

**CENTRE FOR CANADIAN STUDIES
JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Of Activism and Critical Praxis: Retheorizing the Politics of Water in India and Canada

**International Conference on Canadian Studies
5-6 March 2024**

Anishinabek Nation chief water commissioner and youth activist Autumn Peltier has been campaigning for safe, clean water for Canada since the age of 12 as she believes “I do what I do for the water because water is sacred.” (Peltier 2017). Canada is a land of beautiful lakes and rivers and yet, many Indigenous communities have been living under drinking water advisory notices. Peltier’s great-aunt, the late Josephine Mandamin had founded the Indigenous led water-protectors movement and had walked 25000 miles around the Great Lakes with a copper water bucket to register her protest against water pollution and her dedication for the sanctity of water.

Despite the 2010 UN ratification on the human right to water and sanitation, collective and moral claims for water justice and policy change reflect the ongoing complex discourses and struggles around the right to water and by extension to land. In the context of India too, notions of water scarcity and water policy frameworks are not “natural” events but are deeply embedded in social and power relations in terms of water access, usage and practices and land rights. In a world where climate change, water security and environmental destruction are part of the everyday, politics of water foreground both vulnerabilities and possibilities of resilience and envision a conversation on multiple imaginaries of theory and praxis. Discussions about ongoing water insecurities or a more comprehensive understanding of “the liquid that will determine our future” (Guha 2019) would ensure paradigmatic shifts in cultural epistemologies, policy, legal frameworks, local implementations and national dialogues in relation to rights and access to land as well.

The politics of water in both Indian and Canadian contexts draws attention to an in-between space that embodies stories of conquest, violence, resistance, subversion and engage in redistributive politics and defy “truth politics”. The Conference would take cognizance of debates around the complexities of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the challenges of the Anthropocene and climate change, remoralization of waterscapes and landscapes amidst the intertwining of distributive and cultural politics in India and Canada. The politics of water in relation to land as both an extractive space and a point of reclamation can enrich narratives of ethno-racial politics.

The Conference would like to invite papers that map complex argumentative narrations and different contours around the right to water from a socio-cultural and political perspective that traverses diverse cartographies. The Conference welcomes papers that situate water as an ever-expanding archive of knowledge and critical praxis that can challenge fields of power and “an economy of violence”. (Gadgil 2014). Sub-themes for the Conference as given below:

- Remoralization of waterscapes and landscapes
- Activism and land sovereignty
- Borders and human mobility
- Resilience and coping strategies

- Migration narratives
- Anthropocene and the new media
- Poetics and climate despair
- Climate precarity and 2SLGBTQIA+ interventions
- Borders and water
- Historical injustice and water
- Cultural resurgence and ecologies
- Land-based activities and healing practices
- Traditional governance
- Social suffering and community
- Home, nostalgia and authenticity
- Indigeneity, Diaspora, Schisms
- Transnational and Indigenous Identities

Abstracts (400 - 500 words) along with a 50-word bio-note are to be sent to **both** ccsju@jadavpuruniversity.in and canadacentreju@gmail.com by **2 February 2024**. Acceptance will be intimated by **12 February 2024**.

Please note that the abstract must reflect a clear understanding of Indo–Canadian Studies. Students at the undergraduate level can only submit abstracts for poster presentation.

Only overseas participants would be considered for online presentation, if all logistics work. Registration would be required.

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 Masters 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 Stylesheet, 17th Edition) should be emailed by **21 February 2024**. 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. 200 + 18% GST = Rs. 236/-

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 **both** ccsju@jadavpuruniversity.in and canadacentreju@gmail.com

Attendees must send a request for registration with all details **both** at ccsju@jadavpuruniversity.in and canadacentreju@gmail.com by 10 February 2024.

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

Deadline for completion of registration: **28 February 2024.**

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 Coordinators:

Professor Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Coordinator, Centre for Canadian Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata – 700 032

Dr. Debashree Dattaray, Deputy Coordinator, Centre for Canadian Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata - 700032

Organising Committee:

Sahil Sapui (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Titir Chakraborty (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Tias Basu (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Krishnendu Pal (Research Scholar, Jadavpur University)

Suchorita Chattopadhyay (Faculty member, Jadavpur University)

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