



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP



Plural Ecologies and Planetary Justice : Intercultural Approaches to Rethinking Climate Crises in the Global South

DATES : 01 - 07 APRIL, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, IIT KHARAGPUR

Overview :

The climate crisis represents one of the most pressing challenges of the twenty-first century, demanding not only technological or policy-oriented responses but a fundamental rethinking of the epistemological and ontological assumptions that have shaped human relations with the natural world. This project argues that the contemporary ecological crisis is inseparable from modernity's colonial understanding of nature as an external, passive, and territorially bounded domain to be mastered, exploited, and transformed into a resource for human use. Such an understanding, historically entangled with colonial expansion and capitalist extraction, has produced modes of inhabiting the world that intensify ecological destruction and climatic instability.

Drawing on postcolonial, decolonial, and intercultural frameworks, the project critically examines non-modern ways of experiencing and conceptualizing nature that have been marginalized or erased by colonial power relations. It pays particular attention to intercultural perspectives from East Asia, which are often underrepresented within postcolonial debates predominantly centered on South Asian contexts. These perspectives are not approached as alternative cultural "views" of a single, universal nature, but as distinct ontological formations that articulate different relations between humans, non-humans, and ecological worlds.

By thinking with the non-modern, the project explores how diverse experiences of nature generate geo-centered subjectivities—forms of self-understanding, cultural meaning, and ethical orientation that emerge from specific ecological relations rather than from abstract human exceptionalism. Such subjectivities challenge the persistence of modernity's anthropocentric and extractivist frameworks and open possibilities for reimagining human–nature relations in ways that are responsive to climatic precarity. Ultimately, the project demonstrates that taking non-colonial and intercultural ontologies of nature seriously is crucial for moving beyond the limits of modern environmental thought and for developing more plural, situated, and ethically grounded responses to the climate crisis.

Subthemes :

Modernity, Colonialism, and the Ontology of Nature

This subtheme examines how modernity conceptualizes nature as an external object separate from the human subject. It traces how this ontology was globalized through colonialism, restructuring landscapes, economies, and ecological relations across the world. The subtheme interrogates how this legacy continues to shape contemporary environmental discourse and climate governance.

Climate Crisis as an Epistemological and Ontological Problem

Moving beyond technocratic understandings of climate change, this subtheme approaches the crisis as a problem rooted in dominant ways of knowing and being. It critiques sustainability and management-driven responses that reproduce modern instrumental rationality, arguing for the need to rethink the foundational categories through which nature is understood.

Postcolonial and Decolonial Critiques of Environmental Modernity

This subtheme draws on postcolonial and decolonial scholarship to highlight the entanglement of ecological degradation with colonial histories of extraction and dispossession. It also critically reflects on the limits of postcolonial environmentalism when it inadvertently retains modern universalist assumptions about nature.

Intercultural Ontologies of Nature

Focusing on intercultural perspectives, this subtheme emphasizes the plurality of ecological ontologies that exist beyond Western modernity. It resists the homogenization of non-Western thought and instead foregrounds culturally embedded ways of relating to land, ecology, and non-human life.

East Asian Experiences of Nature and Ecological Relationality

This subtheme brings East Asian traditions into the conversation, highlighting relational, process-oriented, and non-dual conceptions of nature. By doing so, it addresses the relative absence of East Asian ecological thought in postcolonial and decolonial climate discourses and demonstrates its relevance for contemporary ecological crises.

Geo-Centered Subjectivities and Ecological Selfhood

Here, the focus shifts to subjectivity formation. This subtheme explores how different experiences of nature produce distinct forms of selfhood and cultural meaning. It contrasts modern autonomous subjectivity with geo-centered subjectivities grounded in relational ecological contexts.

Thinking With the Non-Modern: Methodological and Ethical Implications

This subtheme articulates the project's methodological stance of thinking with rather than merely about non-modern perspectives. It emphasizes epistemic humility, ethical openness, and dialogical engagement as necessary conditions for reimagining climate thought beyond colonial and anthropocentric limits.

You Should Attend If...

- You are a student at all levels or a faculty member from reputed academic institutions and social, political, and religious institutions.
- You are a Masters student, research student, or faculty of Humanities and Social Science disciplines interested in areas of Planetary Ecology, Decolonial Thinking, New Humanities, and Ecological Crises.
- You are a cognoscenti, writer, intellectual, member of the intelligentsia or some industrial house interested in or likely to benefit from Critical Theory, Philosophy, Art and Literature, Politics, and Sociocultural concerns or interdisciplinary mode of research.

Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/KfUCApFUywz36k98>

Fees :

The participation fees for taking the course are as follows:

- Research Scholars: Rs. 10,000.
- Faculty & Academic Institutions: Rs. 10,000.

Speakers :



Prof. Kirsten Sandrock is Professor and Chair of English Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Würzburg, and works primarily in the areas of early modern literature and colonial encounters. Her publications include the monograph *Gender and Region: Maritime Fiction in English by Canadian Women, 1976–2005* (2009) as well as the articles 'The Quest for Authenticity: History and Class in Ian Rankin's Rebus Novels' (*Scottish Literary Review* 3.1 [2011]) and 'Rethinking the Region in Canadian Postcolonial Studies' (*Zeitschrift für Kanada-Studien* 31.2 [2011]). She also co-edited the essay collection (with Owain Wright) *Locating Italy: East and West in British–Italian Transactions* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2013).



Prof. Marie Mianowski is Professor of Anglophone Literature and Irish Studies at Grenoble Alpes University. In 2012, she edited *Irish Contemporary Landscapes in Literature and the Arts* (Palgrave Macmillan). She is the author of *Post Celtic Tiger Landscapes in Irish Fiction* (Routledge, 2017). Her research focuses on the representations of place and landscape in Irish contemporary literature, especially representations of the processes of home-making in contexts of displacement. She also studies the politics and representations of hospitality and homelessness, as well as the representations of Jews in Irish literature. She has published many articles on the works of Colum McCann, Colm Tóibín, William Trevor, Anne Enright, Dermot Bolger among others.



Prof. Saugata Bhaduri is Professor of literature and cultural theory at the Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Professor Bhaduri has entertained numerous research interests over the years, spanning continents and centuries. He has produced talks and articles on the subjects of translation, popular culture, diasporic cultures and language. He was invited as a visiting scholar and professor in the United Kingdom, Germany and Poland notably. His latest book *Polycoloniality: European Transactions with Bengal from the 13th to the 19th Century* (2020) is published by Bloomsbury.



Prof. Simi Malhotra is Professor of English as well as Director of the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research at Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University) in New Delhi, India. She is a specialist in literary and cultural theory as well as culture studies, with special focus on postmodernism, the interface of the globalizing media with politics, as also folk cultural forms. She is the PI of a new two-year research and teaching cooperation with English Studies at Würzburg University, entitled "New Terrains of Consciousness: Globalization, Sensory Environments and Local Cultures of Knowledge", which has just been approved for funding.



Prof. Ananya Roy Pratihar is an Assistant Professor in Communication Studies at the Institute of Management and Information Science, Bhubaneswar, India. Her research interests include Decolonial Studies, Deleuze studies, Film Studies, Eco humanism, Communication Studies and Cultural Studies. Dr. Pratihar has jointly edited books *Deleuze, Guattari and the Schizoanalysis of the Global Pandemic: Revolutionary Praxis and Neoliberal Crisis* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023), *Technology, Urban Space and the Networked Community* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). She was a visiting Faculty at the Institute of English and American Studies, University of Oldenburg, Germany in May 2024 and in the Department of Anglophone Literature and Culture at Göttingen University (1-15 November 2025).

Coordinator :



Prof. Saswat Samay Das is an Associate Professor at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India. His research aims at critically engaging with assemblages of New Humanities such as Continental philosophy, Deleuze & Guattari Studies, Decolonial Studies, Environmental and Planetary studies. He was a visiting Professor at the Institute of English and American Studies, University of Oldenburg, Germany in May 2024 and in the Department of Anglophone Literature and Culture at Göttingen University (1-15 November 2025). His books yield reconstructive insight into diverse contemporary issues and remain committed to yielding new line of flights against deadlocking mobility of global capitalism. Some of his recent books include: *Technology, Urban Space and the Networked Community* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), *Deleuze and the Global Terror*, (Edinburgh University Press, 2022), *Deleuze, Guattari and the Schizoanalysis of the Global Pandemic: Revolutionary Praxis and Neoliberal Crisis* (Bloomsbury, 2023) and *Deleuze, Guattari and the Schizoanalysis of Post-Neoliberalism* (Bloomsbury, 2024). Some of his forthcoming books are *Religion Politics & New Materialism: Philosophical Perspectives* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025) & "Outside" Political Economy: New Networks of Media & Digitality (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025). He has published in well-known international journals such as *Philosophy in Review*, *Deleuze Studies*, *Cultural politics*, *Theory & Event*, *Contemporary South Asia*, and *Economic and Political Weekly*.