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RAVENSHAW
UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

HUMAN, ANIMAL, AND NATURAL
HISTORY: AN ECOCRITICAL
APPROACH TO WORLD LITERATURE

29-31 JANUARY, 2025



ORGANISED BY

**THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH**





Keynote Speaker

Prof. Philip Edward Phillips
Professor of English
Middle Tennessee State University
US

Plenary Speakers



Prof. Saugata Bhaduri, JNU



Prof. Dipti Ranjan Patnaik, BHU



Prof. Nirmal Selvamony,
Central University of Tamil
Nadu



Prof. Himadri Lahiri, NSOU



Prof. Baliram Gaikwad,
University of Mumbai

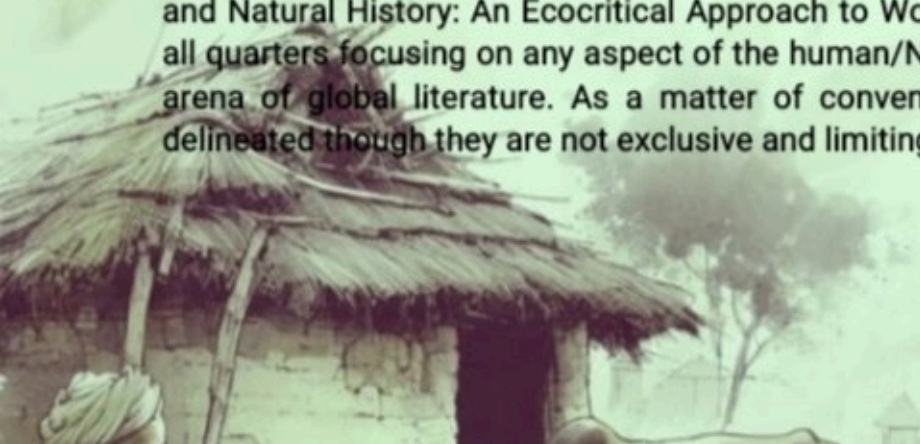
In the annals of western humanism, Nature has mostly remained a mute 'presence' rather than a dynamic 'process.' The genealogy of its treatment as a silent 'other' carries us back to the Nature-derogating principles embedded in classical Greek Philosophy and Christian mythology. It is however *The Enlightenment* that attributed man with the capacity for reasoning while delineating Nature and animals as entities bereft of such quality. The rationalist domination of the 'human' over Nature was legitimized and encouraged by Enlightenment pioneers such as Bacon who urged man to attack and vanquish Nature and thereby 'extend the bounds of the human empire.' The anthropocentric imperatives of the philosophical, theological and scientific domains of western intellectual tradition associated the 'human' with the notion of 'progress' while relegating Nature and animals to the margins of civilization.

However, there are strands of western and oriental philosophies that describe Nature as an all-encompassing terrain where humanity is conceptualized as one of the several. The Greek notion of the Earth-goddess Gaia as a self-sufficient super-organism operating beyond the narrow confines of human interventions is a prime example. In the domains of oriental philosophy and literature, we find Nature-gods and animal-gods controlling the destiny of humanity. In Vedic philosophy, for instance, Nature is conceived as the living manifestation of divinity.

Despite the overwhelming presence of diverse strands of human/Nature and human/animal relationships in the ambit of global literature and philosophy, the dominant strand of thought nevertheless advocates for the conceptualization of Nature and animals as quintessential 'others' to humanity—'others' that are supposedly inferior and irrational in opposition to the so-called superior status of the rational human being. Such marginalization of Nature/animals by humans offers a perspective of departure within the domain of eco-critical studies which pose serious contestation to such established notions about the superiority of the 'human.'

The representation of the human/Nature/animal dynamics in the realm of world literature is startlingly diverse and variegated. In a text like *Metamorphosis*, Gregor Samsa's metamorphosis into a roach is seen as a despicable phenomenon whereas in *The Chronicles of Narnia* an animal like the lion becomes the symbol of ethical and virtuous qualities of the 'human.'

Based on these precepts, the proposed international conference titled "Human, Animal and Natural History: An Ecocritical Approach to World Literature" invites papers from all quarters focusing on any aspect of the human/Nature/animal dynamics in the vast arena of global literature. As a matter of convenience, the following subtitles are delineated though they are not exclusive and limiting.



SUB-THEMES

- Ecology and Literature
- Re(presenting) the Environment
- Ecology as the Discourse of the “Other”
- Ecocriticism & Ecofeminism
- Ecocritical Dialogics
- Ecofeminist Dialogics
- Ecopoiesis
- Ecosophy
- Environmental Ethics
- Place and Space
- Nature Vs Culture
- Animal Rights
- Planetary Environmentalism
- Pastoral Literature
- Anthropocene Horror



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Rules for Registration

- Participants are requested to send their abstracts (500 words) along with their short profile by **8th of November 2024**, to conferencerudoe@gmail.com
- The full papers in (Latest MLA Style, 3000-5000 words, to be presented within 10 minutes) may be submitted by 30th of December 2024, to conferencerudoe@gmail.com. The papers submitted without registration fee shall not be considered for selection.
- Registration fee: Rs. 2000/- (for paper presentation) and Rs. 500 (for participation).

Important Dates

Call for Papers : 15 September 2024

Deadline for abstract Submission : **8 November 2024**

Notification for Selection : 15 November 2024

Deadline for Full Paper : 30 December 2024

Date for Registration : 16 November 2024 - 31 December 2024



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Registration Form



Registration Fees
Payment

We look forward to your Participation!

Please Email Your queries, if any, to :
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