Biographical Sketch

Name: Vasu Renganathan, Ph.D.

Affiliation: Lecturer, Department of South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Education: Ph.D. (The Language of Tirumular's Tirumantiram, A Medieval Śaiva Tamil Religious text, University of Pennsylvania, 2010).

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Research and Professional Experience: Vasu Renganathan has been teaching Tamil language and literature at the University of Pennsylvania since 1996. He earned his master's degree from the University of Washington, Seattle and Ph.D. degree in medieval Tamil language and literature from the University of Pennsylvania. He began his teaching career in 1989 and previously taught at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and the University of Washington, Seattle. In addition to teaching, he has also worked on various curriculum and instructional material development projects.

Research interests:

- History of Tamil language and literature.
- History of the Tamil Religious developments from medieval period.
- Language of Sangam Tamil literature and Tamil inscriptions.
- Teaching and learning of Tamil language.
- Impact of Technology in the pedagogical methods.

Professional affiliations: Vasu served as the Chairman of the International Forum For Informational Technology In Tamil (INFITT) and currently serving as one of the Executive Committee members of the South Asian Language Teachers Association (SALTA). Vasu is also in the International Advisory Board member for the Electronic Journal of Foreign Language Teaching, (e-FLT), Singapore (http://e-flt.nus.edu.sg). He has evaluated about twenty-five Ph.D. dissertations from many universities in India, and served as advisor for about ten Ph.D. dissertations at the University of Pennsylvania.

Selected Publications:

Renganathan, Vasu. 2021. "Hegemony of Religious Texts and Development of Tamil Ritual System called Thamiḻ Arccaṉai." In Tirāviṭap Poḻil: The Journal of Dravidian Studies, Vol. 1, Issue 2, April-June, 2021, Vallam, Thanjavur, India. (https://dravidapozhil.pmu.edu/).

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Chidambaram, South India and their impact on the temple architecture", In S. Agesthialingom, V.S. Arulraj, S. Chitraputran and A. Karthikeyan (eds.). *Prof. S. V.Shanmugam's 75th Birthday Celebration Volume*, Annamalai University, India.