My research focuses on the historical migration of the Tamil community between Sri Lanka and Malaysia from a religious and socio-economic perspective during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In order to showcase the societal relevance of my work during the twenty-first century, I want to discuss and expose modern-day migration of Sri Lankan and Indonesian people to the Netherlands with a local Dutch audience. In order to facilitate discussion, I want to have a cultural day showcasing Sri Lankan and Indonesian foods and feature typical Dutch snack items that have been influenced by these two cultures (i.e., kroepoek, bami and nasi fritters, curry, etc). Thus, one of the main activities for the day will be a cooking seminar surrounding how to make these foods with a discussion of how the ingredients used in these recipes migrant with the people. There will also be a showcase of South Asian singing with a brief lesson on the South Asian musical scale. Another activity idea is for Indonesian-Dutch and Sri Lankan-Dutch
people to tell their stories and exhibit pictures and clothing items on poster-boards during the event.

There will be various stakeholders for this initiative. Firstly, I seek to bring local Dutch people who have lived in the Netherlands for generations with first and second generation Sri Lankan and Indonesian migrants in order to serve as a catalyst for deeper conversations surrounding the experiences of migrant communities in the Netherlands. How do migrant groups assimilate into Dutch culture? Do long established Dutch inhabitants know about the experiences of migrants? I seek to also reach out to Sri Lankan-Dutch adoptees to add another layer to the migrant experience in the Netherlands.

2. Please explain the social benefit of your project and demonstrate the knowledge utilisation of your PhD project.

Food and music are two of the best ways to begin to understand the historical and contemporary experiences of a people. Sri Lankan and Indonesian people have contributed to the development of contemporary Dutch cuisine through the popularization of curries, nasi goreng, satay, peanut sauce, kroepoek, and snack foods like fritters and samosas. Just walk down the international food aisle at Albert Heijn, Jumbo, or Lidl and you will find an array of South and Southeast Asian products. On a Friday or Saturday night you will often see a crowd in the local Indonesian or Indian restaurant, as well as, the snack shops run by Asian-Dutch families. Dutch patrons now have access to the flavor-profile of South and Southeast Asia through cooking with ingredients from this part of the world, as well as, socializing with friends and family at restaurants. Music is also a powerful tool to learn about different communities in a nation. Music, like food, provides a space for fusion of ideas between communities and narrates the stories of people in new locales. The small exhibit with contributions from participants will also provide a space for these groups to tell their stories from their own perspectives.

Stories are told through these three mediums and serve as the gateway to discovering new cultures around us. Our discoveries often show us that we are not so different after all. We share the same hopes, dreams, and similar life experiences.

My work focuses on a migratory journey between South and Southeast Asia under colonialism. I analyze how Tamil people adapt to and change the new society they inhabit. I plan to include two colleagues who also work on the colonial history of Sri Lanka and Indonesia, as well. By understanding the colonial context and the migratory journey, we can come to understand the influence of these groups on their new nation throughout the colonial to post-colonial era. How does the navigation of a migrant group with a different locale not only show us how they are changed by the new society but also how they influence the society around them? By showcasing the food, stories, and music of Sri Lankan and Indonesian migrants, myself and colleagues plan to utilize our skills of historical and cultural training to provide an initial gateway for long established Dutch people and first/second generation Dutch people to come together and learn about each other. The event will be finalized with a brief 10 to 15 minute youtube video about the event, food, music and migration of these communities.
3. Please consider a detailed planning consisting of a timeline of deliverables as well as a budget plan to implement your initiative. All spendings must be planned for 2019.

Deliverables-Throughout February and April 2019: flyers for call of event via Facebook and through websites of Sruthy Music and Dance school and Paulami Spice Trip (chef who will be cooking for event).

- Call for stories and posters from Indonesian-Dutch and Sri Lankan-Dutch people throughout February and April 2019.

- Obtain event location, menu for event and songs for event, and ask student filmers to participant by March 2019.

- Start filming initial interviews with Sri Lankan-Dutch and Indonesian-Dutch participants throughout April-May 2019.

- Have event in June or July 2019.

- Edit footage throughout July and August and post youtube video by August or September 2019.

Budget- Location: 250 euros, Paulami chef: 300 euros, Music by Sruthy’s music school: 250 euros, extra drinks and snacks: 100 euros, Flyers and video editing: 100; Total: 1000 euros

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