



PANEL 2

Resistance, Survival and Loss

Victor Vicente, Chair

Title:

Rhythms of Resilience: Traditional Drum Production as a Response to Climate Change in Sri Lanka

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Abstract:

Music serves as a significant expression of cultural identity in diverse societies, with musical instruments playing a crucial role in shaping the distinctive character of each tradition. Drums, among the various musical instruments, hold a notable position within a country's musical repertoire. Instruments such as the Upcountry drum, Low Country drum, Davul Bera, and Tammattam play integral roles in various cultural events in Sri Lanka. This study aims to investigate the intricate relationship between climate change and the traditional production of drums in Sri Lanka, focusing specifically on the indigenous techniques employed by drum makers. The research centers on the drum-making process as a case study, seeking to comprehend how this traditional craft adapts to the challenges presented by a changing climate. Primary data for this study were obtained through fieldwork conducted in Kuragala village, Kandy, and Alawala village, Attanagalle, in 2023. The investigation encompasses an examination of material selection, crafting techniques, and the overall drum-making methodology. By delineating the impact of climate change on the availability of essential raw materials for drum production in these specific villages, the study identified the innovative strategies drum makers employ to sustain their craft amidst environmental shifts.

Short Biography:

Kamani Samarasinghe is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of the Visual & Performing Arts, Sri Lanka. Her research focuses on folk/traditional music recording, documenting, archiving, and safeguarding.