

BCIS LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

June 2025-Volume 1 - Issue 1



Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies

Academic wing of the S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike National Memorial Foundation

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WELCOME MESSAGE**Welcome to the BCIS Library**

Dear BCIS Community,

We are excited to present the first issue of the BCIS Library Newsletter! Our library is a hub of discovery, creativity, and lifelong learning. Whether you are looking for a great book, a quiet place to study, or engaging activities, we have something for everyone.

In this edition, we will share our new book arrivals, past events, and special programmes designed to inspire and connect our readers. Stay tuned for book recommendations, learning resources, and library news.

We invite you to visit us and explore the world of knowledge.

Happy Reading!

The BCIS Library Team

**ADVISORY TEAM :**

- Ms. Priyanthi Fernando
- Dr. Nishara Mendis
- Dr. Amali Wedagedara

EDITORIAL TEAM :

- Ms. Chamila Gamage
- Ms. Shehani Gamage
- Ms. Hasani Jinadasa

LIBRARY ORIENTATION PROGRAMME



A Library Orientation Programme was successfully held on March 15, 2025, alongside the inauguration ceremony of BCIS International Relations. The event saw a significant turnout, with a large number of students and their parents in attendance. During the programme, students were introduced to the effective use of books and various library services, enhancing their understanding of library resources and services.



'UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL' WORKSHOP

On February 20, 2025, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m, the BCIS Library and Special Library Group organized a workshop titled 'Unlocking Your Potential' at the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) in Colombo. The event aimed to enhance participants' soft skills, featuring interactive sessions on communication, leadership, and personal development. Dr. S.P.H. Vitharana, a management consultant and lecturer at Trans Assistance Service (TAS), who previously served as a consultant and trainer for USAID, led the workshop. Attendees engaged in practical activities and discussions designed to foster personal and professional growth, benefiting from Dr. Vitharana's extensive experience in management consulting and training.

Unlocking YOUR POTENTIAL

(Free Workshop to improve your soft skills)

BCIS LIBRARY,
BMICH,
COLOMBO 07

FEB 20TH 2025
8.45 AM 12.45PM
PRASAD
075-9090936

Scan QR code to register
REGISTRATION WILL BE GIVEN OUT ON A
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS

ORGANIZED BY JOINTLY

RESOURCE PERSON:
DR. S.P.H VITHARANA
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT & LECTURER
TRANS ASSISTANCE SERVICE (TAS)
(FORMER MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT/ TRAINER-USAID)

UNVEILING OF LATE HON. MANGALA SAMARAWEERA'S BOOK COLLECTION

On April 22, 2025, the BCIS hosted 'Reading with Mangala' to commemorate the 69th birthday of the late Hon. Mangala Samaraweera. The event celebrated the donation of his personal library, nearly 2,000 books, to four public institutions: the BCIS Library, Colombo Public Library, Jaffna Public Library, and a special donation to Stefan Andre Joachim for his work with LGBTQ and creative youth. Chief guests included Hon. Hanif Yusoof, Governor of the Western Province, and H.E. Madam Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Chairperson of BCIS. The event was held in collaboration with the Samaraweera-Gunewardena family.

Speakers included Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu and Ms. Chanchala Gunewardena. A distinguished panel comprising H. E. Madam Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga former President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (1994–2005) and Chairperson of BCIS, Mr. Deshal de Mel, Economist, Mr. Stefan Andre Joachim, CEO/Designer, Andre Estefan, Mr. Murad Ismail, Chartered Architect, Ms. Thushara Witharana, Editor, The Leader reflected on Mangala's deep intellectual curiosity, love for the written word, and commitment to democratic values, creativity, and inclusion. His wide-ranging collection spanning politics, diplomacy, philosophy, art, and queer literature will now inspire readers across Sri Lanka, continuing his legacy of empathy, learning, and public service.

Visit the BCIS Library to explore and share the knowledge contained in its collection.



Other Special Collections at the BCIS Library

- S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike Collection
- Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga Collection
- H.L. De Silva Collection
- Vernon Mendis Collection
- Lalith Athulathmudali Collection
- Leelananda de Silva Collection
- Jayantha Dhanapala Collection
- Tissa Jayatilaka Collection

AUTHOR TALK

Author Talk: 'The Sociologist & Poet – It Takes Two to Tango' was held on 27th May at the BCIS Library.

Dr Sasanka Perera is the Chairman of the Colombo Institute for Human Sciences and a former Professor of Sociology at South Asian University and the University of Colombo. In his talk, he reflected on the intersections of scholarship and creative writing, both through a methodological prism and as a matter of personal interest.

The talk was preceded by the gifting of 19 books authored and edited by him, both individually and collaboratively, to the BCIS Library.



HUMAN LIBRARY PROGRAMME

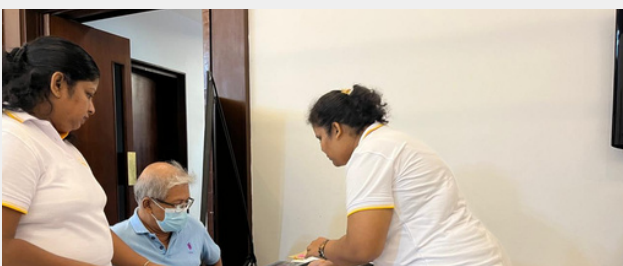
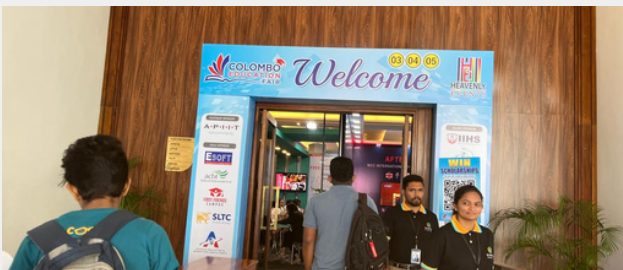


The BCIS Library hosted an engaging Human Library Programme on June 13, 2025, titled 'India-China Relations and the New World Order,' featuring Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, Associate Professor of China Studies at the University of Delhi. Participants were exposed to Dr. Ranjan's insights into the shifting dynamics of global power, diplomacy, and strategic leadership in Asia.



EDUCATION FAIR

The BCIS Library successfully participated in several educational fairs to promote its services. These events provided an excellent platform to showcase the library's resources and offerings to a wider audience. The journey began with the BMICH Education Fair on January 3-4, followed by EDEX-2025 from January 17-19. The library then took part in the Zahira College Education Fair on February 7-8 and at the Education Expo at BMICH from March 7-9. Each event allowed the library to engage with students, educators, and professionals, fostering greater awareness of its valuable services.

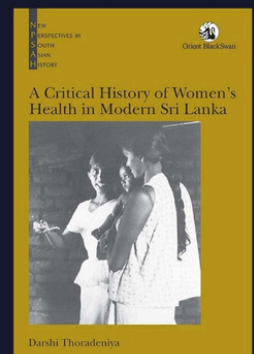


AUTHOR TALK

A Critical History of Women's Health in Modern Sri Lanka



By Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya
Senior Lecturer
Department of History
University of Colombo



The BCIS Research Division and Library successfully hosted an insightful Author Talk featuring Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya, Senior Lecturer at the University of Colombo's Department of History.

Dr. Thoradeniya discussed her book, *'A Critical History of Women's Health in Modern Sri Lanka,'* which explored the historical and socio-political aspects of women's health in the country. The session provided valuable insights into gender, healthcare policies, and historical narratives that have shaped modern Sri Lanka. The BCIS Author Talk was held on Friday, February 14, 2025, from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

The event attracted a diverse audience, including students, researchers, and book enthusiasts, who actively engaged in discussions and shared their perspectives. Participants had the opportunity to interact with the author, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of the book's themes.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS



On March 7, 2025, the BCIS Library hosted a special lecture titled 'Celebrating Women's Day' at its Olympus Auditorium in Colombo.



The event featured guest speakers Ms. Kumudini Samuel from the Women and Media Collective and Ms. Raaya Gomez, an Attorney-at-Law. They discussed the history of Women's Day, women's movements in Sri Lanka, and the country's commitment to the Convention on



the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The lecture was attended by school students, teachers, and other invited guests, aiming to inspire and educate attendees on women's rights, leadership, and social change.



Following the lecture, participants were given a guided tour of the BCIS Library, further enriching their understanding of women's contributions to society.

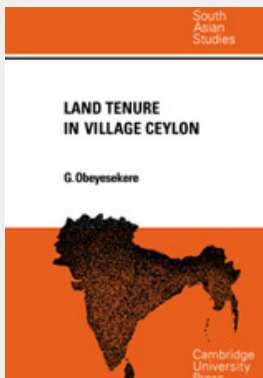


AUTHOR IN FOCUS : DISCOVER THE POWER OF THE WRITTEN WORD

AVAILABLE
AT BCIS LIBRARY



LAND TENURE IN VILLAGE CEYLON BY PROF. GANANATH OBEYESEKERE



Professor Gananath Obeyesekere (1930–2025) was a renowned Sri Lankan anthropologist whose pioneering research has left an indelible mark on the study of South Asian societies. His work seamlessly intertwined anthropology, history, and philosophy, providing a deep understanding of social and cultural structures. Obeyesekere's research on Sri Lankan history, belief systems, and rural life continues to influence scholars around the world.

Land Tenure in Village Ceylon, first published in 1967 by Cambridge University Press, is an anthropological study of exceptional historical depth. In this work, Professor Obeyesekere provide a detailed analysis of land tenure and the resulting social structure in the Ceylonese village of Madagama. Through meticulous research, Obeyesekere trace the evolution of land holdings and the correlated kinship patterns starting from the establishment of the estate in 1790.



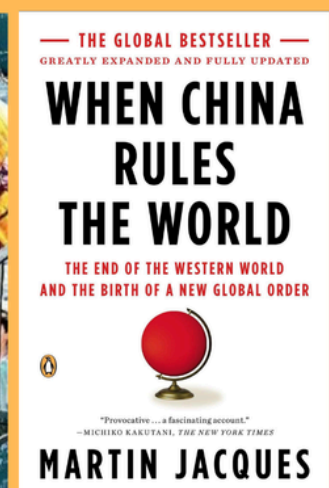
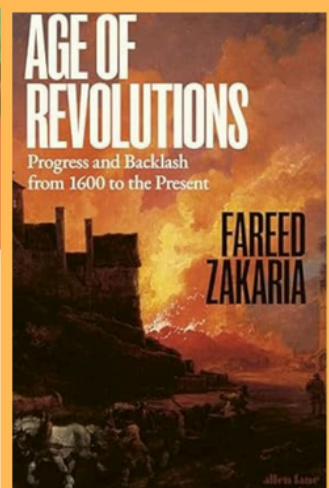
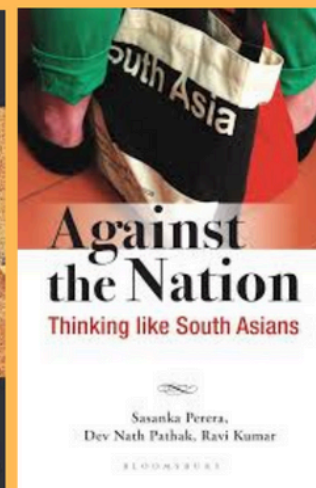
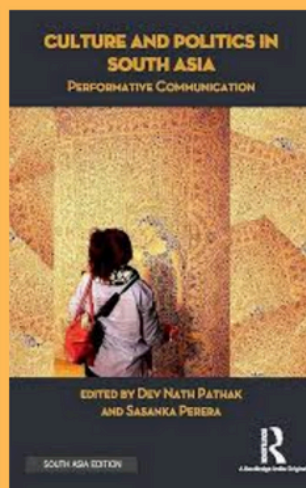
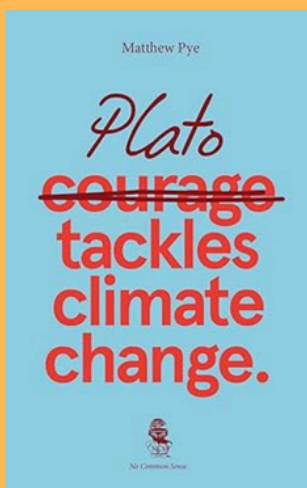
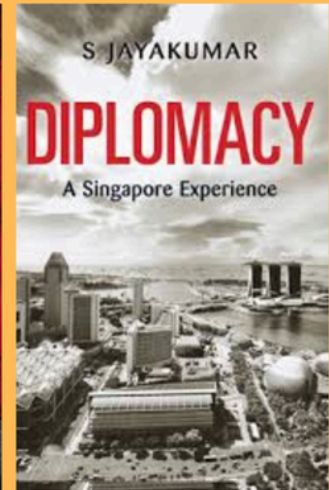
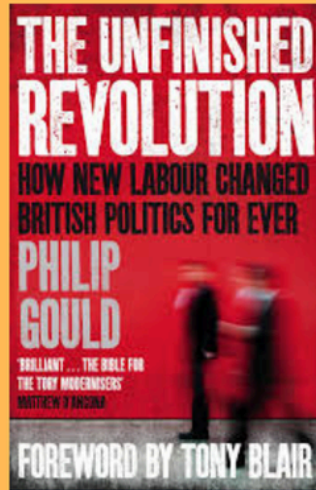
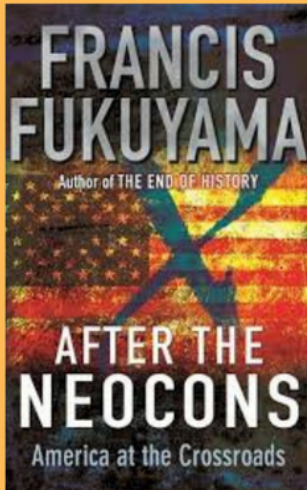
The book explores the traditional agricultural and economic practices of the village, which were significantly impacted by land shortages, leading to multiple divisions of land shares. Additionally, the introduction of British colonial rule, along with the imposition of Roman-Dutch law and the rise of a cash economy, reshaped the village's socio-economic structure. The practices of mortgaging and land speculation became foundational to a new power structure, influenced by feudal norms of land ownership. This transformation led to a radical reorganization of the traditional village system, providing valuable insights into the forces that shaped rural Sri Lanka.

Land Tenure in Village Ceylon is available at the BCIS Library. This essential work is a must-read for students, researchers, and anyone interested in the history, anthropology, and sociology of Sri Lanka. Come and read this valuable book today.

Reviewed by Shehani Gamage
Assistant Librarian, BCIS

NEW ARRIVALS

LATEST ARRIVALS AT BCIS LIBRARY





BCIS LIBRARY

"We invite you to explore our curated selection of academic resources, designed to support your educational and professional pursuits."

The Library Through My Eyes: A Student Speaks



Ms. Yelena Hanzam
Student at BCIS

"The BCIS Library is a great place to start learning about Politics, Law and History. The atmosphere is calm, and the friendly staff will help you find the perfect book to enjoy your evening"

BCIS OFFERS
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND
LANGUAGE COURSES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSES

- CERTIFICATE IN IR
- DIPLOMA IN IR
- HIGHER DIPLOMA IN IR
- POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN IR

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- ARABIC • KOREAN
- CHINESE • SINHALA
- FRENCH • SPANISH
- GERMAN • TAMIL
- HINDI • THAI
- JAPANESE



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INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



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