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