

**Janice Leoshko (University of Texas at Austin)**

**The Significant Place of Geology for Ananda Coomaraswamy**

There are many claims concerning the significance of Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy (1877-1947) and his writing about South Asia. While his time as the Director of the newly established mineralogical survey of Ceylon (1903 to 1907) is widely acknowledged as an important aspect of his development, exactly what this means remains unclear. This is in part due to faulty assumptions long held about the nature of his work there. My project reframes the perception of Coomaraswamy through a careful consideration of the surviving evidence of his mineralogical efforts. How did his participation in newly developing sciences (geology), practicing new technologies (photography) and contributing to new periodicals and various new events (exhibitions) leaven his Sri Lankan experiences and shape his scholarly studies even after he abandoned his scientific career?