
ASWIN VIJAYAN

RESEARCH FELLOW, KSET- HISTORY

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

PhD candidate in History specialising in medieval and early modern South India, with a research focus on the Malabar Coast and Indian Ocean maritime history. Research interests include Indo-Portuguese and Indo-Dutch commercial encounters and the use of European administrative sources for South Asian history. Experienced in academic research, conference presentation, and undergraduate-level teaching engagement.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Maritime History of Medieval and Early Modern India
- Pre-Industrial Urbanization
- Socio-Economic History
- Indian Knowledge System (IKS)
- Philosophy of History & Historiography

EDUCATION

Ph.D.: History, Expected in 06/2026
Christ University - Bangalore

Karnataka State Eligibility Test: History, 07/2024
Karnataka Examinations Authority - Bangalore

M.A.: History, 2021
Mahatma Gandhi University - Kerala
CGPA 4.21/5

B.A.: History in Model II Archaeology and Museology, 03/2019
Mahatma Gandhi University - Kerala
CCPA 7.75/10

Plus Two: Humanities, 03/2016
Govt. H.S.S, Panamattom - Kottayam
Distinction

SSLC: 03/2014
Govt. H.S.S, Panamattom - Kottayam
Distinction

SKILLS

- Archival research and source criticism
- Data collection and analysis
- Research communication and presentation
- Qualitative research methods
- Historical and scholarly writing
- Library and archival resource management

● NVivo (qualitative data analysis software)

● Computer proficiency (MS Word and academic documentation tools)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Currently pursuing doctoral research on "Merchants, Rulers and Europeans: Politico-Economic Transition in Maritime Malabar" under the supervision of Dr Joseph C C, Vice-Chancellor and Professor of History, and Dr Sreemoyee Sarkar, Christ University, Bangalore.

Completed a dissertation titled "Port City of Kollam: A Historical Study on Urbanization, Maritime Trade and Economy, c. 800 – 1502 CE" under the supervision of Professor Dr James John as part of the fulfillment of MA in History, St. Thomas College (Autonomous), Palai, affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, Year: 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

A, Vijayan., "The Segmentary State Model and Medieval South Indian Polity: A Critical Review of Burton Stein." *Journal of Culture, History and Society* (JCHS), Jawaharlal Nehru University. **Forthcoming (April 2026).**

A, Vijayan., J. C. Chennattussery, and S. Sarkar. "Examining Malabar through the Lens of a 'Geo-body'." *Economic and Political Weekly* 60, nos. 43–44 (2025): 57–61.

Book Chapters

Contributed a chapter titled "Dissent, Sedition, Nationalism and Public Intellectuals in Contemporary India" in *Discourses of Freedom*, ed. Dona Elizabeth and Vishnu N., Co-Text Publishers, Kottayam, 2021 ISBN : 978-81-945054-7-1

Book Reviews

A, Vijayan., **Review of *Bravehearts of Bharat: Vignettes from Indian History*.** *Artha: Journal of Social Sciences* 22, no. 2 (2023): 71–74.

Conference Proceedings

A, Vijayan., "Relatório Sobre o Trato da Pimenta (1607) and the Portuguese Pepper Trade in Malabar." *Proceedings of the 84th Indian History Congress*. **Forthcoming.**

SEMINAR/ WORKSHOP/ PARTICIPATION/ ORGANIZATION

- The Portuguese in the Indian Ocean Region, The Malabar Coast 1500-1663 (International), PG Dept. of History, St. Thomas College, Participation, February, 2018
- One day Workshop on Manuscriptology, KE Archives and Research Centre, Mannanam, **Organizing Committee**, February, 2020
- V.S. Wakankar Memorial Lecture, IGNSA, New Delhi, Participation, June, 2020
- Maritime History Problems and Prospects by Pius Malekandathil, PG Dept. of History, STC, Palai, **Organizing Committee**, July, 2020
- Scope of Petrological Analysis in Studying Archaeological Ceramics, ICHR, Western Regional Circle, Pune, Participation, October, 2020
- Voyages through the trade networks in Kerala a retrospective review, Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle, Participation, November, 2020
- Samkshepa Vedartham 250th & Jnanapiusham 175th Anniversary, KE Archives and Research Centre, KE College Mannanam, and CHRIST, Bangalore, **Organizing Committee**, December, 2022
- Master Class and Workshop on Exploring the Dutch Archives, I-SHORE & Azhi Archives, Mattancherry, Participation, January, 2023
- 2nd International Society for Regional History Conference, Centre for Historical Studies (CHS), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, November 2024, **Presented; Region in Text: Tracing the Evolution of Malabar as a Region Through Historical Accounts.**

- 84th Session of Indian History Congress, Govt. Brennan College, Thalassery, December 2025, **Presented; “Relatório Sobre o Trato da Pimenta (1607) and the Portuguese Pepper Trade in Malabar.”**
- French Colonial Presence in India: Cultural Imprint & Decoloniality (1664-1954), Christ University, Bangalore, January 29&30 2026, **Organizing Committee**

RESEARCH, FIELDWORK, AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Job Training in Archaeology and Museology

Centre for Heritage Studies, Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala, Hill Palace Museum, Thripunithura (2018).

Training included museum practices, artefact documentation, cataloguing, and basic conservation.

Archaeological and Historical Fieldwork

- Conducted a one-day field exploration at the Early Historic archaeological site of **Keeladi**, Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu (26 November 2019). Documented surface finds, which were later placed at the Archaeological Museum, St. Thomas College, Palai.

Research Assistance

- Participated in a week-long coastal heritage exploration (14–21 December 2021) across **Kasaragod, Kannur, and Mahe** as part of the project *Coastal Heritage Sites in Kerala*, conducted under **Project Mausam (IGNCA & Ministry of Culture)** by Prof. K. S. Mathew. Engaged in field documentation and preliminary historical assessment of coastal sites.
- Undertook field-based explorations of coastal heritage sites in Kerala, contributing to the identification and contextualisation of maritime and historical landscapes.
- Assisted in organising and systematising research materials, including field notes and reference documents, ensuring effective archival and workspace management.
- Participated in regular research meetings to discuss project progress, methodological issues, and findings arising from field activities.
- Conducted literature reviews to support historical analysis, identify historiographical gaps, and contextualise field observations within existing scholarship.

Teaching Support and Administrative Engagement

- Participation in departmental and university academic administration at Christ University, since December, 2022.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS

- Member of Indian History Congress
- Member of History Association, PG Department of History St. Thomas College, Palai
- Annual Member of Chitra Darsana Film Society, Darsana Cultural Centre, Kottayam

LANGUAGES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Malayalam (native/bilingual) ● Hindi (professional working) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English (fluent) ● Tamil, Sanskrit, German, Portuguese (elementary) |
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REFERENCES

- Prof. Dr. K.S Mathew, Central Universities; Hyderabad & Pondicherry, Former Professor and Head of Department of History, , mskuzhipally@gmail.com (+91) 9447087076,
- Dr Christhu Doss, Assistant Professor, Centre for Historical Studies (CHS), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. (+91) 9911063197, christhudoss@mail.jnu.ac.in
- Dr Cyriac Jose, Assistant Professor, St Thomas College, Palai, Dept. of Archaeology, cyriakose@gmail.com, (+91) 9947925141