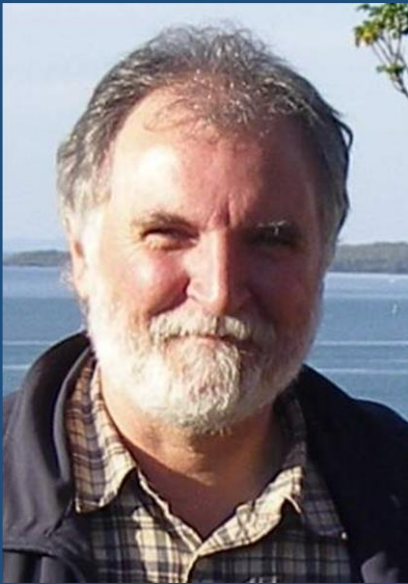
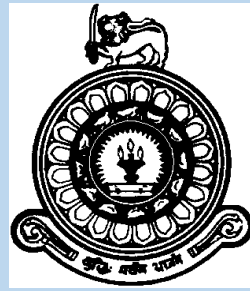


Prof Bob Simpson



Bob Simpson is a professor of Anthropology at Durham University. He has a long association with Sri Lanka having first done fieldwork here in 1978-1981. This work resulted in a thesis entitled, 'Ritual Tradition and Performance: The Berava Caste of Southern Sri Lanka'. Since that time, he has maintained a close relationship with colleagues in Sri Lanka as collaborator, mentor and supervisor. He has carried out research on a variety of topics such as kinship, bioethics, clinical trials, reproductive technologies, eye donation, and body donation.



**DEAN'S LECTURE SERIES OF THE FACULTY
OF ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO,**

PRESENTS,

LECTURE No. 4

**MANAGING THE PIOUS CADAVER:
WHOLE BODY DONATION AND ANATOMY
IN SRI LANKA**

Throughout the world aspirant doctors learn about the structure and function of the human body by being allowed to dissect a cadaver. But where do the bodies come from? This talk takes as its central theme the practice of whole-body donation for the purposes of medical education in Sri Lanka. From the late 1990s onward, there has been an increase in the number of bodies donated to local medical schools for the benefit of student education. Based on a study of past and current practices of giving bodies to anatomy departments, I explore a very distinctive expression of charity in which it is the body which is transacted. Accordingly, I argue for the emergence of new ways of expressing beneficence and thereby earning merit which centre on the pious cadaver. The talk will explore a confluence of ideas about the nature of medical education, the place of doctors in Sri Lankan society and the ways in which popular piety is expressed. Bringing these together, provides a novel perspective on how the meanings of death are being reconstituted in contemporary Sri Lankan society.

9 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 2PM
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