

Invitation



*past for a positive future*

*Public Lecture*

# HISTORIES IN THE IMAGE

## PHOTOGRAPHY AND MATERIALITY OF THE EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY KERALA



**DR. SUJITH KUMAR PARAYIL**

*On*

**28 June 2019 (3:00 pm)**

*At*

**KCHR Annexe,  
Kesavadasapuram**

**Kerala Council for Historical Research**

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala  
[www.kchr.ac.in](http://www.kchr.ac.in)

## Abstract

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### **Histories in the Image: Photography and Materiality of the Early 20th Century Kerala**

This paper is an attempt to analyze the relation between photography and materiality, in conjunction with how histories of Kerala have been reconfigured in the imaginative visual surfaces of photographs of the late 19th and early 20th century Kerala. Histories are referred here not as event-histories but as conjectures in everyday life, that constitute the worldviews of the subject. Materiality can be defined as a social biography of the object (photographs). Hence, the presentation would concentrate on selected photographs and some photographic practices to enunciate the relation between mentality and materiality of the photographic image. The history of photography in the region shows that it has been used for various purposes ranging from colonial governmentality to refashioning the agency of the colonial subjects. However, the paper would move away from the evidential nature of photography to look at their textual and contextual meaning. Indeed, photographs quite often go beyond these textual and contextual inferences and become an assemblage of the object, in which visual vocabularies of the sensible and the non-sensible are registered. The paper, therefore, will argue that the meaning of these visual vocabularies is historically reproduced and their signifiers move beyond the mere historical context and time.

**Dr. Sujith Kumar Parayil**  
Assistant Professor  
Centre for Media Studies, JNU

## **Kerala Council for Historical Research**

**(KCHR)**

is organizing a

### **Public Lecture**

On 28 th June 2019 (3:00 P.M.)

at

**KCHR Annexe**

Kesavadasapuram, Thiruvananthapuram

**Dr. Sujith Kumar Parayil**

Assistant Professor

Centre for Media Studies, JNU

will deliver the lecture

on

**‘Histories in the Image: Photography and Materiality of the Early 20th Century Kerala’**

**Professor P. K. Michael Tharakan**

Chairman, KCHR

will preside over the programme

*You are cordially invited*

*With warm regards*

**Professor P. Sanal Mohan**

Director, KCHR

*(Join us for High Tea at 3:00 pm)*





**Dr. Sujith Kumar**

Dr. Sujith Kumar Parayil is Assistant Professor at the Centre for Media Studies, JNU. He was formerly Fellow in Cultural Studies at CSSS Calcutta. He has also worked as Assistant Professor at Department of Cultural Studies at the EFLU, Hyderabad; and Centre for Media and Cultural Studies, TISS Mumbai. His teaching and research interests include; Cultural History of Kerala, Media and Cultural Studies, Visual Culture, Photography and History, Media and Sensorium. His publications include "Family Photographs: Visual Mediation of the Social". Critical Quarterly, Vol. 56, No. 3.1-20, October 2014, "Visual Perception and Cultural Memory: Typecast and Typecast(e)ing in Malayalam Cinema". Synoptique-An Online Journal of Film and Moving Images Studies, Vol. 3, No. 1, Spring 2014.



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**Kerala Council for Historical Research**

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