



Centre for Research in Posthumanities
Bankura University *Presents*



A Two-Day International & Transdisciplinary
Conference-cum-Workshop

***Humanities at the Crossroads:
Re-Configuring (Post)human Ethics, Aesthetics and Politics***

11-12 February 2023

10am to 4 pm IST

Bankura University Campus
In person I& Virtual

Speakers on
11 February

Speakers on
12 February



**PROF. MADRS ROSENDAHL
THOMSEN**

Professor of Comparative Literature
Aarhus University

11.02.23 at 1:30 pm IST



PROF. CHRISTOPHER NORRIS

Emeritus Professor at Cardiff
University, Philosopher,
Literary Critic & Poet

12.02.23 at 2:30 pm IST



DR. TRAVIS HOLLOWAY

Assistant Professor of Philosophy at
SUNY Farmingdale,
Translator, Poet & the author of

How to Live at the End of the World:

Theory, Art, and Politics for the Anthropocene
(Stanford UP, 2022)

To be launched on 11.02.23 at 7:30 pm IST



PROF. FRANCESCA FERRANDO

Philosopher of the Posthuman
& Adjunct Assistant Professor
at New York University

12.02.23 at 7:30 pm IST



**BOOK
LAUNCH**



Chief Patron
Prof. Deb Narayan
Bandyopadhyay
Hon'ble VC, BKU



Hon'ble Guest
Dr. Saurabh Dutta
Registrar, BKU



Hon'ble Guest
Prof. Jayanta Kr. Saha
Dean, BKU

Conveners

Sukhendu Das
Dr. Subhadeep Paul
CRP Coordinators, BKU

Meeting ID: 849 1448 7698
Passcode: 722155
Zoom Meeting link below

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84914487698?pwd=OHRKM2tYZ1hoQjkyZHhNbDRtRWZrZz09>

Concept Note & CFP

Humanistic thinking appears inadequate when it comes engage with contemporary climate catastrophe, damaged ecosystem, mass species extinction, socio-political changes, exceptional growth of technology, AI and prosthesis. These unprecedented crises require a radical re-structuring/re-aligning of our established mode of knowledge production – theoretically, ethically and methodologically. Since ‘the human’ should be located in its entanglements with the non-human others (environment, animal, technology, objects etc.), posthumanists find it urgent to re-think one fundamental question: What it means to be human?

Humans are no longer the biological agents of this planet. They are another telluric force – a geological agent. This transmutation of human agency (i.e. from biological agent to geological agent) radically destabilises the pillars of modernity and an unwritten ‘modern constitution’. Human agency, freedom, ethics, reflexivity (which largely constitute the pillars of modernity), as a result, should be rethought and reconceptualized. With the publication of Bruno Latour’s book, *We Have Never Been Modern* in 1991, dualistic mode of thinking and the fence-making practices of an unwritten ‘modern constitution’ faced a radical challenge; and they were found no longer tenable. Most importantly, a profound incredulity towards Western modernity has swept across academia in the last few decades. We are made to envision and usher in a post-dualistic mode of existence and an ontologically interdependent or entangled existence of the human and the non-human, as Latour might advocate.

Once the very idea of the human is challenged, the rich legacy and edifice of humanist thoughts crafted over the past centuries crumble down. As a result, existing socio-political thoughts no longer remain purely intra-human conflicts and contracts. Non-human elements (such as green elements, geological and nanographic time, microbes, material agencies, technology, AI and many other planetary elements) made their presence inevitable in the existing intra-human drama of existence. Human agency has lost its exclusivity and the non-human others reclaim their ‘agentic capacities’.

Since the last decade of this new millennium, there has been a proliferation of book series, monographs, edited volumes, journal articles, symposia, and web-blogs that seek to locate the interfaces of critical and scientific idioms, entanglement of the social and biological, the erasure of disciplinary boundaries and the interventions of the geomorphic and geopolitical in the wake of such unprecedented planetary crises, caused largely by climate change. As the pressure mounts, re-arrangement and re-alignment of the existing theoretical, conceptual and interpretative frameworks stands increasingly necessary and urgent.

The conference-cum-workshop aims to address what Posthumanism is and what consequences it might have for the Humanities and Social Sciences in general. Topics may include (but not solely restricted to):

- Genealogy of the Posthuman: Were We already Posthuman?
- Anti/Trans/Meta/Post-humanism
- Critical Posthumanism
- Philosophical Posthumanism
- Posthuman (Bio)ethics, (Bio)politics and Rights
- Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Prosthesis, Human Enhancements and Robophilosophy
- Posthuman Citizenship and Digital Surveillance
- The Anthropocene, Posthuman Ecology, Speciesism and Animal Ethics
- New Materialisms
- Art, Media and Aesthetics in Posthuman Era
- Material Feminism

Conference Highlights and Special Events:

- Dr. Travis Holloway's latest book *How to Live at the End of the World: Theory, Art, and Politics for the Anthropocene* (Stanford University Press, 2022) will be launched by Professor Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay (Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Bankura University) on 11.02.2023 at 7:30 pm IST. It will be followed by Dr. Holloway's talk on his book.
- Professor Francesca Ferrando will be in conversation with Professor Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay, Sukhendu Das and Dr. Subhadeep Paul on 12.02.2023 at 7:30 pm IST.

Key Facts and Necessary Information:

- Abstract might be sent to posthumanities@bankurauniv.ac.in within 30.01.2023 (Participants are advised to send an abstract of 200 words and a short bio-note in word files. 'CRP Conference Submission 2023' should be mentioned in the subject line of Gmail.)
- Dates of the conference: **11-12 February 2023**
- **Zoom Meeting Link** (the link is for both days):
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84914487698?pwd=OHRKM2tYZ1hoQjkyZHhNbDRtRWZrZz09>
Meeting ID: 849 1448 7698
Passcode: 722155
- **Registration Fees:** 1500 INR & 30 USD (for participants outside India). It includes conference kit, tea, snacks, working lunch on both days.
- **Publication Prospect:** Select papers will be considered for an international publication after double-blind peer review process. However, the discretion and recommendation of the peer-board will be considered final in this case. I am in touch with Dr. Nikoleta Zampaki. She has

invited proposal for the book series "Posthumanities and Citizenship Futures" at **Rowman & Littlefield** https://rowman.com/Action/Series/_/LEXPCF

- Participants are advised to attend the conference in person. Virtual presentation slots are limited.
- All queries relating to conference might be directed to the email id mentioned above.
- Participants seeking accommodation are requested to contact at the address below:

Hotel Debarshi, Laal Bazar, Bankura, Contact- 8170027308 & 9732357466 (WhatsApp)

Conference Committee and Board Members

Chief Patron

Professor Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Bankura University

Hon'ble Guests

Dr. Saurabh Dutta
Registrar, Bankura University
Professor Jayanta Kumar Saha
Dean, Bankura University

Conveners

Sukhendu Das, Assistant Professor of English & CRP Coordinator
Dr. Subhadeep Paul, Assistant Professor of English & CRP Coordinator

Organizing Committee

Dr. Kaushik Ghosh, Dr. Subhadeep Paul, Dr. Tanuka Roy Sinha, Mr. Nirupam Hazra, Mr. Bapin Mallick, and Sukhendu Das

Conference Management Team

Nabanita Karanjai, Niladri Mahapatra, Saikat Chakrabarty, Amimon Islam, Bishnu Dey
