

## **A Return to the Self: Subjectivity, the Body, and the Social Rupture in Anuk Arudpragasam's *The Story of a Brief Marriage***

### **A special talk with Dana Maller**

This lecture examines Anuk Arudpragasam's debut novel *The Story of a Brief Marriage* as a lens for exploring subjectivity in instances of extreme social rupture. Dinesh, a refugee of the Sri Lankan civil war and the novel's protagonist, develops complex, shifting relationships with his environment, objects, other refugees, and himself--all of which culminate in a transformative experience centered on the body and one's own relation and conception of the self--formed by sensory experience and pleasure. This lecture explores what avenues of subjective experience and subject formation are available and attractive to those in instances of extreme social rupture and how relationality--between objects, subjects, and one's body and oneself--are crucial components to developing and exploring our understanding of this question.

**Friday, April 29, 2022**

**12 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

<https://gcsu.zoom.us/j/99766242861?pwd=akVWcU9PRWlyZm1Vb1FYRnM4b0ZBdz09>



Dana Maller is a recent English & Critical Theory M.A. graduate from the University of Maryland. Her research interests include postcolonial literature, theories of the body, and the history of the novel. She was an undergraduate at GCSU, with double majors in English and Liberal Studies, and she will be in the doctoral program in English at UNC Chapel Hill in the fall. She has presented her work widely, including work on Charles Chestnutt, the Nuwabian nation, the self in Early Buddhist Sri Lanka" and autobiography and religious studies.



Co-sponsors: Women & Gender Studies Program, Department of Philosophy, Religion & Liberal Studies  
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