

# THEMAL INDULA ELLAWALA

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## EDUCATION

- PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago 2018-Present
- B.A. in Psychology (High honors), *summa cum laude*, Clark University, Worcester, MA 2017

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Gender, sexuality, Sri Lanka, South Asian modernities, queer theory, postcolonial studies, state politics, ethnonationalism, neoliberalism, social movements, queer interpellation.

## ACADEMIC HONORS

- Recipient, Dr. Lee Gurel '48/John E. Bell Endowed Student Achievement Award for the most outstanding senior psychology major, Clark University 2017
- Phi Beta Kappa, Clark University. 2017
- Gryphon & Pleiades, Clark University 2016-2017
- Psi Chi, Clark University 2016
- First Academic Honors, Dean's List, Clark University: 8 semesters

## COMMUNITY HONORS

- Worcester ALANA (African-American, Latinx, Asian-American, Native-American) Support Network Diversity Champion Award 2017
- Clark University Student Legacy Award 2017

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS AWARDED

- University of Illinois at Chicago Graduate College University Fellowship 2018-2023
- Henry J. Leir Luxembourg Conference Student Participant Award 2018
- Simon and Eve Colin Undergraduate Creativity Award in Psychology 2016
- Steinbrecher Fellowship 2016-2017
- Liberal Education and Effective Practice Fellowship 2015

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Ellawala, T. I.** (in progress). "Failed Queer Grammars: Towards a Politic of Sexual Indeterminacy." In A. Roy (ed.), *Framing 'Another Politics': Non-Normative Sexuality and the South Asian Rhetoric*.
- **Ellawala, T. I.** (submitted). "Legitimate Violences: The "Gay Rights" NGO and the Disciplining of the Sri Lankan Queer Figure."
- Goldberg, A. E., Manley, M., **Ellawala, T. I.**, & Ross, L. E. (in press). "Sexual Identity and Sexual Desire Across the First Year of Parenthood: A Study of Plurisexual Women." *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*.
- **Ellawala, T. I.** 2018. "Mismatched Lovers: Exploring the Compatibility Between LGBTQ+ Identity Theories and Gender and Sexual Plurality in Sri Lanka." *Sexuality & Culture* (DOI: 10.1007/s12119-018-9528-0).

- Goldberg, A. E., Allen, K. R., **Ellawala, T.**, & Ross, L. E. 2017. "Male-Partnered Bisexual Women's Perceptions of Disclosing Sexual Orientation to Family Across the Transition to Parenthood: Intensifying Heteronormativity or Queering Family?" *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* 44(1): 150-164.
- **Ellawala, T. I.** 2017. "The Motionless Half-Sun Over the Postcolonial Horizon: Adichie, Bhabha, and Inaction." *Scholarly Undergraduate Research Journal* 3:34-44.
- **Ellawala, T. I.** 2016. "Pulling the Trigger: Dehumanization of African Americans and Police Violence." *Scholarly Undergraduate Research Journal* 2:1-8.
- **Ellawala, T. I.** 2015. "The Efficacy of Electroconvulsive Therapy in Managing Self-Injurious Behaviors Among Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Review," *Scholarly Undergraduate Research Journal* 1:18-26.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Ellawala, T. I. 2018. "On Tight Jeans and Bleached Blonde Hair: *Ponnaya* Aesthetics as a Queer Utopian Modality." Paper presented at the University of Colorado Boulder Cultural Anthropology 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Student Conference 'Back to the Futures: Anthropology and Time'.
- Ellawala, T. I. 2018. "On Tight Jeans and Bleached Blonde Hair: *Ponnaya* Aesthetics as a Queer Utopian Modality." Paper presented at the Henry J. Leir Luxembourg Conference 'Humanities Approaches to Austerity in Europe and the Global South'.
- Ellawala, T. I. 2017. "The cost of normalcy: 'LGBT' NGOs in Sri Lanka and the Disciplining of the Queer Figure." Paper presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Asia Conference at the University of Texas Austin.
- Ellawala, T. I. 2017. "The Violence of the Sri Lankan 'gay' rights NGO and the Resistance of the Unruly Queer." Paper presented at the Annual Workshop of the South Asia Anthropologist Group at the University of Edinburgh.
- Ellawala, T. I. 2017. "365 Lies, Lives, and Loves: Gender and Sexual Plurality in Sri Lanka." Poster presented at the Academic Spree Day Symposium at Clark University.
- Ellawala, T. I. 2016. "Out of sight, out of mind: Missing data on the health of LGB populations." Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.
- Ellawala, T. I. 2016. "Living in Color: The Impact of Racial Oppression on the Physical, Psychological, and Social Wellbeing of Racial Minorities in the United States." Poster presented at the Academic Spree Day Symposium at Clark University.
- Ellawala, T. I. 2015. "Where Have All the Queers Gone? Missing Data on the Health of LGB Populations." Poster presented at the Fall Fest Academic Symposium at Clark University.
- Ellawala, T. I. 2014. "The Contribution of Theater to Public Moral Consciousness." Paper presented at the 2014 'Celebrating Philosophy' conference at the College of the Holy Cross.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Worked with the archive at the American Antiquarian Society to identify and analyze the documents of social organizations in nineteenth century Massachusetts that sought to "reform" prostitutes for a semester-long research project on the discursive politics, gender dynamics, and changing notions of housework of such organizations. 2017
- Independently designed and conducted a three-month long ethnography on gender and sexuality in Sri Lanka, including formal interviews of thirty non-heterosexual individuals, informal interviews of nine community organizers and heads of advocacy organizations, and observations at community spaces. 2016

- Research Assistant in the Diverse Families Lab at Clark University, during which time I worked on two research projects on non-heterosexual individuals and their transition to parenthood, and executed tasks such as transcribing interviews, quality checking transcripts, entering quantitative data, and analyzing interview transcripts for the writing of publication manuscripts. 2015-2017
- Research Assistant in the Mental Health, Culture, and Community Research Lab at Clark University, during which time I was involved in a Department of Public Health-sponsored assessment of the racial and class-based mental healthcare inequities in Worcester, MA and performed interview transcription and programmatic conceptual design-related tasks. 2016-2017
- Summer Research Assistant at the BRITE Research Center at UCLA, led by Vickie Mays, during which time I conducted two research projects, on the healthcare data inequities affecting LGBTQ+ communities and the impact of racial oppression on the physical, psychological, and social wellbeing of people of color. 2015
- Research Assistant in the Couples Research Lab at Clark University, during which time I assisted with two research projects, including an assessment of the efficacy of a couple's therapy intervention for LGBTQ+ couples, and performed tasks such as analyzing interview recordings. 2014-2015
- Research Assistant in the LEAF Lab at Clark University, during which time I assisted in conducting a research project testing the efficacy of an intervention to prevent the onset of depression among young adults, and executed tasks such as conducting interviews, entering quantitative data, writing research grants, and quality checking data entries. 2014-2015

### RELEVANT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Guest lecture for Prof. Abbie Goldberg's Spring 2018 course 'Human Sexuality' on the cultural specificities and cross-cultural differences in gender and sexual ontologies and discourses. 2018
- Designed and conducted a course on gender and sexual politics in the academy and workplace for a group of 40 faculty, staff, and graduate students who are enrolled in the Spring 2018 Clark University Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program. 2018
- Employed as a part-time instructor at the Visual and Performing Arts Department at Clark University to instruct a group of fourteen undergraduate students on stagecraft and to direct a public performance of a student-written play on queer desire, loss, and mourning. 2017

### RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

- Research and Programs Coordinator at Clark University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, responsible for coordinating the university-wide Campus Climate Survey and assessing the efficacy of institutional initiatives such as the Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program. 2017-2018

### SERVICE

- Member of the Clark University President's Diversity Advisory Council 2016-2018
- Student representative on the Clark University Admissions and Financial Aid Committee 2015-2017
- Member of key administrative staff search committees:
  - Assistant Director of Multicultural and First-Generation Student Support 2018
  - Title IX Coordinator and Assistant Dean of Students 2016
  - Assistant Provost and Dean of Students 2015

## LANGUAGES

- Sinhala (native speaker), English (fluent), Tamil (some written)

## REFERENCES

### **Gayatri Reddy, PhD**

Associate Professor

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University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

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### **Abbie Goldberg, PhD**

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### **Stephen Levin, PhD**

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