

החוג ללימודי מזרח אסיה באוניברסיטת תל אביב
מתכבד להזמין אתכם לסמינר המחלקתי

The Department of East Asian Studies at Tel Aviv University
Cordially invite you to the Departmental Colloquium

11/6

Prof. Archana Venkatesan
University of California Davis

**Disordered Time, Disruptive
Narratives: The Maṭṭaiyaṭi
Utsavam at the Nanguneri
Temple, Tirunelveli**

Chair: Dr. Ilanit Loewy Shacham

יום ג', 12:00-14:00, גילמן 449

Tue., 12:00-14:00, Gilman 449



This talk discusses the Maṭṭaiyaṭi Utsavam (Quarrel Drama) that is celebrated in the month of Mārkaḷi (December-January) at several Viṣṇu temples in the Tirunelveli area of Tamil Nadu. This drama, which unfolds on the penultimate day of the twenty-one day Festival of Recitation, enacts a quarrel between Viṣṇu and his consorts. Over the course of this extended two-day drama, Viṣṇu initiates a recalcitrant devotee, goes in search of a lost jewel, is locked out of his temple home by his angry wives, and eventually is reconciled with them through the timely intervention of this same devotee. In this illustrated talk, I explore the theme of order and disorder by examining the Maṭṭaiyaṭi Festival at the Vāṇamāmalai Perumāl Temple, Nanguneri, along two intersecting vectors: the first tracing the ways in which the drama reorders time and rearranges narrative, while the second follows the unpredictable trajectory of capricious love and transformative grace.