

SRI LANKA LECTURE SERIES

Citizens and the Political in Sri Lanka since 1931



Professor Nira Wickramasinghe
Professor and Chair of
Modern South Asian Studies
at Leiden University in the Netherlands

How can we read and interpret citizenship over a longue duree?

This talk considers the practices, moral judgments and imaginaries that constitute the political in Ceylon/Sri Lanka at various moments in time: in 1931, when men and women over 21 years of age in the crown colony were bestowed with universal suffrage; in 1948 when citizenship laws made stateless most of the plantation workers in the island and in 2014-2015 when an active citizenry used their vote to oust an authoritarian leader. The political is shown as a 'space of appearance' (Arendt), ephemeral and differentiated.

Date: Tuesday, 12.05.2015
Venue: South Asia Institute,
Heinrich-Zimmer-Lesesaal
Time: 4 pm / 16 Uhr s.t.

All interested persons are cordially invited!