

# A BATTLE FOR THE SOUL

## Hidden Voices from India's Past

Presented by Hephzibah Israel  
Performed and edited by Annie George  
Music and Sound Design by Niroshini Thambar  
Introduction and Discussion led by Dr John Zavos, University of Manchester

### Readings from:

*Smruti Chitren*. Lakshmbai Tilak, First serialized in the Marathi weekly *Sanjivani* 1934-1937.  
English Trans. *I follow After: An Autobiography*. London: Oxford University Press, 1950.

*Theophilus Subrahmanyam: The Story of a Pilgrimage*. Charles Monahan,  
London: Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, 1922.

*Arunodaya: The autobiography of Baba Padmanji: Containing a description of his former life as a Hindu; and the causes which led to his conversion*. Baba Padmanji,  
Bombay: Bombay Tract and Book Society, 1908.  
English Trans. *Once Hindu: now Christian. The Early Life of Baba Padmanji. An Autobiography*.  
Edited by J.M. Mitchell. London: James Nisbet, 1890.

*From Zoroaster to Christ: An Autobiographical Sketch of the Rev. Dhanjibhai Nauroji, the first Modern Convert to Christianity from the Zoroastrian Religion*. Dhanjibhai Nauroji,  
Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, 1909. (Based on a shorter version in Gujarati, first published by the Bombay Tract and Book Society, n.p.: n.d.)

### The Project:

Conversion, Translation and the Language of Autobiography is a two year (2014-16) interdisciplinary collaborative project funded by the AHRC. The project team investigate how religions travel or 'translate' themselves across cultures and languages; and whether religions are transformed by the process of translation? The team have conducted archival work in the UK, Germany and India and unearthed hitherto unknown autobiographical accounts of religious conversion, many of which were translated from Indian languages, such as Tamil and Marathi, into English and German. The project aims to study how conversion experiences, when structured into narratives and translated, served to transmit and circulate ideas and forms of knowledge about Protestant Christianity in colonial South Asia. Please see <http://www.ctla.llc.ed.ac.uk> for more information on the project, where an online database of information on all conversion accounts collated will be made freely available to the public.

### Acknowledgements:

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#### Student Assistants:

Hannah Weatherill, MSc in Translation Studies, University of Edinburgh  
Eilidh Johnstone: MSc in Translation Studies, University of Edinburgh

Research Support Assistance (University of Edinburgh): Victoria Kincaid

**Hephzibah Israel** is Lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Hephzibah's research and teaching interests lie at the intersection of translation, religion and literature. She has studied the translated Bible as object of cultural transfer within evolving translation debates and practices across Indian languages. Her current research focuses on shifting patterns of language use in autobiographies of conversions to Christianity in India. She is Principal Investigator of a two year AHRC-funded project titled, "Conversion, Translation and the Language of Autobiography," (2014-16) studying the writing and translation of conversion accounts in colonial South Asia. She is author of *Religious Transactions in Colonial South India: Language, Translation and the Making of Protestant Identity* (Palgrave, 2011).

**Annie George** is a Kerala-born, Edinburgh-based, writer, director, performer and award-winning filmmaker. Her solo play, *The Bridge* was a Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme commission, and since toured Scotland. Other work has been presented across Scotland and at Contact Theatre Manchester, Oval House Theatre London, the Scottish Parliament and Edinburgh Fringe. She directed *I Knew A Man Called Livingstone* (Toto Tales) at National Library of Scotland, Scottish International Storytelling Festival and Storymoja Hay Festival Nairobi Kenya. In short film she was: Writer/producer of film poem *At Rana Plaza*; Director of *Curry and Irn-Bru*, a Real To Reel Award winner, nominated for Satyajit Ray Foundation Short Film Award, and screened internationally; Actor/development producer of award-winning shorts *My Daughter's Face*, and *Daddy's Girl* winner of Prix Spécial De Jury at Cannes Film Festival. Annie was actor and producer in the mid '90s, with Fringe First award winning CAT. A. Theatre Company. [www.anniegeorge.wordpress.com](http://www.anniegeorge.wordpress.com)

**Niroshini Thambar** is a musician and composer, creating work for theatre, installation, and with communities. Identity, migration and life story frequently inspire and thread her work. Recent soundtrack composition includes the award-nominated *Secret Life of Suitcases* (Ailie Cohen Puppets) and *The Bridge* (Annie George) commissioned for the Commonwealth Games 2014 cultural programme. Installations include *Transmission*, commissioned by the PRS foundation for Music and Drake Music Scotland, engaging with aging, memory and creativity. She also created *Memory Box*, inspired by identity, migration, and Sri Lankan diaspora experience as part of an Artist Residency with the Edinburgh Mela. Soundtrack collaborations with Nik Paget-Tomlinson include *From Here to There* (La Nua), *Moonbeam on a Cat's Ear* (Jabuti Theatre), and the sound design for *Drift* (Vision Mechanics and Nordland Visual Theatre) which has received a nomination in the Best Music and Sound category at the 2016 Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland. For more information visit [www.niroshinithambar.com](http://www.niroshinithambar.com)

**John Zavos** is Senior Lecturer in South Asian Studies at the University of Manchester. He has worked extensively on the Hindu nationalist movement and is the author of *The Emergence of Hindu Nationalism in India* (Oxford University Press 2000). As part of both his historical and contemporary research on Hindu nationalism he has explored the issue of conversion and its role in the formulation of modern religious and political identities. He was Principal Investigator on an AHRC-funded research network, the Public Representation of a Religion called Hinduism.



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