

Personal Profile

Prof. Simon John Samuel
Professor, Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies
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Educational Profile

- Ph.D. St.Xavier's College, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University ,
Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu;2006
Supervisor: Dr.Ramachandran Nair
- M.A. St.Xavier's College, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University ,
Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu; 1997
Subject: Folklore
- M.A. Annamali University, Tamil Nadu; 2003
Subject: Sociology
- PGD. Manonmaniam Sundaranar University , Tirunelveli, Tamil
Nadu;1999
Subject: Personnel Management and Industrial Relations
- B.A. St.Xavier's College, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University ,
Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu;1995
Subject: Economics

Professional Experience

- Professor**, Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies August,2013 -till date
Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, India
- Associate Professor**, Indira Gandhi National Centre for October, 2009 –August,
Arts, New Delhi, India (On Deputation), Ministry of Culture, 2013
Govt.of India, New Delhi
- Research Associate**, Anthropological Survey of India, April, 2000- August,
(Kolkata & Mysore) Ministry of Culture, Govt.of India 2013

Administrative Experience

Director , Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, India	October,2013- September 2020
Coordinator , Centre for Endangered Languages, Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, India	January, 2014- till date
Director , Central Institute of Himalayan Cultural Studies, Dahung, Arunachal Pradesh, India (On deputation) Ministry of Culture, Govt.of India	June-July, 2019
Coordinator , North East India research Programmes, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, India	October, 2009- August, 2013

Awards & Honours

1. INDO- US 21st Century Knowledge Initiative award by United States India Education award , New Delhi (2016-2019)
2. Short term scholar, School of Social Work, University of South Florida, USA during January 2018 under the Indo- US 21st Century Knowledge Initiative award
3. Presidential young scholar award by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India (2008)
4. Qualified UGC-NET in June, 2000

Research Interests

- Folklore Studies

Research Publications

1. Murung as a Ritual of Healing: Understanding Rituals of the Apatanis of Arunachal Pradesh, India: John,Simon.;ASIA,2020,Vol.(7)pp.51-70.
2. COVID -19 Pandemic and Indigenous Health Care Practices among the tribal Communities in Arunachal Pradesh: John,Simon.; Mene, Tarun.; *Man In India*, 2020, Vol.100(1-2) pp. 59-71.

3. Oral Narratives, Knowledge Systems and Symbolism Associated with Opo among the Galos of Arunachal Pradesh: John,Simon.; *South Asian Anthropologist*, **2017**, Vol. 17(2), pp. 163-170.
4. Funeral Traditions of The Idu Mishmis of Arunachal Pradesh : John,Simon.; *Humankind*, **2015**, Vol.11, pp.81-98.
5. Proverbs, Caste and Gender : Studying the Interface between Proverbs and Human Relations: John,Simon.; *The Oriental Anthropologist*, **2015**, Vol. 15, No. 1, 2015, pp.53-64
6. 2015. Not Just A Game: Reliving the Politics of Hockey: John,Simon,; *Man In India*, **2015**, Vol 95 (1) : pp 37-47
7. Traditional Healing Practices of Tamil Nadu: John,Simon,; *Journal of South Asian Anthropologist*, **2014**, Vol. 14 (1).
8. The Aravan Cult: Living Traditions of Transgenders in Tamil Nadu: John,Simon,; *Journal of Anthropological Society*, **2013**, Vol. 48(3), pp231 to 244
9. Origin Myth and Rituals: An Ethnographic account of Muttu Pattan: John,Simon,; *Journal of South Asian Anthropologist*, **2013**, Vol. 13 (2), pp. 149-156
10. An Ethnographic Account of Sudalai Cult, Tamil Nadu,India : John,Simon,; *Antrocom*, **2013**, vol. 9. n. 2, pp299-307
11. Traditional Knowledge of Folk Crafts in Tamil Nadu: John,Simon,; *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge*, **2010**, Vol 9(3)
12. Human Body, Folk Narratives and Rituals: John,Simon,; *Pragrana* (Special Volume) , **2009**, Berlin, Germany.
13. Kaniyan: Ritual Performers of Tamil Nadu, South India: John,Simon,; *Journal of Asian Ethnology*, **2008**, Japan: Nanzan Institute of Religion and Culture , Vol 67(1)
14. 2008. Traditional Folk Arts of Tamil Nadu; John,Simon,; *Art Land*, 2008, New Delhi: India International Rural Cultural Centre
15. Looking Back: A Study of Kaanikkarar in Tamil Nadu: John,Simon,; *Journal of Social Anthropology*, **2007**, Vol. 4 (2)
16. Sudalai Katha: John,Simon,; *Indian Literature*, **2008**, Vol LII (1).
17. Sacred Folk Festivals of Tamil Nadu: John,Simon,; *Journal of Social Anthropology*, **2008**, Vol.3 (1).
18. Folk Arts: An Intangible Cultural Heritage of Tamil Nadu: John,Simon,; Artland, **2006**, New Delhi: India International Rural Cultural Centre
19. *Folk Heritage Performances of Tamil Nadu*: John,Simon,; **2005**, *Journal of Social Anthropology*, Vol. 2(1).
20. Media and Folklore: John,Simon,; **2005**, *Art land*, New Delhi: India International Rural Cultural Centre
21. From Culture to Politics: The changing context of Parai in Tamil Nadu: John,Simon,; *South Indian Folklorist*, **2004**, Vol. No. 7, Palayamkottai: Folklore Resources and Research Centre.
22. Children Folklore; A Medium of Enculturation: John,Simon,; **2004**, *Journal Anthropological Survey of India*, Kolkatta: Anthropological Survey of India.

Book/Book Chapter published

Books

1. John,Simon (Executive Editor) ;, *The Tangams: An Ethno Linguistic Study of the Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh*, Himalayan Publisher, New Delhi,**2020**.
2. John,Simon (Executive Editor);: *The Language and Ethnography of the Kaasiks of Arunachal Pradesh*, Himalayan Publisher, New Delhi, **2020**.
3. John,Simon,; *Folk Narratives, Rituals and Performances: An Intangible Cultural Heritage of Tamil Nadu*. DK Printworld, Delhi, **2016**.
4. John,Simon,; *Human Body and Folklore: Study of Folk Cult Practices of Tamil Nadu*, LAP Publishers, Germany,**2013**.
5. *History and Trends of Tamil Folkloristics* (In Tamil), Folklore Resources and Research Centre , Palayamkottai, **2008**.
6. *Children Folklore: Characteristics and Socialization* (in Tamil), Vallinam, Pondicherry,**2007**.
7. *Chennai Sangamam: Vinaium Ethir Vinaium* (In Tamil), Tamil Maiyam, Chennai, **2007**.
8. 2001. *Iyamma Kathaikal (Oral Myths In Tamil)* Kaalaathi, Palayamkottai,**2001**.

Chapters

- 1- John,Simon,; Pulu,Maya,; Funeral Traditions of The Idu Mishmis of Arunachal Pradesh, *Change and Continuity among Tribes*, eds. Mene, Tarun, & Tarun Mene &Chaudhuri,Sarit,; Rawat Publications, New Delhi,2018.
- 2- John,Simon,; The Making of a Caste Group: A Case Study of Kuravans in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, *Folklore Studies in the Current Globalization*, ed. Chenna Reddy,; , B.R.Publishing Corporation, New Delhi,2018, pp. 527-538.
- 3- John,Simon,; Play, Narratives and Gender: Understanding Children's Folklore in Context, *Contemporary Society: Tribal Studies, Tribal Children and their Childhood* , ed. D. K. Behera,; Concept, New Delhi, 2015, pp. 180- 196.
- 4- John,Simon,; Isakiamman worship in Tamil Nadu, *Cult of Goddesses*, ed. Arputharani Sengupta,; National Museum Institute and DK Pub, New Delhi,2014.
- 5- John,Simon,; Social Construction of Fear in Isaki Amman Cult, *Emotions in Rituals and Performances*, eds. Axel Michaels,; & Christoph Wulf,; Rutledge, London, 2012.
- 6- John,Simon,; Human Body, Folk Narratives and Rituals, *Images of the Body in India*, eds. Axel Michaels,; & Christoph Wulf,; Rutledge, London 2011.
- 7- John,Simon,; Sacred Folk Festivals of Tamil Nadu, *Tribal Development in India*, ed. Awadhesh Kumar Singh, Serials, New Delhi, 2008.
- 8- 2008. Looking Back: A Study of Kaanikkarar in Tamil Nadu, *Tribal Development in India*, ed. Awadhesh Kumar Singh, Serials, New Delhi,2008.
- 9- 2006. Malaikuravar: A Basket Makers of Tirunelveli, *Aspects of Tribes in India*, Swarup and Sons, New Delhi,2006.

Research guidance

Ph.D scholars

1. Name of the scholar: Alam Ahamed
Topic of research: Folk Healing Practices of Mishmis.
Ongoing
2. Name of the scholar: Komna Moidam
Topic of research: Folk Narratives and Practices associated with Agriculture of Nocte.
Ongoing
3. Name of the scholar: Kaling Dabi
Topic of research: Endangered Ritual Practices of the Tangams of Arunachal Pradesh
Ongoing
4. Name of the scholar: Mikta Mansai
Topic of research: Study of Poong: A Traditional Theatre of Tail Khamptis of Arunachal Pradesh
Ongoing
5. Name of the scholar: Rekken Lollen
Topic of research: Significance of Mitun (Bas-Frontails) Among the Galos of Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh
Ongoing

Awarded scholars

1. Name of the scholar: Oimang Megu
Title of the thesis: Lives and Problems of Unwed Mothers – An Anthropological Study of Adi Padam Women of Damro Village
Year of PhD degree: 2016
2. Name of the scholar Tunge Lollen
Title of the thesis : Symbolism in Tribal Oral Narratives: A case study of Galo Songs and Proverbs.
Year of PhD degree: 2018

Course/Conference/Workshop organized

1. Programme Director, Organized a workshop on Meyor language Documentation from 19 to 26 Feb 2020 at RGU.
2. Festival Director, Borderland Narratives: A festival of Films from contemporary North East India in collaboration with IGNCA, New Delhi from 23 to 25, 2019 at RGU.
3. **Programme Director, Dialogue on Intangible Cultural Heritage of communities'**, Organized in collaboration with Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage(INTACH), New Delhi during November 19-20, 2018.
4. **Coordinator, International workshop & Field Training on Cultural Resource Management organized by AITS in collaboration with University of South Florida, USA and RIWATCH, Roing from 17th to 25th May 2018.**
5. Programme director for a national workshop on *Documenting Oral Traditions of North East India* organized in Rajiv Gandhi University from 22 to 34 March 2017 in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.
6. Programme director for a national seminar on Oral and Textual Traditions of North East India organized in Rajiv Gandhi University from 28 to 30 March 2016 in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.
7. Programme Director for a National Capacity Building Programme on Cultural Resource Management organized in Rajiv Gandhi University from 9 to 12 Feb 2015 in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.
8. Coordinator for a National workshop on Multidisciplinary Survey, Research and Documentation of Rock Art of North East India organized by Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi from 1st to 2nd Dec 2014 at NEHU, Shillong.
9. Chief coordinator for a major National festival *Jaya Utsav: Celebrating living Traditions of Mahabharata* that consisted of performances (by 1200 artists and craftsmen), seminar, exhibition, demonstrations, film festival, book exhibition, crafts bazaar etc. Organized by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi from 10 Feb to 10 March 2010.
10. Chief coordinator for a major National festival *Akhyan; A Celebration of Masks, Puppets and Picture Scroll men traditions of India* that consisted of performances (by 800 artists and craftsmen), seminar, exhibition, demonstrations, film festival, book exhibition, crafts bazaar etc. Organized by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi from 20 Oct to 20 Nov 2010.
11. Chief coordinator for a major National festival *Indigenous Theatre festival of North East India* that consisted of performances (by 600 artists and craftsmen), seminar, exhibition, demonstrations, film festival, book exhibition, crafts bazaar etc. Organized by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi from 2-30 April 2011.
12. Coordinated the cultural programmes and a mega rally consisting of 3000 folk artists in the first world classical Tamil conference held at Coimbatore from 19th June 2010 to 27th June 2010, organized by Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
13. Coordinator for a major International festival entitled *Intercultural dialogue between South East Asia and North East India* that consists of Performances (by 600 artists and craftsmen), seminar, exhibition, book exhibition, crafts bazaar

etc. Organized by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi from 1st Feb to 20th March 2010.

14. Coordinated three days exhibition on *Tribes of India: Cultural Diversity, Technology and Development* at AICAS, Palakkad, Kerala from 15th Feb to 17th February 2009, organized by ASI.
15. Coordinated three days exhibition on *Cultural Heritage of Dravidian Tribes* in Dravidian University, Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh from 26th Feb to 28th Feb 2009, organized by ASI.
16. Actively involved as a member of the organizing committee of a weeklong mega festival of folk arts known as *Chennai Sangamam*, organized by Tamil Maiyam in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Tourism department during January 2007, 2008 and 2009, 2010 & 2011.
17. Actively involved as a member of the organizing committee of Children's festival known as *Come on Kidz* from 10-07-2007 to 15-07-2007, at Chennai Trade center, Chennai organized by Goodwill communications, Chennai.
18. Have organized a Two days Photo exhibition on *Tamil Folk Goddess* at National Museum Institute, New Delhi on 23rd and, 24th September 2005.
19. Have organized a photographic exhibition on *Tamil Folk Heritage* at Anthropological survey of India, Mysore from October 2005
20. Have organized an exhibition on *Tamil Folk culture* At Various schools of Tamil Nadu during February 2000
21. Have organized a Five days Exhibition on *Tamil Folk deities* at Folklore Resources and Research centre, St.Xaviers college, Tamil Nadu from 8th Feb to 13 Feb 1999
22. Have designed and exhibited a Permanent exhibition complex on *Tamil Folk Deities* at Indira Gandhi National Museum of Man kind, Bhopal during April 1999
23. Organized a Photographic exhibition on *Tamil Folk Arts* at the FOSSILS conference at Mangalore in the year 1998

Course/Conference/Workshop etc. attended

- 1- *Mortuary Practices of Arunachal Pradesh*, in an International Conference on 'Custom, Law and the Colonial State in Northeast India: Dynamics and Challenges for the Postcolonial State' on 13-14 June 2019 organized by Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), Delhi in association with Department of History, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong.
- 2- *Cultural Expressions and Symbolism of Altars with Special reference to the Apatani Tribe of Ziro Valley* in the international colloquium on *Art, Design and Society*, held at New Delhi from 28th to 30th November 2018, organized by National Museum Institute and Comite International d'Histoire de l'Art.
- 3- *Traditional Cultural Expressions and Community Participation with Special reference to the Murung Ritual Celebration of the Apatanis of Ziro Valley* In the National Conference on Himalayan Heritage: Community -Led Economic Regeneration organized by INTACH, New Delhi from 29-30 November 2017 at WII, Dehradun
- 4- *Mourning Traditions of the Idu Mishmis* in the national seminar on Verbal Art: Exploring the Ethnography of Speaking Strategies, organized by Department of Cultural & Creative Studies, NEHU, Shillong from 23-24 Feb 2017.

- 5- *Exploring the Symbolic Values and Practices of Bamboo among the Indigenous Communities of Arunachal Pradesh* in the National Symposium on Significance of Bamboo in Socio- Cultural & Economic Development of North East India, organized by IGNC, New Delhi at Shillong from 10 to 16 March 2016 in collaboration with NEHU, Shillong.
- 6- *Care of Cultural Objects* in the 'workshop on Conservation of Cultural Objects in Satras' held from 31-1 April 2015 at Majuli organized by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi.
- 7- *Human Body, Belief Systems and Healing: Exploring Folk Healing Practices of Tamil Nadu* in the National Seminar on 'Folk Medicine and Traditional Healing in India: Theory and Practice' held from 26-27 March 2015 at Shillong organized by CCS- NEHU and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies.
- 8- *A Celebration of Social Identity and Community Participation: Studying the Murung Festival of the Apatani of Ziro Valley* in the International seminar on 'North East India in the Cultural Imaginations: History, Land and People' held from 7-8 January 2015 at Kolkatta organized Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies.
- 9- *Cultural Ecology of Indigenous Communities of Arunachal Pradesh* in the National Seminar on 'Ecology and Progress in North East India: Anxiety, Hope and Belonging in the Literary Consciousness' held from 9-10 September 2014 at Shillong organized by CCS- NEHU and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies.
- 10- *Migration Myths and Associated Rituals Among Apatani of Ziro Valley* in the National Seminar on 'Diaspora and Folklore: Exploring the Changing Dimensions of Folklore in Tribal Diaspora' held from 27-28 March 2014 at Shillong organized by NEHU and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies.
- 11- *The Departure of Soul: Study of Performing Traditions Associated with Funerals of Idu Mishmi* in a National Seminar on 'People's Art of North East India' held during 5th -7th March 2014 at Rajiv Gandhi University, organized by IGRMS and Dept. of Anthropology, RGU.
- 12- *Bamboo Revelations: Traditional Cultural Expressions Associated with Bamboo among the Apatanis* in a National Seminar on 'People's Art of North East India' held during 5th -7th March 2014 at Rajiv Gandhi University, organized by IGRMS and Dept. of Anthropology, RGU.
- 13- *Folklore and Tribal Studies* in a National workshop on 'Interdisciplinary Approaches to Doing Studies of Tribes' held during 13-14 March 2014 at Diphu organized by Tribal Studies Centre, Assam University, Diphu Campus.
- 14- *Marriage, Mourning, and Widowhood: The Aravanis and the Aravan Cult* in a National Seminar on 'Folklore, Oral Discourse and Public Sphere with Special Reference to Northeast' held during February 5-7 2014 in, Imphal, organized by Indian Folklore Congress, IGNC and Manipur University.
- 15- *Transgender's Folklore* in a National Seminar on 'Endangered Languages and Cultures' held during 17-19 December 2012 in CIIL Mysore, organized by Indian Folklore Congress and CIIL.
- 16- *Muthu Pattan Cult* in a National Seminar on 'Folklore: Discourse of the Marginalized' held during 22-24 February 2012 in CIIL Mysore, organized by Indian Folklore Congress in collaboration with IGNC, New Delhi and CIIL, Mysore.

- 17-*Demonic Myths and Rituals: Study of Sudalai Cult in Tamil Nadu* in the National Seminar on 'The idea of the Demonic in Indian Traditions' held from 16th to 18th Sep 2011 at Mumbai organized by Sahitya Academy, New Delhi.
- 18-*Living Traditional of Transgender Community with special reference to Aravan Cult of Tamil Nadu* in the national seminar on 'Food gathering to cyber culture: the trajectory of human development' held during 21-22 September at Mysore organized by Anthropological Survey of India, Mysore.
- 19-*Vow, offerings and rituals: Traditional emotions of the cult of goddesses in Tamil* in the International conference on "Emotions in South Asian and European Rituals" held during Jan 2010 at Goa organized by Heidelberg University Germany.
- 20-*Human Body, Rituals and Ethics* in the International Symposium on Ethics, Culture and Population Genomics organize by Indian Society of Human Genetics from 17th March to 20th March 2009 held at IGNC, New Delhi.
- 21-*Narratives, Rituals and Performance: Study of Kaniyan Koothu in Sudalai Worship in Southern Tamil Nadu* in the National Seminar on 'Oral Literary Criticism' organized by Sahitya Academy held at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong on 9th and 10th Sep 2008.
- 22-*Magical Healing and Tribal Feast of Kanikar in Southern Tamil Nadu* in the National seminar on 'Problems and Issues of Tribal Health in India', Organized by Department of Anthropology, Pondichery University, Pudhucheri on 8&9th Feb 2007.
- 23-*Tamil Folk Deities* in the National Seminar on 'Tamil Religious Traditions' organized by Department of Religion, Madurai Kamaraj University from 1st Dec to 3 Dec 2005.
- 24-*Cult of Isaki Amman* in the National Seminar on 'Cult of Goddess' organized by National Museum Institute, New Delhi from 23rd Sep to 24 Sep 2005.
- 25-*Audio Visual Archiving: Scope and Methodology* at the School of Anthropology, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, 2001.
- 26-*Archiving Folk Deities* in the National seminar on Tamil Folk Deities titled *Sanangalin Samihal* organized by Folklore Resources and Research Centre in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Museum of Man kind during Feb 1999.
- 27-*Malai Kuravar: A Basket Makers of Tamil Nadu* in the National Seminar on 'Folk craft' organized by Centre for Tamil Folklore Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai on December, 1998

Sponsored Project

Title of the project	Funding agency	Year of sanction	Role
Documentation of Endangered Languages, Oral Narratives and Cultures of Lesser Known Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh	NEC	2020	PI
Centre for Endangered Languages	UGC	2014	PI
CO-PI, Indo- US 21 st Century Knowledge Initiative award in	USIEF	2016-2019	Co-PI

Collaboration with University of South Florida, USA			
Socio Cultural Profile and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Monpa Tribe of Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.	DIPR,DRDO	2016-2018	PI
Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) associated with Dree and Murung Festivals of the Apatani Tribe in Arunachal Pradesh.	Sangeet Natak Akademi	2015-2016	PI
Bamboo Cultures of Apatani Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh .	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies	2015	PI
Documentation of Performative Traditions Associated with Funerals of Idu Mishmis	Sangeet Natak Akademi	2014	PI
Agricultural Lores and Rituals of Nocte Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh	Sangeet Natak Akademi	2015	PI
