



# Ecotones 4: Partitions and Borders

# Programme

CSSSC, Seminar Room 2

13 15 December, 2018

Convened by

Dr Thomas Lacroix (Maison française d'Oxford and MIGRINTER, UMR-CNRS University of Poitiers, France )

Dr Judith Misrahi-Barak (EMMA, University Paul Valery Montpellier 3, France)

Dr Nalini Mohabir (Concordia University, Montreal, Canada)



## Thursday 13 December

9.00-9.30 Registration

9.30-9.45: Opening of the conference by Prof Rosinka Chaudhuri and welcome address by the conference convenors: Dr Thomas Lacroix, Dr Judith Misrahi-Barak and Dr Nalini Mohabir

### **9.45-11.00 Rural to Urban: Migrations and Transformations in the Ecotone**

Chair: Debjani Sengupta

**Avishek Ray: Territorializing Space: Heuristic Articulation of the Vagrant in 1940s Bengal**

**Kavya Michael: Shifting Geographies and Moving Vulnerabilities: A Case of Study of Migrant Waste Pickers from West Bengal in Bengaluru**

**Marianne Hillion: City or Village? Calcutta as a Transitional Zone in the Works of Amit Chaudhuri and Other Indian Writers in English**

11.00-11.15: coffee / tea break

### **11.15-12:15 South/North Entanglements**

Chair: Alexis Tadié

**Subrata Biswas: Ecotone: A Postcolonial Platform for Marketing Bengal**

**Jill Didur: Shadow Places and the Environmental Picturesque in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss***

### **12.15-13.15: Keynote 1: Srilata Ravi: Mapping and Muddling Bengal's Cultural Frontiers: from Claude Martin to Shumona Sinha**

Chair: Judith Misrahi-Barak

13.15-14.15 Lunch

### **14.15-15.30 Post-Partition Negotiations of Borders**

Chair: Thomas Lacroix

**Pallavi Chakravarty: Identifying the 'genuine' Refugee in post-Partition Bengal: State v/s the Partition-Refugee (1947-71)**

**Maidul Islam: The Intrusion of Infiltration in the Discourses of Immigration, Citizenship and Refugee: Examining the Political Rhetoric in Contemporary Assam and Bengal**

15-30-15.45: coffee / tea break

### **15.45-16.45 Gendered Ecotonal Spaces**

Chair: Ritu Tyagi

**Nibedita Mukherjee: "and thus began her very own tale": Ecotone and the First Female Autobiography in Bengal**

**Debjani Sengupta: Ecotone Borders: Movement, Porosity, Livelihood in Sunanda Bhattacharya's short fiction from Tripura**

## Friday 14 December

### 9.45-10.45 Identities in flux: land and water (1)

Chair: Priya Sangameswaran

**Subhamita Chaudhuri: The East Kolkata Wetlands: the Peri-urban Ecotone at the Eastern Fringe of Kolkata**

**Debdatta Chowdhury: Lands and communities in flux: Riverine border *chars* as transitional zones**

10.45-11.00: coffee: tea break

### 11.00-12.00: Identities in flux: land and water (2)

Chair: Anirban Das

**Rituparna Mitra: Affective Ecologies, Heterogeneous Identities, and Embodied Memory in the Partition Novel *Khoabnama* by Akhtaruzzaman Elias**

**Sumit Singha: Mithilanchal, Malda and Bengali Muslims: An Exploration of Ecotonal Confluences**

**12.00-13.00: Keynote 2: Annu Jalais: The Human and the Nonhuman: Bengali 'environmental' ecotones and their deep contradictions**

Chair: Nalini Mohabir

13.00-14.00 Lunch

### 14.00-15.15: The Hungry Tide

Chair: Srilata Ravi

**Nishi Pulugurtha: Landscape, Territory and Survival in Tide Country: Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide***

**Julie Banerjee Mehta: Unpacking the Suitcase of Hybridity in *The Hungry Tide***

**Alexis Tadié: Climate Change and the Literary Imagination in the Sundarbans: the Writer as Activist**

15.15-15.30: coffee / tea break

### 15.30-16.30: Environmental Ethics in the Ecotone

Chair: Nalini Mohabir

**Harish C. Mehta: Mangrove Narratives from the Mekong Delta and the Sunderban**

**Urmi Sengupta: 'Speaking Land, Speaking Power': Interrogating the Ecotonal dynamics of Indigeneity across Canada and India**



## **Saturday 15 December**

### **9.45-11.00: Cultural Scapes**

Chair: Annu Jalais

**Sanjukta Naskar: Deconstructing Collected Folktales Through New Ethnospaces**

**Ranu Basu: The subaltern tides of Kumirmari, Sunderban: The ebbs and flows of educational spaces**

**Jonathan Bishop Highfield: Fish, Rice, and Sweets: Food, literature, and the Bengali ecotone**

11.00-11.15: coffee: tea break

**11.15-12.15: The Space of Ships across the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean**

Chair: Judith Misrahi-Barak

**Ritu Tyagi: Boat Journeys from Calcutta to Mauritius in Contemporary Literature**

**Tina K. Ramnarine: The Ecotone as Musical Metaphor in Revisionist and Decolonising Scholarship on Indian Indentureship**

**12.15-12.45: Conclusions and looking forward**

Open discussion / roundtable chaired by Thomas Lacroix, Judith Misrahi-Barak and Nalini Mohabir

13.00-14.00 Lunch

**Visit to the Maritime Heritage Centre or Port Heritage Tour (TBC) organised in association with the Kolkata Port Trust**