

Rayson K. Alex

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Academic Qualifications:

- 2005 - 2011 Ph.D. Dissertation titled *Symbiosis in the songs of Mudugar* from University of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu State
- 2001- 2003 M.A. in English Language and Literature from Madras Christian College (Autonomous), Tambaram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu State
- 1998 - 2001 B.A. in English Language and Literature from Mar Thoma College, Thiruvalla, affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala State

Additional Qualifications:

- 2006 - 2007 Post Graduate Certificate in English Language Teaching from English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad
- 1999 - 2000 Diploma in Communicative English from Mar Thoma College affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University

Work Experience:

- December 2012 – present Assistant Professor of English, Department of Humanities and Management, Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences-Pilani, K.K. Birla Goa Campus
Kind of Work: Teaching, Research and Ph.D. Supervision
- August 2010 – Nov. 2012 Assistant Professor, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur, Tamil Nadu State
Kind of Work: Teaching undergraduate and postgraduate English students, Organising workshops and conferences and Writing semester reports
- 2009 Nov. – August 2010 Assistant Professor (Guest), Dept. of English (SFS), Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu State
Kind of Work: Teaching undergraduate students
- 2008 Aug. – 2009 Sept. Program Officer, National Folklore Support Centre (NFSC), Chennai, Tamil Nadu State
Kind of Work: Ethnographic fieldwork (among tribal communities in Kerala, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, and a gypsy community in Tamil Nadu), community

empowerment, digital archiving and categorization of documents (photographs, videographs, audio files)

Courses Taught:

1. British Literature I (M.A. English Studies - 5 Credits)
2. Introduction to Dravidian Literature (M.A. English Studies - 2 Credits)
3. Introduction to Comparative Literature (M.A. English Studies - 3 Credits)
4. Literary Criticism (M.A. English Studies - 5 Credits)
5. American Literature II (M.A. English Studies - 5 Credits)
6. British Literature III (M.A. English Studies - 5 Credits)
7. Language and Media (M.A. English Studies - 3 Credits)
8. New Literatures I (M.A. English Studies - 3 Credits)
9. Theory and Cultural Criticism (M.A. English Studies - 5 Credits)
10. Ecocriticism (Integrated M.Sc. - 2 Credits)

Contribution to Academics:

Syllabi Framing:

At Birla Institute of Technology and Science-Pilani, K.K. Birla Goa Campus

1. Course titled “Ecocriticism” (Elective introduced in 2013)

At Central University of Tamil Nadu

1. Course on Introduction to Dravidian Literature (along with Dr. Nirmal Selvamony)
2. Course on Introduction to Comparative Literature (along with Dr. T. Jayaraman)
3. Course on Language and Media
4. Course on Theory and Cultural Criticism (along with Dr. T. Jayaraman)
5. Three-semester course on Ecocriticism for Integrated Sciences (along with Ms. S. Susan Deborah)

Essays and other documents included in Syllabi:

1. “Towards Green Education” introduced in the Undergraduate course on Eco-poetics at Women’s Christian College, Chennai
2. *The Story of Mudugar* (Video-documentary made as part of my Ph.D. dissertation included in the Ecocriticism syllabus at Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur)
3. Songs of the Mudugar community (documented as part of the Ph.D. dissertation) are included in the Oral Literature Syllabus at Madras Christian College (Self-Financed Stream), Tambaram, Chennai

Research Experience:

June 2010 – Visited Bath Spa University and University of Bath, London, to interview ecocritics for a proposed volume

April 2010-June 2010 – Research on “Weaver poets and their ecological spaces in North Ireland” during my visit to Queen’s University, Belfast, as Visiting Scholar from University of Madras

2010-2011 – Establishment of Mudugar-Kurumbar Research Centre in Attappady to continue the research done during 2004-2008, as part of my Ph.D. The Research Centre is established with funds from World Oral Literature Project, University of Cambridge, London and Fire Bird Foundation for Anthropology, U.S.A

2008-2009 – Worked in two major projects funded by Tata Education Trust and Ford Foundation in the following research topics:

1. Collection, categorization and analysis of oral literature of Jenukurubar, a tribal community living in Nagarhole forest, Mysore
2. Cultural mapping of communities living in the banks of River Nila in Kerala
3. Collection, categorization and analysis of oral literature and language of Narikuravar, a gypsy community in Tamil Nadu
4. Investigating folklore in the Classical dance of Seraikella Chhau in Jharkhand
5. Drought Literature of Gond Tribe in Madhya Pradesh

2004-2012 – Ethnographic research among the tribal communities in Attappady, Kerala

Awards Received / Positions held / Achievements made:

2011-2012 Convening **24**, The Film Club of Central University of Tamil Nadu

2010-2012 Director, Mudugar-Kurumbar Research Centre, Attappady, funded by World Oral Literature Project, University of Cambridge, London and Firebird Anthropological Foundation, U. S.A.

2008 – Present Member of the Editorial team of *Indian Journal of Ecocriticism*
An annual journal of Organization for Studies in Literature and Environment-India (OSLE-India)

2006 – Present Secretary, Organization for Studies in Literature and Environment-India (OSLE-India)

2001 – 2008 Directed music for five musical albums in Malayalam

2006 – Present Co-editor of *OSLE-India Newsletter*

2005 Associate Editor of ASLE-India Newsletter

2002 Served as the associate editor of *Our Zone*, a students' periodical of the Department of English, Madras Christian College, Chennai

2001 Won the First Prize for wind instrument (western) in the University Youth Festival (*Sopanam*) held by the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala

2001 Visited France for a cultural Transmission Programme for three months

2001 Served as the President of Student Christian Movement of Mar Thoma College,
Tiruvalla, Kerala

Papers Published in Journals:

Alex, Rayson K. "Homing Ecophobia: A Study of a YouTube Clip on Tsunami." *Journal of Creative Communications* (Special issue on "Disaster Communications: Media, Crisis and Representation"). (2012). Sage Publications. (Reviewed and accepted for publication) (ISSN: 0973-2586)

Alex, Rayson K. "What Music in Poetry." *Virtuoso*. 2(1). (2012). (ISSN No.: 2249-6076)

Alex, Rayson K. "Physical Archive: Towards Dynamism and Accessibility." *Folklore Journal of University of Calicut*. 1 (2010).

Alex, Rayson K. Alex and Nirmal Selvamony. "Niche in the Select works of Jhumpa Lahiri's." *Indian Journal of Ecocriticism*. 2 (2009). (ISSN No: 0974 – 2840)

Essays Published in Book:

Alex, Rayson K. "Towards Green Education." Ed. Nirmal Selvamony, Nirmaldasan & Rayson K. Alex. *Essays in Ecocriticism*. New Delhi and Chennai: Sarup & Sons, and OSLE-India, 2007. (ISBN: 81 – 7625 – 804 – 0)

Alex, Rayson K. "A Critical Call for the Second Wave in Indian Ecocriticism." Ed. Suresh Frederick. *Contemporary Contemplations of Ecoliterature*. New Delhi: Authorpress, 2012. (ISBN: 978-81-7273-642-2)

Alex, Rayson K. "Econativism in the Select poems of Joy Harjo." Ed. Suresh Frederick. *Essays in American Literature*. New Delhi: Authorpress, 2013.

Alex, Rayson K. "Ecological Representation in Video-documentaries on Tribal Communities in South India." *Problematics on Ethnicity, Identity & Literature*. Eds. Barua, Anooradha Chakrabarty & Nath, Hemanta Kr. Assam: The Sibsagar College, 2012. (98-104). (ISBN 81-924140-5-1)

Alex, Rayson K. "Towards T-Documentary: Critiquing Ecocinema." Rayson K. Alex, S.

Susan Deborah and Sachindev P.S., eds. *Culture and Media: Ecocritical*

Explorations. London: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013. (In Press).

Alex, Rayson K. "Tribal People on Screen: Ecological Representation in Documentaries." Rayson K. Alex, S. Susan Deborah and Sachindev P.S., eds. *Culture and Media: Ecocritical Explorations*. London: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013. (In Press).

Alex, Rayson K. "Introduction." Rayson K. Alex, S. Susan Deborah and Sachindev P.S., eds. *Culture and Media: Ecocritical Explorations*. London: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013. (In Press).

Book Co-edited:

Alex, Rayson K, Nirmal Selvamony & Nirmaldasan, eds. *Essays in Ecocriticism*. New Delhi and Chennai: Sarup & Sons, and OSLE-India, 2007. (ISBN: 81 – 7625 – 804 – 0)

Alex, Rayson K., S. Susan Deborah and Sachindev P.S., eds. *Culture and Media: Ecocritical Explorations*. London: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. (In Press) (ISBN: D00005182-9)

Papers Presented in Conferences and Invited Lectures:

2012 Invited lecture titled "Literary Ecocriticism to Cultural Ecocriticism" for the Annual Lecture of English Literary Association of Kuntavai Natchiyar Government College for Women, Thanjavur, on 16 February.

2011 Invited paper titled "A Critical Call for the Second Wave in Indian Ecocriticism" in the UGC Sponsored National Conference on **Green Perceptions: Ecology and Texts** on 15 and 16 September 2011, at St. Paul's College, Kalamassery, Kerala

2011 Invited paper titled "What Music in Poetry" in the UGC sponsored National Conference on Music and Literature on 28 January 2011, at CMS College, Kottayam

2010 Paper titled "Indian Ecocriticism as *tinai* criticism: A Study of the symbiotic relationships in the songs of Mudugar" in the post-graduate seminar, School of English, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland on 19th May

- Paper titled “The Ecological life of Mudugar” presented in the School of Anthropology, Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland on 29th April
- Paper titled “An Ecological Perspective on the Ethics of Research Documentation” presented in the 35th OSLE-India Study Circle on 05th March
- 2009 Paper titled “*The Queen of Trees: A Sound, Visual and Oikopoetic perspective*” presented in the 31st OSLE-India Study Circle on 02nd October
- 2009 Paper titled “An Ecocritical Reading of the song *manne nimbi le lelo* in Marutam and Kurinji landscapes” presented in the IV International Conference on “Ecology: Texts and Contexts” held at National College, Trichirapalli on September 25th & 26th
- 2009 Paper titled “The philosophy of *Kurinji: A Study of the Songs of Mudugar*” presented in the seminar on *tinai* Society held at Selaiyur Hall, Madras Christian College on 24 March
- 2009 Paper titled “Ecological Niche and Land” presented in the III International Conference of OSLE-India on “Land Culture & Knowledge Systems at St. Ann’s College for Women, Hyderabad, on 4th & 5th January
- 2008 Paper titled “The Moral of the Story is: Biocentric lifestyle as found in a story of Kurumbar” presented in the Intercollegiate Seminar on “Ecoliterature” held at Bharathi Women’s College, Chennai, on 12 February
- 2007 Paper titled “Cultural and Natural Features of Mudugar in Attappady” presented in the Conference on “*tinai* Social Order” held at Selaiyur Hall, Madras Christian College, Chennai, on 2nd November
- 2007 Paper titled “Symbiosis in the Songs of Mudugar in Attappady” presented in the II International Conference on “Towards A Greener Era: Interdisciplinary Approaches” at Acharya Institute of Management and Sciences, Bangalore on 8th and 9th June
- 2006 Paper titled “Towards Green Education” presented in the I International Conference of Organisation for Studies in Literature and Environment-India (OSLE-India) and Enviro-Club of Loyola College, Chennai, on “Ecology and Culture: Interdisciplinary Approaches” held at Loyola College, Chennai, on 18th & 19th September
- 2004 Paper titled “The Concept of Relationship in the Songs of the Mudugar Tribe of Kerala” presented in the III World Conference and XI All India English Teachers’ Annual Conference on “Literature and Environment” held at Madras Christian College on 20th and 21st December

- 2003 Paper titled “The Theme of Identity in the two Dravidian Tribes of Kerala” presented in the seminar on “Diversity ad Identity in Tamil Narrative Tradition, sponsored by Katha, New Delhi, and organized by the Department of English, Madras Christian College, on 12th September. This paper was adjudged the best of the papers presented
- 2003 Paper Titled “Some Resources of a Dravidian Tribe” presented in the seminar on “People Resources and Resistance” at the Seventh Annual Conference of Nature, Environment, Society and Transformation (NEST) held from 1st to 3rd November, at Madras Christian College.

Workshops Organized:

- 2009 A workshop themed “Ecology in Tribal lore” in collaboration with Reelity Bites (Film club of Madras Christian College) and Ecomedia Team of OSLE-India on 09 January. The workshop was conducted by Rayson K. Alex, S. Susan Deborah and Sachindev P. S.
- 2010 A workshop themed “Ecology and Lifestyle” in Good Earth School, Chennai by Ecomedia Team of OSLE-India on 12 January. The workshop was conducted by Rayson K. Alex, S. Susan Deborah and Sachindev P. S.
- 2010 A workshop themed “Ecocriticism: Emerging Trends” in Bharati Women’s College on 22 February. The workshop was conducted by Rayson K. Alex, S. Susan Deborah and Sachindev P. S.
- 2011 A workshop on Video Documentary making was organized for the students of Central University of Tamil Nadu on 17 and 18 September. The workshop was conducted by Rayson K. Alex
- 2011 A workshop on Ecology, Photography and Ethics was organized for the students of Central University of Tamil Nadu on 24 September at Central University of Tamil Nadu. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Juby John Eipe, Ponducherry University.
- 2011 A workshop on Ecological Creative Writing was organized for the students of Central University of Tamil Nadu on 01 October at Central University of Tamil Nadu. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Watson Solomon, Chennai.
- 2011 Workshops on Academic Writing and Workshop Conduction were organized for the students of Central University of Tamil Nadu on 15 October at Central University of Tamil Nadu. The workshops were conducted by Ms. S. Susan Deborah.
- 2011 Workshops on Clay-modeling and Painting were conducted for the students of Central University of Tamil Nadu on 26 November at Central University of

Tamil Nadu. The workshops were conducted by Mr. Banomali Biswas and Mr. Arnob Narayan Biswas, University of Hyderabad.

- 2013 Workshop titled, **Ecocinema? Are we ready for it, yet?**, was conducted for the participants at The Goa Project at The Marbela Beach Resort, Morjim Beach, Goa, on 28 March.

National Conferences Coordinated:

- 2011 Conference on “Towards Indian Ecocriticism” on 2 and 3 December at Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur
- 2010 Conference on “The Name and Nature of Ecocriticism” on 6 and 7 December at Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur

International Conferences Coordinated:

- 2009 IV International Conference of OSLE-India on “Ecology: Texts and Contexts” jointly organized by Organisation for Studies in Literature and Environment-India and Department of English and Department of Botany, National College, Tiruchirapalli on 25 and 26 September
- 2008 III International Conference of OSLE-India on “Land, Culture and Knowledge Systems” jointly organized by Organisation for Studies in Literature and Environment-India and St. Ann’s College for Women, Hyderabad, on 4 and 5 January
- 2007 II International Conference of OSLE-India on “Towards A Greener Era: Interdisciplinary Approaches” jointly organized by Organisation for Studies in Literature and Environment-India and Acharya Institute of Management and Sciences, Bangalore, on 8 and 9 June
- 2006 I International Conference of OSLE-India jointly organized by Organisation for Studies in Literature and Environment-India and Enviro-Club of Loyola College, Chennai, on 18 and 19 September

Video-documentaries made:

- Alex, Rayson K. and S. Rajasekar. Dir. *Guru Tapan Kumar Pattnayak on Seraikella Chhau*. Chennai: National Folklore Support Centre, 2009.
- and S. Rajasekar. Dir. *Nila Paranjathu (What the Nila Said)*. Chennai: National Folklore Support Centre, 2009.
- and S. Rajasekar. Dir. *Jenukurubar*. Chennai: National Folklore Support Centre, 2009.

- . Dir. *Learning from Jenukurubar*. Chennai: National Folklore Support Centre, 2009.
- and S. Rajasekar. Dir. *Seraikeella Chhau*. Chennai: National Folklore Support Centre, 2009.
- and S. Rajasekar. Dir. *Narikuravar*. Chennai: National Folklore Support Centre, 2009.
- and Abraham N. James. Dir. *Kalamezhuthupaattu*. Chennai: National Folklore Support Centre, 2009.
- and Abraham N. James. Dir. *Chaakkadupaattu*. Chennai: National Folklore Support Centre, 2009.
- and Abraham N. James. Dir. *Panthirukulathinte Thozhil*. Chennai: National Folklore Support Centre, 2009.
- and S. Susan Deborah. Dir. *Pandiammal Illam*. Chennai: Ecomedia Team of OSLE-India, 2010.
- . Rayson K. Principal Researcher. *Bele: The Occupation of Mudugar*. Attappady: Mudugar-Kurumbar Research Centre, 2010.
- . Principal Researcher. *Thenevara: The Dress Patterns of Mudugar*. Attappady: Mudugar-Kurumbar Research Centre, 2010.
- . Principal Researcher. *Vaaphe Bilayaadaa: Children's Play of Mudugar*. Attappady: Mudugar-Kurumbar Research Centre, 2010.
- . Principal Researcher. *Ethics of Documentation*. Attappady: Mudugar-Kurumbar Research Centre, 2010.
- . Principal Researcher. *Creative Expressions of Nisha*. Attappady: Mudugar-Kurumbar Research Centre, 2010.
- . Principal Researcher. (Directed by Mr. Sachindev P.S.) *Rainlore of Mudugar*. Attappady: Mudugar-Kurumbar Research Centre, 2011.

Sponsored Research Projects:

Title	: Collection of Oral Literature of Mudugar and Kurumbar in Attappady, Palakkad District, Kerala
Sponsoring Agency	: World Oral Literature Project, University of Cambridge
Duration	: March 2010 to March 2011
Title	: Fieldwork for creating an audio dictionary of Mudugar
Sponsoring Agency	: Firebird Foundation for Anthropology, USA
Duration	: 1.5 years (March 2011)