



# (Un)framing Identities: Researching on Transgender Communities in Sri Lanka

This presentation focuses on the contemporary Sri Lankan transgender communities and their identity negotiation. Challenging the conventional dichotomies of private-public, everyday-spectacular, this study explores how transgender communities manoeuvre through the conventional and discriminative systems and craft political spaces in their everyday lives, and how these stories have remained invisible (or suppressed) in the dominant narrations of history. This research adhered to the argument developed by the subaltern studies that dominant histories have a narrow view of the 'political'. Therefore this research reflects on the ways in which knowledge of transgender identities was produced in colonial and post-colonial Sri Lanka by exhuming written and unwritten transgender voices and histories. This study based on the contemporary Sri Lankan context, will also contribute to decolonising and democratising the existing body of knowledge on gender and queer theory which tends to focus on the experience of the global North.

## Date & Time

**15<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**2:00PM via Zoom**

## Zoom Link

<https://learn.zoom.us/j/62280848884?pwd=STEwSWUrTWNkVWpZRWI2bk1kQk82dz09>

**Meeting ID : 622 8084 8884**

**Passcode : wWxU+0!T**

## Moderator

Dr. S. Pathmanesan



## Dr. Kaushalya Ariyaratne

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*Dr. Kaushalya Ariyaratne obtained her Law degree from the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Masters in Human Rights and Justice from Keele University, United Kingdom. She completed her doctoral studies at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo. She works affiliated to the University of Colombo as the Sri Lankan Academic Coordinator and a lecturer of the Asia Pacific Masters Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation. She has also been actively engaged in leftist, feminist political activism in Sri Lanka.*