

**CENTRE FOR CANADIAN STUDIES
JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY**

CALL FOR PAPERS

**RE-STORYING THE LAND:
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
AND CULTURAL PATHWAYS
IN CANADA AND INDIA**

International Conference on Canadian Studies

5-6 February 2026



“What does it mean to live well in a damaged world? To learn how to listen to rivers, to hear the flow that connects glaciers to tap water, the rain that feeds the salmon that feeds the forest that feeds us. The system is not broken — it is being broken by greed. Repair means remembering our place in the cycle, not above it.”

— Rita Wong, Undercurrent (2015)

The unseen layers of environmental racism, experienced and survived by thousands of communities in Canada, have been finally unraveled to the larger Canadian population after the National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act, commonly known as Bill C-226, achieved the royal assent in June 2024. In countries like Canada, which bear a long history of colonialism and capitalism, the chronic demolition of Indigenous community ethos and ideologies becomes an evident reality through systemic racism and profit-based imperialism. Often deprived of their practical agency—to intervene or to act—Indigenous and other racialized, marginalized communities, including the diasporic population, have suffered the most due to the uneven impacts of environmental degradation. It was not until recently that the federal government attempted to recognize its failure to preserve sustainable Indigenous practices that have ultimately led to severe climate change and disproportionate environmental injustice. Collaborative projects such as the one with the Aamjiwnaang community or listening to the ‘Indigenous Guardians’ movements are some of the much-delayed steps taken towards creating a more participatory, environmentally aware society that Canada needs.

Similarly, environmental injustice in India remains a critical issue, where marginalized groups—especially indigenous communities and the urban poor—face the worst effects of pollution, deforestation, and industrial exploitation. Governmental initiatives to address these injustices often exist only on paper or are poorly implemented, with weak enforcement of environmental laws and frequent collusion with powerful industries. Movements like the ‘Narmada Bachao Andolan’, the ‘Chipko movement’, or the ‘Appikko Movement’ have left an indelible mark on India’s environmental consciousness and policy making, yet, they are barely looked at as necessary interventions for social justice or followed up by essential legislation.

This international conference invites scholars, students, researchers, and cultural practitioners to reflect critically on how literature, culture, and lived experience engage with the ecological and social crises that increasingly shape our world. Focusing on an Indo-Canadian cross-cultural perspective, the conference aims to highlight the interconnectedness of environmental issues and social justice, exploring how cultural expressions, culinary memories, and community rituals can pave the way towards a more sustainable and equitable environment for diverse social groups. By situating Canada and India in conversation, we hope to foreground both shared challenges and distinct pathways toward more equitable futures. The conference would take cognizance of contemporary expressions aimed at investigating the role of intersectional identities—across gender, caste, class, and migration status—in shaping experiences of environmental and social injustice, with the hope of imagining new praxis to resolve the existing challenges.

The conference would like to invite papers attempting to create epistemological observations regarding the complex paradigms of environmental injustice and possible pathways to address the uncertain future that it entails. Possible sub-themes of the conference are as follows:

- Land rights, resource extraction, and community struggles
- Urbanization, environmental degradation, and displacement
- Intersection of gender, caste/class, and environmental injustice
- Transnational environmental movements and literary activism
- Ecofeminism and queer ecologies in literature and society
- Narratives of climate change and ecological dystopias
- Culinary narratives and diasporic identity
- Indigenous food sovereignty
- Climate action and consciousness
- Ritual, festival, and the cultural politics of food
- Food cultures and environmental justice
- Ethical fashion, upcycling, and circular economies

Abstracts of not more than 500 words along with a 50-word bio-note are to be sent to ccsj@jadavpuruniversity.in by 1 December 2025. Acceptance will be intimated by 15 December 2025.

Undergraduate students may only apply for poster presentations.

Only overseas participants will be considered for virtual presentations, given the logistics permit. A registration fee will be mandatory for all selected participants.

From 2017, the Centre for Canadian Studies, Jadavpur University, has introduced two student awards for the best paper presented at a regular session at the Conference as follows:

1. “Victor Ramraj Memorial Prize” for the best paper in Canadian Diaspora Studies
 2. “Renate Eigenbrod Memorial Prize” for the best paper in Indigenous Canadian Studies
- A student may apply for only one of the above-mentioned prizes and should indicate the same during abstract submission. Joint authors would not be eligible to participate. The student must be registered as a current Master's or PhD student at a college/ University/ Research Institute. Previous awardees (within the last three academic years) in any category would not be eligible to apply.
 - In order to be considered for the prize and upon acceptance of the abstract, completed papers (2500 words excluding bibliography, Chicago Style-sheet, 17th Edition) should be emailed by 16 January 2026. Inability to adhere to given deadlines and formats would lead to instant disqualification, and the students would not be shortlisted for the prize.
 - Only shortlisted students would be eligible to compete for the prize, but all students whose abstracts have been accepted would be eligible to present their paper at the conference.
 - The Prize(s) would be awarded only if the Screening Committee believes in the originality and academic excellence of the submission. The decision of the Screening Committee would be final.

Registration information as given below for both participants and attendees (Includes Lunch/ Refreshments/ Conference Kit)

Faculty: Rs. 800 + 18% GST = Rs. 944/-

Postdoctoral Scholar: Rs. 600 + 18% GST = Rs. 708/-

PhD Scholar/ Independent Scholar: Rs. 400 + 18% GST = Rs.472/-

UG/PG Students: Rs. 300 + 18% GST = Rs. 354/-

Foreign Delegates: USD 50 + 18% GST = USD 59

Please send a copy of the transfer document/receipt along with transaction ID with your details, including name, affiliation, address, email-id and contact number at ccsj@jadavpuruniversity.in

Information about the registration link will be provided ONLY after acceptance of papers/ requests for attendance.

Deadline for completion of registration: **23 January 2026**. Pre-registration is mandatory.

Accommodation:

Participants will make arrangements for their own stay. Suggestions for possible places to stay can be provided on request.

Conference Coordinator:

Professor Debashree Dattaray, Coordinator, Centre for Canadian Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata – 700032

Organising Committee:

Sayan Mazumder (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Titir Chakraborty (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Tias Basu (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Debkanya Banerjee (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Debashree Dattaray (Faculty member, Jadavpur University)

