



## Sociology Alumni Association

University of Colombo

# Newsletter

C/O Department of Sociology, University of Colombo, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka.

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January 2021

### Link

Department of Sociology

<https://arts.cmb.ac.lk/sociology/>

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Sociology-Alumni-UOC-105589947685644/>

### Blog

<http://saauc.blogspot.com/>

### Contact Us

Email:

[saauc2020@gmail.com](mailto:saauc2020@gmail.com)

### WHO WE ARE

Sociology is a relatively new social science based on a strong European philosophical foundation. It is an academic discipline that takes a critical approach to the study of human relationships within society and its various institutions; thus its teachings can be applied to many fields or career paths. Due to the multiple benefits Sociology graduates gain in knowledge and critical thinking, the study of Sociology has rapidly gained popularity among undergraduate and post-graduate students. Since the inception of the Department of Sociology of the University of Colombo in 1969; the department has emerged as a center of excellence producing graduates of outstanding stature.

Offering both undergraduate and post-graduate degree programmes the graduates of the Department of Sociology have gone on to serve in numerous public and private sector entities both local and international. Forty years into the history of the Department, a few graduates and staff felt a need to create a platform on which both parties could come together to ensure that the ties formed during university days continue to flourish and nurture the department in future. To this end in 2009 the Sociology Alumni Association of the University of Colombo (SAAUC) was established spearheaded by the encouragement of the incumbent Head of the Department, Prof Subhangi Herath.

The alumni association was formed to achieve several objectives: First to promote fellowship among its members while harnessing their professional, social and educational interests; second, to form a bridge among the academic staff, alumni, current students and post-graduate students with a view to developing the Department of Sociology; third, the association aims to develop and support regional alumni and expand their participation and support in alumni affairs.

Since the birth of the SAAUC, its members have carried out the work entrusted to them entirely voluntarily with the sole purpose of helping to develop the department and the students past and present. To this end, over the years the members of the association have organised numerous workshops, seminars, fundraisers, awareness campaigns and other events. The diversity of the association members, who hail from different professional spheres, have helped to enrich the department at various events and helped the development of the undergraduates.

## President's Message



### President

**Mr. Induka Senanayake**  
MBSL Insurance Co. Ltd.

### Co-vice Presidents

**Dr. Champa Nelson**  
Apeksha Women's Health Foundation

**Mr. Laxman Pathmakumara**  
Ministry of Social Welfare

### Secretary

**Ms. Chanuka Thilakarathna**  
Mobitel Private Limited

### Assistant Secretary

**Ms. Malraji Wanniarachchi**  
Embassy of Norway, Colombo

### Treasurer

**Ms. Pushparani Figurado**  
Centre for Human Rights &  
Development

### Advisor

**Prof. Subhangi Herath**  
University of Colombo

### Editor

**Ms. Chamali Gunawardhana**  
University of Colombo

### Committee

*Dr. Nishara Fernando*

*Ms. Jennifer Goonewardane*

*Prof. Anton Piyarathna*

*Ms. Chandima Jayasena*

*Ms. Chathuri Gunathilaka*

*Prof. Chandani Liyanage*

*Dr. Sagara Chandrasekara*

*Mr. Aruna Liyanage*

*Dr. Indika Bulankulama*

*Ms. Melina Jaimon*

*Mr. Thilakasiri*

It is with a great sense of feeling that I write to the membership at the conclusion of our tenure in office. The task of leading the Sociology Alumni Association of University of Colombo (SAAUC) was quite onerous this year, it was an era that presented many challenges due to the naturally restricted physical interactions; nevertheless there were undoubtedly moments of joy

I am pleased as per my pledge given during my acceptance speech at the Annual General Meeting in 2019; we have been able to conduct some physical and online programs benefiting our members, sociology undergraduates and society at large. All the programs were conducted free of charge, and I am pleased to say some of them were self-funded programs without burdening the association. My executive committee was capable and accomplished in handling all tasks from technical, technological and logistical. They carried out their tasks with passion and ensured they saw the task through to the end. It was my sincere pleasure to work with such a committed team. I would also like to state that a few programs scheduled for this year have been postponed to the next year considering the current pandemic situation.

Our ties with the Sociology department have always been close. Whatever we do is with their concurrence. The Alumni association also supported the Department of Sociology's programs such as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research Symposium and student mentoring. I would like to thank all the members who readily came forward to support these activities. Further, I take this opportunity to thank Professor Subhangi Herath, Advisor of our association for her unwavering assistance and guidance. I also like to thank Dr. Nishara Fernando, the head of the Department of Sociology for his support and encouragement.

Finally, I wish the new president and the new executive committee every success to take the SAAUC to great heights.

Stay safe and keep in touch!

Induka Senanayake  
President 2019/2020

## Seminar series on 'Sociological Perspective on COVID 19'

The Covid-19 pandemic presents the profoundest crisis of our times. The seemingly impossible happened: borders have closed, nations have locked down and individuals have physically and socially been isolated for the collective good. At present we find ourselves tangled in an unprecedented predicament. Therefore the SAAUC decided to organize an online webinar series on 'Everyday life in an uncertainty' and Covid 19 Pandemic and Social Responsibility: Lesson Learnt, Vision for the future and the Role of Sociologists.

There were two online sessions which were held on 19<sup>th</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 with speakers from academia and non-academia in partnership with TIIKM, the organizing body of the two events.

The two webinars focused on the daily life of people during Covid 19. All the speakers provided a broad sociological knowledge of Covid-19 with special attention to the challenges presented during a pandemic and how best one should face it.

Sociologists are well equipped with the knowledge and discipline to understand how the effects of a pandemic can infiltrate and change lives. In the webinars presented by the SAAUC Ulrich Beck's conceptualisation of risk society as 'a new social condition, was highlighted and the concept of 'new normal' was also focused with a sociological point of view.

The webinar was livestreamed via the Face Book page of the SAAUC.

**COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**LESSONS LEARNT, VISION FOR THE FUTURE AND THE ROLE OF SOCIOLOGISTS**

**Zoom Free Webinar**  
**19<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL 2020 | 5.00 PM TO 6.30 PM**

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Click the link in the description for free registration

**SPEAKERS**

- Emeritus Professor Siri Hettige**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Colombo
- Prof. Subhangi Herath**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Colombo
- Dr. Chandani Liyanage**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Colombo
- Ms. Chanuka Thilakaratna**  
Member of  
Commonwealth  
Youth Council
- Dr. Anula Rathnayake**  
Faculty of Medicine  
University of Colombo
- Dr. Anton Piyaratne**  
Department of Social Studies  
The Open University of Sri Lanka
- Mr. Induka Senanayaka**  
Head of Group  
Corporate Business  
M&S Insurance

**MODERATOR**

**MAIN ORGANIZER**  
Sociology Alumni Association  
University of Colombo

**CO - ORGANIZER**  
TIIKM

# EVERYDAY LIFE IN AN ERA OF UNCERTAINTY

## FREE VIDEO CONFERENCE

6<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2020 | 8.00 P.M - 9.30 P.M

### SPEAKERS



**Emeritus Professor  
Siri Hettige**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Colombo



**Prof. Subhangi  
Herath**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Colombo



**Dr. Indika  
Bulankulame**  
The Public Information Division  
The Open University of Sri Lanka

Click the link in the description for free registration

### MODERATOR



**Dr. Sagara  
Chandrasekara**  
IHRA - University of Colombo

### CO - ORGANIZERS

### MAIN ORGANIZER



Sociology Alumni Association  
University of Colombo



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## Donations



### Distribution of 'Face Masks'

Wearing face masks is one of the essential means to prevent the transmission of certain respiratory diseases such as the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19).

Countries increasingly require masks in closed public spaces. However, purchasing masks presented a challenge to some people; recognizing this issue the SAAUC initiated a project of distributing face masks for Sociology undergraduates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> years.

Ms. Malraji Wanniarachchi a past President of the SAAUC personally donated 500 face masks. One student received three face masks.

Furthermore, face masks were distributed to the Children's Unit of the 'Apeksha' hospital on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 an initiative executed by the donations of the executive committee.



## Monetary Donation to 'Apeksha', Maharagama

A financial donation initiated by the SAAUC for the Radiology unit of the 'Apeksha' hospital was utilized for the purchase of a new sound system for the Radiology unit.

## Partnering with a book launch



The SAAUC was a part of the book launch of "Isebella", the first translation of a story book from the Slovenian language to Sinhala by Prof Subhangi Herath. The book is based on a story of a girl child who has a talking difficulty. This book critically opens up a dialogue regarding people with disabilities while also inviting a sociological and social work approach to disability studies.

This academic event was held on 04<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 at the department auditorium.

## Motivational Programme



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#### PANELISTS

 <b>Ms. Nilmini Sigera</b> Teacher, TV presenter Award - Wining Actress	 <b>Mr. Jagath Wellawatta</b> Chairman, Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Senior lecturer in Sociology University of Colombo	 <b>Ms. Samitha Sughathamala</b> Program Director - FIRD
 <b>Mr. N.B.Monti Ranathunga</b> Secretary Ministry of Transport	 <b>Ms. Gihani De Silva</b> Senior Lecturer in Sociology Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka Doctoral candidate School of Social Sciences University of Otago, New Zealand	 <b>Ms. Jinali Chandrika</b> Women Entrepreneur General Manager H.S. Fabric Collections Pvt. Ltd.

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#### MODERATED BY

  
**Prof. Anton Piyaarathne**  
 Professor in Sociology, Head of the Department  
 Department of Social Studies, Open University of Sri Lanka



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The need to motivate students during the Covid 19 pandemic was raised in the committee, to this end the SAAUC organised a webinar with prominent Sociologists

of different spheres. Since the Sociology discipline opens a wide range of topics related to the everyday life of people, the Alumni decided to talk to mainly undergraduates studying sociology. This programme aimed at highlighting the value of a discipline like Sociology to understand and deal with uncertain times. All panelists were members of the department and the aim of this programme was to highlight what Sociologists are capable of executing in different fields.

### Appraisal of the best of the best

The SAAUC is a forum which always contributes to the department of Sociology and its undergraduates and graduates. The Alumni started to award a prize to the best student of the Sociology special degree for their outstanding achievements. The association decided to increase the value of the appreciation to encourage our undergraduates to perform well in their educational career.

### Be a member and join with us

1. Full name:
2. Batch /Year:
3. Date of Birth:
4. Employment:
5. Office Address:
6. Membership status: Student/ Annual/ Life time/.....
7. Contact information:

Mobile No/s	
Residence No	
E-Mail	
Office Number	
E-mail	
Social Media Contact	

**Note : Please affix a stamp size recent photograph**



