Degree Programme. The members are currently working on the curriculum.

## Department of Humanities

### **Outreach activities (Knowledge dissemination, social responsibilities)**

#### **1. Donation to the Cancer Ward of Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital**



Department of Humanities in collaboration with the Department of Languages donated the necessities for the patients in the Anuradhapura Cancer ward. The donation was held in the Anuradhapura Hospital, on 05<sup>th</sup> of January, 2023. The Head of the Department of Humanities participated in the event and Academic staff members from the Department of Humanities and Department of Languages also participated.



#### **2. Served as Resource Persons**

- Prof.TGA.Thalwatte, Dr.Nandana Millagala and Mr.Prasad Kumara saved as resource persons for the School concert for O/L Students- Wiharamahadewi Girls Collage, Kandy , 25.01.2023
- Prof.TGA.Thalwatte saved as a resource person for the School seminars for O/L Students- Pujapitiya M.V,Kandy, 17.03.2023



- Mr.MA.Prasad Kumara served as a resource person for the School seminars for O/L Students- Wiharamahadewi Girls School, Anuradhapura, 26.01.2023



- Mrs. W.A.L.P. Dilhara, Lecturer in the Department of Humanities, delivered the first lecture of the monthly lecture series 2023, which was organized by the Research and Publication Committee of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, on 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 2023.



- Mrs. W.A.L.P. Dilhara, Lecturer in the Department of Humanities saved as a resource person for the Jathika Pasala Educational Programs broadcasted in Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation.



- Mrs. W.A.L.P. Dilhara served as a resource person for the School seminars for O/L Students.



- Mr.MA.Prasad Kumara and Mrs. W.A.L.P. Dilhara served as resource persons for the School seminars for O/L Students- Anuradhapura Central School, 25.04.2023



- Prof.TGA. Thalwatte and Mr.MA.Prasad Kumara, served as resource persons for the Jewithayata Ida Denna, Sirasa T.V. -16.03.2023



- Prof.TGA. Thalwatte, Lecturer in the Department of Humanities served as a resource person for the Sanhida T.V program, Rupavahini cooperation- 24.03.2023

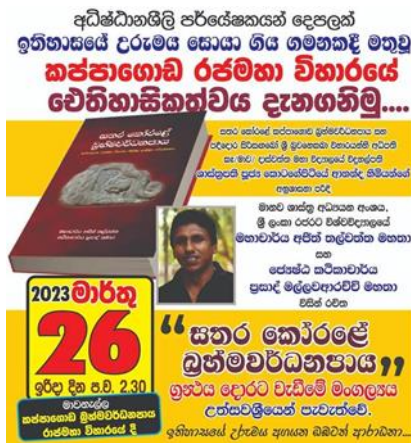


**3. Publications in the indexed journal**

Prof. MKL Irangani published a journal article in the world renowned indexed journal – Reproductive Health. The research article - Social determinants of health pave the path to maternal deaths in rural Sri Lanka: reflections from social autopsies – was the outcome of main research project undertaken by the Medical Faculty of the Rajarata University under AHEAD project.

**4. Book Launching Ceremony**

A book launching ceremony was held at Kappagoda Raja Maha Vihara in the Kegalle district on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The launched book was written by Prof. Ajith Talwatta and Mr. Prasad Kumara.



**Academic matters**

- The Launching Ceremony of the *Journal of Studies in Humanities*, Department of Humanities



The launching ceremony of ‘The Journal of Studies in Humanities’ Journal of the Department of Humanities was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 at the Hall No. 20 Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Ven. Prof. Miriswathte Wimalagnana Thera graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Professor D. Thusitha Mendis, the Dean/Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Professor M.K.L. Irangani, the Head/Department of Humanities and other Heads of Departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, academics of the faculty participated in this event.



- Sankathana Monthly Lecture Series- Online (Cordinator-Mr.MA. Prasad Kumara)- 24.01. 2023

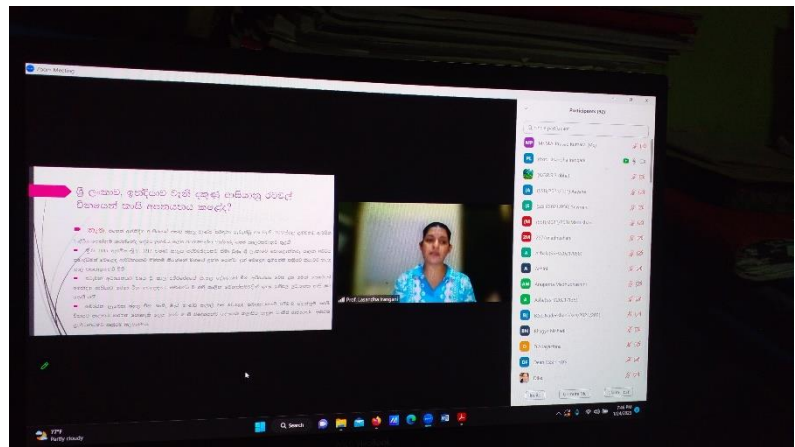
**ඉතිහාස සංකථන**  
පළමු වියමන

**ක්‍රි.ව. 09 - 13 සියවස්හි වින විදේශ ප්‍රතිපත්තියේ වලංකාවන් කලාපීය රාජ්‍යයන්හි අභ්‍යන්තර දේශපාලනයට සිදුකළ බලපෑම**  
(ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට විශේෂිතව)

**මහාචාර්ය එම්. ජේ. එල්. අයි.පී.කුමාර**  
මහාචාර්ය උපාධ්‍යවරයා  
ශ්‍රී ලංකා රජයේ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

**2023 ජනවාරි මස 24 වන අඟහරුවාදා දින සවස 06.00 ට**  
මාධ්‍යගත දේශන අංක 01  
Online Lecture Series No: 01

**දේශන මාධ්‍යය - සිංහල**  
Lecture Medium - Sinhala  
ඉතිහාස සංකථන  
History Society - Department of Humanities  
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



- The Guest lecture conducted by Professor Osmund Boparachchi on 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2023



**දේශනා සහ සාකච්චා**

**පැරණි බෞද්ධ ප්‍රාන්තවල ඇති ප්‍රතිවිරෝධීතා සහ දෘෂ්‍ය කලාවේ ව්‍යාප්තිය : මහානුවර ප්‍රදේශයේ සිතුවම්වල මොනම නිරූපණයක් වන්නේද? ජීවිත කතාව නිරූපිත ලකාණවල නැවත අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමක්**

**මහාචාර්ය ඔස්මන් බොපාරාච්චි**  
B.A. (Religion), B.A. (Hons) MA, MPhil, PhD (Paris 7-Sothome)  
Habilitation (Paris IV Sorbonne, Emeritus Director of Research (CNRS - ENS Paris),  
Adjunct Professor (University California, Berkeley)

**ජනවාරි 25 වෙනිදා පෙ.ව 9.00 -12.00 දක්වා**  
සම්මේය විද්‍යා හා මානවභාෂිත විද්‍යා ප්‍රාදේශයේ දී (20 ශාලාව) පැවැත්වේ

ඉතිහාසය සංගමය, මානවභාෂිත අධ්‍යයනාංශය,  
සම්මේය විද්‍යා හා මානවභාෂිත විද්‍යා, ශ්‍රී ලංකා රජයේ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

- Field Study in the Mahiangana- Dambana Area-2023.05.09
- A field study was carried out in the Mahiyangana Dambana area on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023. All students in BA (Hons) degree program gained the learning experience by joining with the field visit and the photos of a few noteworthy events are provided below.



- Field Study in the Anuradhapura Area-2023.04.24

A field study for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students in BA (Hons) Degree Program in History was carried out in the Anuradhapura area on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023, and the photos of a few noteworthy events are provided below.



**Other news**

- Welcome Programme

The Department of Humanities hosted a reception on March 8, 2023, for second-year BA Special Degree students. Some of the photos are provided here.

***Prof. Sena Nanayakkara appointed as the Chairman***

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Prof. Sena Nanayakkara, a distinguished faculty member of the Department of Humanities at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, as the Chairman of the Radio and Journalism Advisory Council of the Sri Lanka Arts Council. This appointment, is effective from 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, for a period of three years, is in accordance with the powers specified in Section 12 (1) of Parliament Act No. 18 of 1952 (Sri Lanka Arts Council Act).

Prof. Sena Nanayakkara brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role. With a longstanding commitment to promoting various subjects in the field of media, including Sri Lankan Radio, he has proven himself as an accomplished radio artist. Furthermore, Prof. Nanayakkara is renowned for his creative writing and his expertise as a cinematographer in Sri Lankan stage drama and tele-drama. He has also served as the Chairman of the Radio State Advisory Council from 2014 to 2020 and as a Jury Chairman for numerous state award ceremonies.



Joining Prof. Nanayakkara on the Radio and Journalism Advisory Council are a distinguished group of scholars and veteran journalists, including Emeritus Professor Chandrasiri Rajapaksa, Dr. Senesh Dissanayake Bandara, Dr. Darshan Ashoka Kumara, Piyadasa Ratnasinghe, Thilina Samarasuriya, Paul Antony, Daya Lankapura, Dhammananda Wijesinghe, Stanli Hettiarachchi, and K. Gnanarasa.

### ***Field Visit to Dambana Tribal Village***

In a bid to provide an enriching learning experience for students studying Mass Communication and History in the Department of Humanities Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, a field visit to the Dambana tribal village was organized on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. The visit, centered on the theme of "Ethnicity, Subculture, and Social Evolution," aimed to explore Sri Lankan social history, evolution, and the nature of indigenous life, along with its associated folk forms.

Of particular significance during the field visit was an interview with Uruwarige Wannilatto, the tribal leader. Additionally, students had the opportunity to witness the captivating "Kiri Koraha Dance," an integral cultural element in the tribal way of life, and engage in a meaningful discussion about it. This highly successful academic activity attracted the participation of 165 students and several staff members. Prof. (Mrs.) M. K. L. Irangani, Head of the Department expressed her satisfaction with the outcomes achieved during the visit.

### ***Institutional Study on Radio Media and Creative Communication***

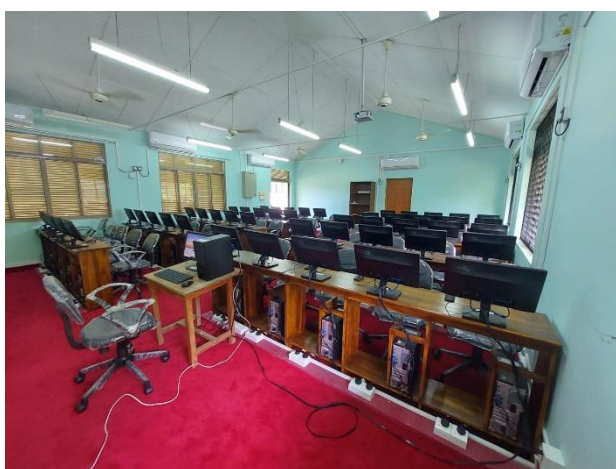
On the 27<sup>th</sup> May, a group of 62 Mass Communication students from the Department of Humanities visited the head office of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in Colombo for an institutional study on the subjects of "Radio Media Studies" and "Creative Communication." This valuable opportunity was made possible under the patronage of Mr. Hudzon Samarasinghe, Chairman of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, and Mr. Indika Jayaratne, Director of Sinhala Services.

The study encompassed various aspects of radio programme production in the morning session, followed by a focus on radio news in the afternoon. Senior Producer Priyanthini Yahampath Gamage from the Programme Department and Sampath Vilegoda from the News Department provided comprehensive insights to the students and facilitated discussions on involving them in real-time radio programme production. The radio authorities highlighted the significance of such a study, underscoring its effectiveness in the learning and teaching process. We are pleased to report that our students had a valuable and insightful experience during this institutional study, which further emphasized the practical application of their knowledge.

## **Department of Information Technology**

### ***Establishment of New IT Laboratory***

The UGC's "IT for Humanities" project, initiated in 2020, received a substantial AHEAD grant of 16.3 Million to fortify the IT infrastructure of the faculty. The project aims to empower undergraduate students to enhance their IT skills, thereby improving employability. As part of the endeavor, Hall no. 14 of the Faculty has undergone extensive refurbishment and transformation into a fully equipped and air-conditioned IT laboratory. This facility, equipped with 50 computers and multimedia resources, offers students a conducive environment to develop their IT competencies. The project seeks to provide students with additional certifications in IT alongside their degree program, fostering well-rounded skill sets and increased career opportunities.



### ***New office for the IT Department***



The department has recently created a new office for the department by partitioning the free space in the Faculty IT Lab with the grants of IT for Humanities project. This development aims to provide dedicated support to faculty members and students. The partitioning of the Faculty IT Lab ensures a separate and designated area for the IT department, allowing for streamlined operations and improved service delivery. Faculty members and students can now expect enhanced technical support and improved access to IT resources. This expansion demonstrates faculty commitment to leveraging technology and fostering innovation in education and research.

***IT Department Undertakes Transformation of Faculty Website to an Enhanced Version***

The IT department staff is currently engaged in an ambitious project to transform the faculty website into an advanced version, ensuring consistency across all eight departments within the faculty and aligning it with other faculties of the university. The project, which commenced in March 2023, is expected to be completed by July 2023.

With the aim of providing a unified and seamless online experience, the staff of the IT department is diligently working to enhance the functionality and design of the faculty website. By incorporating the latest web technologies and design principles, the updated website will offer improved navigation, user-friendly interfaces, and optimized content presentation.

The transformation project seeks to establish a cohesive online presence for the faculty, reflecting its commitment to technological advancement and maintaining consistency among various departments. The updated website will serve as a comprehensive resource hub for students, faculty, and visitors, providing easy access to information, departmental resources, research publications, and faculty profiles.

As the IT department diligently progresses with the website transformation, faculty members and students can anticipate a more efficient and visually appealing online platform that truly represents the academic excellence of faculty.

## Department of Languages.

### **Awarding and Grants**

- **Indian Scholarship - 2023**

Nishani Darshika, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate of the Department of Languages has been selected to participate in the International Students Visitors Program of ICCR in Delhi, representing Sri Lanka, from 20<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 2023. Mrs. Subha Rathnayake; coordinator of Hindi Language and lecturer in Hindi language at the Department gave her fullest support to obtain this scholarship to Rajarata University. It is worth mentioning that only three students have been selected for this prestigious opportunity, and Nishani Darshika from Rajarata University, along with two students from University of Kelaniya and Sabaragamuwa, represented Sri Lanka. Out of all the universities in Sri Lanka which offer Hindi for the B.A Degree programme, this student from Rajarata University was chosen based on her exceptional Hindi language skills. During her visit, she had the privilege to explore various places and attend academic programs at different universities. Notably, she visited a world-renowned school and participated in a special program held there. Additionally, she will visit esteemed higher education institutions such as Delhi University and Gandhi University, National School of Drama, where she will engage actively in academic conferences during her visit. The Indian government had allocated a budget of approximately 13 lakhs for this scholarship, which demonstrated their commitment to supporting and fostering academic exchanges. This was a remarkable achievement in her life and a proud moment for the Department, Faculty, and University.





**Outreach activities (Knowledge dissemination, social responsibilities)**

- Continuation of the programme “වින්දනීය ජීවිතයකට මහක” – Programme No: 27 and 28



The online programme “වින්දනීය ජීවිතයකට මහක” which was initiated by the Head of the Department of Languages Ven. Prof. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero during the COVID-19 pandemic period, conducted physically at the Faculty premises. The programme no: 27 was held on 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 2023. The undergraduates of BA (Hons) in Sinhala Degree programme performed a series of කුර්කි ශී on that day. The

programme no: 28 was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2023 and a collection of old Hindi film songs and Sinhalese songs which were influenced by old Hindi songs were performed by the undergraduates of BA (Hons) in Sinhala Degree and BA Degree programme together with Mrs. Subha Rathanayake; a Lecturer in Hindi Language from University of Kelaniya. All these programmes were conducted under the guidance of the Head of the Department of Languages and the assistance of all the Department members. The Dean of the Faculty of Social sciences and Humanities and all the other academic and non-academic staff of the Faculty, undergraduates of the Faculty and other Faculty staff members and students participated in these events.



• World Environment Day 2023 – Art and poetry competition

**ලෝක පරිසර දිනය-2023**  
**වායු දූෂණය පරාක්‍ෂ කරමු**  
**කලා නිර්මාණ තරඟය**

තරඟ අංශ  
**චිත්‍ර**  
**කාව්‍ය නිර්මාණ**  
 (සඳැස්/ නිසඳැස්)

නිර්මාණ භාරගන්නා අවසාන දිනය: 2023 මැයි 25  
 සියලුම නිර්මාණ තෝරාගත උචිත ව ඉදිරිපත් කළ යුතු ය.

සියලුම තරඟ විෂවවිද්‍යාලීය ශිෂ්‍ය විද්‍යාර්ථීන් සඳහා පමණක් සීමා වේ.  
 නිර්මාණ එවිය යුතු ලිපිනය: භාෂා අධ්‍යයනාංශය,  
 සමාජවිද්‍යා හා මානවශාස්ත්‍ර පීඨය,  
 ශ්‍රී ලංකා රජරට විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය,  
 මහින්තලේ.

ජයග්‍රාහී නිර්මාණ සඳහා මුදල් ත්‍යාග සහ වටිනා සහතිකපත් පිරිනැමේ

සංවිධානය: භාෂා අධ්‍යයනාංශය - ශ්‍රී ලංකා රජරට විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

පූර්ණ අනුග්‍රහකත්වය: ශ්‍රී ලංකා ශ්‍රීවිඝ්න රෝග විශේෂඥ වෛද්‍යවරුන්ගේ විද්‍යාර්ථී කභාව

භාෂා අධ්‍යයනාංශය  
 සමාජවිද්‍යා හා මානවශාස්ත්‍ර පීඨය  
 ශ්‍රී ලංකා රජරට විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

ශ්‍රී ලංකා  
 රෝග විශේෂඥ වෛද්‍යවරුන්ගේ  
 විද්‍යාර්ථී කභාව

An Art and a poetry competition was organised by the Department of Languages along with the financial support of the College of Pulmonologists, Sri Lanka under the theme of “Let’s beat air pollution” to celebrate the World’s Environment Day 2023. Workshops and training sessions were conducted parallel to these competitions. The purpose of this competition was to make a platform for the all University Undergraduates to present their artistic skills. The received art work were evaluated by the Department members and three best drawings were selected for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes. These drawings will be displayed at the Department entrance until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.



• **Radio programme කණාමැදිරි රාත්‍රිය of Sri FM**

Under the guidance and direction of the Head of the Department of Languages Ven. Prof. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero, the undergraduates of the BA (Hons) in Sinhala Degree programmes participated in voice training, dubbing and script writing workshops organised by Sri FM radio and Swarnawahini television on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Being amused by the tremendous performers of the students, these undergraduates were selected to contribute continuously in dubbing and script writing to the radio programme කණාමැදිරි රාත්‍රිය of Sri FM. This event is marked as one of the best opportunities that the undergraduates of Department of Languages gained to demonstrate their variety of skills to the public.



පොසොන් බැති භී programme



පොසොන් බැති භී programme was held on 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 2023 at the main entrance of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. A series of බැති භී related to Poson poya were sung by graduates and undergraduates of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka in order to commemorate the importance of Poson Poya day. The programme was organized under the guidance and direction of the Head of the Department of Languages Ven. Prof. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero. All the Department members, the undergraduates of the Department of Languages and the Arts Council of Rajarata University gave their fullest support to make this event a success. The vice chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, all the Deans, the academics members and non-academic members from different faculties of Rajarata University participated in this event.





**Other news**

- **Building up partnerships with Asto Japan Vocational School**



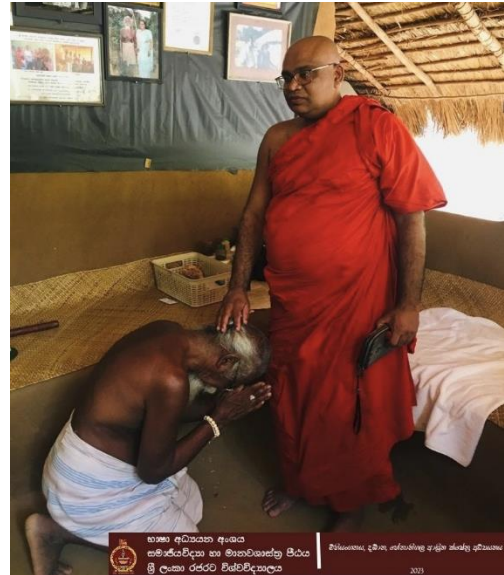
A special discussion held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023 between the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and Asto Japan Vocational School; a franchised company of Asto Co., Ltd, Japan on providing job opportunities in Japanese tourism and hotel industry. Their intention was to provide the guidance in seeking suitable job opportunities for the Japanese Language learner in the department of Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. They agreed to guide the students in

developing their Japanese Language knowledge further and job-oriented skills to meet the required qualifications in particular job categories. Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara, Vice Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Prof. D.T.Mendis, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ven, Prof. Olaganwatte Chandasiri, Head, Department of Languages and Mrs. Nimesha Dayarathne, Lecturer in Japanese participated the discussion representing the University and Mr. Kinta Ando, Mr. Masayuki Kondo and Mr. Wasantha Premathilake were among the participants, representing the Asto Co., Ltd Japan and Asto Japan Vocational School in Sri Lanka.



• Visit to Mahiyanganaya, Dambana and Hennanigala

The undergraduates of the B.A. (Hons) and B.A Degree programmes participated in a field visit to Mahiyanganaya, Dambana and Hennanigala on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023. Ven, Prof. Olaganwatte Chandasiri; the Head of the Department and other lecturers in Sinhala participated in this visit. The undergraduates were able to gather data related to their dissertation based on Sri Lankan aborigines' or Veddas' culture, rituals and myths especially in Dambana and Hennanigala areas.



හාෂා අධ්‍යයන අංශය සමාජවේදය හා මානවශාස්ත්‍ර පීඨය ශ්‍රී ලංකා රජරට විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය 2023 විශිෂ්‍යයන්, දැමා, ආභාෂිත ආශ්‍රිත ක්ෂේත්‍ර අධ්‍යයනය

- **Visit to Polonnaruwa**

Under the guidance and the direction of Ven. Prof. Olaganwatte Chandasiri; the Head of the Department of Languages, the undergraduates of the B.A. (Hons) and B.A Degree programmes participated in a field visit to Polonnaruwa on 18<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023. Ven. Prof. Olaganwatte Chandasiri; the Head of the Department and all the other lecturers in Sinhala language participated in this visit. During this field visit, the undergraduates were able to collect required data for their researches based on cultural heritages of Polonnaruwa area.



- **Visit to French Library at Alliance Française de Kotte (AFK), Colombo 07**

Alliance Française de Kotte (AFK), Colombo 07 is a French Embassy attached institution which was established to teach French language and Culture to the Sri Lankan students. It is a well-equipped institution with a qualified staff and all the language laboratory facilities. The main French library in AFK was been renovated over the last three years of period and it was recently reopened for the public. The French language learning undergraduates of the Department of Languages of Rajarata



University of Sri Lanka along with Mrs. STHP Samarasinghe; French language coordinator and lecturer in French Language visited AFK on 11<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023 and participated in an educational tour in the library for the first time. The students engaged actively in the French language workshops conducted by the AFK and Mr. Thomas BELLIL; Attaché for Cooperation and Education in Embassy of France did an informative lecture session on Higher studies and informed students

about Campus France website and directed them to different paths that they can follow to do their higher studies in France. This visit allowed students to meet Mr. Thomas BELLIL; Attaché for Cooperation and Education in Embassy of France, Mr. Bruno Duparc; the Director of Alliance Française de Kotte (AFK) and Mrs. Samantha De S. Wijeyeratne; Coordinator of French language at Alliance Française de Kotte and other French teachers who works at AFK. This remarkable visit gave an opportunity to students to enhance their French language and cultural awareness.





- **Visit to Department of English and Library of University of Peradeniya**



The English language learning undergraduates of the Department of Languages of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka along with Rev. Puselle Wineetha Thero; English language coordinator and lecturer in English Language visited the Department of English and Library of University of Peradeniya. The students participated in a lecture's series conducted by the Department of English of University of Peradeniya and they were able to enhance their language skills through this visit.

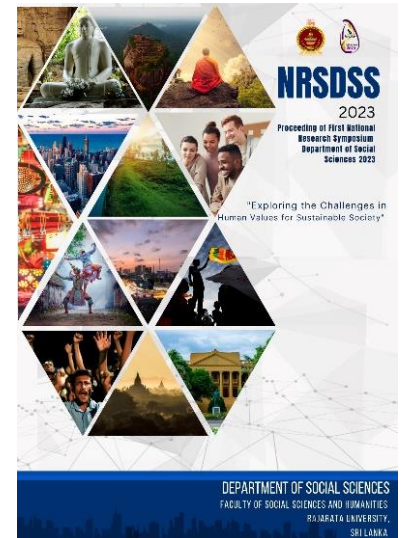


## *Department of Social Sciences.*

### ***The First National Research Symposium (NRSDSS 2023)***

The First National Research Symposium (NRSDSS 2023), organized by the Department of Social Sciences at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, was held on January 25, 2023, at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka under the theme "Exploring the challenges of human values in a sustainable society," providing new light to the multi-disciplinary research at the national level.

The Inauguration Ceremony of the NRSDSS 2023 was grandly held at the main auditorium of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. 104 abstracts were received for the symposium, and 80 were published in the proceeding book. The technical sessions were held online, with participants across the country participating.



Professor EMS Ekanayake was the Symposium Convener, and Professor DSW Gunawardena was the Chair of the NRSDSS 2023. Honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Mrs.) G.A.S. Ginigaddara and Prof. D. Thusitha Mendis, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities also participated as chief guests. Dr. Pavithra Jayawardene (Senior Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Faculty of Arts, University) and Dr. George I.H. Cook (Senior Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Faculty of Arts, University) participated as keynote speakers for the research conference. Senior Lecturer Mrs. Deepika Udayakanthi was the coordinator of this research symposium, and Lecturer Prabhash Siriwardena was the co-coordinator. Temporary Lecturer Susith Siriwardena was the Symposium Secretary; Temporary Lecturer Ms. Pavithra Wickramage was the Co-Secretary; and Pathum Niwantha served as the Treasurer of NRSDSS 2023.



**Valentines' day discussion on love, Sex, and Violence**



A discussion on love, Sex, and Violence was held on 14.02.2023, Valentines’ Day for undergraduates of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Prof. D. Thusitha Mendis/ Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Ven. Prof. Olaganwatte Chandrasiri, Prof. Sena Nanayakkara, and Dr. Gayathri Wijesundara contributed to the discussion as keynote speakers. It was discussed that Love, sex, and violence are three complex and interconnected aspects of human behavior and

experience. Love is a deep and complex emotion that can take many forms, including romantic love, familial love, and platonic love. It is often associated with positive feelings such as joy, happiness, and connection. However, love can also be painful and bring about negative emotions such as heartbreak and rejection. Sex is a biological and psychological act that involves physical intimacy and pleasure.



It can be a means of expressing love, but it can also be separated from love entirely. Sexuality is a complex aspect of human behavior that is influenced by cultural, social, and personal factors. Violence, on the other hand, involves the use of force or aggression to cause harm or injury to another person. It can take many forms, including physical violence, emotional abuse, and verbal abuse. Violence is a destructive force that can have long-lasting and devastating consequences for individuals, families, and communities. While love and sex can be positive

aspects of the human experience, violence is always harmful and should be avoided whenever possible. It is important for individuals to understand the complex nature of these three aspects of human behavior and to strive for healthy and positive relationships. Prof. G.V.T.V Weerasooriya, Prof. Naradda Gamage, Dr. Sanjeewa Dissanayake, Ven. Ginikatuwawe Vipula shared their valuable ideas in this occasion.

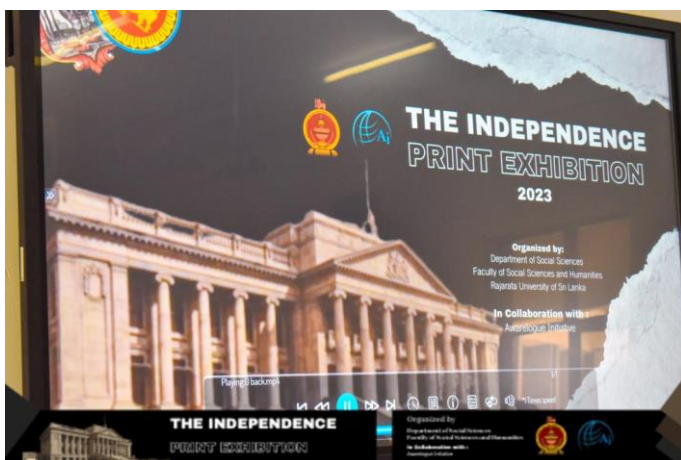




The Independence Print Exhibition was held on February 21 2023 with the participation of Keynote Speaker, Dr. George IH Cooke, Senior Lecturer, Department of International Relations, University of Colombo, and Guest of Honour, Prof. D. Thusitha Mendis, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

This exhibition, which would be traveling to different parts of the island is focused on building awareness of the past, to help comprehend realities that existed during those times, and how they were responded to. Rising costs of living, poor economic standards, and the impact of international developments, among others, are not just factors that contribute to issues in the present but were a part of the issues faced at independence. However, it might be argued that the degree and intensity might vary, yet the issues remain. Comprehending the past enables strategizing for the future. The exhibition is an opportunity to come into contact with original newspapers from that era, which were seen at the time as the main source of information dissemination, and hence one of the most important mediums through which people gained knowledge.

The Independence Print Exhibition draws from the L. S. W. Pathirathne Collection and has been curated by Dr. George I. H. Cooke, Initiator of the Awarelogue Initiative. It is a project of the Awarelogue Initiative, to enhance awareness and dialogue at a key milestone in Sri Lanka's journey. Consisting of 22 panels, each panel is slightly larger than a newspaper and is movable, and can be placed on tables or rested against stands to enhance viewing.





**Parliamentary Internship Programme**

The Parliament of Sri Lanka with the support of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and USAID launched a parliamentary internship program, providing young professionals and students with practical experience in policy development and public service. The program was launched on March 1 in Parliament under the patronage of Speaker Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, and Secretary General of Parliament Mr. Dhammika Dasanayake,

Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary General Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera and Assistant Secretary General Mr. Tikiri Jayathilaka, Senior Resident Country Director of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) Mrs. Thusitha Pilapitiya and a group of officials were present. The Hon. Speaker delivered the keynote speech at the inauguration. Following outreach efforts to all the national universities in Sri Lanka, a group of interns was carefully chosen from the eight universities that responded. Accordingly, eight state Universities, namely, Colombo, Sri Jayewardenepura, Kelaniya, Peradeniya, Rajarata, Jaffna, Ruhuna, and Sabaragamuwa have collaborated for the internship program with a group of selected 35 interns.

The program's selection criteria and structure ensure a comprehensive and tailored experience, with the curriculum designed to develop skills and knowledge for different career paths. NDI, in collaboration with the parliament, conducted a three-day residential orientation program aimed at providing a deeper insight into the intern role. The program featured several sessions covering legislative development, engaging with Parliament, and various modes of interaction with Parliament. The heads of departments and sections of the Parliament conducted the program.

The program concluded with a recap and evaluation session by students, followed by an open discussion where interns had the opportunity to raise questions. Following a three-day orientation program, the interns have been allocated to their respective departments, and throughout their internship period, they will receive hands-on working experience with the Parliament of Sri Lanka.



The program's curriculum promotes inclusivity, diversity, and skill development for different career paths. The initiative aims to create goodwill ambassadors for parliament, address the trust deficit between parliament and youth, promote democracy, and educate young people about the Parliament of Sri Lanka. The program highlights the Parliament's commitment to the Open Parliament Initiative and aims to address the trust deficit

between Parliament and youth while safeguarding democracy.

Abeyasinghe Mudiyansele Sandamali Kumari Abeyasinghe, Gunasekara Chandi Rasika Gunasekara, Thannakoon Mudiyansele Yashodha Priyangani Thennakoon and Suriya Arachchige Dilki Madushika Perera got the opportunity had who followed the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Sociology from the Department of Social Sciences in English Medium. Mr. Susith Siriwardhana represented the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka as the Internship Coordinator of the Department of Social Sciences.

### ***Department Research: A Comparative Study on Nature of Substance Abuse in Sri Lanka***

Sri Lanka's experience with the drug abuse problem is unique in many ways. Substance abuse becomes a major social problem existing in society these days. Studying the nature of substance abuse in rural, suburban, and urban regions comparatively lead to identifying the relationship between substance abuse and gender, age groups, economic status, and other sociological factors comprehensively. The key assumptions and findings that the researchers would like to accomplish through this research will be significant for the policy-making process pertaining to the control and prevention of substance abuse in selected contexts considering the environmental and geographical factors and specific features existing in the particular areas. These research findings will broadly be used for the proper awareness and education of law enforcement officials and the community about the nature of substance abuse and vulnerable opportunities prevailing in such areas which may cause to prevent and control being victimized by substance abuse.

This research would be a fundamental source document available for the researchers, academics, and scholars to use the extended future studies regarding substance abuse and further findings of this research would resource the professionals who designed planning modules for the control and prevention of Substance abuse to the law enforcement agencies and authorized institutions. In fact, the revealing information of the research would facilitate the relevant authorities to conduct their studies on a particular field further. The main significance of this research can be identified as this research study help to fill the gap of knowledge based on Sri Lankan context regarding substance abuse in a comparative manner.



**Field Trips: Department of Social Sciences stepping to the society with Sociology****Visit to Teripehe**

In 1950s, a Turkish social anthropologist, Nur Yalman, visited the village of Teripehe a in the Central Province for an anthropological study of the caste system, kinship and marriage system that belonged to the rural society of Sri Lanka, and the study conducted in that village was published as “Under the Bo Tree”. Sri Lankan scholars like Prof. K. Karunathilake and Prof. Dilan Gunawardena have also conducted studies based on the village of Teripehe in order to experimentally identify the contemporary

changes and characteristics of the rural social context. To study the modern nature of this rural change, as an extension of the aforementioned study, the Sociology Honours Degree Final Year team of the Department of Social Sciences of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka engaged in a field trip to Teripehe village on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 under the guidance of the Head of the department, Professor E.M.S Ekanayake. Under the leadership of Professor Dilan Gunawardena, the field trip took place under the supervision and participation of Lecturer Prabhash Siriwardhana, Temporary Lecturer Pathum Niwantha Haputhanthri, Temporary Lecturer Pavithra Wickramage, and Temporary Lecturer Manori Perera for two days. Research was conducted at the surrounding areas of Teripehe and Helagama villages. The objective of this field trip was to provide students with a hands-on experience in conducting anthropological research and studying cultural diversity of urbanizing areas. The trip aimed to deepen their understanding of rural to urban transformation methods, fieldwork techniques, and the diverse cultural practices in a specific community and understanding the rural society under development and urbanization and how it impacts the changes in urbanization to nature of the rural community.

**Visit to Moragathenna and Kaluganga Projects and Resettled Areas**

Moragahakanda is a major dam and reservoir project located in Sri Lanka. It is situated in the Matale and Polonnaruwa districts, about 180 kilometres north-east of Colombo, the capital city. The project was initiated to address the water needs of the dry zone regions of Sri Lanka and to support irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, and water supply to local communities. The objective of this field trip was to provide students with an opportunity to study rural sociology in the context of

a resettled area. The trip aims to deepen their understanding of the social, cultural, and economic dynamics in a community that has undergone forced or voluntary resettlement. Understanding the Social Welfare procedure and project planning using PRA and RRA and CEI methods and understanding the rural community changes under development and researching on impact of the development towards social stratification were specific objectives. The field trip was held on 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 and undergraduates who are following Rural Sociology / SOCI 21023 and Social Work and Social Welfare / SOCI 31033 course unit took part in this field work.



***Soft Skills Laboratory: Empower Undergraduates with an Academic Atmosphere***

The Soft Skills Laboratory of Department of Social Sciences was established and opened for undergraduates from 06<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023. The Soft Skills Laboratory contains a Smart Board for academic functions and Air condition facilities for lectures and academic activities. The Soft Skills Laboratory also provides a controlled environment where individuals can learn and practice different soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, emotional intelligence, adaptability, and time management for the undergraduates.

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