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SOCIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CEYLON

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ABSTRACT

This paper traces the evolution of the Department of Sociology from its scattered beginnings at the end of the 1940s decade, up to its establishment as a small but full-fledged department in 1956, a journey reminiscent of the heterogeneous origins of sociology in Britain itself. It reflects on the department's liminal existence in the margins of other departments, and the marginality of its founders, first as foreigners, and next as local intellectuals searching for an identity. It documents the existence of a department without a programme for granting degrees, and the eventual establishment of such a programme in 1956, still retaining the marks of its previous nomadic existence. It contrasts the eventual institutional solidification of the department with the fluidity of its faculty personnel, and relates both the extraordinary creativity of department's early era and its volatility to changing social and political conditions, including rise of different brands of nationalism, and America as a desirable destination for higher studies.

FULL PAPER WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE SHORTLY.

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