



Deraniyagala the Visionary

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I have been aware of Dr. Deraniyagala's important research on the early prehistory of Sri Lanka since I was a student. His research brought the importance of the early people of Sri Lanka to global attention and helped us understand the chronology and behaviour of the first modern humans in South Asia. By drawing together detailed analyses of chronology, biogeography and ecology, morphology, and human behaviour, Dr. Deraniyagala's research has always been truly integrative. This depth of understanding inspired me as a younger researcher, and it still drives the cutting edge of archaeological research today.

When I first met and began to work directly with Dr. Deraniyagala in 2012, I came to know that his remarkable breadth as a researcher was mirrored by deep personal integrity and generosity. On my various research visits, he extended wonderful hospitality and we enjoyed numerous discussions of the deep and rich prehistory of Sri Lanka. During these discussions I became keenly aware of Dr. Deraniyagala's philosophical view of the discipline of Archaeology. He was committed to a longer term vision of our understanding of the past, focussing on big questions and interpretive nuance rather than short-sighted, short-term, or extractive research. Viewing Dr. Deraniyagala's contributions to science and knowledge, his lifelong stewardship of Sri Lankan cultural history, and as an ethical, kind and supportive colleague, he will be sorely missed. It is a tremendous privilege to publish research in honour of the life and career of Dr. Siran Deraniyagala.

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