



# MADURAI KAMARAJ UNIVERSITY

(University with Potential for Excellence)

MADURAI-625 021



## School of Performing Arts

**Chairperson: Dr. T. Dharmaraj**

### *PROFILE OF THE SCHOOL*

The School of Performing Arts which consists of two departments, the Department of Folklore and Culture Studies and the Department of Fine Arts and Aesthetics was formed in the year 2002. Among the Universities of Tamil Nadu, Madurai Kamaraj University is the only university which has a separate School for pursuing studies in the Folk and Elite arts of the Tamils and non-Tamils. The Department of Folklore and Culture Studies attracted the Ford Foundation by its innovate research programmes and got Rs 74 lakhs for a three-year research Project on Folk Crafts, Folklore and gender. Similarly the Department of Fine Arts and Aesthetics also got Rs 5 Lakhs from the Government of Tamil Nadu for a project on collection of Folk Songs. The School has the pride of getting recognition from the UGC as the Department for Research Support (DRS) under SAP-I.




In order to be the voice of the voiceless, the departments engage in the mission of documenting, preserving, analyzing and disseminating the rich folk cultural traditions of Indian society. The Department of Folklore and Culture Studies is known for its state-of-the-art Folklore Archives and Recording Studio. It has the collection of 500 odd hours of video recordings, 350 odd hours of audio recordings and 5500 odd still photographs depicting the folk tradition of South India. School of Performing Arts has a separate specialized library holding 3608 books on Folklore, Fine Arts & Performance, Anthropology, Philosophy, Psychology, Communication, Literature, Religion, History, Sociology, Modern theories and Women Studies.



The School of Performing Arts consists of the Departments :

- **Department of Folklore and Culture Studies**
- **Department of Fine Arts and Aesthetics**


### **Faculty and Designation**

Department of Folklore and Culture Studies

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Faculty Name</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Specialized area of Research</b>
1	<b>Dr. T. Dharmaraj</b> +919443554807 <a href="mailto:dharmarajant@yahoo.co.in">dharmarajant@yahoo.co.in</a> 	M.A., Ph.D	Associate Professor & Head	Narratology Semiotics Cultural Anthropology Culture Studies
2	<b>Dr. T. Gobinath</b> +919443113539 <a href="mailto:gobianu@gmail.com">gobianu@gmail.com</a>	M.A., Ph.D	Assistant Professor	Folk Religion, Cultural Anthropology, Culture Studies

				
3	<b>Dr. A. Kalayarasi</b> +918300291619 <a href="mailto:akarasi07@gmail.com">akarasi07@gmail.com</a> 	M.A., M.Phil.,Ph.D	Assistant Professor	Globalization Cultural Anthropology Applied Folklore Post colonialism and Caste & Feminism

#### Department of Fine Arts and Aesthetics

Sl. No	Faculty Name	Qualification	Designation	Specialized area of Research
1	<b>Mr. C. Justin Selvaraj</b> 89032 28285 <a href="mailto:jsfolk@gmail.com">jsfolk@gmail.com</a> 	M.A., UGC-NET/JRF	Assistant Professor & Head in-charge	Kinship Studies Community Studies Folk Aesthetics Ethnopoetics and Caste & Conversion

### Courses offered

Name of the Departments	Courses offered	Qualification for Admission
Department of Folklore and Culture Studies	1. M.A Folklore	Any Degree
	2. M.Phil Folklore	A pass in M.A. Folklore / Tamil / History/ Sociology/ Journalism & Mass Communication and Cultural Studies with 55% of total marks
	3. Ph.D Folklore	A pass in M.A. and M.Phil Folklore / Tamil / History/ Sociology/ Journalism & Mass Communication and Cultural Studies with 55% of total marks
Department of Fine Arts and Aesthetics	Ph.D Fine Arts and Aesthetics	A pass in M.A. and M.Phil Folklore / Arts and Performances Studies with 55% of total marks

### Ongoing projects

S. No.	Name of the Project	Funding Agency	Duration of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Principal Investigator
1	The Dalit Christians of Tamilnadu: Ethno History and Socio-religious life	ICSSR, New Delhi	Two years (2012-2014)	Rs.9,60,000/-	Dr. T. Dharmaraj Associate Professor and Head, Department of Folklore and Culture Studies
2	Reconstructing Semiotic and Pragmatic depictions of Paddy in Sangam Literature	IGNCA, New Delhi	One year (2012-2013)	Rs. 8,22,000/-	Dr. T. Dharmaraj Associate Professor and Head, Department of Folklore
3	Socio-cultural status of the Folk Performing Artists of Tamilnadu in the context of Globalisation	UGC, New Delhi	Two years (2012-2014)	Rs.4,10,000/-	Dr. T. Dharmaraj Associate Professor and Head, Department of Folklore



## Major Events

- Organized a thirty-two day national ‘**Play Production Workshop**’ from 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2011 to 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2012 in collaboration with the National School of Drama, New Delhi.



- Organized a seven-day workshop on ‘**Film Making**’ in May 2012, from 21.05.12 – 27.05.12 in the Department of Folklore
- Organized a one-day Cultural Festival titled *MKU Folk Fest – 2015* in the School of Performing Arts for the College Students on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.
- Organized a two-day Workshop on *Theorizing Tamil Culture* in the Department of Folklore and Culture Studies on 27 & 28 July 2015.

## Infrastructural Facilities

- Library – More than 3000 collections of inter-disciplinary Subjects
- Audio-Visual Archives
- Recording Studio
- Internet facilities for staff and students
- Smart Classroom with ICT facility
- Scholars Discussion Forum (Article Presentation, Film Screening)



### Awards and Achievements

**Dr. Sethuraman (Rtd)**

Received “**Best Book of Year**” in the year 2012, an award from the Government of Tamil Nadu for the book titled “*Bowtha Kalai Varalaru*”



## Extension Activities

- The School of Performing Arts organized a one-day Conference on **Art and Cultural Rights of Folk Artist** in the Department of Folklore and Culture Studies on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014.



- The School of Performing Arts organized **Cultural Programs and training for various folk art forms** (Kummi, Oyil, and Parai) for students of various schools.

## Consultancy Services offered to Government

- **The Department of Folklore and Culture Studies** is providing logistic support to folk artist and providing research script for various folk art forms for **Doordarshan** telecast. The faculty and scholars of the department interviewed the folk artist, which was telecast.

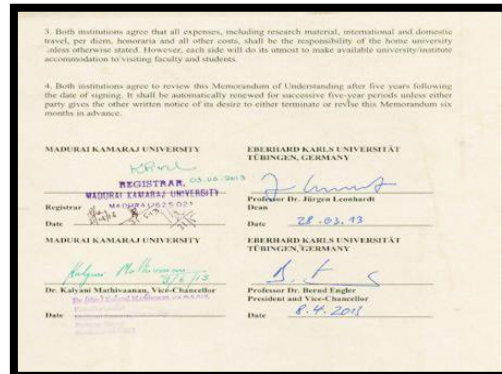
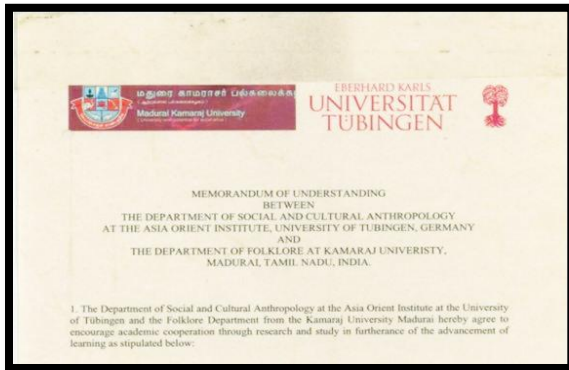


- The School of Performing Arts organized **Lullaby documentation for six southern districts** in Tamilnadu (Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Viruthunagar, Ramanathapram and Sivagangai) for Sanskar Geeth Programme, in collaboration with ALL INDIA RADIO, Madurai during March 2016.



## MoU signed with other institutes

The **Department of Folklore and Culture Studies** has signed a Memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) with the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Asia Orient Institute, **University of Tubingen, Germany**. This collaboration would encourage academic cooperation through research and study between the two universities.



The five year collaboration will provide opportunities for faculty and student exchange. Our students could study at a foreign university while paying the same fees. Similarly the German students will be stationed in Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai to learn about the Folk culture of South India.

## Collaborative research ventured with International Level Institution

Combined field work conducted by the **Department of Folklore and Culture Studies** in collaboration with the **Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, USA**



Field work is conducted in Melapasalai and karisalkulam villages near Manamadurai in February and May 2013 with the help of the Department of Folklore and Culture Studies. Research scholar and **Ms. Eleanor Power**, Research scholar of Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, USA



## Significant Visitors to the School of Performing Arts

- ▶ Prof. Gabriel Alex, Head, Department of Cultural Anthropology, University of Tübingen, Germany
- ▶ Dr. Nana Yaw Boatey, Anthropologist, Asian Studies University of Texas at Austin
- ▶ Prof. Stephanic stocker, Lecturer, University of Tübingen, Germany
- ▶ Dr. Hannah Smith, University of California, San Diego
- ▶ Dr. Jill Reese, Anthropologist, London

### Foreign Scholars



**Justus Weiss & Heribert Beckmann**  
University of Tübingen Germany



**Victoria Gross**  
Columbia University  
USA



**Eleanor Power**  
Stanford University  
USA

## Village Adoption



## Opportunities

- ✓ Scope in Multimedia Industry
- ✓ Scope in Heritage Management
- ✓ Scope for higher studies in foreign Universities

## Future Plans

- ✓ Open air Museum of Agrarian Folk life
- ✓ PG diploma in Ethnographic Film Making
- ✓ Digital Documentaries on Folklore
- ✓ International Research Journal for Folk Culture Studies
- ✓ Becoming Nodal centre of Culture Studies
- ✓ News letter from folk Artist helping Desk

## Contact Details

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