Speaker Profile :

Jay Ramesh is a Lecturer in Tamil and Sanskrit at Columbia University. His 2020 doctoral dissertation examined the manner in which shrines, cities, and their surrounding landscapes were eulogized by poets in both of those languages, and the importance of the collective memory of a mythic past in the experiences of devotees visiting those sacred spaces. His current research focuses on the religious importance of river landscapes in premodern Tamil Nadu and on the consequences of environmental degradation faced by Hindus in that region today. In addition to Columbia, he has previously taught at Claremont McKenna College, the University of Wisconsin and Stony Brook University.