



One Day National Seminar  
on

# Decolonizing the Nature: Literary Contexts

20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Organised by:

Department of Humanities (English)

**MIDNAPORE CITY COLLEGE**

Venue:

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Memorial Hall

**MIDNAPORE CITY COLLEGE**

[www.mcconline.org.in](http://www.mcconline.org.in)

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

“Decolonizing nature” and “ecocriticism” are two concepts that intersect in the broader discourse of environmental studies and the relationship between human societies and the natural world. The concept of decolonizing nature is rooted in the recognition of the historical and on-going impacts of colonialism on the environment. Colonial powers often exploited natural resources for economic gain, leading to ecological degradation and disruption of indigenous ways of life.

Decolonizing nature involves challenging and transforming the dominant narratives, practices, and power structures that perpetuate environmental injustices. It seeks to acknowledge and restore indigenous knowledge and practices regarding the land, emphasizing a more reciprocal and respectful relationship between humans and the natural world. Central to decolonizing nature is the acknowledgment of indigenous perspectives on land, resource management, and ecological sustainability. This includes recognizing and valuing traditional ecological knowledge that has been passed down through generations.

Ecocriticism is a literary and cultural theory that examines the ways in which literature and other cultural artefacts reflect and shape human attitudes toward the environment. It emerged as a response to environmental issues and concerns about the ecological impact of human activities. It also analyses how nature is represented in literature, film, art, and other forms of cultural expression. It explores the connections between humans and the environment, critiquing anthropocentrism and encouraging a more sustainable and ecologically aware worldview. Ecocriticism often adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on insights from literature, philosophy, science, and environmental studies to understand the complex relationships between humans and the natural world.

Ecocriticism also extends its discourse to the philosophical, political theory and movement that combines the ecological concerns with feminist ones, regarding both as resulting from male domination of society. Ecofeminist analysis explores the connections between women and nature in culture, economy, religion, politics, literature and iconography, and addresses the parallels between the oppression of nature and the oppression of women.

Both the ideas 'decolonizing nature' and 'ecocriticism' challenge Western-centric perspectives that have often marginalized indigenous knowledge and contributed to environmental exploitation. The intersection emphasizes the need for cultural and environmental justice, recognizing the interplay between social justice and ecological sustainability. Together, these concepts encourage a re-imagining of human-nature relationships, promoting a more holistic and inclusive approach that values diverse cultural perspectives and acknowledges the interconnectedness of all living beings.

## **OBJECTIVES AND RATIONAL**

The aim of this conference is to bring all national scholars together to investigate the intersection of between two concepts 'decolonizing nature' and 'ecocriticism' that underscores the importance of recognizing and rectifying historical injustices, fostering ecological sustainability, and embracing a more inclusive and diverse understanding of humanity's place within the natural world.

We invite research papers for the conference covering the themes as listed below.

## **SUB-THEMES**

- Nature as character and Metaphor
- Nature and Colonialism
- Nature and Women
- Environmental Justice
- Eco-poetics
- Eco-spirituality
- Eco-consciousness and Indigeneity
- Wilderness and Urban Landscapes
- Green Politics
- Anthropocene
- Postcolonial Ecocriticism

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

1. Abstracts (300 words) with a short bio-note (100 words) are invited from academicians via mail: [englishseminar2024.mcc@gmail.com](mailto:englishseminar2024.mcc@gmail.com) by 10th January, 2024 in two separate MS word file.
2. The full paper prepared as per MLA 8th or 9th Edition should positively reach us via mail: [englishseminar2024.mcc@gmail.com](mailto:englishseminar2024.mcc@gmail.com) by 25th January, 2024 for publication with ISBN No.
3. The full paper should be typed in British English using MS Word format with paper size: A4; Font type & font size: Times New Roman, 12. Spacing: 1.5; Margin 1 inch on all four sides.
4. The title of the paper should be in bold and contain both capital and small letters and the font-size of the title should be 12, centred at the top of the first page. Only the author's name, (without Dr/Prof, his/her affiliation, address and contact no. E-mail) should be centred with font-size 12 in the second line just below the title.
5. Maximum length of the paper will be 3500 words (including citations) and not less than 2500 words (2500-3500 words). No abstract will be incorporated / attached inside / with the main book chapter.
6. Bio note: Maximum 100 words ; kindly mention your name with Dr/Prof in front of it as the case may be, your affiliation details, your research interests, any special achievement /award that you feel needs to be mentioned. Please send a separate MS word file by 25th January, 2024 to the mentioned mail-id (Please do not write any extra point other than the mentioned ones).

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**Selected abstracts will be published in seminar proceeding and full papers of those abstracts will be published in an edited volume published by a reputed national publisher with ISBN No.**

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**\*\*\* Those who are submitting abstracts and opting for paper presentation, kindly wait for the confirmation of the selection of your abstract before registration.**

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Last date for submission of Abstract:	10.01.2024
Notification of Acceptance:	12.01.2024
Last Date for submission of the full paper:	25.01.2024
Last Date of Registration:	06.03.2024
Conference Dates:	20.03.2024

## REGISTRATION DETAILS

All the participants have to register for the conference through the following link:

<https://forms.gle/QXXvuWJkgaRw6Ekk7>

## FOR PARTICIPATION

	Registration Fee
Students (Indian)	Rs. 250.00
Scholars/ Academicians/ Teachers (Indian)	Rs. 500.00
Foreign Participants (Offline)	USD 50.00

**Normal participants have to register themselves on spot through payment in cash.  
No other platform for registration is available.**

## FOR PAPER PRESENTATION & PUBLICATION PROCESSING FEE

	Within 06.03.2024	Spot Registration
For Academicians/ Teachers (Indian)	Rs. 1200.00	Rs. 1300.00
For Scholars (Indians)	Rs. 800.00	Rs. 900.00
Foreign Participants (Offline)	USD 100.00	USD 150.00

## REGISTRATION AND MODE OF PAYMENT

Registration Form will be available from our college website:

[www.mcconline.org.in](http://www.mcconline.org.in) → **Conferance Registration**

& Registration Fees will be paid in the Bank Account.

Bank Name : **Punjab National Bank**  
Account No. : **0297050310154**  
Branch Name : **Satbankura**  
IFSC : **PUNB0029720**

## ROUTE MAP

Distance of the venue from Midnapore Railway Station is 6 Km. The distance between Midnapore Central bus stand via Keranichati near Bhadutola is 5 km.

## PLEASE NOTE

No TA/DA shall be reimbursed for paper presentation and/or participation in the seminar. Participants shall arrange their own travel and accommodation facilities. However, a list of reasonable and affordable places to stay may be provided on request.

# Organizing Committee

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Founder Director.

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Dept. of Paramedical and Allied Health Sciences.

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Dept. of Humanities.

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Dept. of Humanities.

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**Mr. Samar Das** (Assistant Professor of Education)  
Dept. of Humanities.

**Other Members of Organizing Committee:**

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(Assistant Professor of Education), Dept. of Humanities.

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**Ms. Piyali Das** (Research Scholar of Bengali)  
Dept. of Humanities.

# RESOURCE PERSONS



**Professor (Dr.) Sambit Panigrahi** Professor, Department of English, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha.



**Dr. Asijit Dutta** Assistant Professor, Department of Liberal Arts, SRM University, Andhra Pradesh.



**Professor (Dr.) Indranil Acharya** Professor, Department of English, Vidyasagar University.



**Professor (Dr.) Joyjit Ghosh** Professor, Department of English, Vidyasagar University.

And Many More...

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- Dr. Shraboni Pradhan** Assistant Professor of Nutrition, Dept. of Paramedical and Allied Health Sciences, Midnapore City College.
- Dr. Anindya Sundar Polley** Assistant Professor in Post Graduate Department of English, Munger University, Munger.
- Dr. Uttam Kumar Jena** Associate Professor of English, K.D. College of Commerce and General Studies, West Bengal, India.



## Venue:

A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Memorial Hall

**MIDNAPORE CITY COLLEGE**

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