
DR. THAMIL VENTHAN ANANTHAVINAYAGAN

LL.M. (Maastricht University), PhD (NUI Galway)

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PROFILE

Dr. Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan, LL.M. (Maastricht University), PhD (NUI Galway) is a Teaching Associate in international human rights law at University of Nottingham. Prior to this position he was a Lecturer for international law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law at Griffith College Dublin from September 2017 - August 2020. Prior to this lectureship at GCD, he worked as a Fellow and research assistant to the Irish Centre for Human Rights in Galway, Ireland. His doctoral research focused on the engagement of Sri Lanka with the United Nations human rights machinery. Before his occupation at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, he studied law at the universities of Bonn and Marburg (Germany). Subsequently, he had worked at different research institutions, universities, politicians and policy-makers in Düsseldorf and Berlin, Germany. Finally, he worked as a junior lawyer for the tenants' association in Bonn, Germany. He has presented papers and gave guest lectures at think tanks, international organisations and universities in, *inter alia*, Braga, Dublin, Edinburgh, Galway, Geneva, London, New Delhi, Padova, Seattle, Seoul, Singapore, Kathmandu, Warwick, Leicester. He has written on numerous issues regarding international law and human rights.

EXPERIENCE

TEACHING ASSOCIATE, NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY, UK

2021 TO PRESENT

Plan and manage own teaching, and member of the faculty. Continuously evaluate teaching content, delivery methods and assessment methods and make improvements. Identify and investigate issues which relate to teaching and learning in area of expertise both individually and collaboratively. Build internal and external relationships in order to share information, identify potential sources of funds and/ or opportunities for collaboration for teaching innovation, enhancement projects or for own teaching development activities. Organisation of different law events, conducting extra-curricular activities for law students, such as the critical human rights reading group, Committee member of the Faculty on 'Decolonising the Curriculum', School of Law member

on the Curriculum Working Group, member of the university's onboarding module on anti-discrimination, member Human Rights Law Centre, Deputy Senior Tutor final year UG and Personal tutor for. Supervisions of UG/PG theses

LECTURER, GRIFFITH COLLEGE DUBLIN, REP OF IRELAND

2017 TO 2020

Closely involved in the development and creation of new teaching modules (such as Transitional Justice and Human Rights from the Global South Perspective) and identify gaps in learning contents and outcomes. Entrusted to create and manage teaching modules, set and mark assessments, create exam questions, introduce new assessments practices, evaluate teaching quality, revise the essential reading materials, enhance teaching curricula.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, REP OF IRELAND

2018 TO PRESENT

Preparation of interviews with applicants, engagement with civil servants and discussing interviews and reports, writing legal reports and issuing recommendations under IP Act 2015 and EU Regulation 604/2013, attending conferences and seminars offered by the IPO and UNHCR. Diligent preparation of interviews, meticulous file management, engagement with legal representatives and other stakeholders (Ruhama, Irish Refugee Council etc.) and representation of the Department of Justice to the public.

FELLOW, IRISH CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, REP OF IRELAND

2013-2017

organisation of academic events, conferences and talks; attending and representing Irish Centre for Human Rights at national and international events (organised -inter alia- by DFAT and UN). Research papers and policy papers for then-directors, Prof. Michael O'Flaherty and Prof. Ray Murphy, managing and editor of ICHR Bulletin, engaging with stakeholders at international and national level, involvement at the managing level of the ICHR as research assistant to Prof. Michael O'Flaherty.

JUNIOR LAWYER , GERMAN TENANTS' ASSOCIATION, GERMANY

2011-2012

Compiling reports, writing legal letters to opposing parties, writing amicus curae, meeting with clients, managing and engaging with stakeholders, organising meetings with tenants and other non-governmental organisations, managing budget and office

employees which were subordinated, setting out monthly work schedule, quarterly policy strategies.

EDUCATION

2004- 2011

Phillips-University Marburg, Law School Marburg, Germany *and*
Rheinische- Friedrich-Wilhelm-University Bonn, Law School Bonn, Germany
degree: university degree in international law (equivalent to LL.B.)

2012- 2013

University of Maastricht, Law School Maastricht, The Netherlands
degree: Master in Globalisation and Law, LL.M (Specification in Human Rights)
Title of thesis: Child Soldiers in Sri Lanka. International legal regime and accountability

2013-2017

National University of Galway, Human Rights Centre, Galway, Rep of Ireland
degree: PhD in International Law/ Human Rights
Title of thesis: Sri Lanka and the United Nations. A human rights case study

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK:

Sri Lanka, Human Rights and the United Nations, A Scrutiny into the International Human Rights Engagement with a Third World State, Springer Publishers, 2019, pp. 266, ISBN: 978-981-13-7349-7, <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789811373497>

BOOK CHAPTERS:

Critical Perspectives on International Investment Law, in: Handbook of International Investment Law, Julien Chaisse, Choukroune, Leïla Choukroune, Sufian Jusoh (eds.),

Springer Publishers, 2021, pp.1-24, ISBN: 978-981-13-5744-2, https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-981-13-5744-2_83-1

Panem et circences? Peoples' Tribunals from a TWAIL perspective', in: People's Tribunals, Human Rights and the Law . Searching for Justice, Regina Menachary Paulose (ed.), Routledge Publishers, 2020, pp. 60-76, ISBN: 9780367200060, <https://www.routledge.com/Peoples-Tribunals-Human-Rights-and-the-Law-Searching-for-Justice/Paulose/p/book/9780367200060>

Role of International Law to Encounter the Worldwide Eruption of Nationalism, Xenophobia and Racism, in: Joys of Human Rights, Essays in honour of Professor Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, Ndubuisi Nwafor (ed.), Malt House Press Limited, 2020, - accepted for publication: forthcoming-

The Empire strikes back: the ICJ Ruling on the Chagos Islands and its everlasting consequences (ILA REGIONAL CONFERENCE - BRAGA, SEPTEMBER 2019 E-book, The Contribution of the Case-Law of International Courts and Tribunals to the Development of International Law, edited by Patrícia Galvão Teles and Manuel Almeida Ribeiro), -accepted for publication: forthcoming-

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Peer-reviewed article (submitted and accepted): What belongs together, will grow together? Lessons of the unified Germany for the island of Ireland (Irish Studies in International Affairs 2021)

Peer reviewed article (submitted and accepted): The resistance won't be televised - the role of the Tamil Academic in times of academic resistance (Tamil Academic Journal 2021)

The good Samaritan has arrived. An inquiry into the standard of civilization. James Cook, Jon Allen Chau and others, in: Revista da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade Federal de Uberlândia, Volume 48, No.1, 2020, pp. 72-83, online at: <http://www.seer.ufu.br/index.php/revistafadir>

The UN human rights machinery - too big to fail? An examination of the flaws of the machinery and proposals from a Third World scholar's perspective, in: Nigerian Yearbook of International Law, 2019

E pluribus unum? Racial Injustice in the US and the International Response, in: Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law, Volume 7, 2019, pp. 227-245, online at: <https://hungarianyearbook.com/volumes>

Breaking Bad Customs -involving the idea of opinio juris communis in Asian state practice, in: Asian Yearbook of International Law, Volume 24, 2018, pp. 24-40, ISBN: 978-90-04-43777-7, online at: <https://brill.com/view/title/58464>

Dum vivimus vivamus. The Tamils in Sri Lanka: a right to internal self - determination, in: Peace Human Rights Governance (PHRG), Volume 2, Issue 1, 2018, pp.23-50, online at: <https://phrg.padovauniversitypress.it/issue/2/1>

Uniting the nations or dividing and conquering: The United Nations' multilateralism questioned - a Third World Scholar's perspective, in: Irish Studies in International Affairs, Volume 29 (2018), pp. 35-51, online at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3318/iris-studinteaffa.29.issue-2018>

The Camp - the role of the United Nations' regarding the treatment of migrants by the Libyan regime, in: Special Issue of Journal of International Organizations Studies, 2020 -accepted for publication: forthcoming-

BOOK REVIEW:

Kris Manjapra, Colonialism in a Global Perspective, Cambridge University Press, 2020 (Nordic Journal of Human Rights)

ONLINE ARTICLES (SELECTION):

The Irish Times, Attacks evidence Sri Lanka as post-war but not post-conflict country, online at: <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/asia-pacific/attacks-evidence-sri-lanka-as-post-war-but-not-post-conflict-country-1.3867685>

The Independent, Sri Lanka's shaky 'peace' is now 10 years old, but conflict rages on as the elites play a dangerous game, online at: <https://www.independent.co.uk/>

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[voices/sri-lanka-attacks-10-year-anniversary-war-bombing-muslim-mosque-a8914976.html](https://www.thejournal.ie/readme/opinion-rising-nationalism-3863412-Feb2018/)

The Journal, Walls to stop immigrants would have made my own existence impossible, online at: <https://www.thejournal.ie/readme/opinion-rising-nationalism-3863412-Feb2018/>

Critical Legal Thinking, The System Was Never Broken (it was built this way), online at: <https://criticallegalthinking.com/2020/06/05/the-system-was-never-broken-it-was-built-this-way/>

Völkerrechtsblog, Robert Koch, research and experiment in the colonial space, online at: <https://voelkerrechtsblog.org/robert-koch-research-and-experiment-in-the-colonial-space-or/>

Just Security, A Tale of German Global Criminal Justice: A TWAIL Perspective on the Syrian Torture Trial, online at: <https://www.justsecurity.org/70986/a-tale-of-german-global-criminal-justice-a-twail-perspective-on-the-syrian-torture-trial/>

Justice in Conflict, Long live the Empire? Seeking justice and the case of the Chagos Islands, online at: <https://justiceinconflict.org/2020/07/02/long-live-the-empire-seeking-justice-and-the-case-of-the-chagos-islands/>

Irish Centre for Human Rights Blog, Must Columbus Fall? A post-colonial consideration, online at: <https://ichrgalway.wordpress.com>

OTHER SUBMISSIONS:

Background paper: Effective measures and best practices to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests, OHCHR Seminar on effective measures and best practices to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests, 2 December 2013, online at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/AssemblyAssociation/Pages/Seminar2December2013.aspx>

MEDIA (SELECTION):

Sensible Socialist Podcast, Leftist critique of international law. This podcast talk is accessible on Spotify [here](#).

HeadStuff: online at: <https://www.headstuff.org/sparking-change-with-dil/30-dr-thamil-venthan-ananthavinayagan-a-true-world-citizen/>

RTE Drivetime Tuesday, 23 April 2019, online at: <https://www.rte.ie/radio1/drivetime/programmes/2019/0423/1045220-drivetime-tuesday-23-april-2019/>

Ray D'Arcy Show, 7th of March 2018, online at: <https://www.rte.ie/radio1/ray/programmes/2018/0307/945697-ray-darcy-wednesday-7-march-2018/>

Al Jazeera, Can Sri Lanka ever achieve lasting peace, Inside Story, 17th of May 2019, online at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2019/05/sri-lanka-achieve-lasting-peace-story-190517181721867.html>

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Peer-reviewed article ([work in progress](#)): 'It grows together what belongs together? Comparing German and Irish Reunification, Irish Studies for International Affairs 2021
- Peer-reviewed article ([work in progress](#)): The resistance will not be televised - an international legal assessment of Third World resistance movements: the cases of Palestinians and Tamils (Seminar Critical International Law, Federal University of Uberlândia, Brazil, 2021)
- Peer-reviewed article ([work in progress](#)): Vaccine or tax the rich? - TWAIL-ing human rights, Covid-19 and the global vaccination programme (Indonesian Journal of International Law 2022)
- Peer-reviewed article ([work in progress](#)): The Wretched of the World: TWAIL, casteism and the Global South - a critique (Human Rights Law Review)
- Peer-reviewed article ([work in progress](#)): The Emperor's New Clothes: the continuation of colonialism and the betrayal of the Third World (Asian Journal of International Law)

- Chapter in "International Human Rights Law: Seventy Five Years After the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" to be published by Brill in December 2023/January 2024 (Prof.Borhan Uddin Khan and Prof. Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan eds)
- Chapter "Permanent Peoples' Tribunal" for the Max Planck Encyclopedia of International Procedural Law (MPEiPro, Prof. Dr. Hélène Ruiz Fabri ed.)
- Co-editor for edited book collection: Wretched of the Global South - critical human rights perspectives (Springer Publishers)
- Monograph project: *Taming the Beast - Counterhegemonic Approaches to Nationalism and Racism from a TWAIL Perspective* (Routledge or Springer Publishers)

LANGUAGES

- Tamil (native)
- English (professional)
- German (native)
- French (professional)
- Singhala (medium)
- Dutch (medium)
- Italian (medium)

AWARDS/RESEARCH GRANTS

1. 2013-2017: 16.000 € PhD scholarship by the Irish Centre for Human Rights/ NUI Galway
2. 2019: 10.000 € funding by Irish Aid for the organisation of the Critical Approaches to International Law Symposium, Griffith College Dublin, August 2019
3. 2020: 5.000 £ funding by Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) for ISRF Flexible Grants for Small Groups (FG5), for the project "From the Ivory Tower to the Shantytown: How Does Critical Legal Theory Respond to Political Uprisings?"

4. 2022: 1.000 £ funding by UoN for research assistant to work on the completion on the edited book collection: Wretched of the Global South - critical human rights perspectives (Springer Publishers)

MEMBERSHIPS AND OTHER AFFILIATIONS

1. Member Human Rights Law Centre, University of Nottingham (since 2021)
2. Member Sphere Challenge Working Group Decolonising the Curriculum University of Nottingham (since 2021)
3. Member Curriculum Working Group School of Law University of Nottingham (since 2021)
4. Member Student On-Boarding Module - Development and Delivery Working Group University of Nottingham (since 2021)
5. Member Equality Diversity and Innovation School of Law (since 2021)
6. Council Member to the [Irish Association of Law Teachers](#) (since 2020)
7. Contributing Expert [asia blogs](#) (since 2020)
8. Chairperson and board member [Peace Brigades Ireland](#) (since 2020)
9. Affiliated Export to the [Asia Pacific FDI Network](#) (since 2021)
10. Advisory Board Member [Indian Society for Legal Research](#) (since 2021)
11. Member of the Editorial Committee Journal of International Law and Comity (since 2021)
12. National Judge at Jessup Moot Court 2018, national rounds Ireland
13. Organising panel Jessup Moot 2019 and 2020
14. Organising panel All Ireland Irish Red Cross Competition (Cáin Adomnáin) 2019 and 2020
15. Visiting Fellow Geneva for Human Rights, 2015-2016

TEACHING

2013 -2017: A. NUI Galway (Rep of Ireland)

1. Philosophy of Human Rights (BA)
2. Introduction to United Nations human rights system (treaty-bodies and charter-based bodies) (BA)
3. Business and Human Rights (LLB)

B. Trinity College Dublin (Rep. of Ireland)

- United Nations and Conflict Resolution (MA)

C. Dublin City University (Rep. of Ireland)

1. War and Conflict (BA)
2. International Relations (LLB)
3. Military Strategies (BA)
4. Law of the United Nations (LLB)

2017-2020: Griffith College Dublin (Rep. of Ireland)

1. International Human Rights Law (LLB)
2. Public International Law (LLM and LLB)
3. International Humanitarian Law (LLM)
4. International Criminal Law (LLM)

2021-: University of Nottingham (UK)

1. Public Law (LLB)
2. European Convention on Human Rights (LLB)
3. International Human Rights Law (LLM)
4. Economic and Social Rights (LLM - module convenor)

CONFERENCES

Presentation of a paper to Exploratory Seminar, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, Irish Centre for Human Rights, Galway/Ireland, in August 2015

Topic: COI Report on Sri Lanka and the Implication for International Criminal Law

Participation and presentation at the International Conference "The Role of Human Rights Research: Current Challenges and Future Opportunities", University of Padova/Italy, in November 2017

Topic: Dum Vivimus Vivamus. The Tamils in Sri Lanka: a Right to Internal Self-determination

Participation and presentation at the Postgraduate Conference in International Law and Human Rights, University of Liverpool/United Kingdom, in March 2018

Topic: Post-imperial Trojan Horse or cultural agent for change? Revisiting the role of international law in the case of Sri Lanka

Participation and presentation at Second EDEN All Island Interdisciplinary Conference Early Doctoral Exchange Network (EDEN), "2018: Bodies and Borders", NUI Galway/Ireland, in April 2018

Topic: The Odyssey to Éire: immigrants, refugees and Irish xenia

Participation and presentation at "Refugee Protection in Restrictive Times: Challenges and Ways Forward", Queen's University Belfast/UK, in May 2018

Topic: The swarm is coming: the dehumanization and demonization of the refugee - an Agambian perspective

Participation and presentation at "Violence Space and the Political", NUI Galway/ Ireland, in June 2018

Topic: The Empire of Violence - The United Nations' role for post- colonial violence

Participation and presentation at Mass Atrocities and Human Right, University of Seattle/USA, Mass Atrocities and Human Rights: Legal Responses and Continued Challenges, in June 2018

Topics:

1. The United Nations Human Rights 2018:Post- colonial Trojan horse or toothless tiger?
2. Topic: The Pearl of the Indian Ocean or Island of Impunity? Post-war Sri Lanka and the search for international justice

Participation and presentation at "Third World Approaches to International Law" (TWAIL Singapore): NUS Singapore, in July 2018

Topic: The Emperor's New Clothes: The Sri Lankan Post Colonial Leviathan

Participation and presentation at AHRI Conference, "Renewing Rights in Times of Transition: 70 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", University of Edinburgh/UK, in September 2018

Topic: The UN human rights machinery - too big to fail? An examination of the flaws of the machinery and proposals from a Third World scholar's perspective

Participation and presentation at "Making international work for women: new voices' workshop", British Academy and from the Open University Citizenship & Governance Strategic Research Area, London/UK, in November 2018

Topic: Mother Courage and Her Fate - an examination of women's role in times of transitional justice. A case study from post-war Sri Lanka.

Participation and presentation at "Human Rights, Poverty and Social Justice" at the 21st Irish European Law Forum UCD Centre for Human Rights in association with University of Glasgow School of Law, in November 2018

Topic: Writing Resistance into International Human Rights Law. Developing a Counter-Hegemonic Strategy to Overcome Social Injustice and Eradicate Poverty.

Participation and presentation at "Literature and International Law at the Edge", London School of Economics and Political Science/UK in July 2019

Topic: Reimagining the world through the eyes of Bharatiyar: Tamil ethno-cultural resistance to colonial international law through literature

Participation and presentation at: ILA Portugal, "The contribution of case-law international courts and tribunals to the development of international law", University of Braga/Portugal, in September 2019

Topic: The Empire strikes back - The ICJ ruling on Chagos Islands

Participation and presentation at United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva/ Switzerland 33rd session in September 2019

side- events on:

1. The right to self- determination
2. Human rights engagement with Sri Lanka

Participation and presentation at Millennium Journal Conference, "Extraction, Expropriation, Erasure? Knowledge Production in International Relations", London School of Economics and Political Science/UK, in October 2019

Topic: The United Nations and the reproduction of Western knowledge

Participation and presentation at DILA Seoul/South Korea, "Asian State Practice in International Law from the Perspective of TWAIL", in November 2019

Topic: Breaking Bad Customs -involving the idea of opinio juris communis in Asian state practice'

International Conference on South Asia in the Era of International Courts and Tribunals at South Asian University, New Delhi/India, in February 2020

Topic: Rewriting international criminal justice: An argument for reimagining Global South history in international criminal trials

10th Annual Conference of the Cambridge International Law Journal:

National Sovereignty and International Co-operation: The Challenges of Navigating Global Crises Cambridge, in March 2021

Topic: All for One or All to Themselves? TWAIL-ing United Nations in Times of Global Health Emergencies. Lessons for the Future

Asian Legal History Conference (Vietnam-Hong Kong), in July 2021

Topic: The Emperor's new clothes: - an international legal reflection upon racialised colonialism, antiques of violence and post-colonial tremors

Seminar on Critical International Law (Brazil), in December 2021

Topic: The resistance will not be televised - an international legal assessment of Third World resistance movements: the cases of Palestinians and Tamils

GUEST LECTURES, WEBINARS AND OTHER SEMINARS (SELECTION)

Research seminar at University of Leicester/UK "Research Cluster on international law", in October 2019

Topic: Postcolonial Trojan Horse or genuine agent for change?: An inquiry into post-colonial engagement between Third World States and the United Nations

Research seminar at University of Warwick/UK, "Research Cluster on international law", in January 2020

Topic: Taming the 'east - counter-hegemonic approach of TWAIL to encounter nationalisms under international law'

Guest lectures at Kathmandu School of Law, Kathmandu/Nepal in March 2020,

Topics:

1. Taming the Beast: A TWAIL Approach to Nationalisms and Authoritarianisms
2. Postcolonial Trojan Horse or genuine agent for change?: An inquiry into post-colonial engagement between Third World States and the United Nations

Webinars

1. Portsmouth University, Research Futures, Title: The Making of Empire through Racialised Capitalism, 8.07.2020
2. Indian Society for Legal Research, Title: ISLR's First Virtual Summer School on International Legal System in the Age of Pandemic, 17.08.2020
3. VIT Chennai
 - a) International Humanitarian Law and the Global South histories
 - b) International Commercial Law and the shift to the Global South
4. Kathmandu School of Law, 'Need for a Trans-civilizational' Dialogue in International Law: A response to 'Civilizational' Approach to International Law of the West, 6.07.2020
5. Tamil Students Initiative UK: Sri Lanka and the UN - a human rights misunderstanding, 18.11.2020
6. ELSA Nottingham, Innovative Legal Week ,
Topic: Behold, the Saints are coming! The evolution of the liberating human rights project to neoliberal imperialism in the Global South, 23.03.2021
7. Symbiosis' Centre for Human Rights , University of Hyderabad, India, 'The Third World Elite and the Corruption of International Law,' 5.04.2021
8. International Law and Policy Society of National Law University Odisha, India on 'Vaccine or tax the rich ? Twail-ing human rights, Covid-19 and the global vaccination programme, on 12.04.2021
9. Centre for Media, Peacebuilding and Human Rights to discuss there issues of land-grabbing in Sri Lanka from a perspective of international investment law and human rights in post-coloniality, '*Tamil Homeland Matters - designing resistance into international investment law*' , March 2021
10. Kathmandu School of Law, 'Conflict and Consequences- a look into Child Rights', 28.05.2021

11. Geneva Human Rights Platform, Geneva Academy, 'Human Rights Conversation: Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL) and Human Rights', 4.03.2022, <https://www.geneva-academy.ch/event/past-events/detail/319-third-world-approaches-to-international-law-twail-and-human-rights>

REFERENCES

1. Prof Shane Darcy - shane.darcy@nuigalway.ie (former PhD supervisor, from 2015)
2. Prof. Fons Coomans - fons.coomans@maastrichtuniversity.nl (former professor)
3. Prof. Theo van Boven - th.vanboven@maastrichtuniversity.nl (former professor)
4. Prof. Michael O'Flaherty - michael.oflaherty@fra.europa.eu (former PhD supervisor, until 2015)
5. Prof. Leila Choukroune - leila.choukroune@port.ac.uk (former professor)
6. Prof. Aoife Nolan - aoife.nolan@nottingham.ac.uk (colleague)
7. Prof. Mohsen al-Attar mohsen - mohsen.al-attar@warwick.ac.uk (colleague)