

Decoloniality, Political Ecology & The New Humanities: Reconstructing Indigenous Ecology

10TH TO 14TH DECEMBER, 2025



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR

INVITED SPEAKERS



PHOTO SARA PENRHYN JONES

PROF. KATE RIGBY

Professor Dr. Kate Rigby (Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities) is Alexander von Humboldt Professor of Environmental Humanities at the University of Cologne, where she leads a research hub for Multidisciplinary Environmental Studies in the Humanities, and visiting scholar in the Research Centre for Environmental Humanities at Bath Spa University. Her research lies at the intersection of environmental literary, philosophical, historical and religious studies, with a specialist interest in European Romanticism, ecopoetics, multispecies studies, disaster studies, and Australian studies. She was the inaugural President of the Association for the Study of Literature, Environment and Culture (Australia-New Zealand), and the founding Director of the Australia-Pacific Forum on Religion and Ecology. A founding co-editor of the journal *Philosophy Activism Nature*, she also co-edited the University Press of Virginia series, *Under the Sign of Nature*, and her books include *Topographies of the Sacred: The Poetics of Place in European Romanticism* (2004), *Dancing with Disaster: Environmental Histories, Narratives, and Ethics for Perilous Times* (2015), *Reclaiming Romanticism: Towards an Ecopoetics of Decolonization* (2020) and *Meditations on Creation in an Era of Extinction* (2023).



PROF. NIELS WEIDTMANN

Niels Weidtmann is Director of the College of Fellows - Center for Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Studies at the University of Tübingen. He received his doctorate from the University of Würzburg with a thesis on intercultural philosophy under Heinrich Rombach. Habilitation in cultural theory at the University of Tübingen. He was a visiting researcher at the University of Vienna and at Doshisha University, Kyoto. Since 2019 he is elected President of the Society for Intercultural Philosophy (GIP e.V.). His research interests are in phenomenology and hermeneutics, structural philosophy, philosophical anthropology and intercultural philosophy.

Recent Publications: *One World Anthropology and Beyond. A Multidisciplinary Engagement with the Work of Tim Ingold* (co-edited with Martin Porr; Routledge 2023); *Analogie. Zur Aktualität eines philosophischen Schlüsselbegriffs* (co-edited with Dietmar Koch and Alina Noveanu; Alber 2023); *Interkulturelle Philosophie. Aufgaben, Wege, Dimensionen* (Francke/UTB 2016).

INVITED SPEAKERS



DR. AJAY GUDAVARTHY

Dr. Ajay Gudavarthy is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He currently teaches courses on Contemporary Critical Theory and Indian Politics. His key interests lie at the interface of political theory, and social and political developments in contemporary India. He has been a visiting professor at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Aberdeen, and the University of London. He was also a recipient of the prestigious Charles Wallace Visiting Fellowship at SOAS, London. Currently, he serves as an Associate Member of the Institute for Humanities at Simon Fraser University, Canada. He has authored several influential books, including *Politics of Post-Civil Society: Contemporary History of Political Movements in India* (Sage, 2013), *Maoism, Democracy and Globalisation: Cross-Currents in Indian Politics* (Sage, 2014), *Cultural Politics of Modern India* (Aakar, 2015), and *India after Modi: Populism and the Right* (Bloomsbury, 2018).



DR. ANANYA ROY PRATI HAR

Prof. Ananya Roy Pratihari is an Assistant Professor in Communication Studies at the Institute of Management and Information Science, Bhubaneswar. She specializes in Cultural Studies, Communication, and Philosophy, with a research focus on Decolonial Studies, Deleuze Studies, Film Studies, and Eco-humanism. Ananya has an extensive academic portfolio, publishing books and journal articles with leading publishers such as Bloomsbury and Palgrave Macmillan. Her scholarly contributions include *Technology, Urban Space and Networked Community* (Palgrave, 2022) and *Deleuze, Guattari and Schizoanalysis of the Global Pandemic* (Bloomsbury, 2023), *Deleuze, Guattari and the Schizoanalysis of Post-Neoliberalism* (Bloomsbury, 2024). Some of her forthcoming books are *Religion Politics & New Materialism: Philosophical Perspectives* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025) & *"Outside" Political Economy: New Networks of Media & Digitality* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025). Her teaching experience spans institutions in India and Germany, where she has delivered guest lectures and mentored students in communication, and literature and cultural studies. A committed educator and researcher, Dr. Pratihari continues to explore the intersections of philosophy, literature, and environmental discourse, contributing to global scholarly conversations on planetary justice and postcolonial thought.

INVITED SPEAKERS



DR. NORIHITO NAKAMURA

Dr Norihito Nakamura is an Assistant Professor at Mie University in Japan and JSPS post-doctoral fellow. His research focuses on German Philosophy, Political Theology, Intercultural Philosophy and Philosophy of Technology. He received his PhD at Kyoto University in 2023 and wrote his doctoral dissertation about Schelling's political philosophy. Afterwards, he worked as a post-doctoral researcher at Tübingen University in Germany. He is also currently working as a visiting fellow at Erasmus University Rotterdam hosted by Prof. Yuk Hui. He published Introduction to the Research on Schelling's Political Philosophy: The Author of the Anti-Political Apocalypse (Jinbunshoin, 2025) and coedited the volume Miki Kiyoshi and the Crisis of Thought (Chisokudo: 2024). He also translated works of Markus Gabriel, Christoph Menke, Andreas Reckwitz, and Iain Hamilton Grant into Japanese.



DR. KAZUMA OMURA

Dr Kazuma OMURA is a JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) Postdoctoral fellow. He is also a senior Researcher in the Research Organization of Open Innovation & Collaboration, Ritsumeikan University. His Research Interests include an exploration of the political-theoretical and social-philosophical significance of German and American Critical Theory, as well as an analysis of the intersections and bridges between "Western" Critical Theory and "non-Western" postcolonial and decolonial studies—particularly in relation to race, empire, and colonial domination.



COORDINATOR

PROF. JASON MARTIN WIRTH



Prof. Jason Martin Wirth is a Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department at Seattle University, USA. He also serves as the Chair of the Interreligious Dialogue Initiative at Seattle University and is a Board Member of the Cascadia Poetics Lab. Additionally, he is on the Editorial Board of Watershed Press. His academic interests include German philosophy from Kant to the present, comparative philosophy with a focus on Mahāyāna Buddhist thought, philosophy of art, literature, and film, and environmental philosophy. Prof. Wirth has received numerous accolades for his contributions to scholarship and teaching, including The Torch Bearer Award, The Office of Integrity Formation's Blessed Peter Faber Integrity Award, and The Outstanding Teaching Award. He is the author of several books, including *Nietzsche and Other Buddhas: Philosophy After Comparative Philosophy* (Indiana University Press, 2019), *Mountains, Rivers, and the Great Earth: Reading Gary Snyder and Dōgen in an Age of Ecological Crisis* (SUNY Press, 2017), *Commiserating with Devastated Things: Milan Kundera and the Entitlements of Thinking* (Fordham University Press, 2016), *Schelling's Practice of the Wild: Time, Art, Imagination* (SUNY Press, 2015), *The Conspiracy of Life: Meditations on Schelling and His Time* (SUNY Press, 2003), *The Ages of the World, a translation with introduction of Schelling's Die Weltalter (1815)* (SUNY Press, 2000), *Zen No Sho: The Calligraphy of Fukushima Keidō Rōshi* (Clear Light Press, 2003), and *Schelling Now: Contemporary Readings of Schelling* (Editor, Indiana University Press, 2004). Prof. Wirth's work engages deeply with philosophy, ecology, and interreligious dialogue, making significant contributions to contemporary thought on these subjects.





Religion, Politics and the New Materialism

Philosophical Perspectives

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Clayton Crockett
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