



## **Welcome from the Director**

Welcome to the 4th Annual Research Symposium on Social Sciences and Humanities (ARSSSH-2017) conducted by the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS) of Sri Lanka. ARSSSH-2017 mainly aims in bringing a wide audience including academics, professionals and policy makers, and research students representing all the disciplines coming under the domain of Social Sciences and Humanities under a single roof, where they deliberate and discuss the research, achievements and advancements in respective fields. Moreover, ARSSSH-2017 builds on a series of workshops, seminars held from the inception of the Centre and the first three symposiums held in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

NCAS is an institution set up within the University system under the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka to encourage and nurture reflective thinking and innovative ideas, and to support research characterized by creativity and originality in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities. The Centre strives to be a catalyst in fields of Social Sciences and Humanities by various means such as granting funds for carrying out postgraduate studies within the fields falling under the scope of the Centre, organizing short courses and seminars to enhance research capacities and skills of young researchers in the field, conducting annual and thematic research symposiums and workshops, publishing a Journal of its own namely, "Sri Lanka Journal of Advanced Social Studies", and supporting the publication of high quality work of local academics.

As mentioned, Annual Research Symposium is one of the key features in the annual agenda of the Centre. This year's symposium (ARSSH-2017) received about 96 papers. The peer review process for paper submissions had two stages: in the first stage, all paper submissions were reviewed by the members of disciplinary committees (desk review). Next, the papers were sent to anonymous reviewers for comments and recommendations. Finally, on the basis of the recommendation of the disciplinary sub committees 62 papers were listed for deliberation on today's Symposium. Well done! Congratulations for authors of all the successful papers.

ARSSSH-2017 would not have been possible without the enthusiastic and untiring work of a number of individuals. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Co-Chairs and Co-Secretaries of the Symposium, administrative and supporting staff of the NCAS, and the Symposium committee for their valuable contribution in organizing ARSSSH-2017. Special thanks go to the Keynote Speaker, Professor Sasanka Perera, Vice President, South Asian University, New Delhi for agreeing to deliver the Keynote Address of the Symposium on a timely topic. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the Anonymous reviewers for sharing their insightful views on the papers and the chairs of the technical sessions for agreeing to work with us towards the success of ARSSSH-2017.

We look forward to an exciting day of insightful presentations, discussions, and sharing of research findings with colleagues from around the country. We thank you for attending the symposium.

**Professor P. S. M. Gunaratne**

Acting Director / NCAS

Vice Chairman / UGC

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