



2nd Faculty Research Communication
Faculty Research Committee
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Open University of Sri Lanka
9th February 2022
2:00 PM via Zoom

Openings in/of Language: Love, Responsibility & Buddhism

This paper based on the book to be published under the title Writing Violence and Buddhism in Sri Lanka: Of hungry ghosts and homecomings addresses the question of violence, love, and responsibility with reference to the Buddhist nationalist discourse in Sri Lanka, against the backdrop of Shyam Selvadurai's novel, The Hungry Ghosts. Employing the post-structuralist approach to language and culture with a rich blend of philosophical insights offered by Emmanuel Levinas, Jacques Derrida, Maurice Blanchot, and M.K. Gandhi, it informs the marvel of literature/writing to invent love and responsibility to the other while insisting on the ethical exigency of inventing Buddhism in Sri Lanka as a force of love and compassion, for present day Buddhism in the country has become a breeding ground of hate, vengeance, and arrogance against the other — Tamils, Women, and the homosexual.

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Moderator: Dr. S. Pathmanesan



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Biography

Dr. Nimmi N. Menike is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Language Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka. She was a Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla, India, (2018 – 2020). She completed her PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research focuses on the significance of language and literature in addressing violence in the context of constructing identities. She also volunteers at Daham Pahana, a charitable trust in Sri Lanka.