

PRE-CONFERENCE

13 January Afternoon (3 PM onwards)

Plant Consciousness:
A Visit to the Bi-Centenary Museum at Presidency University
Curated by Dr. Upal Chakrabarti

Followed by Tea

DAY 1 — 14 JANUARY

9:30 – 10:00

Welcome Tea

10:00 – 10:20

Opening Circle

(led by Stefano Rozzoni)

10:20 – 11:00

Conference Inauguration

(P C Mahalanobis Auditorium)

10:20 AM to 10: 30: Introduction

10.30-10.35 AM: Welcome Address by Dr. Anirban Ray, Head of the Department, English

10.35-10.45 AM: Address by Prof. Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Presidency University

10.40-10.45 AM: Address by Dr. Debajyoti Konar, Registrar, Presidency University

10: 50- 11:00: Concluding Remarks by Professor Sumit Chakrabarti

11:00 – 12:15

Plenary Multilogue: Existential Posthumanism

Francesca Ferrando, Debashish Banerji and Sumit Chakrabarti

Moderated by Md Monirul Islam
(P C Mahalanobis Auditorium)

12:15 - 12:30
Tea Break

12:30 – 1:30
Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 1: Vegetal Subjectivities

Session Chair: TBA Biological Sciences

Speakers

Ahana Bhattacharyya, Faculty Member, Chakdaha College — Yeong-Hye Becomes a Tree: A Posthumanist Study of Han Kang’s *The Vegetarian*

Tohidur Rahaman, Faculty Member, Sripat Singh College — Posthuman Existentiality of “Weeds” and “Plants” in Gardening Citizenship: Examining Relationality of Arrangement and Displacement through Photographic Practices

Aditi Roy, Student, Presidency University — The Vegetal Rebirth: Bodily Autonomy and Posthuman Interconnectedness in Han Kang’s *The Vegetarian*

Mousumi Paul, Research Scholar, University of Engineering and Management— Entangled Identities: A Posthumanist Reading of *How I Became a Tree* by Sumana Roy

AK Basak 1: Nature as Subject

Session Chair: Dr Debanjana Nayek, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers

Saikat Chakraborty, Doctoral Researcher, Kazi Nazrul University — Natural Sublimity as Crisis: Interrogating Human Supremacy in Ranen Ghosh

Debosmita Routh, Student, Presidency University — Under His Eyes Beyond His Reach: Posthuman Resistance in Atwood’s *Gilead*

Hariom Singh, Faculty Member, University of Allahabad — The Posthuman Re(turns): Sublime as a Mode of Being in Sara Wheeler’s *Terra Incognita*

Soumya Sur, Doctoral Researcher, IIT Mandi — Toward an Inclusive Discourse of War Suffering: Expanding the Affective and Ethical Boundaries of Conflict

1:30 – 2:30
Lunch Break

2:30 – 3:30
Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 2: The Anthropocene, Question of Agency, and Geopolitical Precarity

Session Chair: Dr Zaad Mahmood, Professor, Department of Political Science, Presidency University

Speakers:

Dr Koyel Basu, Faculty Member, Jangipur College — Posthumanism in the Anthropocene Era: Challenges to International Relations

Apurba Mandal, Doctoral Researcher, Presidency University — Existential Posthumanism and the Rohingya Community: A Reading of Roshidullah Kyaw Naing's Poetry Collection, *The Painful Life of Rohingya: The Voices of Rohingya Genocide Survivor to the World* (2022)

Sainaz Farzana Kazi, Doctoral Researcher, Presidency University — Contagious Becoming: Nonhuman Agency and the Deconstruction of Victorian Dualism in Marryat's *The Blood of the Vampire*

Agni Guha Khasnobis, Student, Pondicherry University — Posthuman Intimacies and the Crisis of Connection: Jeanette Winterson's *Frankissstein* in the Age of the Anthropocene

AK Basak 2: Monster Hybridities

Session Chair: Dr Kalyan Kumar Das, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers

Reeswav Chatterjee & Shalini Chakraborty, Doctoral Researchers, Bankura University & NIT Agartala — "Hastar Aa Jayega": Anatomy of Humanism's Horror in the Locus of Posthuman Bodies

Rifat Ara Khatun, Doctoral Researcher, IIT Kharagpur — Breaking Free from Humanism and Branching Towards Posthumanism: Tracing Posthuman Reflections in Gieve Patel's Art

Ajith K. Cherian, Faculty Member, GITAM Hyderabad — Feral Images & Howling Words: Stasis & Anastasis in László Krasznahorkai & Max Neumann's Graphic Novella *Animalinside*

Safia Yasmin, Doctoral Researcher, Visva-Bharati — "The Stone-eater, Giants, Ventriloquists, the Invisible Girl, ... All jumbled up together, to compose, A Parliament of Monsters": A Study of Posthuman Body and Death in Nineteenth-century Britain

3:30 – 4:30
Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis3: Spiritual Posthumanism

Session Chair: Dr Sukanya Sarbadhikary, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Presidency University

Speakers

Kaushiki Chowdhury, Student, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad — You Are a Cosmic Dream: Reimagining Theory through Interactive Fiction

Sruti Bhaumik, Student, Banaras Hindu University — Of Rituals, Rivers, and Rebirth: Towards an Ethics of Posthuman Coexistence

Aiswarya M. G., Doctoral Researcher, PDPM IIITDM Jabalpur — The Divine Self and Posthuman Becoming: Insights from Swami Vivekananda

Dr Emelia Noronha, Faculty Member, Prahladrai Dalmia Lions College of Commerce & Economics — The Multiverse of Folklore: An Insight into Spiritual Posthumanism

AK Basak 3: Performance & Workshop

Performance

Katarzyna Ferworn-Horawa, Doctoral Researcher, University of Warsaw, Poland — ALLOW! Sensitivity, creativity, and agentiality in a nonanthropocentric perspective

Workshop

Gitanjali Chhabra, Faculty Member, University Canada West, Vancouver — Erasure and Emergence, Immersion in Infinity: Posthuman Conceptualization of Consciousness

4:30 – 4:45
Tea Break
4:45 – 5:30
Closing Circle

DAY 2 — 15 JANUARY

10:00 - 11:30

Plenary Workshop: Existential Posthumanism — Making Self, Making World
Led by Stefano Rozzoni (University of Bergamo)
(P C Mahalanobis Auditorium)

11:30 - 12:00

Tea Break

12:00 – 1:00

Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis1: Multispecies Identities

Session Chair: Dr Anirban Ray, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers

Suryakanth K. B., Doctoral Researcher, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, Chennai — From Homo Faber to Homo Entangled: A Posthuman Renaissance of Co-existence

Tanvi Deepak Shah, Doctoral Researcher, K. C. College, HSNC University, Mumbai, & Dr Shalini R. Sinha, Faculty Member, K. C. College, HSNC University — Utopian Spaces Beyond the Earth: A Posthuman Analysis of Becky Chambers' *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet*

Soumyadeep Sarkar, Student, Ramakrishna Mission Residential College — Decentering the Human: Posthuman Assemblages and Ethical Relationality in Denis Villeneuve's *Arrival*

Rishila Mishra, Student, University of Calcutta — “In Body, and Become a Living Soul”:
Wordsworth and the Vision of Existential Posthumanism

AK Basak 1: Birds, Beasts, and Bodies — Multispecies Engagement in the Anthropocene
Session Chair: Dr Shanta Dutta, Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers

Dr. Hiya Chatterjee, Faculty Member, Swarnamoyee Jogendranath Mahavidyalaya, Vidyasagar University — Birds, Beasts, and Bodies: A Multispecies Engagement in the Anthropocene

Dr Ved Prakash, Faculty Member, Central University of Rajasthan — All That Breathes and All That Belongs: A Study of Air, Space, and Species in the City

Sujay Thakur, Faculty Member, Gangadharapur Mahavidyamandir, University of Calcutta — Invisible Palate(s) in a Violent Savarna-Centric World

Dr Shayeari Dutta, Assistant Professor, Surendranath College, University of Calcutta—Coolie, Cane, Kala Pani: A Multispecies Study of Caribbean Indenture History

1:00 – 2:00

Lunch Break

2:00 – 3:00

Parallel Session

PC Mahalanobis2: Ecological Precarity

Session Chair: Dr Mousumi Mandal, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers

Dr Surabhi Jha, Research Scholar, Aliah University — Ecologies of Marginality: Nonhuman Forces in Dalit Women’s Autobiographical Writing

Soyel Haque, Student, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University — Posthuman Ecology and the Vulnerability of Life in Indra Sinha’s *Animal’s People*

Siddhesh S. Raut, Faculty Member, Ganpat Parsekar College of Education, Harmal-Goa — Coconut, Sea, and Self: A Posthuman Reading of the Goan Everyday

Vaishnavi Singh, Doctoral Researcher, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University —
Terraforming the Self: Ecological Adaptation and Posthuman Identity in *Meru*

AK Basak 2: Technological Incorporations

Session Chair: Dr Samrat Sengupta, Associate Professor, Department of English, Sidho-Kanho-
Birsha University

Speakers

Akriti Kujur, Doctoral Researcher, Jawaharlal Nehru University — Worlds in Superposition:
Quantum Posthumanism in Select Indian Speculative Fiction

Tajuddeen Nadaf, Doctoral Researcher, IIT Dharwad — Being in the Machine Age: Existential
Posthumanism in *Machinehood* (2021)

Dr. Souvik Kar, Faculty Member, Amity University, Kolkata — “The Girl Who Was a Bomb”:
Existential Posthumanism, Bioengineering Ethics, and Radioactive (Anti)Heroism in Senaa
Ahmad’s “The Glow-in-the-Dark Girls” (2021)

Granthana Ganguly, Doctoral Researcher, Presidency University — Empathy, Recognition and
Solidarity: Biovalue and Posthumanism in Chen Qiufan’s Translated Works of SF

3:15 – 4:15

Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 3: Evolutionary Posthumanism /Feminist Interventions

Session Chair: Dr Emelia Noronha, Associate Professor, Department of English, Prahladrai
Dalmia Lions College of Commerce & Economics, Mumbai

Speakers

Aritra Basu, Research Scholar, University of Calcutta — The Anthropocentric Ma(chi)nI:
Evolutionary Posthumanism in *Westworld*

Swapnajeet Das, Research Scholar— ‘Evolutionary Posthumanism’: Exploring the Evolution of
(Post)Humans in the Post-natural Planet

Dr Rumela Saha, Faculty Member, Kazi Nazrul University — Planetary Becoming:
Decolonising Posthumanism in Vandana Singh's *The Woman Who Thought She Was a Planet
and Other Stories*

Eshani Bhattacharjee, Student, IIT Madras — “When He Wished Me to Live”: Radical
Reinscription of the Posthuman Feminine in Narrativizations of the Galatea Myth

AK Basak 3: Philosophical Posthumanism

Session Chair: Dr Inamur Rahaman, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy,
Presidency University

Speakers

Sreyasi Dey, Student, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata — Looking at Yorick: The Posthuman
Condition

Rubaiya Nasrin, Doctoral Researcher, Jadavpur University — Rewriting the Human: Speciesism,
Media Ecologies, and the Posthuman Renaissance

Jayjit Sarkar, Faculty Member, Raiganj University — From Studia Humanitatis to Humusities:
Rethinking Human and Humanities through Parasites

Subhagni Jana, Doctoral Researcher, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology,
Shibpur — The Who, the What, the Why of Posthuman Retellings: How Human Rhetoric and
Human Mythology Meet the Posthuman Narrators

4:15 – 4:30

Afternoon Tea

4:30 – 5:30

Plenary Talk — Francesca Ferrando

DAY 3 — 16th January

10:00 – 10:50

Sharing Circle (Indoor)

11:00 – 12:00

Plenary Conversation: Posthuman Renaissance(s)
Md. Monirul Islam, Samrat Sengupta, Stefano Rozzoni
Moderated by: Debashish Banerji
(P C Mahalanobis Auditorium)

12:00 – 12:15

Tea Break

12:15 – 1:15

Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 1: Existential Praxis I

Session Chair: Afsheen Toosi

Speakers

Kusumitha R, Doctoral Researcher, Bangalore University — Meditating the Molecule: Genetic Memory, Inner Silence, and the Becoming-Posthuman

Dr Ramapriya Ramachandran, Faculty Member, Kunthavai Naacchiyaar Government Arts College for Women — Aerological Self and the Posthuman Condition: An Irigarayan Reading of Jenny Offill's *Weather*

Keerthi Shree S. S., Doctoral Researcher, Kunthavai Naacchiyaar Government Arts College for Women — Existential Bioethics and Foucauldian Technologies of Self in Jennifer Egan's *The Candy House*

Rahana P. S., Doctoral Researcher, Kunthavai Naacchiyaar Government Arts College for Women — Digital Sublime and Existential Posthumanism: A Reading of Don DeLillo's *Zero K*

AK Basak 1: Existential Praxis II

Session Chair: Katarzyna Ferworn-Horawa

Speakers

Jose Joseph, Faculty Member, Kunthavai Naacchiyaar Government Arts College for Women — From Dasein to Earth-Being: Heidegger, Existential Posthumanism and Planetary Ontology in Richard Powers' *The Overstory*

Summer LaPointe, Research Scholar, University of Cincinnati — To Be and Become: Beyond Life toward Existence in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

Dr Diksha Tripathi, Faculty Member, CMP & J.C. Bose University YMCA — Between Dust and Data: Liminal Existence in the Age of Existential Posthumanism

Malang Cilangasan, Student, RCSD, Chiang Mai University — When Local Wisdom Meets Sustainable Development: An Ethnic Karen Village in Northern Thailand

1:15 – 2:15
Lunch Break

2:15– 3:15
Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 2: Artificial and Cultural Intelligence

Session Chair: Priyanka Das, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers

Deepanwita Saha, Research Scholar, Presidency University — Meme and Existential Posthumanism

Prerana Sana, Student— When Companionship Turns Obsession: Affective Autonomy and Emotional Collapse in Posthuman Cinema

Violina Kalita, Doctoral Researcher, Gauhati University — Extending the Self: AI, Authorship, and Existential Becoming in Appupen's *Dream Machine*

Humaira Mariyam B., Doctoral Researcher, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli — Beyond Human Exceptionalism in AI-Enhanced Posthuman Language Classroom

AK Basak 2: Medical Considerations

Session Chair: Dr Anirban Das, Professor, The Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata

Speakers

Debayan Das, Doctoral Researcher, Banaras Hindu University — Vibrant Bacillus and the Humanist Ideal: Cholera and the Unmaking of the Bengal Renaissance

Ashish Kumar Pandey, Doctoral Researcher, IIT Jodhpur — Existential Becoming and Corporeal Revival in Priya Sarukkai Chhabria's *Clone*

Dr Pritikana Karmakar, Faculty Member, GITAM Hyderabad — Beyond Technomedical Victories: Counter-Narratives of Ebola and Eco-Compassion in Véronique Tadjo's *In the Company of Men*

3:30 – 4:30

Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 3: Workshop

Session Chair: Stefano Rozzoni, University of Bergamo

Presentation/Performance:

Rosalie Purvis, Assistant Professor of Theatre and English, University of Maine — “Would You Still Love Me If I Were Secretly a Mermaid?” On Love, Disclosure, and Mythic Bodies

Workshop by the Members of Turin University (30 minutes)

AK Basak 3: Workshop

Session Chair: TBA

Conducted by

Pratyay Raha, Doctoral Researcher, RMIT University — Sensing Entanglements: Field Recording Techniques from a Posthumanist Perspective

Dominic Bucci, Student, California Institute of Integral Studies — Posthuman Praxis: Using a Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) to Optimize Scholarly Performance

4:45– 5:30

Closing Reflection on the Conference and Closing Circle
(A K Basak Auditorium)

5:30 Onwards

An Immersive Performance by the Students of the Department of Performing Arts, Presidency
University

Design by Dr Debaroti Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, Presidency University

Scenography: Kaushani Mukherjee

7:00 – 9:00

Farewell Dinner & Informal Performances (Campus)

DAY 4 — 17 JANUARY

Walking Tour in Kolkata: On the Footsteps of “Bengal Renaissance”

(Curated Trip at additional cost of Rs. 1000 payable directly to the curator)
