The Light of Knowledge

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The Light of Knowledge: Literacy Activism and the Politics of Writing in South India.

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This book is the product of many conversations and exchanges with family, friends, activists, and colleagues. I thank the friends and families who have made me feel at home in Pudukkottai. S. A. Karuppiah, an activist whom readers will come to know well through the course of this book invited me to come live with his family in Kovilpatti. Karuppiah remains a lifelong friend and his interpretations of the Arivoli Iyakkam and life in Tamil Nadu more broadly have played a very large role in shaping my own. I thank him and everyone in Kovilpatti, especially S. Arangulavan, S. A. Tangavelu, K. Rajalakshmi, N. Nadiyammai, and D. Minakshi for their care, companionship, and affection. K. Amutha and her sisters, D. Nadiyammai and T. Sridevi, helped me with survey work. In Katrampatti Colony, N. Velan and V. Rajalakshmi taught me about the pasts of a village. Many thanks to A. Chithra, A. Govindammal, K. Kuttaiyamman, V. Marakatham, K. Nadimuthu, S. Nalayini, K. Palaniyai, N. Parimala, N. Racamani, A. Santhi, S. Santhi, K. Sudha, K. Sumathi, T. Vinitha, and all those who opened their hearts to me in
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