

HISTORY BEYOND THE DISCIPLINE

Abstracts & Bibliographical Analysis
of the Works of
Prof. Rajan Gurukkal



University Library
Mahatma Gandhi University
Priyadarshini Hills, Kottayam, Kerala -686560, India

Prof. Rajan Gurukkal is a leading social scientist who has played an important role as an academician and public intellectual in India. He was with the School of Social Sciences of Mahatma Gandhi University. Prof. Gurukkal's term at the university was decisive in building up the school and was instrumental in initiating research and studies in historical social sciences in Kerala. Many consider that due to the efforts of social scientists like Prof. Gurukkal the practice of writing history was opened up to the theoretical currents which swept away the certainties that the discipline was attributed to, creating a situation where in the very language of history came to be reconsidered. Social Sciences came closer to one another with their conventional boundaries blurring and history reaching out their interface. The present documentation work based on his papers archived at the MGU Institutional Repository Project initiated in 2007 abstracts his 45 papers available in the collection and gives a short bibliographical analysis of his publications

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By Dr. R. Raman Nair

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A Bibliographical Analysis

Mahatma Gandhi University has in 2007 initiated a project for developing an Institutional Repository, which will be the digital archive of the research output of the university community. An Institutional Repository is an online locus for collecting, preserving, and disseminating -- in digital form -- the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution. This knowledge base will cover, published journal articles, conference papers, technical reports, presentations/lectures, preprints, etc of the staff of the university. It can be accessed through MGU Library Website. Initially full functionality like browsing the documents by author, division, subject, date and document type etc are available only in Intranet. We hope to make this archive exhaustive very soon. Teachers and researchers have been requested to submit their publications for archiving.

An Institutional Repository has various advantages. It can provide to our stakeholders the benefits of scholarly communication in a more efficient and cost-effective system. It can also enable the university to publicize its research and teaching programmes by enabling wide access to the work of its staff and students. The quality of a university's academic output

made visible through its institutional Repository will form an effective advertisement for the institution. Record-keeping functions to maintain control over the vast amount of paper produced by academics, committees and departments is always a difficult task for any university. Hence Institutional Repositories are also used as an effective way of storing and making these documents accessible to authorized users.

Academic work available in the Institutional Repository or the Internet is read more widely than work published in conventional media, which is expensive. Depositing academic work in an Institutional Repository increases the profile of an author on a worldwide basis, for increasing both the dissemination and the impact of the research they undertake. Deposit in a university repository can also ease - both for the institution and for the academic author - the administrative burden of reporting publications for research assessment and review exercises. Regular submission of an author's work to an Institutional Repository provides an author with a central archive of his work and a record of publications to add to his Curriculum vitae.

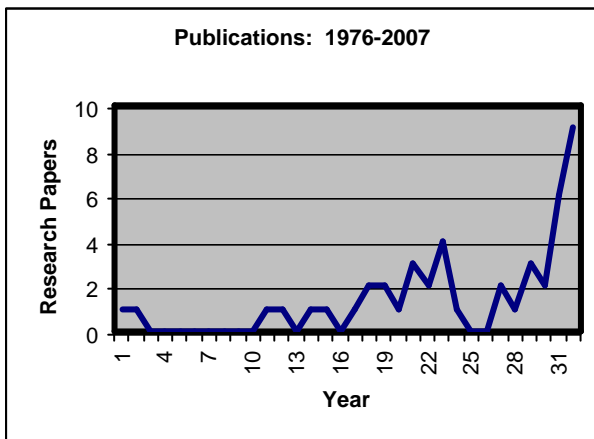
History Beyond the Discipline: Abstracts of the Works of Prof. Rajan Gurukkal is a by-product of the MGU Institutional repository under development. From 1971 to the present Mahatma Gandhi University produced approximately 4100

research papers. MGU Institutional Repository started in 2007 has till now received 521 papers, which comes to approximately 12.5 % of the total research output of the university. As per the subject wise statistics of the papers received 42% is from science and 58% from Arts. In the papers received for the Repository till now, from among the arts subjects the highest represented author is Prof. Rajan Gurukkal whose 45 papers have been archived up to the present.

Prof. Rajan Gurukkal is a leading social scientist who has played an important role as an academic and public intellectual in India. He was with School of Social Sciences of Mahatma Gandhi University. Prof Gurukkal's term at the university was decisive in building up the school and he was instrumental in initiating research and studies in historical social sciences in Kerala. Many consider that it is due the efforts of social scientist like Prof. Gurukkal that the practice of writing history was opened up to theoretical currents which swept away the certainties that the discipline was attributed to, creating a situation where in the very language of history came to be reconsidered. Social Sciences came closer to one another with their conventional boundaries blurring and History reaching out their interface.

A Quick analysis of the papers of Prof. Gurukkal available at the Repository graphically presented below shows that the period of his research work represented in the repository covers 1976 to

2007, a period of 32 years. His year wise contributions graphically presented in the following figure. This period can be further subdivided into three phases of ten years. Of this the first phase is from 1976 to 1985. Here from 4th to 11th year there is a period of silence.



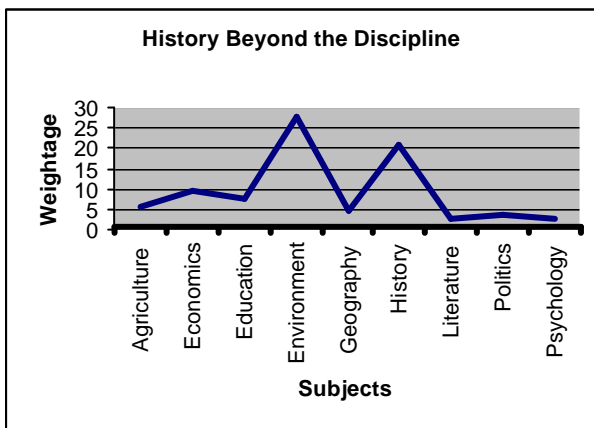
In the second phase of work there is a slight upward movement in the quantity of contributions. In the beginning of third phase also there is a short span of inactivity But in that phase there is a steep hike. The chart also shows that he is going out of the university at the peak time when his contributions were at the highest.

Prof. Gurukkal has in his earlier period that is from 1976 to 1995 concentrated on pure history topics mainly on ancient history and society. Stress is found to be on South Indian society especially of the Tamils. The subject areas covered during this period are Archeology, caste, historiography, epigraphy, literature, religion etc. Many of the subjects dealt were of lasting interest and various aspects of the findings of his research during the earlier phase have been repeatedly presented in later years as well as many works related to that have been done in continuity. At the end of this time a few papers on research methodology and historiography also has been produced.

Even in this second phase his works show the tendency to cross the boundaries of history. Some interesting examples are the papers dealing with topics like agriculture, irrigation, water resource management, human interaction with the environment in a cultural sense etc.

The research publications that came in the third phase that is from 1997 to 2007 exhibits the transcending of the boundaries of history and even the social sciences in its pure sense. The topics Prof. Gurukkal works on ranges from Arts to Zoology and consists of in-depth studies on topics like psychology, tribal, water conservation, irrigation, industries, decentralization and participatory development, pollution, education, ecology, mountains, environment, wild life, agriculture, soil conservation,

forestry, management, scripts, poetry, geography as well as various areas coming under social sciences. A graphical representation of the weightage of different subjects in Prof. Gurukkal's work is provided in the next page.



As mentioned above Prof. Gurukkal's research goes on into areas rarely touched by historians. There are a few research papers from him cited continuously by environmental scientists related to mountain ecology. He has gone into the depth of some aspects of psychology, biosphere conservation, management etc and many other science and technology areas producing admirable results. These works are not historical aspects of

those areas. When it is a research on environment Prof. Gurukkal approaches the topic as an environmental scientist using the traditional methods of the concerned field and techniques of history for research and development/problem solving in the field.

The present abstracts and the bibliographical analysis is a hastily prepared document. Even though MGU institutional Repository contained digital versions of the papers of Prof. Gurukkal, the abstracts were to be prepared in a short time without any support from the concerned field. Suggestions and inspiration came from Sri. G. Sreekumar (Public Relations Officer) and Sri. Kurian K Thomas (Director, Printing and Publishing). The collection, digitization and data basing of the papers which formed the major work was done by Sri A Mohanan, Technical Asst of the University Library who has recently left to Calicut University. The non-egoistic support on all aspects of the production of this document extended by Sri. Nikesh N, and Sri. Sebastin Joseph (Reference Assistants), Mrudula Mohan, (Library Assistant), and the Library and Information Science Internship Trainees, Arun Gopinath, Prijamol P, Binti Joseph and Meera R have helped to finalize and produce this Documentation Service in a day. If this is found interesting and useful they are responsible for that.

ABSTRACTS

1976/1: The Ethnical Dichromatism* of the Jewery in Kerala - A New Interpretation. Journal of Kerala studies. 3(2), Trivandrum, Kerala University, Dept. of History. June 1976. P195-201. (Keywords: Jews, Judaism, Society)

The study opines that the social stratification of the Jews in Kerala is often misinterpreted as one, which is based on the dichromatism into Blacks and Whites. Attempt to analyze the Jewish records to ascertain when the institutionalized practice of dividing Jews into Blacks and Whites began. Instead of simplifying this social division as merely an old custom based on color. The study examined it in the light of social structure of the Jews with due consideration to economic factors. Discusses the version of White and Black Jews historically. Comes to the conclusion that it is the economic factors and not the ethical factors that caused the factions and that this rift can be traced back to early years of their peaceful coexistence.

1977/1: A New Epigraph Referring to Eranad. Journal of Kerala studies. 4(2 & 3), (Trivandrum, University of

Kerala, Dept. of History). June Sept ,1977. P233-237.(
Keywords: History, Archeology, Inscriptions, Kerala)

The paper examines the epigraph found in the basement of the *Vatilmadam* of a temple in the village of Anandapuram near Irinjalakuda in Trichur District. The inscription is engraved on both sides of a granite stone. The author and his associates from among the stone pieces dug out of the foundation of the old Vatilmadam discovered this inscribed stone tablet. *The author along with* Mr. M. R. Raghava Varier prepared estampages and eye copies of the inscription in situ. The paper identifies that the script used in the inscription consists Vatteluttu and a few grantha letters. The characters show resemblance to the Bhaskaran Nambiranar inscriptions of Irinjalakuda. The paper analyses various aspects and content and the date of the inscription and concludes stating that it is an important source of information on the early history of Earanad.

1986/1: Aspects of the Reservoir system of Irrigation in the Early Pandya State. In *Studies in History* 2 (2). 1986.. New Delhi, Sage. P155-164 (Keywords: Agriculture, Ancient, Tamil Nadu, natural Resources, Water)

Examines the attempts for utilizing over ground water sources for irrigation in dry zone agriculture of South India from very early

times. The study finds that ancient irrigation systems were locally owned and managed. The reservoir system was such that, often, more than one agrarian village depended on the same reservoir. So they practiced collective water resource management. The set up involved only small-scale works that could be locally carried out. State interference was not there unless there were some disputes between villages over irrigation rights. People considered water as a major life sustaining resource owned by the people and considered it the society's duty to prevent its over extraction and destruction by pollution. The study brings to light the ancient sustainable water harvesting systems that were successfully managed by local communities.

1987/1: Communal Harmony in Early Medieval Kerala: An Outline of its Material Milieu. In Religion and Society,.³⁴ (1) March 1987,P1-6. . (Key Words: History, society, Caste, Kerala)

The paper examines social and economic situation of pre-Portuguese Kerala. When a group of people follows a religion they have as a result, common social, political and economic interests and communalism originates. But this term does not apply to the period under study. The study finds that the material milieu of the social system that then existed hardly provided any reason for communal tension. So there was harmony among the

various religious groups. The period was marked by consolidated existence of agrarian villages with temples as their headquarters and the caste corporations of the landed Brahmins as their managerial bodies. The agricultural management of the time involved mobilization and control of the labor force and its methodological division into specialized arts and crafts, virtually meant to the rule of the locality. Agrarian corporations constituted the government. The fundamental feature was naturally decentralized political power structure. The study reveals that the material milieu of communal harmony was of primarily agrarian economy involving forces and relations based on extra-economic coercion. Communal tension synchronized the gradual changes in the basic structure of the social formation.

1989/1: Forms of Production and forces of Change in Ancient Tamil Society. In *Studies in History*, 5 (2), 1989.. New Delhi, SAGE. pp 159-175. . (Key Words: History, Tamil Nadu, Economics)

The paper examines the different forms of production and forces of change in ancient society in traditional Tamil land from Kaveri in North to Kanyakumari in south. For the study, clues from poems written between 3rd Century BC and 3rd Century AD are examined. Points out that the combined systemic existence of the four forms of production has given rise to forces of its own

dissolution. The combination cannot continue for a long period with a system of complex redistribution that could hardly rise the low labor productivity and facilitate economic reproduction. Predatory marches, migration, disintegration of kinship and above all the increasing number of Brahmin households were steadily accentuating the process of dissolution. The set up anticipated total crisis and the final breakdown of the system.

1990/1: The Political Abuse of History: Babri Masjid-Rama Janmabhumi Dispute. (Jointly with Sarvepalli Gopal; Romila Thapar; Bipan Chandra; Sabyasachi Bhattacharya; Suvira Jaiswal; Harbans Mukhia; K. N. Panikkar; R. Champakalakshmi; Satish Saberwal; B. D. Chattopadhyaya; R. N. Verma; K. Meenakshi; Muzaffar Alam; Dilbagh Singh; Mridula Mukherjee; Madhavan Palat; Aditya Mukherjee; S. F. Ratnagar; Neeladri Bhattacharya; K. K. Trivedi; Yogesh Sharma; Kunal Chakravarti; Bhagwan Josh; Himanshu Ray). In *Socumnet:Social Scientist*, 18(1-2), Jan.- Feb., 1990: P76-81. (Keywords: Babri Masjid; Rama Janmabhumi; Dispute; Ayodhya, Archeology, History)

Discusses political abuse of history taking the Babrimasjid- Rama Janmabhoomi controversy as an example. Opines that behind the controversy lie issues of faith, power and politics. Each individual has a right to his or he belief and fifth. But when it

claims the legitimacy of history, then the historian has to attempt a demarcation between the limits of belief and historical evidence. When communal forces make claims to historical evidence for the purpose of communal politics then the historian has to intervene. Examines in detail the extent to which historical evidence is brought into play in the case. The discussion comes to the conclusion that appropriation of history is a continual process in any society. But in a multi-religious society like that of India appropriations, which draw exclusively on communal identities, engender endless communal conflicts. And the attempts to undo the past will have dangerous consequences. Opines that finding a political solution to the case is urgent and recommends declaring the item as a monument.

1992/1: The Kerala Temple and Early and Medieval Agrarian System. Sukapuram, Vallathol Vidhyapeetam, 1992. 122P. . (Key Words: History, society, Kerala, Temples, Caste, Peasants, Agriculture, Economics)

The book deals with the central position of the temple in the predominantly agrarian society of Kerala during the period between AD 800 and 1200. Starting from backdrops of the social milieu of primeval farming, it goes about contextualizing the expansion of wetland agriculture, emergence of temples and formation of a society of hierarchical relations. The book giving a

historic perspective and an outline of sources, explains how the epemordial social formation dissolved itself into an agrarian society organized and controlled by the temple –centered Brahmin landholders. Traces out the expansion of agrarian settlements and the making of a political organization contributed by the Brahmanical ideas and institutions. Discuss in detail the economic and social functions of the temple in a society structured by the determinate pattern of relations based on the process of agricultural production and distribution. Examines the political structure evolved out of the process and reviews the conceptual questions regarding categorization of the social formation. Points out the lurking danger of implying changelessness and conveys the systematic intelligibility of a dynamic society.

1993/1: Towards the Voice of Dissent: Trajectory of Ideological Transformation in Early South India. In *Social Scientist*, 21(1-2), Jan.-Feb., 1993: P 222. (Keywords: Social transformation, ancient; South India; Analytical Codes)

Opines that production, dominance and perpetuation of new ideological forms are integral to the historical process of new social formation seeking deliverance from old. Contemplates ideological transformations in early South India as part of the

historical process between two social formations, the ancient and immediate successor. Finds that what is ostensible about the trajectory of ideological transformation in early south India are the dissolution of the heroic ideology along with the redistributive social relationships enchaind by it; the development of Vedic, puranic, sastric discourses as the enlargement of dissonant impulses into the ethnical postulates of didactical texts, reification and discourse production within hegemonic in response to the expanding agrarian relations of domination; emergence of bhakti, the mitigating discourse within the social contradictions of subjection and exploitation, and the beginnings of the voice dissent.

1993/2: Aspects of Great Transformation in Ancient Kerala. (Key Words: Kerala, History, Society, Archeology, Tamil Nadu)

Ancient Kerala was a part of the Tamilakam, belonging to the larger archaeological context of the spread of iron using, Dravidian speaking descent groups, a phenomenon that began roughly with the first millennium BC. The descent groups were of unevenly evolved economies that resulted from human adaptation to different ecosystems of the landscape. Sources examined point out that interaction and coexistence of these groups of multiple economies accomplished a social formation

structured by the dominance of agro-pastoralism, towards the closing centuries of first millennium BC. Over a few centuries, matters like complex redistribution generating differentiation, the limiting influence of dominance of agro-pastoral economy, predatory politics and plunder raids on paddy culture, and the incompatibility between kin-labor and plough technology got intensified bringing various transitions - the transitions from kin labor to non-kin labor; from millet to paddy; from clan and kin ties to hereditary occupation groups and caste; from chiefdom to monarchy and; from heterodox religious ideology to Brahmanism. Kerala stands out distinct adding a major ecological feature to these transitions. The study seeks to examine aspects of the transformations that aggregately led to a total breakdown of the social formation and the making of a new one.

1994/1: From Clan and Lineage to Hereditary Occupations and Caste in Early South India. Indian Historical Review. P 22-33. 20(1-2) 1993-94. (Key Words: History, South India, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Caste, Society)

Examines the complex institutional process involved in transition from unstratified simple society to highly stratified complex society. The study finds that the socio economic process in the region at the turn of the Christian era, despite the beginning of hereditary occupations, allocation of differential roles and

functions at the highest political level, and the mode of stratification, remained by and large flexible. The potential site of the emergence of non-kin labor and hierarchical stratification comprised the Brahman households, which necessitated attachment of permanent workforce, and its ordering. The study comes to the conclusion that formation of caste was a culturally contingent effect of the Brahminical perception and appreciation of the social relation emanating from a system of production based on the expropriation of unpaid labor.

1994/2: Ecosemiotics in Dravidian Culture: The Case of Nature and Culture Homology in Ancient Tamil Poetics. . (Key Words: History, Literature, Tamil, Society).1994.

Discusses the semiotics of the homologous relationship between nature and culture of ancient Dravidians adapted to different ecosystems characterizing the landscape for centuries before and after the Christian era. We have a large body of ancient Tamil heroic poems dating back to the beginning Christian era.. They have plenty of proof for the fundamental semiotic relationships of ancient Dravidians to ecotypes of their subsistence and survival. It also abounds in the evidence for ecosemiotic aspects unique to the Dravidian culture. The texts, their classificatory syntactics and cultural semantics in the poetics embody several characteristic signs drawn from specific

ecosystems upon which they depended for subsistence. Examines the intertextuality of the Tamil heroic poems and contemporary socio-cultural practices as well as the ecosemiosis in the various cultural contexts and situations of everyday life of the ancient Dravidians. Discusses the homologous formation of ecological signs out of ecosystems and their subsequent cultural signification in linguistic and aesthetic practices of peoples adapted to different ecosystems. Focus is on the characteristic signs spontaneously evolved out of the processes of peoples' subsistence/survival dependence on specific ecosystems, which are indicative of the holistic view of the universe, emphasizing the unity of human beings with their natural environment. Examines interaction of the ecosystem and culture.

1995/1: The Beginnings of the Historic Period: The Tamil South (Up to the End of 5th Century AD). In Recent Perspectives of Early Indian History, Ed by Romila Thapar. Bombay, Popular Prakashan, 1995. (Keywords: History, Society, Tamil)

Attempts a historiographic analysis of the works on early South India, published during last few decades. Observes how historians have been variously characterizing iron age society. Reviews the question of kinship. Its dissolution, emergence of the institution of caste and social division of labor. Discusses the

institutions of gift and redistribution in the context of collective appropriation of resources, as well as effects of plunder on agricultural production indicating the domination of the pastoral economy. Examines the development of interest among historians in the characterization of the social formation and political structure. Opines that what has been pointed out as crucial in the process of formation of the new agrarian society was, the deployment of the institutional and organizational apparatuses by the Brahmins for managing agricultural people by means of a variety of social instruments rather than formal alliance. Concludes by stating that the corporate body caste and bhakti were the major means the Brahmins devised for the integration of the agrarian society.

1996/1 : Writing and its Uses in the Ancient Tamil Country. *Studies in History*, 12, (1), 1996. Pp 67-81. New Delhi, SAGE . (Key words: History, Tamil Nadu, Scripts)

Opines that state of literacy in a historical society of the present can hardly be value neutral, for literacy is value sign and it is taken for granted that high literacy rate signify greater social development. The paper examines the dynamics behind the gradual expansion in the uses of writing in Tamil Nadu during the periods of pastoral-agriculture and plough agriculture. It assesses

the extent of literacy in the region during the period and the corresponding social progress.

1996/2: Recent Historiographic Dimensions on Early South Indian Socio- Economics. In New Dimensions in South Indian History. Ed by K K N Kurup. Calicut, Association for Peasant Studies, 1996. pp 48-65. (Key Words: History, historiography South India, Society, Economics)

Examines recent historiographical developments in social and economic spheres of early South India for a conceptual analysis. Regional focus is on Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The period covered is roughly AD 500 to 1000 which witnessed development of social and economic systems with different characteristics than what existed. The forms of knowledge and power converged during the period covered by the study argues that Brahminical domination and the establishment of caste hierarchy were discursively realized goals.

1996/3: The Making of Modern Keralam. Report of the UGC Major Research Project (1993 – 96). 258 P. Kottayam, MGU School of Social Sciences, 1996. (Key

Words: Kerala, History, Politics, Society, Economics, Development)

Development experience of Malabar, Cochin and the Princely State of Travancore within the overall pattern of modernity under colonialism. Discusses the manifold reconstructive effects of colonialism on the people of the region. The study focuses on the multiple modes of cultural preparations under the norms of colonial modernity. Unravels the operational processes of the various strategies of subjectification at different sites where the people of Keralam were discursively reconstructed as colonial modernity operated as a new world- view effecting an ontological transmutation of the indigenous way of life. Discusses the ways in which the colonized were represented; the strategies through which colonizability was made acceptable as natural and; the sources with which structures of domination were made legitimate.

1997/1: The Edakkal Rock Engravings: Morphology and Meanings. In Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences, .4 (1), 1997. P 43-60. . (Key Words: History, Archeology, Kerala, Script)

The study is the result of an extensive field work undertaken by the author at the Edakkal Rock in Kerala which is on the crest of

a hill known as Ambukuthimala belonging to Western Ghats about 4600 feet above sea level and situated near Sultan Battery in Wayanad district of the Kerala State in India. It is a prehistoric rock shelter formed naturally out of a strange disposition of three huge rocks. Situated on an ancient route connecting the high ranges of Mysore to the port of Malabar. It is an unique archive of Neolithic engravings and occupies a prominent place in the archeological map of world history. The study vindicates that these rock engravings stand out distinct among the magnitude of prehistoric visual archives of paintings and graphic signs all over the world. It is the worlds' richest pictographic gallery of its kind. The images and signs jointly signify a strategy of combining deep incisions and their shadows in firelight for generating three-dimensional visual effect.

1997/2: Historical Materialism and History. In History and Theory: Seminar papers Ed. by T R Venugopalan. P 45-57. Thrissur, GC, 1997. (Key Words: History, Historiography, Theory, Marx)

Summarizes the recent clarifications that defend the theory of historical materialism. Marx substituted the metaphysical aspect with the material human force that determined the trajectory of social change. Points out that despite the growing reservations about its totalizing explanatory pretensions, historical materialism

remains the fundamental theory of history. The study compares that centrality of Marx's theory of history is not effectively contested today in the absence of a better alternative. Historians of our times have no choice as to whether or not they will use historical materialism in doing history. Concludes stating that such a situation encouraging wider use of the theory has made it too distinguishable a component of social science for the historians to bother acknowledging Marx for their methodology.

1998/1: Sabarimala and its Impact Zone of the Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR). Study Report. Trivandrum, Kerala Forest Department (KFD) India Eco Development Project, 1998. (Key Words: Kerala, Forest, rivers, Wild Life Conservation, Ecology)

Opines that most studies concentrate on the nature and volume of human movements and activities in the impact zone that is technically designated as Enclave. Appraises the various aspects of specialization of the Reserve by various actors enabled under the legitimacy of sacred geography. The study is primarily sociological. Socio-economic and ecological complexities are not generally accessible by means of quantification. But attempts wherever possible, to derive quantitative results. The scope is confined to understanding the impact relation between the Enclave and pilgrimage in order to evolve an ecologically

sustainable managerial strategy for the sacred geography in the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

1998/2: Human activities along the fringe area Of the Periyar tiger reserve (PTR) and the mutual impact of human life and the protected area. Department of Forest, Government of Kerala, 1998. . (Key Words: Kerala, Forest, Rivers, Wild Life Conservation, Ecology, Human Interference)

Presents the results of a study on the mutual impact of human life and the protected in the fringe area of the Periyar Tiger Reserve and. Confines the scope to understand the impact relation between the target area and people. Highlights the problems and potentials in the context of evolving strategies for minimizing the negative impact. Provides suggestions for ensuring effective conservation of bio-diversity in the selected area.

1998/3: Charecterizing Ancient Society: The case of South India. Ancient India Section Presidential Address. Indian History Congress 59nth Session. Patiala, Punjab University, 28-30, December 1998. (Key Words: Kerala, History, Society)

The address is on social process of ancient south India. Considers that ancient Indian history is enviable rich in particular empirical details, be it prehistory, proto history or aftermath. The presentation comes to the conclusion that the central task about the characterization of ancient society, for that matter any historically existing society, is identification of the social formation in terms of its structure and composition. As the articulated combination of productive forms, the social formation was structured by the dominance of what and the accretion of which contradictions made its dissolution inevitable and why, should be conceptualized. Also points out that we should know how the social formation differed from what resulted out of its dissolution.

1998/4: Historicising Culture. South Indian History Congress, 18th Session, Session 3: Cultural History. Presidential Address. Kalady, 1998. (Key Words: Kerala, Tamil Nadu, South India, History, Society, Culture)

The presentation attempts to recapitulate the major debates and concerns in the field of culture studies as to show how problematic it is due to cultural history today. Opines that doing cultural history without being communally implicated is a major challenge for us and that cultural history addresses itself to the life –world of symbols whose meanings are extensively appropriated and manipulated today. Historians of culture cannot

escape the compulsions to see how the populist meanings of symbols work in the power politics today while he or she seeks to learn what they meant in the past. Also opines that the postmodern approaches are entrenched by the inescapable westerliness, despite their insights into and intellectual strategies of decolonization.

1999/1: Hypo tactical Body Signs and Social Hierarchy. In Journal for Semiotic Studies, vol.11(1-3), 1999. Pp 189-206 (Keywords: Social Semiotics, Kerala, Caste system)

The paper studies selected body signs surviving among the Namputiris, the landlords and priestly class of Kerala. It draws upon the hypotaxis of Namputiris against the metasemiosis of idealized body postures and gestures in the classical texts. Thrust is on the homologous interconnection between the hierarchy and the body semiosis of the participation. Reveals that the body signs scrutinized are semiotic vestiges of the past agrarian society with hierarchical land relations. Unravels the spatial dimensions of the distance syntagms in the hypotactic social semiosis. Reveals the penetration of hypotaxis into the verbal language also in the form of metasemiosis. The study finds that the words issuing from the apex of the hierarchy emitted the voice of authority complementing the non-verbal texts of communication.

2001/1: When a Coalition of Conflicting interests Decentralizes: A Theoretical Critique of Decentralization Politics in Kerala. In Social Scientist, 29(9-10), Sep.-Oct., 2001: pp.60-76. (Keywords: Kerala, Panchayati Raj; Decentralization; democratic; Kerala)

Examines why democratic decentralization in Kerala remains a constitutional reform of development administration stabilizing the status quo rather than leading to alternate institutional development, rise of people centered politics and the empowerment oriented praxis triggering struggles over access to, and distribution of critical resources and initiating structural changes in power relations. Discusses in the historical context the expectations about the positive results of democratic decentralization and the socio economic scenario and explains the unexpected plight of decentralization polices. Identifies the ignorance of people about the concepts of decentralization as major impediment. Reviewing Kerala's experience of decentralized planning the study concludes that when a coalition of conflicting interests is decentralized it is doomed to failure. Stresses the primacy of knowledge – based critical consciousness in the minds of the general public for participatory development.

2001/2: In Search of Muziris (Jointly with Dick Whittaker of Churchill College, Cambridge). Journal of Roman Archeology. Vol 14, 2001. P 334 –349. . (Key Words: History, Archeology, Trade, Rome)

The study is an attempt to trace out the exact location of the famous ancient port of Muziris, a very important site of Roman trade with India. It figures prominently in the descriptions of classical geographers and it is mentioned in ancient Tamil works. Even though Muziris is very important still now no archeological evidence about its location has become available. Examines the evidence available in literature and also on the ground that can answer questions related to its position. The literary sources examined starts from Periplus of the Erythrean Sea and covers numerous Greco- Roman and Tamil records and oral traditions. The search on the ground covers ancient maps, place names, archeological evidences, coins, and the examination of the rivers, coastal areas and the geography of the possible locations. Even though the results of the investigation are not dramatic it unearths and combines very valuable and other wise not available information. The study confirms Kodungalloor as the most plausible location for Muziris and narrows it down to the bays just beyond the junction of the Periyar and Pullut River.

(2002/1): Reflexive Methodology in the Social Science
(Keywords: Research Methodology, Pierre Bourdieu).2002

Opines that surveying empirical conditions and quantifying them cannot understand social reality, because social reality is socially constructed and that to understand constructed realities methodological strategies of deconstruction enabling access to profoundly buried realities is essential. Discusses the reflexive social science methodology of Pierre Bourdieu. Concludes stating that this methodology helps researchers continually question the methodology, assumptions, and hermeneutics of their peers as well as their own, Opines that today on top of all reflexive methodology there is an explicit proof of the indelible imprint of Bourdieu.

(2002/2): Social Science Research, People and Globalization. (Keywords: Research Methodology).2002

Opines that the higher knowledge enunciated in social sciences of both the positivist and hermeneutic types, has always been remaining inaccessible to the mass due to its positivist academic pretensions expressed in scientific equations as well as the hermeneutic highbrow humanism expressed in theoretical nomenclature. States that Reflexive social science methodology

can help researchers to keep an unfailing epistemological self-vigilance. Concludes stating that restoration of local self-reliance is crucial in the context of the deleterious impact of globalization.

2003/1: Problems of Redesigning Undergraduate Social Science Curriculum. Artha Journal of social sciences, 2(1), P 113-122. March – August, 2003. (Key Words: History, Education, Curriculum)

Discusses on redesigning the undergraduate curriculum in the context of expectations from higher education. Since colonial times university/college education has been the prerequisite for respected jobs. This has made employment chances the criteria to justify higher education. Employment normally centered on industry and so technical subjects got dominance. But the purpose of higher education is not mere provision of workforce to industries. It has to serve society through preservation of cultural and community riches, development of civic and social responsibility and advancement of critical knowledge. Opines that the development of an informed citizenry is as important an aim as the preparation of the workforce. In the context of experience at MG University the author examines the goals of undergraduate curriculum, and its development in the light of the theory of institutional and structural reproduction of social power relations through education, political feasibility, the social need, the paths

of diversification and career prospects. Opines that there are several areas cutting across sciences, social sciences and humanities for diversifying disciplines and design new curricula for future needs. Concludes stating that restructuring curriculum should advance along socially and intellectually viable paths of diversification.

2004/1: Branthenna Vikala Sangalpam. In Mathrubhoomi Weekly, June 13-19,2004. P 16-19. (Keywords: Psychology, Mind, Madness)

Opines that the studies on state of mind called madness and the various processes of the treatment of this abnormality has till now not defined the changes of mind that occurs during the process. So the peculiar human behavior in different societies and times can be interpreted or considered by a society as madness. So we fail in the explorations of the mysteries of mind. The study opines that strange behavior can always not be marked as madness. Many great personalities were not normal in that sense. The study opines that the society should approach this with an open and broad attitude.

(2004/2): Rearticulating Social Science Curriculum. (Key Words: History, Education, Graduate Studies, Curriculum).2004.

Opines that the plight of our higher education curriculum today is so deplorable. It is in no way better than what existed in British India. Although production of the clerical and accounting workforce and making of a civil society of modernity were the intentions behind the colonial higher education curriculum, it was somewhat challenging. The students did attain a certain level of higher cognition, analytical ability, and communicative efficiency irrespective of the sciences or social sciences or languages in which they graduated. The level of percolation of the latest knowledge was quite higher than what it has been since Independence, despite the fact that the net impact remained colonial modernization and spread of values suitable for justifying colonization. Points out that there are several areas cutting across sciences, social sciences and humanities, for us to diversify disciplines and design new curricula for future needs.

(2004/3): Social Science Research Methodology.
(Keywords: Research Methodology, History, Sociology).
2004

Discusses in detail the two components of Social science research methodology relating to data collection and analysis, and interpretation of data. Opines that Quantitative empirical assessment is important in social science research but that is not enough, for the linear quantification is possible only in the case of

basic statistical data. Opines that a social researcher has to learn a lot from Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Malinosky and Levi-Strauss.

(2005/1): Students Struggle for Social Justice. In Michel Foucault and Contemporary Social Science Research. (Keywords: Kerala, Education, Campus, Politics)

(2005/2): The Village Sustainable Development Project. (Keywords: Kerala, Economics, Development, Rural, Participation)

2006/1: Did Slavery Exist in Ancient India: Forms of Servitude Down to the Mauryan Age. ICHR Lecture Series Publication –13. New Delhi : Indian Council for Historical Research. :Lecture series Publication No 13. 2006. (Keywords: Slavery, Dasya Society, India)

The paper reviews the features of dasya and helotag, for ascertaining whether they were two different servitudes, resulting from the translation as slavery forecloses. As institutions of two separate cultures there could be several similarities between the two. The study opines that dasya like slavery in Europe but unlike helotage, has a long history cutting across several social formations, which presupposes change in spite of continuity at its

institutional level. The paper attempts to compare the institutional features of dasya in the age of the Mauryas with those of helotage in Hellenic age.

2006/2: Rehabilitation Plantation: Socio – Economic Sustainability. (Jointly with S Raju). Kottayam, MGU School of social Sciences, 2006. (Keywords: Srilankan Repatriates).

Appraises the economic and social sustainability of Rehabilitation Plantation Ltd, in the context of the resettlement process of the Sri Lankan repatriates. Using reflexive social science methodology, evaluates in detail the assets, economic activities, labor productivity, human power, carrying capacity, profit scenario, socio economic profile of the people, demographic situation, problems and prospects etc. Provides detailed observations, recommendations and an action plan, consisting of time bound programme for resolving major legal impediments to the absorption of the Indian born as heirs to the retiring card holders, Also suggests methods to resolve the problem of demographic pressure by appraising the situation to repatriate families and their progenies for evolving their own means, ensuring participation of the people in the programmes. Recommends a Development Committee to empower them to

resolve the problems of the social economic and cultural sustainability.

2006/3: Democratization at the Grass Roots: problems of Theory and Politics of Praxis. Gandhi Marg, 28(2). July – September, 2006.P 149-165. . (Key Words: History, Politics, Democratization, Decentralization)

The study opines that decentralization of governance and accomplish participatory democracy is a theoretical implausibility in a society of gross inequalities, wherein it would mean only a constitutional reform for making development administration faster. It means an administrative re arrangement for economic growth without equity and alteration in local power structure, helping primarily to pass on quickly the socio economic and ecological consequences to the locality. Opines that people are unaware of the perspectives of decentralization and are guided by the popular consciousness that is eclectic and shallow. Deprived of critical thought in the absence of knowledge, and controlled by the vested interests, the poor remain largely depoliticized. Argues that multiple factors impede politicization and empowerment of the poor. The state machinery can not succeed beyond a point in empowering the weak, because it means the government joining the class war in favor of the poor, which is unlikely as the government is ultimately an upper class

instrument. Concludes suggesting the praxis strategies for politicization and empowerment of the poor through the opening up of new sources of symbolic capital for enhancing social capital strength to ensure alternative institutional development at local level.

2006/4: The Course of Social Historiography of Kerala. Theme Paper I, KCHR International Seminar, Thiruvananthapuram, KCHR, 16-18 March, 2006. (Keywords: Kerala, history, historiography, Research)

Opines that Social history is history of society done in social scientific perspective often made out to be in contradistinction to political history. Sites the example of the book *Jathi Vyavasthayum Kerala Charithravum* by P.K. Balakrishnan which raises certain new questions stimulating a new look at the social history of Kerala. Points out that the social historiography of Kerala shows a long course of development in the field of historical scholarship about social groups, relations, institutions, structures and processes of transformation from colonial ideographic community anthropology through analytical social anthropology, descriptive social history, nomothetic anthropology to social theoretical history accommodating women studies and marginal community studies. Opines that conceptualization of the social history in terms of social formations and their

transformations has a long way to go raising questions about the coexistence and interaction of multiple societies, their relations of assimilation, acculturation and domination.

2006/5: History, Hermeneutics and Methodological objectivity. In Social Reality and Tradition: Essays in Modes of Understanding/edited by Bijoy H. Boruah and Ramashanker Misra. New Delhi, Rawat, 2006. (Keywords: Historiography, Research)

2006/6: Tradition as Narrative. In Social Reality and Tradition. Essays in Modes of Understanding/edited by Bijoy H. Boruah and Ramashanker Misra. New Delhi, Rawat. (Keywords: History, Society, Culture)

2007/1: Forest Landscapes of the Southern Western Ghats, India: Biodiversity, Human Ecology and Management Strategies. (Edited Jointly with In B.R. Ramesh). Pondicherry, French Institute, 2007. (Keywords: Forestry, Kerala, Western Ghats, Mountains, Ecology)

Western Ghats has a high species and habitat diversity resulting from its complex physical features and variability in bio climate.

But forest degradation due to demographic pressure and changing land use is driving numerous species into extinction. Hitherto forest management was concerned only with increase of revenue. Only low priority was given to biodiversity conservation and the needs of local communities. Addressing these problems needs a comprehensive landscape management approach. The study, selects two representative landscape units based on morpho- pedological features to elucidate influence of physical factors, bio climate and anthropogenic pressures on natural vegetation vertebrate fauna. Highlighting patterns of resource utilization by proximal and distant stakeholders, the study identifies management zones with resource potential and conservation, importance. Points out the threats to biodiversity and sustainable development. Suggests strategies, action plans and compatible institutional mechanism to manage value-based zones and to mitigate the prevalent threats.

2007/2: Spatiality of Subsistence and the Human Ecology for Landscape. (Jointly with M Amruth). In B.R. Ramesh and Rajan Gurukkal (Eds.). Forest Landscapes of the Southern Western Ghats. Pondicherry, French Institute, 2007. (Keywords: Forestry, Kerala, Western Ghats, Mountains, Ecology. Conservation)

Opines that sustainable use of forest resources can be ensured if the spatio temporal patterns of human actions are understood at the landscape level. Adopts a human ecological enquiry method for facilitating a precise understanding of the spatial patterns of the human presence in the forest landscape. Practices of production and consumption by communities are evaluated in terms of constraints and potential offered by ecological and human geographical factors. The study taking settlement as basic human ecological unit of landscape uses seven forest dwelling communities as samples. Reveals complex pattern of spatiality of forest dependency and vegetation mosaics shaped by the interaction of climatologic, geographic, social, and historic factors. Finds that spatial patterning of human presence and subsistence strategies in the landscape is mutually constituted. The analysis of the landed assets, social capital and subsistence options of communities prove that the forest depended livelihood is fashioned by these factors in concurrence with larger social and historical processes. Based on the findings recommends a landscape level biodiversity planning of the Adivasi communities.

2007/3: Resources in the Forest Landscape: Availability, Utilization and sustainability. (Jointly with M Amruth and P V Karunakaran). In B.R. Ramesh and Rajan Gurukkal (Eds.). Forest Landscapes of the Southern Western Ghats. Pondicherry, French Institute, 2007. (Keywords:

Forestry, Kerala, Western Ghats, Mountains, Ecology. Natural Resources).

Studies the of resource availability, modes of extraction, and collection practices on the carrying capacity and institutional linkages of achieving sustainability. Patterns of extraction and marketing of resources are traced at the landscape level. In order to effectively address the sustainability of resource use, spatial and temporal patterns of extraction and possible strategies of institutionalization are examined. Finds that resource use by most agencies has substantial and direct bearing on the biodiversity and ecological process. Large-scale forest and conversion is due to reservoirs and plantations while extraction of biomass is due to industries and forest dependent communities. Finds that institutional arrangements for prioritizing and coordinating this resource use are inadequate. Recommends a new institutional mechanism for greater partnership with various stakeholders.

2007/4: Strategies and Actions – I: Accounting or Values. (Jointly with B R Ramesh, M Amruth, P V Karunakaran, and M Balasubrahmanyam) In B.R. Ramesh and Rajan Gurukkal (Eds.). Forest Landscapes of the Southern Western Ghats. Pondicherry, French Institute, 2007.

(Keywords: Forestry, Kerala, Western Ghats, Mountains, Ecology. Conservation)

Defines value based management zones on the basis of conservation, importance of species, habitats and ecosystem components such as soil and water and economic resources for human survival. Based on this criterion identifies and delineates three zones biodiversity conservation zone, resource zone, and soil and water conservation zone. Suggests strategies to manage these zones integrating various stakeholders' interests with emphasis on participatory approaches.

2007/5: Strategies and Actions –II: Dealing with Constraints. (Jointly with B R Ramesh, M Amruth, P V Karunakaran, and M Balasubrahmanyam). In B.R. Ramesh and Rajan Gurukkal (Eds.). Forest Landscapes of the Southern Western Ghats. Pondicherry, French Institute, 2007. (Keywords: Forestry, Kerala, Western Ghats, Mountains, Ecology. Conservation)

Opines that terrestrial biodiversity conservation is related to effective management of forests. Causes of biodiversity degradation may be direct or indirect. Direct constraints are human activities that impair the immediate structural – functional components or forest landscapes, while the indirect constraints

fuel a chain of processes culminating in the habitat loss. Growing lists of rare, endangered and threatened species indicates constraints in the implementation of conservation programmes. The study attempt to understand the intricacies of constraints in drawing effective strategies and action plans for the conservation or ecological values in the landscape units.

2007/6: Competing Claims and Multiple Stakes: Institutions for Integrating Stakeholders Interests in Forest Management. (Jointly with B R Ramesh, M Amruth, and P V Karunakaran), In B.R. Ramesh and Rajan Gurukkal (Eds.). Forest Landscapes of the Southern Western Ghats. Pondicherry, French Institute, 2007. (Keywords: Forestry, Kerala, Western Ghats, Mountains, Ecology. Conservation, Organizations)

The study considers that the central component of landscape management plan is people who form primary user of resources and custodian. Forest Department representing government who is the owner has a major role. In practice it is a right to administer state's ownership over forests so as to facilitate transfer of the user rights to the people who have to manage the resources in an ecologically sustainable manner. Suggests that forest department and the line departments with converging goals and activities should reconstitute themselves as facilitators of people

centered and empowerment oriented programmes to make participatory forest management a reality.

2007/7: Towards Scientific Landscape Management and Self Regulatory Forest Community Development. (Jointly with B R Ramesh). In B.R. Ramesh and Rajan Gurukkal (Eds.). Forest Landscapes of the Southern Western Ghats. Pondicherry, French Institute, 2007. (Keywords: Forestry, Kerala, , Ecology. Conservation, Legislation, Environmental)

Postscript to the book on Forest Landscapes in the South Western Ghats of India reviews specimen forest area in landscape perspective that signifies a comprehensive ecological approach to biodiversity conservation and an effective planning strategy for natural resource management, which at once transcend the obsolescence of the usual territorial perspective of arbitrarily dividing the forest into administrative units irrespective of its typology, distributive pattern or biotic/abiotic continuum. Shows how the approach helps in better conservation of evergreen forests, soil, water and the deciduous forest types. Stresses that areas of ecological integrity are the basic units of the landscape, presupposing a systems theoretical perspective about the structural and functional specificities of each ecotype. Recommends a participatory institutional mechanism made

sustainable jointly by biodiversity conservation and the key stakeholders livelihood improvement.

2007/8: Rethinking Social Research Methodology in the Context of Globalization. Keynote Address. ICSSR sponsored Short-Term Course on Methodology of Social Research, P1-13. Pondicherry University, 1 March, 2007. (Keywords: Research Methodology, Globalization)

The social science knowledge of both the positivist and hermeneutic types, remain inaccessible to the ordinary people due academic pretensions and theoretical nomenclature used. The address opines that Reflexive social science methodology can help researchers to question the methodology, assumptions, and hermeneutics of their peers as well as their own and enable them keep an unfailing epistemological self vigilance, the impact of which on the contemporary social research will be profound.

2007/9: Social Theory in Ancient Indian Historiography: Hermeneutic Turns in the Writings of Romila Thaper. Presidential Address, Section on Historiography In Andhrapradesh History Congress, 31st Annual Session, Cuddapah, 2007.. (Key Words: Historiography, Romila Thaper, Theory)

The paper looks into the hermeneutical turns in the writings of Romila Thapar the most reputed historian, writing on early India. Opines that recognition of the region and its links with geomorphology and ecology has drawn Thapar's close attention and that Thaper views regional history from a comparative perspective as well as its integration into the larger areas. She views that no region in Indian subcontinent can become an isolated historical entity. The author comes to the conclusion that Thaper's researches lead to theoretical production. Unlike the usual eclectic way of using theories of cognate disciplines like sociology and anthropology for interpreting history, an act that leads only to theoretical empiricism. Thaper's essays having explanatory potential that is epistemologically unassignable remain a cornucopia of raw material for social theoretical research.

APPENDIX: Beyond the Discipline: A Subject wise Analysis of the Research papers of Dr. Rajan Gurukkal

DDCN	Subject	Specific	Weight
001.42	Education	Research Methods	4
150	Psychology	Psychology	2
200	Religion	Religion	4
294.5921	Society	Brahmins	4
301	Sociology	SociologyGeneral	8
305.5122	Society	Caste	5
307.77	Society	Jews	1
307.772	Society	Tribal	3
320	Politics	Politics- General	4
330	Economics	Economics	6
333.9116	Environment	Water Conservation	2
333.913	Agriculture	Irrigation	3
338	Economics	Industries	3
352.283	Politics	Decentralization	3
363.73	Environment	Pollution	3
370	Education	Education	3
494.811	Society	Tamil	1
551.432	Ecology	Mountains	3
577	Environment	Ecology	8
590	Environment	Wild Life	4
630	Agriculture	Agriculture	5
631.4	Geography	Soils	2
634.9	Environment	Deforestation	4
634.9	Environment	Forestry	4
658	Society	Management	4
791.437	History	Scripts	3
808.81	Literature	Poetry	2
900	History	History. General	6
907.2	History	Historiography	3
910	Geography	Geography	2
930.1	History	Archeology	4