



Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Mr Fredrick Ruban A (Registration Number: 1930098), PhD scholar at the School of Arts and Humanities, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 8 July 2024 at 10.00 am in the Seminar Hall, First Floor Academic Block, BGR Campus, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560076.

- Title of the Thesis** : **A Sociopolitical Study of Contemporary Ideological Discourse on Ethnic Nationalism from Tamil Nadu**
- Discipline** : **English Studies**
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- External Examiner (Within Karnataka)** : **Dr N H Kallur**
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- Supervisor** : **Dr Arya P V**
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The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva-voce examination.



Registrar

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 04 July 2024

ABSTRACT

The discourse on nation-building is primarily ideological and differs according to context. The present research intends to study the contemporary discourse on Ethnic nationalism produced within Tamil Nadu. It focuses on the ideological discourse of Seeman and employs the ideological discourse analysis model of Teun A van Dijk. Dijk's ideological discourse analysis model contributes to finding the position that Seeman's Tamil nationalism occupies. Further, the present research seeks to locate its position within the sociopolitical milieu of Tamil Nadu by critically analysing three cases: the pro-*Jallikattu* protest (2017), the Salem-Chennai Greenfield Highway protest (2018) and the Language Issue over the Consecration of Thanjavur Brihadeeswara Temple (2020), and the Assembly election results of 2016 and 2021. Besides, the research intends to determine how far Seemanism fits within the theoretical framework of Anthony D. Smith's three processes of ethnonational transformation.

The three processes are vernacular mobilisation, cultural politicisation of vernacular heritage and ethnic purification. Vernacular mobilisation has underpinned to figure out how the ideological discourse is striving to disseminate the knowledge of ethnic sources. The second process of ethnonational transformation explores how the ideological discourse influences the sentiments of Tamils by exhibiting the iconic figures present in Tamil history. The final process of ethnonational transformation is ethnic purification, which enumerates notions such as returning to the ethnic culture, preserving the ethnic culture and so on. This process has fostered to determine how the ideological discourse is strengthening the roots of indigenous people and trivialising the prominence of 'others'. The theoretical framework has underpinned to argue that Seemanism is striving to reconstruct an ethnic nation for Tamils by reintroducing the ethnic sources, politicising the ethno-historical characters, and cleansing the culture and homeland.

Keywords: Ideological discourse, Tamil nationalism, Seemanism, sociopolitical, and ethnonational transformation

Publications:

1. Alphonse, Fredrick Ruban, and Arya Parakkate Vijayaraghavan. "Cultivating Inclusivity in Social Spaces." *Economic & Political Weekly*, vol. LVIII, no. 27, 8 July 2023.
2. Alphonse, Fredrick Ruban, and Arya Parakkate Vijayaraghavan. "Towards Inclusivity within Knowledge and Culture". *Economic & Political Weekly*, vol. LVIII, no. 21, 27 May 2023