

**Dr. Dickens Leonard M**  
**Assistant Professor in Cultural Studies**  
**Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta**  
**R-1 Baishnabghata Patuli Township**  
**Kolkata 700094**

Email: [dleonardm@cssscal.org](mailto:dleonardm@cssscal.org); [dleonardm@gmail.com](mailto:dleonardm@gmail.com)

\*\*\*

**EDUCATION:**

July 2011 – June 2017	PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) Comparative Literature Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad, TS Thesis Title: <i>Caste-less Community: Iyothee Thass (1845-1914) and Tamil Buddhism</i> (Awarded – May 2018)
July 2009 – March 2011	MPhil (Master of Philosophy) Comparative Literature Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad, AP Dissertation Title: <i>Con-Scripts of Cinema: Caste and Criminal Spaces in Select Contemporary Tamil Films</i> (Awarded – May 2011)
July 2007 – May 2009	MA (Master of Arts) English Department of English, University of Hyderabad, AP 8.50 (CGPA – out of 10) First Class with Distinction Dorothy Deering Prize for Victorian Literature (2008)
June 2004 – May 2007	BA (Bachelor of Arts) English Department of English, Loyola College, University of Madras, TN 70% First Class Mr. B. Jeganathan Prize for History (2004-05)
HSCC, 2004 – 12 <sup>th</sup>	RSK HSS, Trichy, TN Tamil Nadu State Board 80%
SSE, 2002 – 10 <sup>th</sup>	RSK HSS, Trichy, TN Central Board of Secondary Education 81%

**EMPLOYMENT:**

July 2017–Dec 2020 (semester-wise appointments) as **Guest Faculty and Assistant Professor (Temp)** in Centre for Comparative Literature, **University of Hyderabad, India.**

***Courses Designed and Taught at the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad (2017-2020):***

- Indian Literatures I (1800-1910); PG-core; Solo and Co-taught; 2017-19.
- Indian Literatures II (1910-2010); PG-core; Co-taught; 2018-19.
- Comparative Poetics; PG-core; Co-taught; 2018
- Language Skills; PG-core; Solo; 2017-18.
- Nation, Region and Literature in Post-Colonial Societies; PG-elective; Solo; 2018-20.
- Print and Publishing History; PG-elective; Solo; 2018-20.
- Dissertation and Academic Writing; PG-elective; Solo; 2017; 2019-20.
- Criticism and Theory; MPhil-core; Co-taught; 2017.
- Comparative Literature and Methodology; MPhil-core; Solo; 2020.

***FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:***

2020. Selected for the **Fulbright-Nehru Post-Doc Fellowship** (2021-22) for the project titled “Ethical Dimensions of Caste-less Community: Iyothee Thass, Dalit Movement and Modern Print in Colonial India” for two years in the US (invitations from Stanford & UCSC).
2016. **DAAD** (German Academic Exchange Service) funded “A new passage to India” visiting PhD fellowship at Center for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS), **Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**, Germany (July 2016 to January 2017).
2012. Qualified **NET** in English (2012).
2010. **UGC-Maulana Azad National Fellowship**, Ministry for Minority Affairs (2010-11).

***PUBLICATIONS:***

***Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed)***

2019. “Towards a Casteless Community: Dalit Experience and Thought as ‘Movement’.” ***Economic and Political Weekly*** Vol 54, No 21, May 25, 2019. Pp 47-54.
2017. “One Step Inside *Tamilian*: On the Anti-Caste Writing of Language.” ***Social Scientist*** Vol 45, Issue 1-2, January-February 2017. Pp 19-32.
2015. “Spectacle Spaces: Production of Caste in recent Tamil films.” ***South Asian Popular Culture*** Vol 13, Issue 2, October 2015. Pp 155-173.

### **Book Chapters**

2020. "Conscripts of Cinema: Dangerous and Deviant Third Wave." *Tamil Cinema in the Twenty-First Century: Caste, Gender and Technology*. Eds. Selvaraj Velayutham and Vijay Devadas. Routledge, 2020. Pp. 36-51.
2019. "Anti-caste Communitas and Out-caste Experience: Space, Body, Displacement and Writing." *The Politics of Belonging in Contemporary India: Anxiety and Intimacy*. Ed. Kaustav Chakraborty. Routledge, 2019. Pp 101-125.
2019. "From Discourse to Critique? Iyothee Thass and the Dalit Intellectual Legacy." *Multilingualism and the Literary Culture of India*. Ed. M.T. Ansari. Sahitya Akademi, 2019. Pp 200-234.
2019. "Incommensurable Sacral-Secular Sectarianism? Rohith-Movement and the Emergence of the Inappropriate," co-authored with P. Thirumal in *Secular Sectarianism: Limits of Subaltern Politics*. Ed. Ajay Gudawarthy. Sage, 2019. Pp 23-35.
2012. "Oor and the Dangerous Veeran: Critiquing Paruthiveeran/Paruthiveeran as Critique." *Revisiting Cultural Studies: Towards a New Critical Paradigm*. Ed. Thomas. Tiruvalla: Mar Thoma College, 2012. Pp 153-158.

### **Other Essays (including translations):**

2020. "Rohith-Movement, Conversion and Re-naming: Notes from Hyderabad." *Critical Times: Interventions in Global Critical Theory* (Duke Univ. Press) Vol 3, No 3, Dec 2020. Pp 519-27.
2020. "Is there a Nazi Gaze? Possibilities of an Oppositional Look." *Chalachitra Sameeksha*. July 2020. Pp 78-81.
2018. "Literature and Censorship" (*Ilakkiyamum Thanikkaiyum* by Perumal Murugan), co-translated from Tamil to English with P.Vellaisamy, *Women Philosophers' Journal* (ISSN: 2225-3351, Special Issue on Intellectuals, Philosophers and Women in India: Endangered Species), No 4-5, December 2018. Pp 125-129.
2017. "Les 'Conscrits' du Cinéma: La Troisième Vague Tamoul." (*Conscripts of Cinema: The Tamil Third Wave*), translated from English to French, *La Nouvelle Revue de l'Inde – Le Tamil Nadu* (ISSN: 2104-2969, The New Indian Review – Tamil Nadu) No 12, January 2017. Pp 94-97.
2016. "Vom Schatten zum Licht: Leben-Tod, Dalit-Sein und die neue Gemeinschaft." ("From Shadows to Stars": Living-Deaths, Dalit-ness, and the Coming-Community), translated from English to German by Theodor Rathgeber, *Südasiens* (ISSN: 0933-5196, South Asian) No 3, October 2016. Pp 37-39.

### ***Forthcoming:***

- “Cast Out Worlds in Print: Iyothee Thass (1845-1914) and Tamil Public Sphere” (In Review), *South Asia Research*, Sage, 2021.
- “From Non-Brahmin to Anti-Caste” (In Review), *Dalit Studies II*. Eds. Ramnarayan Rawat and Sanal Mohan. Duke UP, 2021.
- “*Sarithiram* as Interpretative Pedagogy: Iyothee Thass’ Casteless Community and History” (In Review), *Critical Philosophy of Race (Special Issue on Caste)*, Penn State UP, 2021.
- “*Magizhchi*: ‘The Casteless Collective’ and the Sensorial Exscription” (Draft stage) coauthoring with Manju Edachira, *Caste in/and Film*. Eds. Judith Misrahi-Barak and Joshil Abraham. Routledge, 2021.

### ***SEMINARS:***

2019. “Anti-caste Exscription: Three Critical Moments in Ambedkar” in the UGC.SAP National Seminar on *Dalit Studies in India* at **Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi** from 7-9 March, 2019.
2018. “From ‘Non-Brahmin’ to ‘Anti-Caste’: Iyothee Thass as Historical Discourse and Critique” in the Second International *Dalit Studies Conference* at the **Center for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi** (CSDS) from 22-24 January, 2018.
2016. “Anti-caste Communitas in Religion: Iyothee Thass (1845-1914) and Tamil Buddhist Texts” in the 20<sup>th</sup> workshop of the Humboldt India Project, Department of South Asia Studies, **Humboldt University, Berlin** on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.
2016. “Anti-Caste Thought and Religion in Tamil writings of the early 20th century” in the PhD/Post-Doc colloquium held at the Center for the History of Emotions, **Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin** on 9th November, 2016.
2016. “Anti-Caste Communitas and Out-Caste Experience: Space, Body, Displacement, and Writing” in the International conference on *Intimacy and Belonging in Contemporary India* held at **Indian Institute of Advance Studies, Shimla** in April 2016.
2016. “Shadows of Social Death: Violence, Memory, and Dalit Communitas” on *Caste, Tribe and Region: Indian Nation-State and its Discontents* (ICSSR sponsored ST Orientation Programme), held at **Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta** in March 2016.
2015. “One Step inside *Thamizhan*: On the Dalit Writing of Language Outside History” in the International seminar on *Comparative Literature: The Question of Language and Minority* held at the Centre for Comparative Literature, **University of Hyderabad** from 14-16 October, 2015.
2014. “Reclaiming a Moral Community: Thass’s *Sarithiram* and its Hermeneutics” at the two day Regional seminar on *Contemporary Relevance of Pandit C. Iyothee Thass’s Thoughts*

- in Tamil Nadu Politics* at **Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai** from 19-20 December, 2014.
2013. “Creating Resistant Imaginaries: Iyothethass and De-Institutional Historiography” at an International Seminar on *Cultures of Memory: Mneumocultural Praxis in South, Southeast and other Asian Countries* at **The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Shillong**, November 2013.
2013. “Epistemology and Ethics: Re-conceptualizing the Study of Caste in Research and Higher Education” at the National conference on *Social Epistemology and Ethics for Dalit Emancipatory Discourse* organized by Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla and Philosophy Dept’, **Arul Anandar College, Madurai** in March 2013.
2013. “Contesting Heroines and Critical Subjects: Cast(e)ing Madurai in Recent Tamil Films” at UGC.SAP National Seminar on *Popular Culture, Films and Media – Indian Texts and Contexts* at English Dept’ **Panjab University, Chandigarh** in January 2013.
2012. “Spectacle Spaces: Cast(e)ing Madurai in Recent Tamil Films” at UGC.SAP National Young Researchers’ Seminar at Centre for English Studies, **Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi** in January 2012.
2011. “Con-Scripts of Cinema” in a National Researchers at Work Conference, Centre for Comparative Literature, **University of Hyderabad** in September 2011.
2011. “Rustic Warrior to Rowdy Sheeter: ‘Oor’ subjects in Tamil Cinema” at Frames of Reference, Annual National Students’ Seminar, Centre for Media and Cultural Studies, **Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai** in January 2011.
2010. “The Outpost and its Rowdy Hero” at the National Seminar on *Cultural Studies: Sites of Resistance* at **Mar Thoma College, Thiruvalla** in September, 2010.
2010. “Rustic Warrior to Rowdy Sheeter: ‘Oor’ Hero in *Paruthiveeran*” at the UGC.SAP National Seminar on *Identity at Margins* at the English Dept,’ Faculty of Arts, **Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda** in March 2010.
2010. “Contesting the Cinematic Imagination: A Study of ‘Oor’ and ‘Puram’ Movies” at the National Seminar on *Theorizing the Margins and the Other* at the Centre for Comparative Literature, **University of Hyderabad** in February 2010.

#### **INVITED LECTURES:**

2020. “*Nagarigathin Vanmuraiyum Gnabagum: Thassarin Kadhaiyadal/Thassar Enum Kadhaiyadal* (Civilizational Violence and Memory: Thassar’s Narrative/Thassar as Narrative)” – panel discussion on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020, for the 2-day international webinar on *Iyothethassariyam* organized by the Folklore and Culture Studies Department, Madurai Kamaraj University, Tamil Nadu.
2020. “*Panditharin Buddhar Doctorin Buddhar* (Pandithar’s and Doctor’s Buddha)” – invited lecture on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for the 10-day online Faculty Development Programme on

- Buddhism, Tamil and Dalit Literature* organized by the Sacred Heart College, Thirupathur, Tamil Nadu.
2020. “Is there a Script? Technologies and Techniques of Power” – Resource Person on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for the 5-day online Faculty Development Programme on *Rethinking Critical Theory and Praxis in the Humanities and Social Sciences* organized by the Tetso College, Dimapur, Nagaland.
2020. “Three Critical Moments in Ambedkar” – panel discussion on *Remembering Ambedkar* to mark his 64<sup>th</sup> death anniversary organized by Lamakaan, Hyderabad on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
2020. “Is there a Nazi Gaze: The Possibilities of an Oppositional Look” – a Public Lecture in *Watch Out: Anti- Nazi Film Festival* at Calicut on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
2017. “Generations, Politics and Values” – dialogue with Prof. Gopal Guru at NINASAM Culture Studies Workshop at Heggodu, Karnataka, on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017.
2017. “‘Movement’ and Print: Tamil-Dalits in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries” – presented at the workshop on *Civility and Justice: Subaltern Media Practices* at the Department of Mass Communication, SN School, University of Hyderabad on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017.
2015. “Gazing and Looking-Back: Experiencing Films” – inaugural lecture for National Film Festival at the Department of English, Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

#### **WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES:**

2018. Participated in the international writing-workshop on *Southern Global Epistemologies* organized by the British Academy held at the **English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad** from 12-14 Dec, 2018.
2015. Participated in the summer school on *Indian Philosophy* held at Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, **Manipal University** from 13-17 July, 2015.
2015. Participated in the workshop on *Writing-Intensive Courses: Concept and Practices* held at Centre for Comparative Literature, **University of Hyderabad** from 12-13 February, 2015.
2014. Participated in the international summer school on *Cityscapes and New Religiosities in Asia* at **Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**, Germany organized by the Dynamics of Religion in South-East Asia (DORISEA) and Trans Regional Research Network (CETREN) from August 10 – 17, 2014.
2014. Attended the three-day national conference on *Understanding Emancipation Today: Theory, Philosophy, Politics* organized by the Department of Cultural Studies, **English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad** from 19-21 February, 2014.
2013. Attended a one-week orientation programme on *Discrimination, Citizenship and Equality: Interrogations and Contestations*, and presented my research work-in-progress, titled “Religion, Caste and Culture: Iyothee Thass and Counter-Cultural Imaginary” at **Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC)**, November, 2013

2013. Participated in Researchers at Work Conference (RAW.CON) on *Vernacular Modernities* and was a discussant to the paper titled “Who Speaks for our Present: The Political Implications of ‘Theorizing Our Present’” at the Centre for Comparative Literature, **University of Hyderabad**, September, 2013.
2013. Completed a two-month course on *Researching the Contemporary* at the **Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi** (CSDS), during July-August, 2013.

**COORDINATOR:**

2019. Faculty Advisor to the Researchers at Work Conference (**RAW.CON**), 2019 – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference – on *Religion in Cultural and Comparative Perspectives* held at Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad, from 26-28 February 2019.
2012. Coordinated the Researchers at Work Conference (**RAW.CON**), 2012 – National Level Students’ Conference on Literary and Cultural Studies – held at the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad. Assisted in identifying speakers, panel themes, fund mobilization, and coordinating logistics of the conference.

**SUPERVISION:**

2020. Uma Madhu (MA Dissertation), “Quiet Bodies, the Disquiet of Souls: Politics and Poetics of Korean *Han* in the Works of Han Kang” (May 2020), Centre for Comparative Literature, **University of Hyderabad**.
2020. Nirupama V (MA Dissertation), “Running Through the Forest: A Critical Exercise in Multilingual Translation” (May 2020), Centre for Comparative Literature, **University of Hyderabad**.
2019. Gokul Menon (MA Dissertation), “Re-figuring Gandhi: A Move towards Occupying the Place of the Mahatma” (April 2019), Centre for Comparative Literature, **University of Hyderabad**.

**OTHERS:**

2017. Research Assistant for the Democracy Archives Project of ICAS:MP TM3 on “Student Uprisings” for Prof. Rupa Viswanath, **University of Goettingen**, Germany from July 2017 to January 2018.
2014. Member, editorial board, *eDhvani* ((UoH Journal of Comparative Literature, ISSN 2279-0209), for issues: 5 (Gender and Travel) and 6 (Gender and Religion), 2014.
2013. Taught MA II and IV semester courses in the English Department at **Central University of Karnataka**, Gulbarga from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013 as guest faculty on deputation.

2012. Taught the MPhil course “Criticism and Contemporary Theory” at the Centre for Comparative Literature, **University of Hyderabad** during July to December, 2012 semester.

***CONTACT:***

Dr. Dickens Leonard M.  
Block 0, No.5,  
Baishnabghata Patuli Township,  
Kolkata 700094  
+919490218436

***Permanent Address:***

No 39, 6<sup>th</sup> Cross, 2<sup>nd</sup> Main Road,  
Vignesh Nagar West, Kattur,  
Trichy, Tamil Nadu 620019.  
Passport No: U4396702