

Prof. Saswat S. Das
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**Grateful Acknowledgement of Your Contribution as a Carl von Ossietzky Guest Professor;
Impulses for further Research and Teaching Cooperation;
Prof. Saswat S. Das, DOB: 22/05/1974**

Dear Prof Das,

On behalf of the University of Oldenburg, I am very pleased to gratefully acknowledge your contributions to teaching and research during your recent stay at our University and specifically here at the Institute of English and American Studies. We confirm your arrival on May 16, 2024 for the purpose of a Carl von Ossietzky Guest Professorship, and your departure on June 8, 2024.

I am also very happy to gratefully acknowledge the specifics of your teaching contribution to our institute, which include

- a lecture addressed to a large student audience, delivered on Thu May 23, entitled "Postcolonial and Decolonial Perspectives on Human and Non-Human Ecology"; this lecture attracted a substantial student audience and spurred much interest and lively debate in the ensuing Q&A session;
- a one hour talk in the context of our research colloquium delivered on May 30 which was attended by several members of faculty, including Prof. Martin Butler, the head of department and university internationalisation officer, as well as emerging scholars from different disciplines. The talk was entitled "Thinking Decoloniality, Planetaryity and Indigeneity from a Contemporary Perspective" and met with great interest, both through its emphasis on positionality and its compelling in-depth engagement with continental theorists.
- a taught seminar course to a selected group of 10 students from our MA programme, comprising 14 teaching hours spread over three days (May 24, May 31 and June



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1). The course interconnected very effectively with two master modules taught in our current semester (respectively entitled “Global Health, Biocapitalism and Literature: An Indian Case Study” by Prof. Julia Wurr and “Narratives and Cultural Difference: Fiction and Other Cultural Narratives from South Asia” by myself). Students gave presentations under your guidance and gained many new perspectives and insights from your teaching; they gave enthusiastic feedback in their reports to us. Prof. Das used a very effective mix of teaching techniques.

Allow me to quote one feedback statement as illustration: “The two days of the course that I was able to participate in, as well as the lecture, were incredibly interesting and it was great to get an introduction to texts that I was completely unfamiliar with prior to the course. I also enjoyed the combination of literary analysis, philosophical thinking and the presentation of cultural and religious practices from the Bengal region.”

My colleagues and I are deeply grateful to Prof. Das for his excellent contributions which have inspired both our faculty and our students. We sincerely hope that it will soon be possible to facilitate more of such productive research and teaching exchanges in the future. We will do all in our power to realise these prospects.

We look forward to planning further shared research work, from joint publications to joint grant applications for future research projects.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Anton Kirchhofer