

*Mud Spray:
The Conflict between Humans and Elephants in Asia*

A Public Lecture presented by
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Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, USA

Humans and elephants are highly competitive animals, striving for the land and plants that nurture them. As a result of human competition that expresses itself in development projects, logging and warfare; much of the elephant's natural habitat in Asia is rapidly disappearing. The widespread carnage of elephants from poaching and the struggle of elephant conservation initiatives to protect elephant populations are urgent issues. Though domesticating wild elephants in Asia can secure their lives, human intervention also causes irreparable damage to elephants at such elephant orphanage centres. Humans need to create development projects that will have less impact on wildlife habitats.

The seminar will explore the environmental issues related to the significance of elephants in traditional cultures, their spiritual and moral value, and their role in traditional economies and development projects.



Friday 16th September 2011
1:30 pm

Senate Room
All Welcome, Free Admission

Raj served as an Associate Professor of Philosophy and Peace and Justice and the coordinator of Peace and Justice Studies program at Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania. He has published a wide range of articles including on Gandhi, human rights, terrorism, war trauma, war and the environment, elephants in Buddhists texts, and religious conflict in interdisciplinary journals. His art project on human rights has been exhibited at National Civil Right Museum in Memphis and Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. He served as Program Developer and Director of M.K. Gandhi institute at Christian Brothers University in Memphis and directed the "Kindness is Contagious" program with African American children. Also designed and directed a "Culture of Peace" children program with Diaspora community in Toronto, Canada. In 2005, Raj received the Peacemaker Award from the Interfaith Center for Peace and Justice Education at Gettysburg Pennsylvania for his "One Boat at a Time" Tsunami project. Presently he serves as a Member of the Nobel Peace Prize Nomination Committee, AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) USA. Raj Ramanathapillai is visiting the Asia Research Centre as an Honorary Fellow until mid 2012.