

Unruly Environments

Ecologies of agency in the global era

Conveners	Dr. Siddhartha Krishnan (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru), Prof. Christof Mauch (Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich), Prof. Christopher Pastore (University of Montana, USA), and Dr. Samuel Temple (University of Oklahoma, USA)
Location	The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

This conference aims to historicize and theorize “unruly environments”—those difficult to control spaces that both attract and repel human efforts to transform them. It seeks to stimulate discussions on how assumed “deficiencies,” such as salinity, aridity, altitude, wetness, openness, barrenness or unpredictability, among others, mould local economies, political institutions, conceptions of ownership and stewardship, and notions of identity. The broader questions the conference seeks to engage with are what is unruliness and what environments are considered unruly.

Thursday, 13 February 2014

9.00 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	Welcome by Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan (Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi - NMML) Introduction by Prof. Christof Mauch, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig Maxililian University, Munich - RCC) and Dr. Siddhartha Krishnan(Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru)
9.30 a.m.- 11.00 a.m.	I. Settlement
Chair:	Dr. Rinki Sarkar (Independent Researcher and Economist, Delhi)

Speakers:	Prof. Aloka Parasher Sen (University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad) Unruly Environments and Settlement Histories of the Deccan Plateau
	Prof. Sunil Kumar (University of Delhi, Delhi) “[And] He Went into the Mawas”: Reconsidering the inhospitable environs of Sultanate settlements, ca 13-15th centuries
11.00 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.	Tea and Coffee
11.15 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	II. Empire and Territory
Chair:	Prof. Farhat Hasan (University of Delhi, Delhi)
Speaker:	Dr. Samuel Temple (University of Oklahoma, USA) Unruly Marshes: Obstacles or agents of empire in French North Africa?
1.00 p.m. – 2.00 pm.	Lunch
2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	III. The Built Environment
Chair:	Prof. Christof Mauch (RCC)
Speakers:	Dr. Harini Nagendra (Azim Premji University, Bengaluru) Dealing with a Messy Challenge: Urban approaches to conservation in Indian cities
	Dr. David Biggs (University of California, USA) Riverside, Tread Lightly: Exploring the multiple surfaces of militarized landscapes in central Vietnam
	Prof. Paul Sutter, (University of Colorado, USA) The Greatest Liberty Man has Ever Taken with Nature
4.00 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	Tea and Coffee
4.15 p.m. – 5.15 pm.	Tour of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
5.15 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Tea and Coffee
5.30 p.m. -7.00 p.m.	IV. Session
Introduction:	Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan, (NMML)
Keynote Presentation:	Prof. William Beinart, (Oxford University, UK) Unruly Plants, and Biocultural Diversity: Perspectives from Africa

Friday, 14 February 2014

9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.

I. Climate

Chair:

Dr. Asmita Kabra, (Ambedkar University, Delhi)

Speaker:

Prof. Sajal Nag (NMML)

Rain, Rain, Go Away, Come Again Another Day: History of rainfall, deforestation and desiccation in Cherrapunji, the rainiest spot in the globe

10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.

Tea and Coffee

10.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

II. Wilderness and Animals

Chair:

Dr. Vibha Arora (Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi)

Speakers:

Dr. Siddhartha Krishnan, (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru)

The Symbolic and Material Appropriation of Openness: The transformation of Nilgiri grasslands into spaces of woody, thorny and predatory risk

Dr. Radhika Govindrajan, (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA)

Pigs Gone Wild: Conflict, Conservation and the Production of Wildness in India's Central Himalayas

12.30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

III. Edges

Chair:

Dr. Swati Shresth, (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment)

Speaker:

Prof. Christopher Pastore, (University of Montana, USA)

Line in the Sand: The promises and perils of ordering the Ocean's Edge

3.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.

Tea and Coffee

3.15 p.m. -5.00 p.m.

IV. Conservation Laws and Resistance

Chair:

Dr. Vasudha Pande, (NMML)

Speakers:

Dr. Usha Ramanathan, (Independent Scholar, New Delhi)
Unruly Law, Conflict and a Confused Environment: Three decades of the
ambitions of the law in conservation and environmental regulation
(1980-2010)

Dr. Uday Chandra, (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and
Ethnic Diversity, Germany)
The State, Popular Resistance, and the Political Economy of Forests in
Contemporary Eastern India

Discussant:

Prof. Christof Mauch (RCC)