PLENARY SESSION: What can Humanities and Interpretive Social Sciences do for Environmental Studies?

Moderator: Prasenjit Duara, Director, Global Asia Initiative, Duke University

Shuyuan Lu
Professor and Director of Research Center for Eco-Cultural Institute of Science, Huanghe Science & Technology College


Lu Shuyuan, Professor and director of Research Center for Eco-Cultural Institute of Science, Huanghe Science & Technology College; Vice President of The Chinese Literary and Arts Theories Association; a committee of the UNESCO "Humans and Biosphere" program, China. Prof. Lu has been conducting interdisciplinary research in the areas of literature, psychology, and ecology. His most representative works include the following books: A Study of Creative Psychology, Beyond Language, The Space of Ecological Criticism, Tao Yuanming's Specter, and The Ecological Era and Classical Chinese Naturalism.

Fanren Zeng
Former President, Shandong University

"Chinese and Western Eco-Aesthetics: A Cross-Cultural Perspective"

(Interpreter for Profs, Lu & Zeng will be Prof Chia-ju Chang)
Dan Guttman

Clinical Professor of Environmental Studies and Law, New York University – Shanghai

*The Global Vernacular of Governance: Translating Between China and US Environmental OS: A Core Task for Humanities*

Dan Guttman, is teacher, lawyer, and has been public servant. He directed US Senate investigations into US government environment/energy agencies, was Executive Director of a Presidential bioethics advisory committee, Commissioner of the US Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, and UNDP expert advisor on China environmental law. He represented workers, whistleblowers, and governments in litigation leading to Congressional enactment of environmental laws, US government recovery of hundreds of millions from oil companies and military contractors, and application of antimonopoly principles to the US electric industry. Since going to China in 2004 as Fulbright, he works with colleagues teaching and developing educational programs in law, environment, government, and US/China relations. He is author/coauthor of many books/articles including *The Shadow Government*, a seminal study of US government contracting, shared in journalism awards, and is board member of Shanghai Roots and Shoots.

Yih-Ren Lin

Professor, Taipei Medical University

*Traditional Territory Mapping as a Way of Revealing Ecological Citizenship*

Yih-Ren Lin, is a researcher with the background of ecology and geography. I have been engaged with the issues of “what nature is” from the social and cultural aspects. My research interests include: ecology and religion, political ecology and ecological health. For nearly twenty years, I work with indigenous peoples of Taiwan on issues of sustainability, food sovereignty, eco-tourism and their co-management with the state. I adopt participatory methodology and analysis of political ecology. I used to serve as the representatives of Asia (2008-2010), and Islands and Oceanic (2014-2016) of International Society of Ethnobiology. I am also committed to develop innovative ways of revealing unnoticed social and cultural perspectives about nature, like producing films and documentaries. “Once upon a time” and “The moment run through” are both prize-winning films about indigenous view of nature that I collaborated with national park authority in Taiwan. Currently, I am the directors of the Institute of Humanities in Medicine, and the Research Center of Humanistic Innovation and Social Practices at Taipei Medical University.
Urbanization and Ecological Citizenship

Michael Douglass

Professor of Public Policy and Professor at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

The Anthropocene and Planetary Urbanization – Migration and Climate Change Justice in Asia

Mike Douglass is Professor and Leader of the Asian Urbanisms Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, and Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. He is Emeritus Professor and former Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii where he was also the Director of the Globalization Research Center. He holds a Ph.D. in urban planning from UCLA. His research covers progressive cities for human flourishing; disaster governance; globalization and the city; creative communities and spaces of hope.

Ka-ming Wu

Assistant Professor of Cultural and Religious Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Waste Pickers in Beijing: The Invisible Group that Keeps the Capital City Clean

Ka-ming Wu is Assistant Professor in the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Trained as a cultural anthropologist at Columbia University, she has taken up ethnographic research in the fields of state-society relations, the politics of culture, social and subject formation in contemporary China. Her research interests and outputs can be separated into three areas; 1) cultural politics of state and society, politics of tradition; 2) waste and society, non-human turn of humanities; 3) citizen-making, gender and nationalism.


Amita Baviskar
Duke Kunshan conference on Environmental Humanities in Asia: Environmental Justice and Sustainable Citizenship

May 22-24, 2017

Draft Agenda (V4) – April 24, 2017

Professor, Indian Institute for Economic Growth

Contested spaces: Cities, Citizenship and Sustainability in India

Amita Baviskar is Professor of Sociology at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. She studies the cultural politics of environment and development in rural and urban India. Her book *In the Belly of the River: Tribal Conflicts over Development in the Narmada Valley* and other publications address questions about resource rights, subaltern resistance and cultural identity. More recent essays examine the changing social and spatial landscape of Delhi as shaped by bourgeois environmentalism. Her current research looks at food practices and the transformation of agrarian environments in western India. Baviskar has taught at the University of Delhi, and has been a visiting scholar at Stanford, Cornell, Yale, SciencesPo and the University of California at Berkeley. She was awarded the 2005 Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies, the 2008 VKRV Rao Prize for Social Science Research, and the 2010 Infosys Prize for Social Sciences.

Environmental Justice and Political Ecology

Ralph Litzinger

Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology, *Duke University*

The Slow Violence of Black Lung

Ralph Litzinger received his doctorate in socio-cultural anthropology from the University of Washington in Seattle. His early research focused on the culture and politics of the ethnic borders in China. He has published on Marxist nationality theory in China, on ethnic and indigenous revitalization in the post-Cold War global order, on gender and ethnic representation, and on ethnographic film, photography, and popular culture in China and elsewhere. *Other China: the Yao and the Politics of National Belonging* (Duke University Press, 2000) was the first major ethnographic study to examine the role of minority intellectuals in the critique of socialism and their role in the imagining of post-socialist futures. His current research is engaged with questions of border ecologies, bio-politics, activism and advocacy in labor, education rights, and the environment. In relationship to this research, he has published key essays on the transnational and media dimensions of anti-dam protest in southwest China. He is also working with migrants in China, looking at non-official education projects for migrant kids, the political role of non-governmental organizations and corporate social responsibility projects in these experimental ventures. More recently, he has been tracking Apple's environment, labor, and occupational health record in China, and am very interested in transnational activism directed at Apple and the companies that source its supply chain, as well as the general middle-class obsession for all things
Apple in China. In all of his research, teaching, and thinking, he is committed to forging an anthropology of critical advocacy and activism, one which addresses structures of domination, exploitation, and inequality and the struggle to make the world a better place.

Mukul Sharma
Professor, Indian Institute of Mass Communication

Eco-Casteism, Dalits and New Commons in India

Mukul Sharma is a Delhi-based writer specializing in environment, human rights, media and communication issues. Since 1984, he has worked in The Times of India Newspaper Group, Amnesty International, ActionAid International, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Climate Parliament, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and others as a journalist, development professional and academician. Presently, he is a Professor at the IIMC, New Delhi. He has published several books in English and Hindi, the latest being, Green and Saffron: Hindu Nationalism and Indian Environmental Politics (Permanent Black, 2012). His forthcoming book is Caste and Nature: Dalits and Indian Environmental Politics (Oxford University Press, 2017). He has received 12 national and international awards for his writings on environmental, labour and human rights issues.

Chia-ju Chang
Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures, Brooklyn College

Capitalism’s Corporate/Corporeal Waste: Documentary Redemption and Hope

Chia-ju Chang is Associate Professor of Chinese at CUNY - Brooklyn College. Her first book in Chinese, Global Imagination of Ecological Communities: Chinese and Western Ecocritical Praxis (Jiangsu UP, 2013), won the 2013 Bureau of Jiangsu Province Journalism and Publication award in China. She and Scott Slovic co-edited a volume titled Ecocriticism in Taiwan: Identity, Environment, and the Arts (Lexington, 2016). She is currently editing a Chinese environmental humanities volume (Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming, 2018). Chang has served on the Executive Council of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE). She was the Kiriyama Professor for Asia Pacific Studies in the Asia Pacific Center at the University of San Francisco for Spring 2016.

Meena Khandelwal
Duke Kunshan conference on Environmental Humanities in Asia: Environmental Justice and Sustainable Citizenship

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Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology, University of Iowa

The Natural and Social Life of Wood

Meena Khandelwal’s monograph Women in Ochre Robes (2004) charted the gendered dimensions of Hindu renunciation (sannyasa) from an anthropological perspective. To highlight a new and growing body of research on female renunciation, she co-edited a volume with Sondra Hausner and Ann Grodzins Gold entitled Women’s Renunciation in South Asia (Palgrave Macmillan 2006, Zubaan 2007). Bringing transnational perspectives to Hindu renunciation, she has written about foreign swamis settled in Rishikesh and about monastic cosmopolitanism. More recently, Khandelwal has published on discourses of arranged marriage, transnational feminist methodologies and the politics of race and culture in inter-collegiate Indian dance competitions produced by second-generation Indian-Americans. She is currently involved in a multi-disciplinary, collaborative project focused on the cookstove-fuelwood-gender-development nexus in southern Rajasthan, India.

Session 4#

Pradip Krishen

Filmmaker and Environmentalist

“Re-wilding the Desert”

Pradip Krishen calls himself an ‘ecological gardener’. He directs operations in Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park in Jodhpur, Rajasthan; in the Calico Museum Gardens in Ahmedabad, Gujarat; in Kishan Bagh Restoration Project in Jaipur, Rajasthan; and most recently in the restoration of the Bangar Forest of the Delhi Golf Course in New Delhi.

He is the author of 2 books: Trees of Delhi (Penguin Books 2006) and Jungle Trees of Central India (Penguin Books 2014), and several articles.

The Asian Water Crisis (I)

Arupjyoti Saikia

Professor of History, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

A River and Its Many Lives: Rethinking the Environmental Past of the Brahmaputra
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Arupjyoti Saikia Professor in History, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Endowment Chair in Assam History. He was a post-doctoral fellowship in the Agrarian Studies programme at Yale University. His research interest is in economic and environmental history Assam. He has published in Modern Asian Studies, Journal of Peasant Studies, Indian Economic and Social History Review, Indian Historical Review amongst others. He regularly writes in Assamese and English dailies. His published works include A Forest and Ecological History of Assam, 1826-2000 (Oxford University Press, 2011) and A Century of Protests: Peasant Politics in Assam since 1900 (Routledge, 2014). His next book entitled The Turbulent River: An Environmental History of the Brahmaputra will be published by Oxford University press. In 2015 Saikia has been awarded Srikant Dutta Book Award given by Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi for best social sciences and humanities book on North East India for the years 2009-2014.

Chris Courtney
Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute, Singapore

The Advance of the Crayfish: The Declining Biocultural Diversity of Chinese Wetlands

Chris Courtney obtained his PhD from Manchester University, and is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, and a research fellow at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge. His research focusses upon the social and environmental history of the middle Yangzi region, and the urban history of Wuhan. He has several published and forthcoming articles examining the history of floods and fire in China. His monograph The Nature of Disaster in China: The 1931 Yangzi River Flood will be published with Cambridge University Press in 2017.

Rohan D’Souza
Research Fellowship at the Graduate School of Asian & African Area Studies, Kyoto University

Sustainability against ‘Safe Operating Space’ India’s Cusec-Megawatt Rivers and Writing Environmental History in the Anthropocene

Dr. Rohan D’Souza is Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University (Japan). Previously, he taught at the Centre for the Studies in Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi, India).
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Dr. D’Souza has held post doctoral fellowships at the Agrarian Studies Program (Yale University) and at the University of California (Berkeley) and visiting fellowships at the Centre for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania and at the Resources Management Asia-Pacific, Australian National University. He was the General Secretary of the Jawaharlal Nehru Student’s Union (1989-90).

Research interests and publications have involved themes related to environmental history, technology studies, sustainable development and current concerns with environmental politics in the ‘epoch of the anthropocene’.

The Asian Water Crisis (II)

Lili Song
Professor, Tsinghua University

Water Systems, Water Keepers and Consciousness of Citizenship – A Case Study Based on Beijing River System

Lili Song is currently an associate professor from Department of Foreign Languages, School of Humanity and Art, Tsinghua University. In 2005, She completed the Ph. D. Study “On the Construction of Literary Ecology” from Beijing Language and Culture University, and since then started research and teaching focusing on eco-criticism and environmental literature. Her publication includes “To Be or Not to Be: On the Pathos of Chinese Environmental Writing about the Yellow River.” “On the Environmental Justice Tone in Xu Gang’s Writing.” “Conflicts between Idealism and Reality: Pastoralism or Machinism?” etc. Her translation includes Keith Thomas’ Man and the Nature World: Changing Attitude in England, and so on. Apart from academic life on the campus, she is also participating some activities with NGO such as water keeping walk, and public speeches concerning man and nature relationship.

Pichamon Yeopchantong

Assistant Professor of International Relations and Development, University of New South Wales

The Role of Science and Religion in Water Activism in Southeast Asia: Cases from Cambodia and Myanmar

Dr Pichamon Yeopchantong is a China specialist and Lecturer (Asst Prof) in International Relations and Development in the School of Social Sciences, UNSW Australia. She is also the Director of the Environmental Justice and Human Rights in Asia Project at the Australian Human Rights
Centre, and a Research Associate at the Global Economic Governance Programme, University College, Oxford. Prior to joining UNSW, Pichamon was a Global Leaders Fellow at Princeton University and Oxford University, and an ASEAN-Canada Senior Fellow at Nanyang Technological University. Her work has appeared in publications such as Asian Survey, Chinese Journal of International Politics, Pacific Affairs, and Water International. Pichamon holds a PhD in Politics and International Relations from the Australian National University.

**Spiritual Ecologies**

Robert Weller

Professor of Anthropology, Boston University

*Religious Change and Disturbed Religious Ecosystems in Jiangsu, China*

Robert P. Weller is Professor of Anthropology and Research Associate at the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs at Boston University. His recent writing includes Rethinking Pluralism: Ritual, Experience, and Ambiguity (with Adam Seligman, 2012), which focuses on ways in which we can live with the ambiguities that necessarily accompany our need to categorize, and on the implications of this for how we can live with difference. Earlier books include Alternate Civilities: Chinese Culture and the Prospects for Democracy, Discovering Nature: Globalization and Environmental Culture in China and Taiwan, and Ritual and Its Consequences: An Essay on the Limits of Sincerity (co-author). His most recent book is an edited volume in Chinese: 江南地区的宗教与公共生活 [Religion and Public Life in China's Lower Yangzi Region]. Supported by Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships, his present research examines the role of religion in creating public social benefits in Chinese communities in China, Malaysia, and Taiwan. A co-authored volume on this is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.

*Chris Coggins*

Professor of Geography and Asian Studies, Bard’s College at Simon’s Rock

*Wind-Water Polities: Village Fengshui Forests and Sustainable Citizenship in China*

Dr. Coggins is Professor of Geography and Asian Studies at Bard College at Simon’s Rock. His research focuses on rural China, political ecology, biodiversity, sacred landscapes, nature conservation, and globalization. He is the co-editor (with Emily Yeh) of *Mapping Shangrila: Contested Landscapes of the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands* (University of Washington, 2014), and the author of *The Tiger and the Pangolin: Nature, Culture, and Conservation in China* (University of Hawaii Press, 2003). He is also the co-author of *The Primates of China: Biogeography and*
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Jianhua Ayoe Wang
Researcher at the Yunnan Provincial Institute for Ethnic Studies, Yunnan Minzu University

Sacred Landscape and Sustainable Citizenship of Mengsong Akha Community in Xishuangbanna, Southwest China

Jianhua Wang, also known as Aryoeq Nyawrbyeivq in Akha, received PhD in anthropology from UC Riverside in 2013, is an assistant professor in anthropology at Yunnan Minzu University, specialized in ecological anthropology and ethnohistory, particularly interested in sacred landscape, natural resource management, sustainable development, history, linguistics of ethnic minorities/indigenous peoples in Southwest China and Southeast Asia. Prof. Wang is a co-author of monograph Study of Luomi Akha Culture in Thailand (2016) and of edited volume Qualitative and Participatory Action Research Methods: Bio-cultural Diversity and Sustainable Development Alternatives (2010). He also published 15 articles at academic journals such as IUCN_Policy Matters, Asian Ethnicity, Chinese Journal of Ecology, as well as in conference paper collections.

Meng Yue
Associate Professor Department of East Asian Studies, University of Toronto

When Anarchists Met Buddhists: Once a Future to Alternative Anthropocene

Professor Meng Yue specializes in modern China with special focuses on cultural history, urban studies and history of science and technology. She is the author of Breaking the Surface of History: Women Writers of China 1917-1949 (Remin University Press 1989), Shanghai and Edges of Empires (University of Minnesota Press 2006), Human, Home and History (People's Publishing House 2007), among others. She is currently working on two book length projects, Thinking Through the Substance of the Anthropocene and The Global Journeys of Agricultural Visions.

Animals and Humans

Haiyan Lee
Duke Kunshan conference on Environmental Humanities in Asia: Environmental Justice and Sustainable Citizenship

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Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature, Stanford University

*Through Thick and Thin: The Romance of the Species in the Anthropocene*

Haiyan Lee is a professor of Chinese and comparative literature at Stanford University. She is the author of *Revolution of the Heart: A Genealogy of Love in China, 1900-1950* (2007), winner of the 2009 Joseph Levenson Prize (post-1900 China) from the Association for Asian Studies, and *The Stranger and the Chinese Moral Imagination* (2014). In 2015-16, she was a Frederick Burkhardt Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences where she began research on a new project on Chinese visions of justice at the intersection of narrative, law, and ethics.

**Jeffrey Nicolaisen**

PhD Candidate of Religious Studies, Duke University

*Monkey-Human Relations in the Galluscene*

Jeffrey Nicolaisen is a doctoral candidate in the Graduate Program in Religion at Duke University. He earned a master’s degree in Civil Engineering from Nagoya University, and a master’s degree in Asian Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He worked as an environmental consultant with Environmental Resources Management before returning to graduate school to study Asian religions and ecology. Nicolaisen’s current doctoral dissertation project focuses on the multi-species relationships between dogs, monkeys, and humans in Taiwan, with a particular focus on Buddhist and indigenous Taiwanese communities. Nicolaisen’s previous research also includes work on hydrology, river ecology, and nutrient transport.

**Yuan-chih Lung**

Tsinghua University

*Beyond Boundaries: the Giant Pandas and Their Natural Habitat*

Yuan-chih LUNG is a doctoral candidate at Tsinghua University, China. She currently majors in STS and holds a master’s degree in Film Studies from Peking University. She came from Taiwan and worked for different international animal welfare organizations, as representative in Japan and as project coordinator in China, for several years. Yuan-chih’s current doctoral dissertation focuses on the history of giant panda protection and includes both the policy and attitude aspects. It falls within the framework of human-animal relationship studies as well as governmental policy and conservational studies.
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Representing Degradation –Photography and Literature

William Schaefer
Assistant Professor of Chinese, University of Rochester

Circulatory Environments, Circulatory Cultures, and Photographic Ecologies

William Schaefer teaches modern and contemporary Chinese visual culture and literature, currently at University of Rochester, and previously at University of Minnesota and University of California, Berkeley. His essays have appeared in ASAP/Journal, Representations, PMLA, positions: east asia cultures critique, Shijie (Beijing), and Modern Chinese Literature and Culture, and he has edited Photography's Places, a special issue of positions. His book, Shadow Modernism: Photography and Writing in Shanghai, 1925-1937, is forthcoming in 2017 from Duke University Press. He is currently at work on a new book project, Photographic Ecologies: Nature, Culture, and Contemporary Photography in China, Japan, and the West, the most recent portion of which is his essay, "Photographic Ecologies," forthcoming in October magazine.

Carlos Rojas
Professor of Chinese Cultural Studies; Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies; and Arts of the Moving Image, Duke University

Of Mice and Men: Examining Parasitical Logics of Protest and Community through Jia Pingwa’s Fiction

Carlos Rojas is Professor of Chinese Cultural Studies; Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies; and Arts of the Moving Image at Duke University. He has authored, edited, and translated fourteen books, including Homesickness: Culture, Contagion, and National Transformation in Modern China, The Oxford Handbook of Modern Chinese Literatures, and literary fiction by Yu Hua, Yan Lianke, and Ng Kim Chew.

Representing Degradation –Citizen Science

Erika Weinthal
Professor of Environmental Sciences and Policy and Professor in the Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University
Citizen Scientists as Agents of Environmental Advocacy: Lessons from India with implications for China and Russia

Erika Weinthal is the Lee Hill Snowdon Professor of Environmental Policy and the Associate Dean for International Programs at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Dr. Weinthal has a secondary appointment in the Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University and in the Environment Program at Duke Kunshan University, China. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University. She specializes in global environmental politics with an emphasis on water and energy. Her book -- *State Making and Environmental Cooperation: Linking Domestic Politics and International Politics in Central Asia* (MIT Press 2002) -- was the recipient of the 2003 Chadwick Alger Prize and the 2003 Lynton Keith Caldwell Prize. She has co-authored *Oil is not a Curse: Ownership Structure and Institutions in Soviet Successor States* (Cambridge University Press 2010) and co-edited *Water and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Shoring Up Peace* (Earthscan Press, 2014). Her forthcoming book is the co-edited *Oxford Handbook on Water Politics and Policy* (Oxford University Press 2017). She is a member of the UNEP Expert Group on Conflict and Peacebuilding. At Duke University, she is a member of the Bass Society of Fellows, and she chairs the Global Priorities Committee. Since 2011, Dr. Weinthal is an Associate Editor at Global Environmental Politics.

Sam Geall
Research Fellow at the Science and Technology Policy Research, University of Sussex

*Journalism and citizen science in a changing climate*

Dr. Sam Geall is Executive Editor of chinadialogue.net, Research Fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at University of Sussex, and Associate Fellow at Chatham House. His research focuses on low-carbon innovation, environmental governance, media and civil society in China. He edited *China and the Environment: The Green Revolution* (Zed Books, 2013). Sam was formerly departmental lecturer in Human Geography of China at the University of Oxford. He has a PhD in Social Anthropology from University of Manchester, a BA in Modern Chinese Studies from University of Leeds and was a Kennedy scholar at Harvard University. He is a fellow of the RSA and on the board of the EU-China NGO Twinning Exchange.