

In Quest of a Missing Link: Exploring the Colonial Co-Evals of Eco-crisis and Epistemic Violence from a Post-Colonial Perspective, with Special Reference to *The Nutmeg's Curse* (2021)

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Abstract

The planetary crisis precipitated by the Anthropocene remains embedded in a mesh of ecological injustices since the tense of hegemonic control and exploitation of erstwhile colonies by colonialists. The unreckoned violence visited by European settler tribes upon the indigenous communities mostly eluded from dominant historiography legitimises the colonial project of plundering, exploitation and terra-forming. This indiscriminate colonial extraction from their occupied eco-spheres, along with the frequent genocides, decimated the local ecological/epistemological systems upholding a man-nature symbiosis. Diverse beliefs rooted in indigenous epistemological systems were disappeared, destroyed as part of the colonial exploitative enterprise. Engaging with these and correlated issues, my paper seeks to argue that epistemic violence visited by the European colonisers in their erstwhile colonies in Asia and Africa was one of the formative factors aggravating the present ecological catastrophe. Amitav Ghosh's *The Nutmeg's Curse* (2021) has been taken up as a specific textual illustration to analyse the intersections between eco-sustainability and plural epistemic traditions of the indigenous or "eco-system people" ruthlessly razed, or at best, driven underground by those who arrived with their murderous civilizing mission.

Keywords

Anthropocene, Terra-forming, Eco-spheres, Colonial Epistemic Violence, Eco-sustainability