

# RELIGIOSITY, VIOLENCE, POLITICAL RECOMPOSITIONS

REFLECTIONS FROM SRI LANKA  
AND ITS DIASPORAS

**November 5-8 2023**



**Jonathan Spencer**  
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH



**Farzana Haniffa**  
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

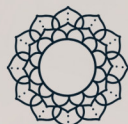


**Filippo Osella**  
UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX



**P. Jeganathan**  
ANTHROPOLOGIST, SRI LANKA

**DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES**  
University of Catania



**PALAZZO PEDAGAGGI  
VITTORIO EMANUELE II 49  
CATANIA**  
Room 'XXI Marzo' | 2nd floor

**November 5\* | 19:00 | Welcoming & Registration | Scenario Pubblico**

## Monday November 6

**10:00** **Institutional greetings**  
Francesco Priolo  
Dean of the University of Catania  
**Giuseppa Di Gregorio**  
DSPS Director

**10:15** **Conference presentation**  
**Mara Benadusi**  
University of Catania

**10:30** **Rituals & Migrants in South Italy**  
**Berardino Palumbo**  
University of Messina

**11:00** **Coffee Break\***

**11:30** **Opening Keynote**  
*Institutional Affordances: Religion  
in a Time of War in Sri Lanka*  
**Jonathan Spencer**  
University of Edinburgh

*Lunch at 1 pm\**

**15:00** **Session 1**  
Chair: Mara Benadusi, University of Catania  
Discussant: Filippo Osella, Sussex University

**Giacomo Mantovan**  
CRIIA ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon

*«The Great Heroes' Day is much holier for  
us than religion». The commemoration of  
martyrs in the post-war Tamil communities*

**Eugenio Giorgianni**  
University of Messina  
*Saint of the others. Devotional citizenship  
of Sri Lankan Tamils in Palermo*

**16:30** **Coffee Break\***

**17:00** **In memoriam, Malathi de Alwis**  
Farzana Haniffa, Chulani Kodikara,  
Stefania Mazzone, Pradeep Jeganathan

## Tuesday November 7

**09:30** **Opening Keynote**  
*Documenting Post-War Ethno-  
Religious Violence in Sri Lanka:  
Lessons from the Recent Past*

**Farzana Haniffa**  
University of Colombo

**11:00** **Coffee Break\***

**11:30** **Round Table**  
Chair: Giovanni Cordova  
University of Naples 'Federico II'  
*Religious Coexistence and  
Migrations: Perspectives from Sri  
Lankan Diasporas in Sicily*  
Don Carlo Palazzolo (Director of  
Foundation Migrantes, Catania);  
Matarā Dhammasiri Thero (Monk at the  
Buddhist Temple, Catania); Don Duminda  
Suresh (Chaplain of the Catholic Sri Lankan  
Community in Catania).

**15:00** **Session 2**  
Chair: Mara Benadusi, University of Catania  
Discussant: P. Jeganathan, anthropologist

**Dominic Esler**  
Lahore University of Management Sciences

*Fire under the ashes: Caste practice  
among Catholic Tamils after the war*

**Giovanni Cordova**  
University of Naples 'Federico II'  
*In His image. Pastoral care, spiritual  
disciplining and interconfessional practices  
among Sinhala Catholics in Sicily*

**16:30** **Coffee Break\***

**17:00** **Film Screening**  
*For a son, Italy 2017*  
Suranga Deshapriya Katugampala

## Wednesday November 8\*

\*Events only for the invited speakers

**09:30** **Round Table**  
Interuniversity Cooperation & networking

**11:00**  
Visit to the Benedictine Monastery of San Nicolò

**Conference Scientific Coordinator**  
Prof. Mara Benadusi

**Organizing Committee**  
Giovanni Cordova (chair)  
Suranga Hennadige, Avishka Sendanayake, Eugenio  
Giorgianni, Daman Singh



This Conference of the project "Migrations, Blurring  
Boundaries, and Home-Making: Anthropological Analysis  
of the Rituals/Migrations Nexus in Southern Italy" is funded  
by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, Projects  
of Relevant National Interests (PRIN 2017).