Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences



Proceedings of the Annual Research Congress PGIHS-RC-2017

ABSTRACTS

31st March 2017

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PREAMBLE

The Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS) is a national institute of higher learning affiliated to the University of Peradeniya mandated to provide postgraduate instruction and training, and engage in research in the fields of Humanities and the Social Sciences. The PGIHS which is heir to the Postgraduate programme previously conducted by the Faculty of Arts has embarked on a path of academic development that combines the conventional discipline based postgraduate education with training and skills development demanded by society. The courses and programmes on offer have also undergone changes as a result, with the introduction of not only new study programmes and courses but also new skills and competencies into the curriculum.

As part of its efforts to promote postgraduate research of the Institute, PGIHS is conducting its first Annual Research Congress on 31st March 2017, which is another milestone for the Institute. The main objective of the Congress is to provide an opportunity for postgraduate students of the PGIHS as well as other researchers in Humanities and Social Sciences to present their work and interact with local and foreign researchers and share knowledge and experience at an internationally recognized academic forum. Even though the primary medium of instruction of the Institute is English the majority of our students have followed their undergraduate programmes in the vernacular languages and have only limited exposure to academic exchanges outside of their mother tongue. The Organizing Committee of the Congress therefore took a conscious decision to conduct the proceedings of the Congress only in English in order to give them an opportunity to acquaint themselves in the new environment. While this may be challenging to some it is an opportunity for our young researchers to have first-hand experience in the most widely used language of dissemination in the international community of researchers.

The PGIHS received a large number of contributions via the Easychair conference management system. These were subjected to double-blind peer reviewing by scholars in the respective disciplines and fifty-eight abstracts were selected for oral presentations at the Research Congress.

The Inaugural Session of the Research Congress will be held in the Conference Hall of the PGIHS with the participation of the Chief Guest Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya. The other distinguished invitees are the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Directors of Postgraduate Institutes, Deans of Faculties, Members of the Board of Management and the Boards of Studies of the PGIHS, and teachers of the postgraduate programme. Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy, the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka will deliver the Keynote Address of the Congress.

The technical sessions of the Congress 2017 are organized under five main thematic areas, namely, Demography, Economics and Management; Aesthetics, Culture and Heritage, and Language and Literature; Politics, Law and Governance; Society, Environment and Spatial Development; and Religion, Psychology and Philosophy covering fourteen sessions. In addition to the Chair and panel of discussants of technical sessions each thematic area will have a senior academic who will observe the proceedings and serve as evaluator of presentations. The technical sessions will be

followed by a plenary session where the senior academics who were serving as observers will be making comments about the respective thematic areas/sessions and presentation which we believe will benefit the students/presenters. At this session, the best presenter in each thematic area will be recognized with a certificate.

The day's events will conclude with a Fellowship Dinner which will be held from 6.30 p.m. at the PGIHS premises for all authors of papers, members of the Board of Management and the Boards of Studies of the PGIHS, Deans of the Faculties and Directors of Postgraduate Institutes of the University, members of the teaching panels including the retired academics and members of the organizing committees. We hope the Congress 2017 will be a learning experience for our students and an opportunity to share their work.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Buddhist Soft Skills as Management Techniques for Better Performance S. Chandrasekara	1
Impact of IT Investments on Firm Performance: An Analysis of Sri Lankan Commercial Banks	2
D.G.S. Abeygunawardane	
Social Responsibility and Employee Commitment in Banking Industry in Sri Lanka	3
H.T.M. De Silva	
Model for Implementation of Lean Manufacturing Concepts and Techniques	4
S.P. Ariyarathne	
Female Government Office Workers' Perception of Sexual Harassment in Colombo District, Sri Lanka	5
T.G.S.L. Prakash	
The Potential of Fashion Education for Economic Development in Sri Lanka: An Investigation into Fashion Education and Apparel Industry in South Asia	6
S. Gopura, D.C. Bandara, A. Payne, L. Buys and L. Seneheweera	
Revealed Comparative Advantage: An Analysis based on Leading Exports of Sri Lanka	7
H.A.B.W. Hettiarachchi and J.M.A. Jayawickrama	
Land Use, Technical Efficiency and Farm Income in Rice Farming under Major Irrigation Schemes in Sri Lanka	8
H.U. Warnakulasooriya and W. Athukorala	
Identifying the Relationships between Budget Deficit and the Selected Macroeconomic Variables: A Study of Sri Lanka During the Post- liberalization Era	9
D.M.S.B. Dissanayake	
Welfare Implications of Raising Technical Efficiency in Rice Farming under Major Irrigation in Sri Lanka	10
H.U. Warnakulasooriya and W. Athukorala	
New Estimates for the Sri Lankan Shadow Economy, 1990-2015	11
D.I.J. Samaranayake	
Disaggregation of Annual GDP to Quarterly Figures: The Case of Sri Lanka	12
P.C.P. Dada asini and O.C. Davanta a Davada	

R.C.P. Padmasiri and O.G. Dayaratna-Banda

Effects of Tourism on Employment Generation in Sri Lanka: An Econometric Application	13
R.C.P. Padmasiri	
The Idea of "Place" in <i>a Small Place</i> by Jamaica Kincaid and <i>Toba Tek Singh</i> by Sadat Hasan Manto	14
W.M.T.T. Amarasooriya	
Language and Contingent Axioms of Relative Knowledge: A Comparative Study on Nagarjuna's Śūnyatā and Derrida's Deconstruction <i>J.D.A. Kumara</i>	15
Lady Philosophy Against the Muses: A Philological Reading of Boethius' De Consolatione Philosophiae	16
S.W. Ekanayake	
Similarities and Significance of the First Sri Lankan Novel in Sinhala and Tamil	17
A.H. Lareena	
Ancient Greek Athletes: Amateurs or Professionals?	18
K.G.B.B. Ranasingha	
The Archaeological Landscape of the Early Iron Age Burial Site: <i>Ihala Kalawella Ulpatha</i> and its Environs in Anuradhapura District, Sri Lanka	19
D. Kumara Jayaratne and D.K. Jayaratne	
Reconceptualising Sacred City Meanings: Contemporary Understanding of the Sacred City of Anuradhapura	20
A. Rajapakshe	
Punch-Marked Coins and their Contemporary Counterfeits K.W.C. Tharangani amd A.M.P. Senanayake	21
Flipped Learning Approach in Sri Lankan Classroom for Teaching Citizenship Education	22
U.G.S.B.K. Jayasooriya and U.G.L.B. Jayasooriya	
Duty of Confidentiality in International Commercial Arbitration: A Lesson for Sri Lanka	23
K.M.C.R. Karunatilaka	
Amity or Enmity: India-Sri Lanka Boundary Resolutions E.M.T.K. Ekanayake	24
The Impact of Provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act of Sri Lanka on the Freedom from Torture	25
R.M.T.S.K. Ratnayake	
UN Convention and Social Policy for Persons with Disabilities in Sri Lanka – In Search for a Pathway to Justice <i>S. Gamlath</i>	26

Political Participation in a Multi-Cultural Context: A Study of Ampara District of Sri Lanka	27
A. Withanawasam	
An Unseen Perspective of Rural Development: Rise of Rural Elite and Implications for Education in Sri Lanka	28
K.A.S. Udayanga	
Reconciliation in Post-war Sri Lanka: An Analysis of the Implementation of the Report of Lesson Learnt and Reconciliation Commission	29
S. Baskaran	
Socio-economic Status of Female Sanitary Labours in Colombo District, Sri Lanka with Special Reference to Private Sector Cleaning Services	30
T.G.S.L. Prakash, R.A.J.N. Ranaweera and K.M.S. Somerathna	
Islamic Reactions to Western Modernity: A Critical Analysis	31
M.I.M. Thowfeek and P.M. Jamahir	
Decent Housing for Decent Living: The Discourse of Slum Free City in Colombo	32
S. Rasnayake, K.T.Silva and H.M.D.R. Herath	
Potential Risk of Dengue Disease Outbreaks in Kandy Municipal Council Area	33
P.M.N.K. Wijerathna	
Wild Mushroom Species Identification in the Wet Zone with reference to Home Garden at Ambagamuwa DS Division in Nuwaraeliya, Sri Lanka	34
M.R.N.S. Sumanapala	
Environmental Changes in the Middle Malwatu Oya Basin based on the Archaeo-Palynological Evidence from Jetavanarama Settlement Site at Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka	35
D.C. Ranaweera, R.M.M. Chandraratne, A.M.P. Senanayake and G.A.D. Perera	
Agro-well Development in Dry Zone Tank Cascades and its Impact on Tank Reservations in the North Central Dry Zone of Sri Lanka	36
M.P. Perera	
Cultural Landscape of Jaffna: A Geographical Study of Housing Structures and their Distribution Patterns	37
W.G.I.M. Amarasooriya, D.M.L. Dissanayake and N.M. Hennayake	
Role of Sea Turtle Conservation Centers to Protect Endangered Turtle Species in Sri Lanka <i>F.N. Joseph</i>	38

The Challenges of an Urban Beautification and Gentrification on the Heritage Sense of Place: An Analysis in Kandy City	39
B.A. Rumeshika	
Gender Differences in Leadership Skills among University Students: Role Congruity Theory of Prejudice	40
A.A. Udayangani, E. Basnagala and U.G.L.B. Jayasooriya	
Deity Worship and Sinhala–Tamil Relations in Post War Sri Lanka	41
W.M.U. Weerakoon	
Exploring the Levels of Stress and Coping Strategies used by University Undergraduates of University of Peradeniya	42
W.A.S. Nirmani, W.G.S. Maithripala and S.K.N. Pushpakumara	
Educating the Youth on Social Cohesion through Physical Education S.V. Nanayakkara and S.K. Embekke	43
A Comparative Study of Curricula based on Plato's <i>Republic</i> and the Pirivena System in Sri Lanka	44
S.K.N. Pushpakumara	
Too Anxious to Talk in English and be in the ESL Classroom: Student and Teacher Opinions Regarding the Impact of using First Language (L1) in the Second Language (L2) Classroom	45
V.N. Gunasekera and K.N. Vithanage	
Problems Encountered by Students with Visual Impairments and Instructors in Learning and Teaching English with special reference to Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya	46
E.M.A.R. Ekanayake, M.S.F. Asna and W.M.L. Nayanahari	
Examining Reactions to Refugees and Migrants using the Is-Ought Problem in Moral Philosophy	47
M.I.M. Thowfeek	
An Epistemological Inquiry into the Concept of <i>Prejudice</i> in relation to Reconciliation in Sri Lanka	48
E.L. Wasalathanthrige	
An Enhancement of Universally Applicable Human Communication from the Buddhist Perspective	49
Ven. R. Wanarathana	
The Place of the Discourses of the Buddha's Disciples in the <i>Pāli</i> Canon <i>Ven. M. Vijitha</i>	50
Mindfulness, Buddhism and its Therapeutic Aims <i>H.V.S. Ariyasinghe</i>	51

An Introduction to the Palaung-Yuan Buddhists Tradition of Paritta- chanting in Myanmar with special focus on Driving away Evil Spirits	52
Ven. A. Nanda Cariya	
The Concept and Practice of Right Communication in Buddhism	53
Ven. Jatila	
Understanding Patient Care in an Existential Framework	54
K.H.G. Mendis	
Challenges of Translation of a Canonical Text: Observations based on Some Previous Attempts	55
H.M.M Herath	
A Comparative Study of Personality Disorders referred to in DSM-5 and Buddhist Jataka Stories	56
Ven. K. Wimaladhamma and Ven. T. Arunasiri	
Why the Pali Text Rasavāhinī needs to be Re-edited?	57
S. Rajapaksha	
Seeing "Religion" as a Western Construction: An Alternative Perspective	58
D.S. Basnayake	