



Monthly Seminar Series: January 2020

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts,

University of Colombo

“The History and Sociology of Sri Lankan Baila”

Dr. Shihan de Silva Jayasuriya

Wednesday 22nd January 2020, 12.00 p.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Seminar Room, Department of Sociology, University of

Colombo All are welcome!



Dr Shihan de Silva Jayasuriya is a Senior Fellow at the School of Advanced Study, University of London, and an elected Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain & Ireland. She is also a UN expert on Afrodescendants in Asia, a former

member and rapporteur of the UNESCO International Scientific Committee of the Slave Route Project (Paris), and a Convener, Global Portuguese symposium, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

In addition to numerous articles in academic journals, websites and chapters in books, Dr. Shihan is the author of 8 books and is the Director / Producer of four ethnographic films including *Voices of Afro-Sri Lanka* (2014), *Indian Ocean Memories: African Migrations* (2014) and *Creole Cultures in the Indian Ocean* (2018). Shihan graduated from the University of London with a BSc (Honors) (Economics) and MSc (Finance) and obtained a PhD (Linguistics) on the "IndoPortuguese of Ceylon: History, Linguistics and Literature" from the University of Westminster. She is a pianist and holds a Diploma in Piano Performance from the London College of Music / University of West London. Shihan also performs African-influenced music of Sri Lanka: baila and kaffrinha .