

**CENTRE FOR CANADIAN STUDIES
JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sustainability, Memory and Loss: Ecological Heritage and Pathways in Canada and India

**International Conference on Canadian Studies
5-6 February 2025**

“The environment is so fundamental to our continued existence that it must transcend politics and become a central value of all members of society.” – David Suzuki (1997)

The keen awareness of an interconnected world draws attention to the multidisciplinary nature of sustainability and the inherent discourse of memory and loss. The representation of a constructed past and a contested present – underscore the significance of narrative as a discursive mode, with the potential to destabilize the symbolic foundation of nations and collective identities thereby offering a transforming aesthetic of contingency, unknowability and the deferment of resolution. Mnemonic relationships are manifest in the ecological heritage and pathways in the context of both India and Canada. Institutional, cultural, social, environmental, economic, and technological narratives foreground ways in which multidimensional expansions of sustainability can be imagined in personal and collective circumstances. Further, the Conference would explore ways in which sustainability heritage and ecological memory evoke cross-disciplinary practices across diverse cartographies and revolve around environmental challenges to heritage and possibilities of transformation and participation in inherited ecological pathways.

The Conference would critically engage with the opportunities, constraints, and challenges of ecological heritage across Canada and India. The larger purpose of the Conference would be to articulate an ecological elegy for a crucial moment of tumultuous environmental upheaval and devastation and “cultural severance” thereby moving towards a direction of positive and resilient action.

The Conference would also take cognition of new vocabularies and newer aesthetics relevant to expressions of sadness, anger and loss over the disappearance, degradation and loss of ecological sites, objects and ways of life. By reimagining subject and community, the Conference aims to facilitate a new mode of historical memory that resists the totality of nationalist projects and foregrounds an epistemic crisis in ecological terms. The Conference would also highlight ways in which archives may reflect or resist community memory and collective identity and the larger politics of preservation and documentation, with particular reference to technology and traditional knowledge systems as well as how technologies may posit possibilities of creating newer virtual communities in flux.

The Conference would like to invite papers that explore the multiple ontologies and epistemologies through which cultural and natural heritage have actively intervened in redrawing the futures of the world, especially in the context of India and Canada. The Conference welcomes papers that reconfigure ecological heritage and pathways for the complex circumstances of a fragile present and an uncertain future. Sub-themes for the Conference as given below:

- Liminality and Ecological Memory
- Adaptation and Resilience

- New climate ethics
- Eco-frictions and global politics
- Eco-fantasies and the limits of planetarity
- 2SLGBTQIA+ interventions and ecological pathways
- Historical injustice and ‘landscapes’
- Dissonant heritage and the politics of anticipation
- Home, exile, healing
- Indigeneity and Resistance
- Nationhood and Identity
- Ecomaterialism
- Precarity and borders
- Collective identities and new vocabularies

Abstracts (400 - 500 words) along with a 50-word bio-note are to be sent to ccsju@jadavpuruniversity.in by **2 December 2024**. Acceptance will be intimated by **15 December 2024**.

Please note that the abstract must reflect a clear understanding of Indo–Canadian Studies. Students at the undergraduate level can only submit abstracts for poster presentation.

Only overseas participants would be considered for online presentation, if all logistics work. Registration would be required.

From 2017, the Centre for Canadian Studies, Jadavpur University has introduced two student awards for the best paper presented at a regular session at the Conference as follows:

1. “Victor Ramraj Memorial Prize” for the best paper in Canadian Diaspora Studies
2. “Renate Eigenbrod Memorial Prize” for the best paper in Indigenous Canadian Studies

- A student may apply for only one of the above-mentioned prizes and should indicate the same during abstract submission. Joint authors would not be eligible to participate. The student must be registered as a current Masters or PhD student at a college/ University/ Research Institute. Previous awardees (within the last three academic years) in any category would not be eligible to apply.

- In order to be considered for the prize and upon acceptance of the abstract, completed papers (2500 words excluding bibliography, Chicago Stylesheet, 17th Edition) should be emailed as both pdf and word files by **15 January 2025**. Inability to adhere to given deadlines and formats would lead to instant disqualification and the students would not be shortlisted for the prize.

- Only shortlisted students would be eligible to compete for the prize but all students whose abstracts have been accepted would be eligible to present their paper at the conference.

- The Prize(s) would be awarded only if the Screening Committee believes in the originality and academic excellence of the submission. The decision of the Screening Committee would be final.

Registration information as given below for both participants and attendees (Includes Lunch/ Refreshments/ Conference Kit)

Faculty: Rs. 800 + 18% GST = Rs. 944/-

Postdoctoral Scholar: Rs. 600 + 18% GST = Rs. 708/-

PhD Scholar/ Independent Scholar: Rs. 400 + 18% GST = Rs.472/-

UG/PG Students: Rs. 300 + 18% GST = Rs. 354/-

Foreign Delegates: USD 50 + 18% GST = USD 59

Please send a copy of the transfer document/receipt along with transaction ID with your details, including name, affiliation, address, email-id and contact number at ccsj@jadavpuruniversity.in

Attendees must send a request for registration with all details at ccsj@jadavpuruniversity.in by 20 January 2025

Information about registration link will be provided ONLY after acceptance of papers/ requests for attendance.

Deadline for completion of registration: **31 January 2025.**

Pre-registration is mandatory.

Accommodation

Participants will make arrangements for their own stay. Suggestions for possible places to stay can be provided on request.

Conference Coordinators:

Professor Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Coordinator, Centre for Canadian Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata – 700 032

Professor Debashree Dattaray, Deputy Coordinator, Centre for Canadian Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata - 700032

Organising Committee:

Abhilash Banerjee (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Sayan Mazumder (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Sahil Sapui (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Titir Chakraborty (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Tias Basu (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Suchorita Chattopadhyay (Faculty member, Jadavpur University)

Debashree Dattaray (Faculty member, Jadavpur University)