Sasikumar Balasundaram (Sasi), Ph.D.

Room: 0224, Peck Hall,
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL
803-403-6483
sbalasu@siue.edu

Education

Ph.D., Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina. 2012.
Dissertation: Freedom from Camp: Housing and Power in the Experience of Long-term Refugees in India.

Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina. 2012.

M.A, Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina. 2009.
Thesis: Politics of Sterilization: Structural Violence and Forced Sterilization among the Up-country Tamils in Sri Lanka.

B.A, Sociology (Honors), University of Peradeniya, Kandy, Sri Lanka. 2005.
Honors Thesis: Malaiyaha People: Ethnic Identity among the Up-country Tamils of Sri Lanka.

Academic Career

Asst. Professor, Anthropology, SIUE. 2017-

Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology, College of William and Mary. 2014-17.

Program Director, Summer Study Abroad, Global Education Program, College of William and Mary. Summer 2015.

Postdoctoral Scholar, Appalachian Center, University of Kentucky. 2012-2014.

Instructor, Anthropology, University of South Carolina. 2010-2012.

Teaching Assistant, Anthropology, University of South Carolina. 2007-2010.

Visiting Lecturer, American Institute of Health and Allied Sciences, Sri Lanka. 2006.

Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. 2005-2007.

Deputy Director, Improving the Relevance and Quality of Undergraduate Education Project. Department of Sociology, Univ. of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Funded by World Bank and Ministry of Education (SLR 72 million). 2006-2007.

Courses Taught

Dept. of Anthropology, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Culture and Communication
Anthropology in Practice
Medical Anthropology
Globalization and Social Justice
Anthropology of Migration and Refugees
Environment Anthropology: Sustainability and Climate Change

Dept. of Anthropology, College of William and Mary
Globalization, Violence, and Peace (Spring 2017)
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2014 & 2016 and Spring 2017)
Medicine and Culture (Fall 2016)
Organic Farming Culture (Fall 2016)
Growing up Global-Freshmen Seminar (Fall 2014- Spring 2017)
Political Economy of Global Health (Spring 2015-2016)
Anthropology of Terrorism (Fall 2015)
Humanitarian Aid (Fall 2015)
Global India (Summer 2015)
Anthropology of Globalization and Development (Spring 2015)
Globalization and Civic Engagement (Fall 2014-Spring 15)
Anthropology of Travel (Spring 2015)
Applied Anthropology (Fall 2014)

Appalachian Center, University of Kentucky
International Perspectives on Refugees and Humanitarianism. Fall 2012 & 2013.
NGOs and the Politics of Humanitarian Aid. Spring 2013 & 2014.

Dept. of Anthropology, University of South Carolina
Anthropology of Globalization and Development. Spring 2011& 2012.

Teaching Assistant
Middle Eastern Cultures, Spring 2012 with Dr. Maimuna Hug
Latin American Cultures, Fall 2011 with Dr. Jennifer Reynolds
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology with
Dr. Jennifer Reynolds, fall 2009
Dr. Kimberly Simmons, spring 2008
Dr. David Simmons, fall 2008
Dr. Ann Kingsolver, fall 2007

Dept. of Sociology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
Gender and Society (2007)
Classical Sociological Theory (2007)
Community Development (2006)
Contemporary Social Issues (2006)

American College of Health Sciences (Sri Lanka)
Introduction to Sociology (2006-2007)

Publications
Ann Kingsolver and Sasikumar Balasundaram, eds.
2018 Global Mountain Regions: Conversations toward the Future. Indiana University Press.

Ann Kingsolver, Manuel Boissiere, Michael Padmanaba, Ermayanti Sadjunin, and Sasikumar Balasundaram. 2017. Cultural and participatory mapping. In: *Mapping Across Academia.* S.D. Brunn and M. Dodge, eds. Springer. Pp. 305-32.

Sasikumar Balasundaram
2014 Children Matter: Including Camp Children's Perspective in Refugee Research. Practicing Anthropology 36 (3): 37-42.

Sasikumar Balasundaram
2014 An Indentured Goddess: Mariyamman's Migration to Ceylon As a Plantation Worker. *In* Inventing and Reinventing the Local Goddess. Maryland: Lexington Publications.

Sasikumar Balasundaram
2014 Economy, Violence, and Human Rights in India. JYOT (Magazine) 92-94. Gujarat, India.

Sasikumar Balasundaram
2013 "Looking for Home in Exile." roadside.org. August 4. http://roadside.org/news/looking-home-exile.

Sasikumar Balasundaram
2012 Stealing Wombs: Sterilization Abuses and Women's Reproductive Health in Sri Lanka's Plantations. Indian Anthropologist 41(2):57-78.

Ann Kingsolver, Sasikumar Balasundaram, Vijayakumar Sugumaran, Jennifer Engel, Timothy Gerber, Craig Spurrier, Colin Townsend, Kristen Wolf.
2010 Collaborative Research on Food Security and in the US and Sri Lanka: Practicing Anthropology 32 (4):24-28.

Sasikumar Balasundaram, Chandrabose, A.S, and Sivapragasam, P.P

2009 Caste Discrimination among the Indian Tamil Plantation Workers in Sri Lanka Co-authored *In* Casteless or Caste-Blind: Dynamics of Concealed Caste Discrimination, Social Exclusion and Protest in Sri Lanka. Silva et al., eds. Pp 78-97. Kumaran Book House: Chennai, India.

Ann Kingsolver Sasikumar Balasundaram
2008 Walking with Amman: Young Malaiyaha Tamils Views of Their Identity *In* New Demarcations: essays in Tamil Studies. R. Cheran, Darshan Ambalavanar, and Chelva Kanaganayakam, eds. Pp 31-42. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

Sasikumar Balasundaram
2008 Gender Matters in Climate Related Disasters. SfAA News 33(3):39-41.

Sasikumar Balasundaram and Silva Kalinga Tudor
2007 Transition from Tea worker to Out-grower. Kandy, Sri Lanka: Institute of Social Development.

University Service
Advisor, Anthropology Club, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2018
Member, Diversity Day Advisory Committee, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2018
Member, First Year Transition Committee, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2018
Faculty Fellow, Evergreen Hall, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2018
Member, Sustainability Advisory Committee, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2018
Member, Curriculum Committee, CAS, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2018
Member, BUILD Mentoring Program, ACCESS, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville 2018
Mentor, Kethi Club, Student Organization, William and Mary. 2015.
Student Advisor, Anthropology, William and Mary. 2014-15.
Senior Thesis Committee Member, William and Mary. 2014-15.
Co-founder, UK Postdoctoral Association, University of Kentucky. 2013.
President, Lexington Tamil Cultural Association, University of Kentucky. 2013.
Founder of Annual Student Award Focused on Diversity and Human Rights in South Carolina University of South Carolina. 2012.
Advisor, Global Voice, International Students Service, Univ of South Carolina. 2009.

Academic Presentations
2018 In Between Worlds: Struggles of Sri Lankan Refugee Youth for Belonging, Citizenship, and Future. American Anthropological Assoc. San Jose, CA. Nov 16. (forthcoming)

2018 Breaking Silence: Tools and Strategies to Make Everyone Engage. FTTC. St. Louis. MO. September 27-28 (Forth Coming)

2018 Foodagogy**:** A Food-Based Collaborative Pedagogy towards Sustainable Solutions. Society for Applied Athropology. Philadelphia, PA. March 7.

2017 Changing Economic and Religious Landscapes in the Up-country of Sri Lanka. Mountain and Landscape Conference. New York City, NY. April 21.

2015 Constituting the Between: Shifting Power and Navigating New Possibilities, Foci and Voices in Global Anthropological Classroom Conversations. American Anthropological Association. Denver, CO. Nov 22.

2015 Children as Equal Partners: Including Refugee Children in Policy. Society for Applied Anthropology. Pittsburg, PA. March 27.

2014 An indentured Tamil Goddess: Displacement of Village Deity from Colonial India to Ceylon's Plantations. American Anthropological Association. Washington DC. December 5.

2014 "Listening to Grasshoppers": Fieldnotes on Learning Democracy from Refugees. Anthropology Colloquium Series. College of William and Mary. Nov 19.

2014 Anthropology and Social Accountability. Anthropology Student Club. College of William and Mary. Williamsburg,VA. Nov 5.

2014 Sri Lankan Refugees and the Caste Issue in India. Society for Applied Anthropology. Albuquerque, NM. March 21.

2013 Global Youth Engagement: A Transnational Collaborative Documentary Project, with Josh May, Presented at National Outreach Scholarship Conference, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX. Oct 9.

2013 New Possibilities: Transnational Youth Collaborations through Aid in Sri Lanka and Appalachia. Presented in the Session Global Grassroots: Transnational Experiences Shaping Public Engagement in Kentucky. Framing Global Conference. Indiana University. Bloomington, IN. Sep 26.

2013 Unspoken War Partners: The Role of Up-country Tamils in Sri Lankan Civil War. Present in Session "Exceptions" as Norms: Militarization in South Asia. South Asian Studies Conference. Madison, WI. Oct 18.

2013 Aid Communities: State Sponsored Engagement and Creating New Publics. Presented in session Modernity, Sovereignty, and the Politics of Citizenship and Resources. American Anthropological Association. Chicago, IL. Nov 24.

2013 Freedom from Camp: Housing and Power in the Experience of Long-term Refugees. Colloquium. Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky. January 13.

2013 Fair is Beauty: Racism in Post-Colonial India. Presented at Global Racism Conference. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. February 22.

2012 Creating a Space for Students to Engage in Creative Work. National Outreach Scholarship Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL. October 2.

2012 Mountain Voices. Co-Presentation with Ann Kingsolver. Global Mountain Regions Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. October 25.

2012 The Plantation System through Religious Practices and Rituals in the Up-country of Sri Lanka, Presented at Intersections: Sri Lankan Graduate Student Conference, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. Nov 8-9.

2011 Her Asylum Rejected: Story of an Afghan Refugee Woman in India. Annual Women and Gender Studies Conference. University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. April 14.

2011 We Cry, No one Hear us: Politics of NGOs. Presented at Society for Applied Anthropology meetings, Seattle, WA. March 31.

2011 Terrorizing Refugees: Structural Violence against Sri Lankan Refugees. Presented at Toronto Tamil Studies Conference Toronto, Canada. March 13.

2011 Out of Slavery or New Bondage in Sri Lanka's Hinterland: A Strategy for Survival in the Global Economy and a Struggle at Home. Presented at American Anthropological Association. Montreal Canada. Nov 20.

2011 Working with Refugee Children. Presented in the session Ethnographers' Experiences with Long-term Community Engagement and Collaborative Documentation. National Outreach Scholarship Conference, E. Lansing, MI. October 2.

2010 Operation or Oppression: Historical, Socioeconomic, and Political Marginalization of the Up- country Tamils and Its Impact on Women's Reproductive Choice, Presented at Toronto Tamil Studies Conference, University of Toronto, Canada. May 19.

2010 Epidemic or Gift of God/dess: Perceptions and Treatments of Chickenpox among the Up-country Tamils in Sri Lanka. Graduate Student Day, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. Sept 15.

2010 Capitalist Tamil God/desses: The Plantation Economy and Reproduction of a Religion and Rituals, SCASC 2010, Clemson University, Clemson, SC. April 23.

2010 Affordable Collaborative Transnational Project on Food Security. Co-authored with Dr. Ann Kingsolver and Presented at Society for Applied Anthropology meetings, Merida, Mexico. March 27.

2009 Epidemic or Gift of God: Belief and Healing Practices of Chicken Pox among the Ethnic Up-country Tamils in Sri Lanka", Presented at SCASC, Columbia, SC. April 18.

2009 Targeting Wombs: Sterilizing Ethnic Up-country Tamil Women in Sri Lanka", Presented at Society for Applied Anthropology, Santa Fe, NM. March 18.

2009 Malaiyaha People: Past, Present and Future of the Up-country Tamil Ethnicity, Presented at Toronto Tamil Studies Conference, University of Toronto, Canada. May 20.

2009 Untouchable Became Touchable: The Politics of Dalit Identity." Presented at American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, PA. Dec 4.

2009 From Slavery to Semi-Slavery: Tea Contract Farming in the Global South: A Case Study from Sri Lanka", Presented at Southern Anthropological Society, Wilmington, NC. March 12.

2009 Being Called Tigers in School: Tamil Children's Experiences of Ethnic-based Discrimination in a Sinhala-Medium School in the Up-county of Sri Lanka",
Presented at Annual South Asian Conference, Madison, WI. Oct 18.

2008 First in Class: Understanding Academic Success as Cultural Resistance of the Up-country Tamil Children in a Sinhala Medium School. Presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology. Conference, Memphis, TN. March 26.

2008 Operation or Oppression: Forced Sterilization as a Cultural Genocide against the Up-country Tamils in Sri Lanka." Presented at Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI. Oct 23-25,

2007 Walking with Amman: Young Malaiyaha Tamils' Views of their Identity in Practice, a Co-authored and Presented at Tamil Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada. June 02.

2007 Untouchables Became Touchable: A Case Study of Caste-based Discrimination in the Estate Sector of Sri Lanka. Presented at the National Conference on Caste-based Discrimination, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

2005 Students' Views on the Improving the Relevance and Quality of Undergraduate Project Ministry of Education, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

2005 Effect and Impact of Tea Out Grower System in Selected Workers Families in Matale District, University Research Symposium, University of Peradeniya.

Workshops:
Course Facilitator, A World of Health: Connecting People, Place and Planet. At La Vista Ecological Learning Center. Sep-Nov 2018
Mississippi Project VIII, SIUE, 9 am -4.30 pm. Aug 15, 2018.
Workshop, Race Dynamics & Racism on Today's Campus, SIUE, Oct 10, 2017.
Mississippi Project VIII. SIUE, 9 am -4.30 pm. Aug 14, 2017

Awards, Distinctions and Fellowships

Teacher Who Made a Difference Award, University of Kentucky 2014.

One of the 64 Best Anthropology Dissertations of the Year. By www.anthropologyworks.com. 2012.

Harriott Hampton Faucette Feminist Research Award, Women and Gender Studies, University of South Carolina. 2010.

Women and Gender Studies Graduate Travel Award, University of South Carolina. 2010.

Graduate Travel Award, American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies. 2010.

Ceny Walker Graduate Research Fellowship, The Walker Institute for International Area Studies, University of South Carolina. 2010.

Emily Thomson Research Award, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of South Carolina. 2010.

Graduate School Travel Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University South Carolina. 2010.

Conference Travel Award, Dean's Office, Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina. 2010.

Summer Research Award, Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina. 2010.

Dot O'Dell Student Travel Award, University of South Carolina. 2010.

Carolina Creed Award (the student who best exemplifies the Carolina Creed of the University of South Carolina. http://www.sa.sc.edu/creed/). 2010.

Graduate School Travel Award, Graduate School, University of South Carolina. 2009.

WIIAS International Experience Award, The Walker Institute, University of South Carolina. 2009.

International Crusade Development Fellowship of General Board of Global Ministries. New York ($12 000 annually). 2007-2012.

Inter-University Research Grant on Child Vulnerability, Social Policy Research Center (SPARC), University of Colombo (Sri Lanka). 2006.

Mahapola Scholarship, University Grant Commission (Sri Lanka). 2001.

Ceylon Estate Workers Education Trust Scholarship, High Commission of India, Sri Lanka. 2001.

Sessions Chaired and Conferences Organized

2016 Speaker. Choices for Syrian Refugees. Presbyterian Church. Williamsburg, VA. Aug 21.

2016 Panelist. Syrian Refugee Crisis. Graduate Students Forum. College of William and Mary. April 21.

2016 Chair, Organizer, and Discussant. Anthropology of Bi G Data: Telling Development Stories Using Big Data. Vancouver, Canada. March 30.

2015 Chair, Organizer, and Discussant. Marketing Heritage: Business, Development, and Symbolism of Colonial Williamsburg. Pittsburg, PA. March 25.

2014 International Youth Water Justice Summit. Appalachian Center. University of Kentucky. Lexington, Kentucky. July 7-12.

2014 Organizer, Chair, and Discussant. Anthropology and the Future of Caste in South Asia and Beyond. Society for Applied Anthropology. Albuquerque, NM. March 21.

2013 Delegate. UN High Level Dialogue on Migration & Development and the People's Global Action for Migration, Development & Human Rights. United Nations' Headquarters. New York City, NY. Oct 3-4.

2013 Delegate. The People's Global Action for Migration, Development & Human Rights. Church Center for the United Nations. New York City, NY. Sep 29- Oct 05.

2013 Convener, Lessons Learned: Collaborative Community Development in Missouri and South Africa, National Outreach Scholarship Conference, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX. Oct 9.

2013 Chair, Modernity, Sovereignty, and the Politics of Citizenship and Resources. American Anthropological Association. Chicago, IL. Nov 24.

2012 Organizer, with Ann Kingsolver. Global Mountain Regions Conference. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, October 25-27.

Guest Lectures

2017 Culture of loneliness. Public Administration and Policy Analysis. Nov 14.

2017 Geography of Violence and Hope. Dept. of Anthropology. Oct 31.

2013 Intersections: Medicine, Religion, and Culture in South Asia. Medical Anthropology Class. Department of Anthropology. University of Kentucky. Sept 19.

2012 Violence against Women in Refugee Camps. Gender and Society Class. Department of Women and Gender Studies. Univ. of South Carolina. April 12.

2012 Appalachian Kentucky vs Up-Country Sri Lanka. Special Topics Appalachia Class. Appalachian Studies. University of Kentucky. Oct 17.

2010 Theory of Structural Violence: Understanding Inequality and Injustice. Advanced Social Theory Class. Department of Anthropology. University of South Carolina. March 21.

Attended Conference
2017 FTTC, University of Missouri, St. Louis. Aug 30.

Community Engagement

University of Kentucky http://www.uky.edu/appalachia/articles/uks-shepherd-interns-discuss-time-living-below-poverty-line

William & Mary http://www.wm.edu/news/stories/2014/ten-students-in-anthropology-class-win-essay-awards123.php

William & Mary http://walsingham-academy.tumblr.com/post/150491797655/5th-graders-begin-garden-partners-program

William & Mary http://www.wm.edu/as/anthropology/news/center-for-a-public-anthropology-honors-william-and-mary-students.php

SIUE http://www.publicanthropology.org/CAW/17-Fall/1-SIUE.htm

Additional Professional Training
Grant Proposal Workshop. University of Kentucky. May 9, 2013.
Grant Writing Workshop. Brushy Fork Institute. Berea College, Kentucky. Oct 7-8, 2012.
Research Grant Writing Workshop on Child Vulnerability, Univ. of Colombo (Sri Lanka). June 23-30, 2007.

Volunteering and Community Outreach
Fundraising Event for Grove Community Schools. Williamsburg, VA 2018
Children Summer Camp, James city County, Toano, VA 2018
Children Learning Garden Project.Walsingham Academy. Williamsburg, VA. 2016.
Cooking Lessons, KalRae Farm. Toano, VA 2016.
Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity. Williamsburg, Virginia. 2015-16.
Campus Garden Teacher. College of William and Mary, Williamsburg. 2014-16.
Counseling, Greenfield Seniors Assisted Care Home. Williamsburg, VA. 2014-15.
Secretary, International Friendship Ministry. University of South Carolina. 2009.
Community Service, Harlem, NYC. Member of Inter-Faith Student Group, University of South Carolina. 2009.
Volunteer, Salvation Army, Columbia, South Carolina. 2009.

A Public Presentation at University of South Carolina's Interfaith Day Ceremony. 2009.
Community Service in Katrina-affected New Orleans, LA, Inter-faith Student Group, University of South Carolina. 2008**.**
Consultant, Student Media Project Evaluation, Plan Sri Lanka. 2007.

Professional Affiliations
Member, American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS). 2007-present.
Member of Society for Applied Anthropology (SFAA). 2008-2015.
Member of American Anthropological Association (AAA). 2008-15.
Member of International Amnesty. 2008-2009.
Member of Trail of Tears Association. 2009-11.
Member of the Association for Asian Studies. 2010-11.
Member of the Development Studies Working Group, University of South Carolina. 2008.
Member of the Society for Asian Studies. 2010-12.

Language Proficiency: Sinhala, Malayalam, English, Tamil (native), Guajarati (beginner), and Hindi (beginner).

Personal Interests: Gardening and cooking.

Contact Information of Three Referees:
Ann Kingsolver
Professor in Anthropology
University of Kentucky
203A Lafferty Hall, Lexington, KY 40506
Email: ann.kingsolver@uky.edu
Phone: 859-218-4088

Tomoko Hamada Connolly
Professor in Anthropology, William & Mary
Washington Hall 123, Williamsburg, VA 23185
Email: thamad@wm.edu
Phone: 757-221-1060

Mark Whitaker
Professor in Anthropology, University of Kentucky
211 Lafferty Hall, Lexington, KY 40506
Email: mark.whitaker@uky.edu
Phone: 859-257-2611