

International e-Conference on Environment, Literature and Culture

(Organized during the global fight against the COVID-19 PANDEMIC)

11th & 12th September, 2020



HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH SOCIETY

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www.herso.org

ABOUT US

Higher Education and Research Society is a Mumbai based international learned society concerned with the advancement and understanding of higher education, especially through the insights, perspectives and knowledge offered by the systematic research and scholarship. The society aims to be the leading international organization in the field to support and disseminate research and education. We commit sustainable development and focus on the solutions to spread the scientific attitude in academicians and citizens, practical and solution-based approach to higher education in general; introduction of applied education, social inequality, awareness of literature and language, climate change and many more.

The Society intends to play a role of a catalyst to enable researchers in different regions and disciplines to exchange information, share discussions on professional and theoretical issues, and initiate and co-ordinate research. Purely committed to the cause of academics in a 'top-down pattern', the prime goal of the society is to encourage and foster research by providing a platform to showcase the innate research aptitude of the academician. Promoting academic research and scholarship into Language and Literature, Humanities, Basic Sciences, Technology and Management streams, the society is determined to bring about a scholarly get-together of the intellectuals. The society has to its credit seven mega international conferences at Pune and Nagpur with 400 plus delegates, a workshop and many MoUs with Research Centers.

CONCEPT NOTE

"...when it has become clear that global warming is in every sense a collective predicament, humanity finds itself in the thrall of a dominant culture in which the idea of the collective has been exiled from politics, economics, and literature alike."

-The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable (2016)

Thus laments Amitav Ghosh about the absence of collective efforts to stall environmental degradation. Human apathy like a proverbial ostriches burying their heads in sand or "after me the deluge" attitude has catapulted the environmental crises to the acute dimension. Human-caused global warming has led to increased temperatures, extreme weather events, massive storms, unprecedented drought, flooding, wildfires, melting ice, sea rise, warming and acidification of oceans, and growing animal extinctions. Scientists now predict that, within a generation, planetary catastrophes may significantly disrupt global food production, create unlivable temperatures in many regions, submerge cities, and create hundreds of millions of refugees. Unchecked climate change has apocalyptic consequences not only for human beings, but for all life on earth. Climate change, deforestation and threats to biodiversity, land, water and air pollution and all forms of ecological crisis have affected not only human lives but also environmental sustainability itself. Writers and environmental literary critics justify their research as contributing to the alleviation of environmental crisis and therefore to the survival of life on earth. For example, Lawrence Buell argues that scholars in this field foreground cultural texts such as literature and film in approaching the environment because, "The success of all environmentalist efforts finally hinges not on 'some highly developed technology, or

some arcane new science' but on 'a state of mind': on attitudes, feelings, images, narratives...trust in the power of imagination is not a literary scholar's idiosyncrasy".

Environmental literature can lead to assumptions that novels or poetry should speak about the environment as if they are scientists, politicians, or environmentalists. Poetry, novels, and films are used in education about conservation or to draw eco-tourists to socially and environmentally contested locations. Literature and culture, across the limits, frames and dimensions of time and direction, address and explore environmental concerns. As earth's only literary and lettered being, which is intellectually superior to all other organism, human being has greater accountability towards the maintenance of ecological balance. This necessitates the study of the literary scholars, environmental activists across the globe as they address the diverse ways in which environments are imagined, produced, and articulated in diverse contexts and mediums and the consequent changes in humanistic discourses in the context of global climatic changes.

Culture is associated with the geography of a landscape. For example, Synge's *Aran Island*, Hardy's *Wessex*, R.K. Narayan's *Malgudi*, Rabindranath Tagore's *Breezy April*, Sarojini Naidu's *Summer Woods*, Dilip Chitre's *The Felling of the Banyan Tree*, Gieve Patel's *On Killing a Tree*, Baldoon Dhingra's *Factories are Eyesore*, and Keki N. Daruwalla's *Boat-Ride Along the Ganga* etc have their impact on characters of their writings. Culture is something which has been created over the years by the people who have been living in environment for ages. William Shakespeare's plays such as *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Tempest*, Thomas Hardy's novels such as *Far From the Madding Crowd*, *Tess of D'Urbervilles*, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, the Romantic poetry, postcolonial works like Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Chicano writings like Gloria Anzaldua's *Borderlands* also voice environmentalist concern. William Wordsworth, the high priest of nature, is not only a staunch believer that, "nature never did betray the heart that loved her" but he recommends that one should "Let Nature be your teacher".

Environmental criticism or Green/Ecocriticism is a broad way for literary and cultural scholars to investigate the global ecological crisis through the intersection of literature, culture, and the physical environment. It is an earth- centered approach, the complex intersections between environment and culture, believing that human culture is connected to the physical world, affecting it and affected by it. Ecocritical study is an interdisciplinary one since it calls for collaboration between natural scientists, writers, literary critics, anthropologists, historians, and more. The first wave of ecocriticism emphasizes on nature writing as an object of study while, the second wave seeks to break down the long- standing distinctions between the dichotomy of human and the non-human. Pastoral, one of the tropes of ecocriticism, is an idealization of the nature and the rural and the demonization of the urban. Wilderness, another of the tropes of ecocriticism, in old world, showed wilderness as a place beyond the borders of civilization, wherein wilderness is treated as a "threat," a place of "exile". In most of the mythological texts wilderness is a place where the personages from royal families are deserted and kept for years for their misconduct. While in New World Wilderness, the wilderness is seen as a place of retreat. It is no more a place to fear, but as a place to find sanctuary. In some

of the literary and mythological texts the persons are banished out of kingdom as a punishment or because of the political greed of their rivals.

Ecocriticism draws its sustenance from the existing literary theories. Therefore, new theories like Post-colonial Ecocriticism, Ecofeminism, Ecomarxism, Ecospiritualism are coming into light. Ecofeminism, as a branch of ecocriticism, analyzes the interconnection of the oppression of women and nature, drawing parallels between domination of land and the domination of men over women. Ecofeminists examine these hierarchical, gendered relationships, in which the land is often equated with the feminine, seen as a fertile resource and the property of man.

Given that environmental issues encompass diverse areas and complex intertwinements of ideology, politics, economy, technology, culture and society, this year Higher Education and Research Society, New Mumbai has planned the international e-conference to facilitate the scholars, writers, researchers and students to share their ideas in saving our planet. The conference focuses on the interface of sustainability, ecology and the environment as reflected in literature and culture. The conference hopes to explore how literature, culture and ecocriticism can engage with such ideas, and inquire into their implications for ethics, politics, subjectivity, collectivity and aesthetics as these relate to environmental questions.

The theme “Environment, Literature and Culture” along with its sub- themes reflects the interconnected and interdisciplinary nature of the conference. It is expected that it will draw insights from the diverse fields of literature, sociology, gender, anthropology and cultural studies, addressing key issues such as global warming, queer ecology, dichotomies of nature/culture, as well as interrelationship between community and land. The aim is to provide a platform for sharing concerns, encountered practical challenges, solutions and innovations with which participants from various fields and disciplines gather forces to cherish Mother Nature for better sustainable future.

While focusing on the interface of sustainability, ecology and environment as reflected in literature and culture, it examines as well as expects researchers, scholars, academicians and activists across the globe to examine how the writers have addressed ecological crises and environmental challenges that cut across national, cultural, socio-political and linguistic borders by particularly being sensitive to issues of sustainability. A study of how literature and culture addresses and explores environmental concerns, drawing insights from the diverse fields of literature, sociology, gender, anthropology and cultural studies is anticipated to be churned out in the e-conference.

We invite participants to join us and extend this conversation, bringing methodologies and perspectives from across the humanities and social and natural sciences to explore key themes of climate justice, settler colonialism, decolonization, racial capitalism, sovereignty, food justice, democracy, rights, more-than-man worlds, among others. We also hope to put perspectives from literary and cultural studies, theatre and performance, film and the visual arts into conversation, as well as inviting engagement with a widening disciplinary gyre that has increasingly become a productive characteristic of environmentalist literature.

SUBTHEMES

- ✓ Pandemic, Film and Literature
- ✓ World during and after COVID-19 Pandemic
- ✓ Biological Warfare and Literature
- ✓ Nature and Human Vulnerability
- ✓ Environment: Utopia and Dystopia
- ✓ Literature and Sustainability
- ✓ Rural Literature
- ✓ Literature and Solving Real World Problems
- ✓ Social Justice and the Environment
- ✓ Sustainable Agriculture
- ✓ Literature and Intercultural Competence
- ✓ Gender and the Environment
- ✓ Eco-Feminism and Gender Studies
- ✓ Theories and Practices in Ecocriticism
- ✓ Green Literature
- ✓ Environment and Dystopian Literature
- ✓ Translation and Environment
- ✓ Tourism and Environment
- ✓ Religion and Environment
- ✓ Environmental Concerns and Performing Arts
- ✓ Environment-Based Education
- ✓ Classroom Research in Environment
- ✓ Critical Pedagogy and Environmental Awareness
- ✓ Language Teaching and Environmental Concerns
- ✓ Literature and Green Future
- ✓ Global and Regional Concerns
- ✓ Environment and Industrial Revolution 4.0
- ✓ Ecological Interdisciplinarity and Literature
- ✓ Environmental Justice and Decoloniality
- ✓ Activism and Environmental Crisis
- ✓ Animal Rights and Literature
- ✓ Romanticism and Literature
- ✓ Paganism and Literature
- ✓ Pantheism in Romanticism
- ✓ Industrialization and Literature
- ✓ Literature and Globalization
- ✓ Conquest of the New World in Literature
- ✓ Early Modern Travel Writing

- ✓ Ecocritical Theory
- ✓ Pastoralism in Literature
- ✓ Landscape Aesthetics in Literature
- ✓ Literature and Natural History
- ✓ Nature in Medieval Literature
- ✓ Rhetoric, Science, and Environmental Writing
- ✓ Women Writers and the Environment
- ✓ Cultural Ecology and Literary Studies
- ✓ Ecocultural Potential of Literature
- ✓ Ecocriticism and Cultural Ecology
- ✓ From Nature-Worship to Civilizational Critique
- ✓ Ecological Thought and Critical Theory: From Antagonism to Alliance
- ✓ Literature as Cultural Ecology
- ✓ Cultural Ecology and Material Ecocriticism
- ✓ Paganism as a Way of Life
- ✓ Environmental Ethics in Literature
- ✓ Environment in Historical Writing
- ✓ Economy and Ecology
- ✓ Ethics and Ecology
- ✓ Environment and International Bully
- ✓ Environment in Popular Culture
- ✓ **Any other topic(S) relevant to the theme of the Conference**

- All the sessions will be conducted in “**Online Mode**” including Keynote, Inaugural, Valedictory and Paper Presentations for which all the participants will be provided a **web link** for joining with detailed schedule before the Conference.
- The participants may send ABSTRACT of their standard research papers **up to 5th September, 2020 (Regular Fees)** or after **5th September, 2020 (Late Fees)** to **icelc2020herso@gmail.com** conforming to the “Submission Guidelines” uploaded on **www.herso.org**
- **Kindly note that submissions are welcome till the date of the Conference. However, the late fees should be paid for the Submissions after 5th September.**
- The link for “Registration Form” (Google Form) will be sent after the submission of abstract. The details regarding selection will be communicated within two days from the date of submission of abstract.
- The registration process has to be completed within three working days from the date of selection of the abstract.

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

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- Registration fees should be paid through NEFT/Online Payment within “three working days” as per the guidelines mentioned in the “SELECTION MAIL.”
- **Registration up to 5th September, 2020** : Rs. 1000/- (For Indian Delegates)
- : Rs. 1500/- (For Foreign Delegates)
- **Registration after 5th September, 2020** : Rs. 1300/- (For Indian Delegates)
- : Rs. 1800/- (For Foreign Delegates)
- The Registered Delegates are entitled to get their research paper published in “Peer Reviewed” online Journal: *Journal of Higher Education & Research Society: A Refereed International* (ISSN 2349-0209) October 2020/April 2021 issue “subject to approval” by the reviewers.
- The “Selection Mail” following submission of ABSTRACT contains all the detailed guidelines regarding publication. The authors need to follow them strictly.
- The approved submissions to be presented in this e-conference or some other relevant paper should be mailed ‘separately’ only as per the guidelines mentioned in the “SELECTION MAIL.”
- The only email for publication related communication is:
hersomumbai@gmail.com
- The final decision regarding publication of the article resides with the Convener / Organizing Secretary.

Dr Madhavi Nikam
(Organising Secretary)

Dr Sudhir Nikam
(Convener)