

Thiruvalluvar Celebration Day

Saturday 13 May 2017

2 - 5:30pm

Brunei Gallery Building
SOAS University of London



**SOUTH ASIA
INSTITUTE**

SOAS University of London

From 1.45pm: Reception and Registration (Brunei Gallery Building)

Session 1: 2 - 3.15pm

- ❖ **Garlanding of the Statue of Thiruvalluvar**
- ❖ **Welcome and Introduction**
 - Professor Edward Simpson, Incoming Director, SOAS South Asia Institute
 - Mr Ramaswamy Balaji, First Secretary, Indian High Commission
- ❖ **Launch of the SOAS Tamil Studies Campaign**
 - Screening of SOAS Campaign Video
 - *SOAS and the study of South Asian languages, societies & cultures* - Dr. Navtej Purewal, SOAS South Asia Institute
- ❖ **Cultural Studies with Special Reference to Tamil**
 - Dr Nanda Kumara, Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
- ❖ **The Tamil Presence at SOAS**
 - *History of the Thiruvalluvar statue at SOAS* - Dr. Balasubramanyam Chandramohan, Institute of Advanced Study, University of London
 - *Historical overview of Tamil language teaching at SOAS* - Dr. John Marr
- ❖ **Thiruvalluvar and Thirukkural: mapping trends in scholarship, teaching and public engagement**
 - Video produced by Professor Aranga Ramalingam, formerly of University of Madras and Professor Rathnavel Manuvel of Sri Venkateswara University
- ❖ **Recitation of Thirukkural with translations**
 - Students at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (Tamil Teacher - Ms Rani Srinivasan)

3.15-3.40pm Refreshment break

Session 2: 3.40 - 4.45pm

- ❖ **Vocal Music: Poetry from the Sangam Age**
 - Students at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, led by Mrs Sivasakthi Sivanesan, Carnatic Vocal Music teacher
- ❖ **Thiruvalluvar/Thirukkural in scholarship and in translation**
 - Mr Madan S Raja - *Translation in Welsh and Reflections by the Translator*
 - Professor Michael Hutt - *Readings from a Nepali translation of Thirukkural*
- ❖ **Roundtable debating the future of Tamil Studies**
 - Chaired by Dr Meera Sabaratnam, SOAS
- ❖ **Bharathanatyam Tribute to Thiruvalluvar**
 - Students from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (choreography: Mr Prakash Yadagudde, Bharatanatyam teacher)

Vote of Thanks and Close