



Guest Lecture-2021/3
Faculty Research Committee
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
The Open University of Sri Lanka

Collective food growing by women as a vision for the future

This presentation will be an analysis of four different efforts of collective food growth/production by women in Sri Lanka, who are from socio-economically marginalised sections of society. Each group has been engaged in this work for varying periods of time. Each group has different areas of emphasis in terms of kinds of food, a relationship to organic/environmentally viable food growing practices, different strategies with regards to markets, diverse meanings of collectivity etc. Each group is also engaged in struggles with regards to other issues that have had an impact on the women and have been the driving force behind bringing them together as a collective. The analysis will be firmly grounded in the socio-economic schisms that have taken hold of the entire world, especially in countries such as Sri Lanka. Juxtaposing the profound challenges exposed by the pandemic with the work of these collectives, this presentation will suggest collective food growth by women in communities, as an economically and affectively viable vision for the fulfilment of fundamental human needs and for cohesiveness of society at large.

19th October 2021
6:00 PM via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://learn.zoom.us/j/61133415467?pwd=Ykw3UkhNVn-RvSWcrc2dsNmxCtVNZQT09>

Meeting ID: 611 3341 5467

Passcode: DW*Wc02E

Moderator: Dr. S. Pathmanesan



Dr. Ponni Arasu

Research Associate to Prof. Jayeeta Sharma,
Culinaria Research Centre
University of Toronto, Scarborough

Dr. Ponni Arasu is a historian, lawyer and performance artist from Chennai, India. Her PhD research at the Department of History, University of Toronto explored and theorised on the themes of gender and caste through a historical ethnography of public political lives in Tamilnadu. With a Bachelors in History (honours) from Lady Shriram College, New Delhi and Masters in History from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, she has engaged in oral histories of a range of marginalised communities and social movements in different parts of India for the past 15 years. As part of her transition to a Sri Lanka Studies scholar, she has spent the past two years researching collective food growing by women while being affiliated to the Culinaria Research Centre at the University of Toronto Scarborough. She hopes to continue to produce work in the field of Sri Lanka Studies and Food Studies based on field research on gender, socio-economic issues and food.