

Managing and Governing Resource in the ‘Anthropocene’: Political Ecological Explorations from South Asia

Overview

The ‘nine planetary boundaries’ framework postulated in 2009 by a group of 28 internationally renowned scientists ascertain that crossing these boundaries could generate abrupt or irreversible environmental changes (Stockholm Resilience Centre 2009). Unfortunately, the age of ‘anthropocene’ is upon us and humanity is rapidly transgressing these boundaries that include climate change, atmospheric aerosol loading, stratospheric ozone depletion, loss of biodiversity, etc. Within this critical juncture it is important to decouple the ‘natural’ from natural resources and critically explore management and governance of natural resources across political-economic imperatives within particular historical conjectures. Resource utilisation, management and governance are at the heart of contemporary development processes. The use of resources implies transformation of nature – and the environment – into commodities that have market values. Resource endowments involve complex power dynamics. In social science literature and also international policy recommendations of our contemporary times, there has been a paradigm shift in the conceptualization of ‘resource governance’ with only management-oriented emphasis (that defines governance as the exercise of authority or power in order to manage a country’s resources – UNDP, World Bank, and OECD) to structures and processes that are designed to ensure accountability, equity, inclusiveness, empowerment and broad-based participation (UNESCO). Application of the political ecology framework or more specifically ‘pathways approach’ that take into account functioning mechanisms across multilayered and multivalent processes involving multiple stakeholders (the state, NGOs, TNCs, heterogeneous communities, grassroots action groups, etc.) towards exploration of resource governance could be a useful and tangible direction towards plural and dynamic sustainabilities. The course will illuminate how this transformation – from nature to material commodities through a variety of resource processes can be understood at a theoretical plane, followed by a detailed elaboration of how these understandings can be coupled with contemporary policy processes on resource-related development, for example, the Sustainable Development Goals. The course encompasses a wide range of topics beginning from how nature and society co-constitutes resources and the environment, to resource governance and policies.

The absence of this kind of research orientation and application to critically understand and interrogate resource governance within the huge, diverse and complex South Asian (especially Indian) context, loaded with colonial and neoliberal encounters and lived, yet, unexplored community experiences and realities are impetus to make the sojourn exciting.

Modules	A: Duration : November 26 – December 1, 2018 B: Venue : Department of HSS, IIT Kharagpur Number of participants for the course will be limited to fifty.
You Should Attend If...	You are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Faculty member, PhD, MPhil scholar, Project Fellow and Researcher who work on/are interested with various aspects of environmental social sciences ▪ Practitioner involved in resource management and governance across different levels from bureaucracy to civil society organizations ▪ Researcher and resource persons involved with NGOs and grassroots action groups working at the community level
Fees	The participation fees for taking the course is as follows: Participants from abroad : US \$200 Industry/ Research Organizations: INR 10000 Academic Institutions (Faculty): INR 3000 Students: NIL The above fee is inclusive of instructional materials, computer use for tutorials and assignments, laboratory equipment usage charges, 24 hours wi-fi. However, it does not include food, accommodation and other logistics. Accommodation and food will be arranged for participants on payment basis.

The Faculty



Prof. Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt is a Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University (ANU). She has led research on precarious livelihoods in environmental resource dependent communities in India, Laos, Indonesia and Mongolia. Her publications include *Between the Plough & the Pick* (edited, ANU Press, 2018), *The Coal Nation* (edited, Ashgate, 2014), *Dancing with the River: People and Lives on the Chars in South Asia* (co-authored, Yale University Press, 2013), and *Water First: Issues and Challenges for Nations and Communities* (co-edited, Sage, 2008).



Dr Jenia Mukherjee is Assistant Professor at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur. Her research interest spans across environmental history, political ecology, and development studies. She is recently studying the 'hydrosocial' dynamics in the Lower Gangetic Basin. In 2013, she was awarded the World Social Science Fellowship by the International Social Science Council, UNESCO. In 2010 and 2015 she received the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of Australia sponsored Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship (ALAF) for her research on land(water)scapes in south Bengal. She is presently investigating international and national projects sponsored by AHRC (UK), ICHR (India), SSHRC (Canada), etc. She had published books, articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes including *Sustainable Urbanization in India: Challenges and Opportunities* (edited, Springer, 2018).

Course Coordinator

Dr Jenia Mukherjee

Department of Humanities and
Social Sciences

Phone: 03222-283628

E-mail:

jenia@hss.iitkgp.ernet.in
and/or

jeniamukherjee@gmail.com

Mobile: 08017246499

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<http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/GREGN>