



32 ஆம் பேரவைத்தமிழ் விழா  
சிகாகோ தமிழ்ச்சங்கப் பொன்விழா

## 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference – Seminar on Tamil Studies July 3 – 7, 2019 Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Dear Scholar of Tamil Studies:

Ever since the International Association of Tamil Research (IATR) was formed in 1964, nine (9) World Conference- Seminars on Tamil studies were held in different countries of the world. Many of these conferences were co-sponsored by political or government entities. To maximize and the uphold the importance to Tamil research, the 10<sup>th</sup> World Conference – Seminar on Tamil Research to be held in Chicago between July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This conference is sponsored by IATR and organized by community organizations in North America, the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA) and the Chicago Tamil Sangam (CTS).

The principle objective of IATR is “to promote multi – disciplinary research on modern scientific lines in all aspects of Dravidian studies in general, and of Tamil studies in particular, and in allied fields with active collaboration of international organizations and scholars interested in such studies.” Consistent with this objective the Academic Committee of the 10<sup>th</sup> world Conference – Seminar on Tamil Studies has come up with the following theme for this Conference:

‘New Historicist, Scientific and Comparative Study of the Antiquity of the Tamils, Tamil Language, Literature, Culture and Civilization.’

Specific topics that cover the conference theme are attached to this letter with guidelines for the submission of abstracts and research paper. The same can also be obtained by visiting the IATR website at [www.iatrnew.org](http://www.iatrnew.org) or <https://www.icsts10.org> or [email iatr2019@fetna.org](mailto:iatr2019@fetna.org).

We wish you the best in your research and hopefully we will see you at the Conference – Seminar.

**Pulavar, Dr. Francis S. Muthu**

Secretary General, IATR

Chair, Academic Committee

10th IATR Conference

Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

**10<sup>th</sup> International Conference – Seminar on Tamil Studies**  
**July 3 - 7, 2019, Chicago, U.S.A.**  
**(Conference Topics: Brief)**

The aim of the 10th Conference – Seminar of IATR to be held at Chicago in July 2019 is to promote the cause of some of the world classics in Tamil as well as to focus on the ancientness and uniqueness of the language, literature, culture and civilization of the Tamils. The conference also encourages scholars to focus on modern trends of Tamil prose and poetry. With a view to achieving this, well researched and well-written articles on the following topics are welcome for presentation.

**Topic Categories**

1. Classical Tamil Literature
2. Ancient Tamil Civilization
3. Tolkaappiyam
4. Tirukkural
5. Contributions of scholars
6. Tamil Music and Performing Arts
7. Modern Tamil Literature
8. Tamil Language and Linguistics

**Topics**

1. Classical Tamil Literature
  - Tamil Classical literature compared with other classical literatures
  - Sangam Literature as cultural documents
  - Sangam Literature as a source of Tamil history
2. Ancient Tamil Civilization
  - The origin and the spread of the Tamils based on genetic and genographic data
  - Historical, archeological and geological evidences for the antiquity of Tamil Civilization
  - Recent findings regarding the Indus Valley Civilization
  - Archeological findings from the Adichanallur, Porunthal, keezhadi and other excavations in South India

3. Tolkaappiyam
  - Comparison of Tolkaappiyam with other grammatical works in other languages
  - The concepts of Tinai and Tamil akam traditions
  - Interpolations in Tolkaappiyam
  - Date of Tolkaappiyam
  
4. Tirukkural
  - Tiruvalluvar as “The Bard of Universal man” (Dr. G.U. Pope).
  - Tirukkural as treasure trove of ancient Tamil culture and civilization
  - The relevance of Tirukkural today
  - Comparison of Tirukkural with other ethical writings on other languages
  - The reception of Tirukkural in other countries of the world
  
5. Contributions made by scholars to studies in ancient, medieval and modern Tamil language, literature and culture (see detailed version for possible scholar list)
  
6. Tamil Music and Performing Arts
  - The Ancientness of Tamil Isai and performing arts
  - The impact of Tamil Isai on Carnatic music
  - Musical instruments of ancient Tamil society
  - Impact of Sangam literature on the lyrics of Tamil film music
  
7. Modern Tamil literature
  - Modern trends in Tamil prose and poetry.
  - Modern trends in Tamil novels and short stories.
  - Computer technology and its potential contributions to Tamil studies.
  
8. Tamil Language and Linguistics
  - Tolkaappiyam: Its linguistic insides and literary theories.

**10th International Conference – Seminar on Tamil Studies  
July 3-7, 2019, Chicago  
(Research Topics: Detailed)**

The aim of the 10th Conference – Seminar of IATR to be held at Chicago in July 2019 is to promote the cause of some of the world classics in Tamil as well as to focus on the ancientness and uniqueness of the language, literature, culture and civilization of the Tamils. The conference also encourages scholars to focus on modern trends of Tamil prose and poetry. With a view to achieving this, well researched and well-written articles on the following topics are welcome for presentation.

**1. Tamil Classical literature**

1. Tamil Classical literature as compared with any other classical literature.
2. Puranaanuru, Patitripattu, Pattupatti, and other Sangam texts as cultural documents.
3. Nature in Sangam Classics.
4. Women in Sangam Classics.
5. The marginalized in Sangam Classics.
6. Education during the Sangam period.
7. History as literature and/or literature as History:  
Purananooru, Patinripattu or any other Sangam text.

**2. The ancientness and the global spread of Tamil civilization.**

1. Study of the origin and spread of the Tamils based on genetic and genographic data.
2. Historical, literary, archeological and geological evidences for the existence of the ancient land of “Kumari Kandam,” the home of Tamil Sangams and civilization.
3. Ancient Tamil Culture as compared with any classical culture including,
  - a) Egyptian
  - b) Hebraic
  - c) Hellenic
  - d) Roman
  - e) Chinese
4. The contribution of Tamils to:
  - a) Indus Valley civilization
  - b) Sumerian civilization

- c) Mesopotamian and Acadian civilization
- d) Egyptian civilization
- e) Mediterranean civilization
5. The findings of Rev. Fr. H. Heras S.J.
6. The findings of Asko Purpola.
7. The findings of Professor Rajan of Pondicherry University.
8. Adichanallur, Porunthal, Keezhadi and other excavations in South India.

### 3. Tolkappiyam

1. Tolkappiyam and Western linguistics.
2. The Date of Tolkappiyam.
3. Interpolations in Tolkappiyam.
4. The concepts of Tinai and the Tamil Akam traditions.
5. Tolkappiyam as compared with other grammatical works in,
  - a) Greek
  - b) Latin
  - c) Hebrew
  - d) Sanskrit
  - e) Kannada
  - f) Telugu
  - g) Malayalam
  - h) any other classical or modern language.
6. The continuity of Tamil grammatical tradition from Tolkappiyam to Nannul.

### 4. Tirukkural

1. Tiruvalluvar as “the Bard of the Universal Man.”
2. Tirukkural as the treasure trove of ancient Tamil culture and civilization.
3. Tirukkural and ‘the art of living.’
4. The relevance of Tirukkural today.
5. The reception of Tirukkural in other countries of the world.

5. Contributions made by the following scholars to studies in ancient, medieval and modern Tamil language, literature and culture:

- a) Maraimalai Adikal
- b) Vipulanantha Adikal
- c) Thani Nayaga Adikal
- d) Kamil Zvelebil
- e) A K Ramanujan
- f) R E Asher
- g) George L Hart.
- h) Other scholars (specify)

6. Tamil Music and Performing Arts

1. The Ancientness of Tamil Isai and performing arts
2. The impact of Tamil Isai on Carnatic music
3. Musical instruments of ancient Tamil society
4. Impact of Sangam literature on the lyrics of Tamil film music

7. Modern Tamil literature

1. Modern trends in Tamil prose and poetry including novels and short stories.
2. Computer technology and its potential contributions to Tamil studies

8. Tamil Language and Linguistics

1. Tolkaappiyam: Its linguistic insides and literary theories.

## **Abstract and Research Paper Guidelines**

1. The research paper should contain original research not published elsewhere.
2. Prior to submitting the actual research paper, the scholars are expected to submit an Abstract of the proposed paper. The Abstract should be a Microsoft Word document double spaced, with font size not less than 12, in Unicode format and shall not exceed two pages in length. The Abstract can be in English or in Tamil.
3. The Abstracts should be submitted electronically to [academic-committee@icsts10.org](mailto:academic-committee@icsts10.org) on or before November 30, 2018. All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by a committee of experts and the authors will be notified on or before December 31, 2018 whether their Abstract is approved or not.
4. Authors of the selected abstracts must submit their research papers on or before March 31, 2019. The Research Paper shall be a Microsoft Word document in double space, with font size not less than 12, in Unicode format and shall not exceed 30 pages in length. The Research paper can be either in English or Tamil. However, the research paper shall be in the same language as the original Abstract.
5. Each Research paper should include a brief bio-data (not more than 200 words) of the author
6. The number of papers that are selected for presentation at the conference and the respective authors shall be notified on or before April 30, 2019. The Conference organizers shall be responsible for the cost of registration for the conference, accommodation, food and local travel for the invited authors. Other information related with travel will be provided later.

### **Other Information**

7. The authors invited to make presentation at the conference are encouraged to meet their own travel expense or secure travel aid from the government, or the other foundations and charitable organizations.
8. The authors are advised to get their Passports ready by April 30, 2019 so that if their paper is selected there will be no delay in obtaining the Visa for travel to USA.
9. The authors must also procure health insurance on their own to meet any costs related to any sickness or medical emergencies during the conference.
10. All selected papers will be posted in the Conference website. Papers selected for presentation will be included in the Conference souvenir.