

Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai

Department of Fine Arts

Title : Gender Fluidity in Tamil Theatre Therukoothu

Date and time: 19 May 2020, 4 pm – 5 pm

Resource persons: Ms. M. Meenakshi
Assistant Professor, Department of Fine Arts

Dr. V. Padma (Mangai)
Theatre Person, Activist and Academician

No. of participants: 132

Level: Faculty, Scholars and students

The webinar drew attention to gender neutrality and fluidity observed in male actors who perform in the Tamil Theatre Therukoothu. Ms. M. Meenakshi presented her study of how male performers approached genderplay physically and psychically and how they are perceived in the contemporary society. She spoke of how mixed audiences recurrently un-learn and re-learn notions pertaining to the realms of sexuality, motherhood and womanhood by watching these performances repeatedly.

The presentation was followed by insightful observations on Therukoothu by Dr. V. Padma (Mangai) who also engaged in a discussion with Ms. Meenakshi. The resource persons also interacted with the participants who posed a range of questions and observations.