



Deraniyagala - A True Academic

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Dr. Siran Deraniyagala was an archaeological giant, recognised around the world as the father of modern Sri Lankan archaeological research. A devoted prehistorian, much of what we know of the early human occupation in Sri Lanka is a direct result of his own research, and that of the students he mentored over several decades. His monumental volume, *The Prehistory of Sri Lanka* (1992), is still the standard synthesis of archaeological research across the island. In this regard, Dr Deraniyagala formulated the long-term research strategy, embedding Sri Lanka as a key location in understanding the history of our species.

I first met Dr. Deraniyagala at the start of 2018, working closely with him and several Sri Lankan colleagues since. He was a true academic in every sense, charismatic and inspirational, and possessing a critical mind and sharp intellect. Importantly, foremost in his mind in working with international researchers was the benefit to Sri Lankan archaeology and heritage, working in true collaboration to fundamentally support local archaeologists. Moving forward, we will miss his probing questions, critical discussion, support, encouragement, and mentorship.

ANCIENT LANKA 

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