

Webinar on
ECO-ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN SOUTH ASIAN ANGLOPHONE
LITERATURE
Organized by
The Department of English
Tezpur University
21 – 22 April 2021

Considering the convergence between ecocriticism and location studies, this webinar proposes to examine the representation of eco-environmental and ecological consciousness in South Asian Anglophone Literature. Issues concerning the environment, whether direct or indirect—say, climate crisis, coastal and inland pollution, deforestation, space crisis, urbanization, mass migration, insiderism, extractivism, livelihood challenges, capitalism, neo-imperialism, among others—find their way into literature and literary cultures. While there have been attempts to universalize the issues on a global template, it makes sense to look at the specifics of the convergence. South Asian Anglophone Literature has responded to the crisis by foregrounding its apocalyptic contours, whether to raise our awareness or to mark the doom that awaits us. Anglophone South Asian writers such as Amitav Ghosh, Arundhati Roy, Indra Singh, Romesh Gunsekera, A. Sivanandan, Chandani Lokuge, Uzma Aslam Khan express their concerns about the environment by telling stories of humans alongside nature in a manner that is compelling and persuasive. Clearly, the unique histories and trajectories of the convergence between traditions of ecoenvironmental consciousness, science, modernity, writing, and resistance, across South Asia require a more detailed analysis make the issues compelling to the writers of the region. It would be interesting to examine how the environment question in South Asian Literature is interlaced with questions of postcoloniality, modernity, nationalism, gender, power, ethics, the anthropocene, and so on.

We invite abstracts of around 300 words for papers that deal with but not limited to the following themes related to South Asian Environment and Ecological consciousness as represented in South Asian Anglophone Literature from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Sub-themes:

- Literature in and out of Environmental Politics
- Literature and Environmental Ethics
- The Environmental Bildungsroman
- Water Bodies, Forests, Landscapes, Cityscapes, Parks and Gardens and Literature
- Violence, Dystopia, Disasters and the Environmental Imagination
- Ecotourism and its Discontents

- The Travel Writer and the Environment
- Pushing the Anthropocene
- South Asian Ecofeminisms
- Gender and Environment
- Colonialism and Green Imperialism
- Nonhumans, Animals, Humans, and the Posthuman

Dr. Esther Daimari
Convener

Dr. Reetamoni Narzary
Convener

Abstracts should be sent to
ecowebinartu21@gmail.com

Deadline for receiving abstracts: 30th March 2021

Date for communication of acceptance: 4 April 2021

Deadline for receiving full papers of approx. 4000 words: 18th April 2021

Webinar dates: 21st and 22nd April 2021

We will share the webinar link(s) at an appropriate period. All our business sessions will be in the evening (16.00-19.30 IST) so that speakers from other time zones are not inconvenienced).