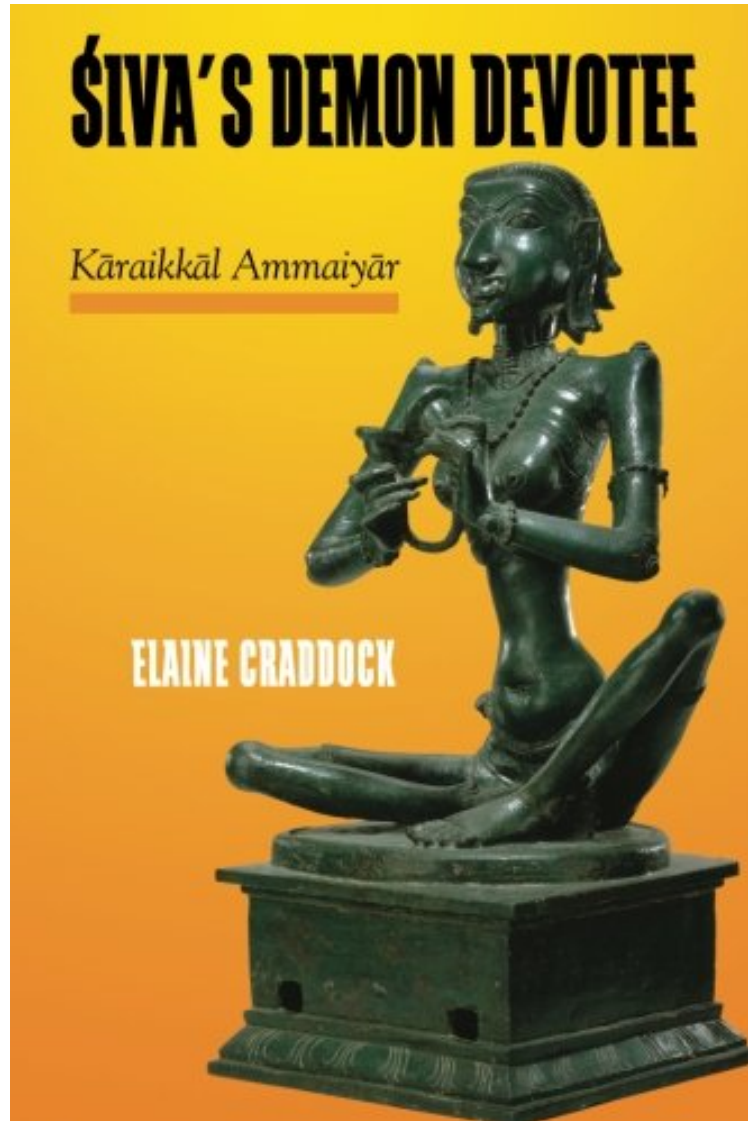


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Siva's Demon Devotee: Karaikkal Ammaiya

Elaine Craddock

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Elaine Craddock : Siva's Demon Devotee: Karaikkal Ammaiya before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Siva's Demon Devotee: Karaikkal Ammaiya:

An exploration and translation of the work of Hindu poet-saint Karaikkal Ammaiya.

The book's greatest strength is its systematic and comprehensive approach to Ammaiyar. What Craddock has contributed to the study of South Asian religious traditions is a detailed, informative, well-written book that I anticipate will be recognized as the standard work on Kraikkal Ammaiyar. Tracy Pintchman, *Religion*

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From the Back Cover

The Hindu poet-saint Kraikkal Ammaiyar describes herself as a demon, accompanying the god iva as he dances in the cremation grounds. She is believed to be the first to write devotional poetry to iva in the Tamil language and is considered the first of the sixty-three Tamil poet-saints. Written in the sixth or seventh century, her beautiful poetry presents the path of love and service that brings liberation. In *iva's Demon Devotee*, Elaine Craddock provides a historical, literary, and ethnographic exploration of Kraikkal Ammaiyar and her work. An annotated translation of the poet-saint's 143 verses is included along with an introduction to the Tamil literary tradition. Craddock's analysis of this poetry in its ancient context and of the narrative tradition that developed around the life of Kraikkal Ammaiyar centuries later reveals cultural tensions concerning women's roles and the devotional path.

About the Author

Elaine Craddock is Professor of Religion at Southwestern University.