



SACRED
HEART
COLLEGE
Autonomous



The Postgraduate Department of English
And Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

Sacred Heart College, Kochi

In Collaboration with

Prajña Foundation, Kochi

Organizes

TWO-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ECOLOGIES OF BELONGING AND PLANETARY FUTURES: INTERROGATING THE SELF, PLACE, AND DISPLACEMENT



2-3 December 2025



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS





In an age marked by planetary crisis, unprecedented migration, forced displacement, and exodus of refugees, the indigenous experience of belonging to a place and the question of identity, both individual and collective, have undergone a radical change. Identity has ceased to become a geo-political construct of a self-referential landscape. The 2025 conference titled "Ecologies of Belonging and Planetary Futures: Interrogating the Self, Place and Displacement" seeks to critically engage with the complex, overlapping ecologies—social, cultural, political, environmental, and affective—that constitute the self as increasingly shaped by displacement, deterritorialization, and reterritorialization in the context of ecological crises.

The term ecology connotes the interdependence of species, environments, systems and subjectivities. The state of belonging has undergone a transition from a static condition of rootedness to a fluid, dynamic process negotiated across axes of memory, mobility, power, identity, and ideology. The migrant experience, which gets problematized with the chain of experiences caused by displacement, dislocation, relocation, acculturation, cultural hybridization, spatial liminality, and identity

formation, has become a saga of struggle and survival. In this context, concepts such as self, place, indigeneity, and environmental justice require contestation and reimagining. This conference is expected to trigger a debate on how the sense of belonging can be redefined or reimagined in the face of global precarity.

Geopolitical crises, caused by wars and climate change, have eroded the notions of home and territory. Globalization has erased cultural differences and homogenized cultures on the one hand and has defaced nature and littered the environment with hazardous mineral wastes and pollutants on the other. It is therefore meaningless to imagine the self or identity of persons or communities with reference to places made inhospitable by global corporate power. In this context, we have to reconfigure the sense of belonging of individuals and communities in terms of lost land, habitat, culture, or language. The conference addresses how discourses like art, literature, philosophy, visual cultures, and digital cultures reflect the breakdowns of ecological systems and suggest solutions to eco-catastrophes with a view to ensuring an ecologically sustainable future for the planet.

The conference invites academics, scholars, artists, activists, and students to explore how cultural productions mediate or reimagine the sense of belonging of individuals or communities threatened to be displaced by ecological disasters, or envision a sustainable earth that resists corporate greed. In a practical sense, the Ecologies of Belonging seeks to provide a space for peaceful, dignified co-existence among all species in a damaged world. It exhorts humanity to remain receptive to emergent, sustainable practices of world-making that challenge dominant narratives of exclusion.



Papers may be based on, but not limited to, the following subthemes



- / Narratives of migration, exile, and diaspora
- / Indigenous epistemologies and alternate systems of knowledge
- / Climate change, ecological crises, and affective responses
- / Memory, trauma, and the aesthetic of displacement
- / Posthuman and more-than-human ecologies
- / Urbanization, gentrification, and spatial injustice
- / Activism, resistance, and decolonization of space/place
- / Gendered and queer experiences of home and exile
- / Archiving and curating displaced or threatened cultures
- / Environmental humanities and planetary futures
- / Digital territories and virtual forms of belonging
- / Artistic and literary practices as ecological interventions
- / Medical Humanities and Bioethical Imagination
- / Legal and Ethical Challenges in Emerging Technologies
- / Smart Cities and the Narrative of Technological Environmentalism
- / Artificial Intelligence and Posthuman Narratives
- / Green Economics and the Narrative of Transition
- / Eco-Cinema and the Environmental Imagination
- / Threatened Languages in the Post-Truth Era

Objectives of the Conference



- / To foster interdisciplinary dialogues that link ecological thinking with cultural belonging
- / To examine how displacement (human and ecological) redefines identities and communities
- / To engage with emerging methodologies in ecocriticism, migration studies, and affect theory
- / To provide a platform for scholars, creatives, and activists working at the intersection of place, identity, and crisis
- / To generate intellectual and ethical frameworks for envisioning more inclusive and sustainable planetary futures



Call for Papers

Two notable papers presented at the Seminar will be recognised and commended as a mark of support to the conduct of original academic research and encouragement of scholarly dialogue

Abstracts of 250-300 words with up to five keywords should be mailed to:

ecologiesseminar2025@gmail.com

Papers may be presented either offline or online.

Selection status will be notified through mail.



Timeline

Last date for submission of abstract:

15 October 2025

Last date for submission of full paper:

5 November 2025

Tentative dates of National Seminar:

2-3 December 2025



Registration Fee

Faculty members: ₹1500

Research scholars and students (PG/UG): ₹1000

Online paper presentation

(no access to speaker's sessions): ₹500

Participation without paper presentation: ₹500



Bank Details

to which the registration fee has to be remitted:

Principal, Sacred Heart College

A/c No: 17530100001012, Federal Bank, Thevara Branch

IFSC Code: FDRL0001753

Conference Schedule

DAY
1

2 DECEMBER
2025

9 AM Registration

9.30 AM Inauguration

10 AM - 11:30 AM Keynote Address
Prof. Saugata Bhaduri
Centre for English Studies, School of Language
Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru
University, New Delhi.

**Topic: To Whom Does the Planet Belong? A Note
on Our Post-Human Post-Hum(o)us Futures**



11. 30 AM Tea break

11.45 AM - 1 PM Paper presentations

1 PM - 1:40 PM Lunch break

1.45 PM - 3.15 PM Plenary1
Prof. Simi Malhotra
Department of English,
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

**Topic: Planetarity and Affective Belonging:
World-Making and Sense-Making in
Post-Global Times**



3.15 PM Tea break

3.30 PM - 4.30 PM Paper presentations

Conference Schedule

DAY
2

3 DECEMBER
2025

9.30 AM - 11 AM Plenary 2
Prof. Murali Sivaramakrishnan
Department of English, Pondicherry
University (Central University).

**Topic: HERE AND NOW: Interrogating
the Self, Place, and Displacement**



11 AM Tea break

11.15 AM - 12.45 PM Plenary 3
Dr Swaralipi Nandi
Department of English, Loyola
Academy, Hyderabad.

**Topic: From Extraction to Belonging:
Ecologies of a Post-carbon Future**



12.45 PM - 1.30 PM Lunch break

1.30 - 3 PM Paper presentations

3 PM - 3.30 PM Valedictory

Selected papers will be published in an edited volume with an ISBN. Authors will be requested to contribute an additional fee towards publication costs.



About Prajñā Foundation

The Prajñā Foundation is a non-profitable society registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies' Registration Act 1955 to propagate the need for personal integrity and professional commitment in the field of higher education, especially in the field of cultural and literary research as professed, practised and propagated by Prof. N. Prasantha Kumar, Professor of English (Rtd), Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. The Foundation works for the betterment of higher education through the promotion of research, development of cultural and literary theories, encouragement of translation and editorial assignments and other academic and cultural activities in India in general and Kerala in particular. The Foundation also aims at mentoring a community of committed teachers, researchers and students interested in understanding and spreading the vital significance of cultural and literary theories to explain and resolve the problems of human life.





About East Campus, Sacred Heart College

The East Campus is the new, forward-looking wing of Sacred Heart College (Autonomous), Kochi. It is envisaged as the backbone of its foray into frontier academic disciplines. The East Campus is distinguished by the diversity of its academic programmes as well as in its approach to academics, with special emphasis on research and knowledge creation as befits higher education. Apart from conventional stress on knowledge, the campus endeavours to cultivate in its students habits such as self-discipline, critical thinking, inquisitiveness and social and emotional intelligence, which are the attributes of holistic education. It also seeks to promote a multicultural learning environment without compromising the great values enshrined in our constitution and the rich Indian heritage of interiority, and lasting and self-sacrificing relationships.

About Department of English, East Campus

The Department of English is a distinguished centre for literary and interdisciplinary studies, fostering intellectual excellence and innovation. As one of the founding departments of East Campus, it has played a leading role in shaping its academic culture. Offering B.A. English (Hons.) with a specialization in New Media in line with the NEP-2020 and M.A. English Language & Literature, the department combines rigorous training in classical and contemporary literary traditions with cutting-edge approaches in digital media and critical theory. With a faculty of scholars with industry expertise, it hosts national seminars, expert lectures, and global academic collaborations. It also offers foundation courses in the English language for all departments, ensuring strong communication skills and critical thinking skills across disciplines.





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Dr. C S Biju
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Dr. C S Francis
Vice Principal

Dr. N Prasantha Kumar
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In case of queries, contact:

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