

A special lecture on 'Language and Cultural Diversity'

Centre for Indian Psychology organises a special lecture on '**Language and cultural diversity**' by **Prof. S Sridhar**, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of Linguistics & India Studies, Director - Center for India Studies, Stony Brook University, New York on Thursday, 26 June 2014 at the School of Graduate Studies, J C Road, Bangalore.

Abstract:

In the special lecture, the speaker will examine some cross-cultural experimental evidence in psycholinguistics (sentence production), and recent studies in pragmatics and discourse organization in the area of second language acquisition to raise some questions about the relation between language, culture, and thinking.

Profile of the Speaker:

Professor Sridhar has been a member of the faculty at Stony Brook University since 1980. He has conducted extensive research in descriptive, theoretical and applied linguistics, including bilingualism, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, second language acquisition, and World Englishes. Sridhar is recognized as the world's leading authority on the linguistics of Kannada and has been influential in several areas of Indian linguistics. He has authored three books, including Kannada Grammar (Routledge), Cognition and Sentence Production (Springer), and co-edited Ananya: A Portrait of India (AIA, 1997) and Language in South Asia (Cambridge, 2008), and special issues of journals. His works have been widely cited, and reprinted.

Professor Sridhar has received research grants from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Education, and the American Institute of Indian Studies. He has been designated Senior/Superior Scholar in the Humanities by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has organized and been keynote speaker at many international conferences, and served on editorial board of journals and as evaluator for linguistics and Asian studies programmes and funding agencies. He is co-founder of the leading organization of South Asian linguists, South Asian Languages Analysis (SALA).

Professor Sridhar co-founded the Center for India Studies at the Stony Brook University, serving as its Director from 1997-2002 and 2008 to the present. In developing the Centre as a model of university-community partnership for academic, social and cultural enrichment, Professor Sridhar has successfully mobilized the Indian community in support of a multi-dimensional programme of India Studies. The Centre helps teach some 30 courses per year, sponsors distinguished Lecture and Performing Arts series, academic conferences, a dynamic Outreach Programme for school teachers, museums, public libraries, interfaith centers and civic organizations, offers scholarships and hosts a rich reference library. Ananya: A Portrait of India, edited by Professor Sridhar and

Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, and published by the Association of Indians in America, has been acclaimed as a splendid one-volume resource on Indian civilization. The Centre has conducted four Summer Study Abroad programmes in Bangalore. The Center is resource consulted by major media, and was the chief consultant for the nationally broadcast PBS documentary, Asian Indians in America. Stony Brook's President Shirley Strum Kenny described the Centre for India Studies as "the jewel in the Crown of Stony Brook." Prior to the establishment of the Centre, Professor Sridhar founded the India Society at Stony Brook in 1989 and served as its President until 1995. Professor Sridhar also successfully spearheaded the faculty effort for establishment of a new Department of Asian and Asian American Studies at Stony Brook, and served as its Founding Chair from 2002-8. The department teaches some 100 courses per year.

Professor Sridhar attributes his successes to the crucial contribution of his wife and colleague, Dr. Kamal K. Sridhar, the vision and dedication of the Indian community on Long Island, the marvelous education he received in India and in the U.S., supportive colleagues and administrators, his great teachers and friends, and the Bhagavad Gita's value of "doing the right thing, without looking for personal reward," which his parents instilled in him.