The south-western coast of India known as the Malabar Coast, already familiar to the Europeans, was one of the regions subject to the process of intense botanical transfers under successive European powers such as the Portuguese and the Dutch. The Dutch East India Company established itself as a major trading company in the Indian Ocean after capturing the city of Cochin in Malabar from the Portuguese in 1663. Of the many Dutch Governors who served for VOC in Malabar, Adriaan van Rheede is best known for the legacy of *Hortus Malabaricus*, a botanical treatise he compiled on the flora of Malabar. The work was published as a 12 volume series from 1678 to 1693 over fifteen years. Hailed as the first European-Indian collaborative work on native flora, *Hortus Malabaricus* contained information on 725 plants and has 791 illustrations of the flora of Malabar. The intricate relationship between European medico-botanical knowledge and indigenous knowledge systems of the early modern period has been garnering attention since the last two decades. Building on this impressive body of knowledge, this paper will attempt to locate *Hortus Malabaricus* in the growing literature of botanical knowledge networks of early modern period and turn attention into the native medicinal systems and knowledge production of Malabar under the Dutch East India Company.

**Biographical information**

Meera G Muralidharan is currently a PhD candidate and tutor in History at the Department of History, Victoria University of Wellington (VUW), New Zealand. Her doctoral research investigates the role played by cartography and botanical knowledge networks in the knowledge production of Malabar by the Dutch East India Company (17th-18th centuries). Prior to joining Victoria University, she taught at the Department of History, Union Christian College, Kerala. Her diverse research interests in early modern period extend to the histories of environment, trade, culture and the narrative traditions of the Indian Ocean world. She earned her first Masters in History from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (2013) and her second Masters in Colonial and Global History from Leiden University, The Netherlands (2015). Her Master’s thesis ‘Construction and Reconstruction of Authority in Keralolpatti’ was shortlisted for the Master’s Thesis Award by International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden (2015).