

Dr Anna Laine

Anthropology and Artistic Research

anna.s.laine@icloud.com

Ekholmsvägen 234

SE-127 51 Skärholmen

Sweden

+46 (0)737 757870

+44 (0)737 8557944

Profile

Anna Laine is an independent researcher in anthropology and artistic practice. She has been trained in photography and art, and holds a PhD in social anthropology from Gothenburg University. Her transdisciplinary research explores possible and impossible combinations of academic and artistic ways of working, and suggests experimental strategies where the not yet known can emerge. This position has been further explored during a research fellowship at Goldsmiths, University of London. The main subject matter is Tamil contemporary art and material culture, located in South Asia as well as in the diaspora. Engaged in migration and relationships between privileged and marginalized positions, Laine works with dialogues and collaborations across diverse groups to further develop the conditions for an inclusive and sustainable society.

Education

Teaching in Higher Education, 15 ECTS, Dalarna University, 2011.

PhD in Social Anthropology, University of Gothenburg, 2009, *In Conversation with the Kolam Practice: Auspiciousness and Artistic Experiences among Women in Tamilnadu, South India*, specialised in Visual Anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London and Contemporary Art and Anthropology at University of Oslo.

MA and BA in Social Anthropology, University of Gothenburg, 2000 – 2004.

Fine Art and New Media, Valand Academy of Art, University of Gothenburg, 1995 – 1996.

Visual Communication, University College of Arts, Craft and Design, Stockholm, 1994.

Fundamental Art School, Folkuniversitetet, Kristianstad, 1991 – 1993.

Photography School, Riddarfjärdsskolan, Stockholm, 1981 – 1983.

Research Experience

Tamil diaspora, *Locating Art Practice in the British Tamil Diaspora*, investigating art practice in relation to migration, a postdoctoral artistic research project with fieldwork in London, Belfast and Jaffna, 2012 – 2014, funded by the Swedish Research Council.

Visiting Research Fellow at Goldsmiths, 2008 and 2012 –13.

Museum of Ethnography, Stockholm, *The State of Things: Exploring New Methodologies in the Museum*, investigating South Indian collections, August 2011 to June 2012, PI: Prof. Lotten Gustafsson Reinius, funded by the Swedish Arts Council.

Tamil diaspora, London, preliminary study, June to July 2011, funded by Dalarna University.

Tamilnadu, India, urban fieldwork, exploring practice-based methods, September to October 2009, funded by the Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET).

Tamilnadu, India, rural and urban fieldwork, gathering qualitative verbal and visual data for doctoral thesis in social anthropology at Gothenburg University, 2005 – 2006, in affiliation with the University of Mysore.

Postdoctoral Employments

Senior Advisor, Swedish National Heritage Board, 2017 – 2019.

Guest Lecturer at the University College of Arts, Craft and Design, 2016.

Photography Curator at the Swedish National Museums of World Culture, 2014 – 15.

Researcher at Stockholm University, 2013 – 2014.

Assistant Professor at Dalarna University, 2009 – 2013.

Publications

Forthcoming 'At Dalits' Feet: Archival Resources of Counteraction', in *Visual Anthropology Review*, special issue 'Bodies of Archives/Archival Bodies'.

Practicing Art and Anthropology: A Transdisciplinary Journey (with own photographs), London and New York: Bloomsbury, 2018.

'Encounters between Artistic Research and Processes of Musealization', in Bogdan Szyber (ed.) *MoAR- Museum of Artistic Research*, exhibition catalogue, Stockholm: Swedish History Museum and Stockholm University of the Arts, p. 14 – 24, 2018.

'Museiforskning: En översikt', [Museum Studies: An Overview], Stockholm: Swedish National Heritage Board, 2018.

'Tamil Art in Diasporic Existence', in *Synnyt/Origins: Finnish Studies in Art Education*, special issue 'Rethinking Art-Based and Artistic Research – And Global/Local Communities #2', no. 2, p. 1 – 9, 2017, <https://wiki.aalto.fi/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=128670903>.

'Materialiserad visdom' [Materialized Wisdom](with own photographs), in Elina Antell (ed.) *Maria*

- Adlercreutz: Väverska mellan mörker och ljus*, Stockholm: Ordfront, p. 39 – 46, 2016.
- 'Contemporary Art Practice in the British Tamil Diaspora' (with own video excerpts), in Torbjörn Lind (ed.) *The Art University: Political Dream or Broadened Future for the Arts?*, Stockholm: The Swedish Research Council, Artistic Research Yearbook, p. 62 – 73, 2016.
- 'Locating Art Practice in the British Tamil Diaspora' (with own photographs), in *World Art*, vol. 5, no. 2, p. 199 – 222, 2015, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/21500894.2015.1036457>.
- 'Migration Research in Collaboration with Tamil Sri Lankan Artists in the British Diaspora' (with own video, sound and photographs), in *Journal for Artistic Research*, no. 8, 2015, <http://jar-online.net/issue-8/>.
- Fieldwork: Doing Anthropology Around the World* (with own photograph), London: The Royal Anthropological Institute's (RAI) Discover Anthropology Outreach Programme, p. 13, 2013.
- 'Kolam Patterns as Materialisation and Embodiment of Rhythms' (with own video), in *AnthroVision: VANEASA Online Journal*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2013, <http://anthrovision.revues.org/607>.
- 'Looking and Drawing: Exploring an Ethnographically Collected South Indian Object' (with own photograph and drawings), in *The State of Things: Exploring New Methodologies in the Museum*, Stockholm: The National Museums of World Culture, Sweden, p. 3 – 45, 2013, <http://varldskulturmuseerna.se/sv/forskning-samlingar/forskning/publicerat/sakernas-tillstand/>.
- 'Intervention or Inspiration: Kolam and Fieldwork Ethics in the Tamil Diaspora' (with own photographs), in *Anthropology Today*, vol. 28, no. 6, p. 3 – 6, 2012.
- In Conversation with the Kolam Practice: Auspiciousness and Artistic Experiences among Women in Tamilnadu, South India* (with own photographic essays), PhD thesis in Social Anthropology, the School of Global Studies, Gothenburg University, 2009, <http://hdl.handle.net/2077/19290>.
- 'Complementarity between Art and Anthropology: Experiences among Kolam Makers in South India' (with own photographs), in *Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society*, no. 2, p. 58 – 69, 2009.

Art Projects

- 'At Dalits' Feet' in *Transnational Proximities*, exhibition (photography) with Sabes Sugunasabesan's 'The Last Walk to the Beach', at 5th Base Gallery, London, 2018.
- Sharing Foodways*, a cooking and eating event at Fisksätra Museum, Stockholm, with Johanna Rosenqvist and the Fisksätra Talented Women's Group, 2016, funded by ACSIS.
- Human-horse relationships*, artist-in-residence at Beata Veszely's in Barnag, Hungary, 2015.
- Contact-Zone: Museums, Ethnography, Performativity and Mediatization of Cultural Heritage through Artistic Intervention* (video), group exhibition at Small Projects Gallery, Tromsø, in collaboration with Tromsø University Museum, 2015.
- The Bureau of Memories: Archive and Ephemera* (video), an Ethnographic Terminalia group

exhibition at the Hierarchy Gallery, in parallel with the American Anthropology Association (AAA) conference, Washington DC, 2014.

Homing and Migrating (video, photography and textile), research presentation as solo exhibition at Tegen 2 Gallery, Stockholm, 2014.

Fieldwork Photography Exhibition, (photography) group exhibition at the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI), London, 2013.

Making Kolams in London, participatory art project at Hounslow shopping centre, London, in collaboration with Hari Rajaledchumy and the Tamil Community Centre, 2012.

Kolam – Ephemeral Patterns for Eternal Prosperity, (video, textile, photography and text), solo exhibition at Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, 2012; The Blue Place Cultural Centre, Gothenburg, 2011; The Museum of Ethnography, Stockholm, 2010.

Performative Formations (video and textile), at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, with Kristina Matousch, Malmö, and Malathi Selvam, Puduchery, funded by IASPIS, 2009.

Mother (photography installation), solo exhibition at Bergrummet, Konstepidemin Gallery, Gothenburg, 1995.

Valand New Media (digital collages), group exhibition at Stenasalen, Gothenburg Art Museum, Gothenburg, 1995.

Landscapes (paintings, mixed media), solo exhibition at Backer Gallery, Sösdala, 1994.

Fourteen days and a kayak (photography), at Town Library Gallery, Hässleholm, 1985.

Around home (photography), Town Library Gallery, Hässleholm, 1983.

Networks

Anthropologies of Art Network (A/A), European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA); Ethnographic Terminalia; American Anthropological Association (AAA); Nordic Anthropological Film Association (NAFA); South Asian Arts Group (SAAG); Swedish Anthropological Society (SANT); Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography (SSAG); Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET).

Peer Reviewing

Journal for Artistic Research, exposition, 2019.

Member of NAFA Film Selection Committee, 2016 and 2012.

Bloomsbury, book proposal, 2015.

AnthroVision, EASA Online, article, 2011.

Qualitative Research, Sage Publications, article, 2010.

Book Review

Art, Anthropology and the Gift, by Roger Sansi 2015, published in the journal *Anthropos* 2016.

Invited Lectures, Seminars and Workshops

'Home Making Practices across Cultures', lecture at Avinashilingam University and Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, India, 2017.

'"Making kolams in London": Participatory Interventions with the Tamil diaspora', departmental seminar at the Centre for Practical Research, Södertörn University, Stockholm, 2016.

'Migratory Research: Practicing Art and Anthropology in Collaboration with British Tamils', departmental seminar at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo, 2015.

'Artistic Practices in the Ethnographic Museum', at the seminar *Film in Ethnographic Exhibitions*, the National Museum, Copenhagen, 2015.

'Drawing Kolam Rhythms as City Living', lecture and drawing workshop at Open School East, London, 2015.

'Kolam Pattern as Materialisation and Embodiment of Rhythms', lecture and workshop at the collaboration week *Etnografiska co Konstfack*, at University College of Arts, Craft and Design, Stockholm, 2015.

'Participatory Practices: Potentials of Historical Photography', at *Museum Contact Zones and Innovative Heritage: Dialogues between Art and Anthropology*, Tromsø University Museum, 2015.

'Future Potentials of Historical Photography', at seminar and lab with EASA Future Anthropologies Network, the Design College of Barcelona (BAU)/ Open University of Catalunya, 2015.

'Making Home – with Five Artists Based in the UK', video based seminar at the Visual Anthropology MA programme, Goldsmiths, University of London, 2014.

'Rebellion and Responsibility: Locating Art Practice in the Tamil Diaspora' at the Anthropology Department, Stockholm University, 2013.

'Autoethnography as shared profession? Exploring boundaries between ethnographer and 'other' in collaborations with British Tamil Artists', seminar at the Anthropology Department, University College of London, 2013 and at INIMKOND seminar series at Tallinn University, 2013.

'Kolam Designs – Thinking through Making Rhythms', lab at the MA programme *Material, Visual and Digital Culture*, University College of London, 2012 and 2013.

'Making Home: Engagements with Art Practice in the Tamil Diaspora', lecture at the Faculty of Art, Jaffna University, 2013.

'Rebellion and Responsibility: Locating Art Practice in the Tamil Diaspora', Departmental Seminar, the Anthropology Department, Goldsmiths, University of London, 2013.

'Artistic Practices in the Tamil Diaspora', inaugural meeting of South Asian Arts Group, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich, 2012.

'Organising the Kolam Practice through Aspects of Sociality and Space', PhD seminar, the Anthropology Department, Goldsmiths, University of London, 2008.

'The Kolam as Materialisation and Embodiment of Rhythms', the *South Asian Seminar Series*, London School of Economics (LSE), 2008.

'In Conversation with the Kolam Practice: Presentations of Artistic Experiences in South India', the workshop *Experimenting the Visual in Art and Anthropology: The Ethics of Research and Collaborations*, the Faculty of Architecture and Art, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, 2008.

Conference Papers and Labs

'The Tentacular Museum? Transdisciplinary Growth along with the Changing Arctic', with Lotten Gustafsson Reinius, at the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) conference *Staying, Moving, Settling*, Stockholm University, 2018.

'At Dalits' Feet: Archival Resources of Counteraction', at the RAI conference *Art, Materiality and Representation*, the British Museum and SOAS, London, 2018.

'Sharing Foodways: Conditional Art Meets Cultural Research in a Diverse Kitchen Setting', at the ACSIS symposium, Linköping University, Norrköping, 2017.

'An Ethnography of Photographies', lab in collaboration with Thera Mjaaland, Bergen university, at the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) conference, Bicocca University, Milan, 2016.

'Tamil Art Practice in Diasporic Existence', at the 4th conference on Art-based Research and Artistic Research, Aalto University, Helsinki, 2016.

'Participatory Art and Participant Observation: Exploring Social Relationships through Interdisciplinary Practices', at the conference *Transvaluation: Making the World Matter*, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, 2015.

'Locating Artistic Practice in the British Tamil Diaspora', at *Artistic Research Conference*, by the Swedish Research Council, the Swedish School of Textiles, Borås, 2014.

'Drawing as Artistic/Ethnographic Method', lab at *Anthropologies of Art*, at the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) conference, Tallinn University, 2014.

'Kolam as Participatory Art: Challenging Constitutions of British Space and Tamil Femininity' with Hari Rajaledchumy at the South Asian Arts Group (SAAG) conference, University of Westminster, London, 2013.

'Interrogating Photographic Practices and Representations' and convenor of the panel *Photography as Mediation of Anthropological Knowledge*, at the congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnographic Sciences (IUAES), Manchester University, 2013.

'Ethnic Identity and the Art Market: An Example from the Tamil diaspora', at the Swedish Anthropological Society (SANT), Uppsala University, 2013.

Convened two panels on experimental films at the festival of Nordic Anthropological Film Association (NAFA), *Experience, Sense and the Lens*, University of Tromsø, 2012.

'Visual Mediations: Interrogating Photographic Practices and Representations within Anthropology' and convenor at the panel *Photography as Mediation* at the Swedish Anthropological Society (SANT) and the Norwegian Anthropological Society (NAF) conference, Stockholm University, 2012.

'Refraining and Longing: Ambiguous Relationships to the Kolam Practice among Tamils in the UK', at the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2012.

'Kolam Patterns as Materialisation and Embodiment of Rhythms' and convenor of the panel *Forming Time, Making Memory: Using the Material and the Visual to Investigate and Articulate Temporality*, at the Swedish Anthropological Society (SANT), Gothenburg University, 2011.

'Performative Formations: Engendering Art and Anthropology in a Delhi Gallery', at the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), National University of Ireland, Maynooth, 2010, and *Transcultural Montage*, Aarhus University/Moesgard Museum, Aarhus, 2009.

'Photography as Conversation: Reflexive Field Methods', at the Norwegian Anthropological Society (NAF), University of Oslo, 2008.

'The Kolam Practice in South India: A Visualisation of the Female Duty of Increasing the Prosperity of the Home and its Prospect of Agency', at *Drishti: Experiencing Knowledge, Visually*, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 2007.