



96 Years

IPCW ON

NATIONAL WORKSHOP

INTERROGATING "ANTHROPOCENE"
CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE UNEQUAL WORLD

AND
LAUNCH OF PROJECT DHYAN

INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

SEPTEMBER 8-12, 2020

CONCEPT NOTE

"GARCIN: How about you? Aren't you afraid?"

INEZ: What would be the use? There was some point in being afraid before, while one still had hope.

GARCIN: There's no more hope – but it's still 'before'. We haven't yet begun to suffer.

INEZ: That's so. Well? What's going to happen?"

GARCIN: I don't know. I'm waiting."

[Jean-Paul Sartre's play Huis Clos (No Exit)]

Climate change is an epochal crisis of the 21st century. Over time the human cause of global warming became a matter of near certainty - from "very likely" to "extremely likely" in the fifth assessment report. This urged some social scientists to argue that this was a paradigm moment in the history of the earth, where the humans were transformed from a mere biological agent to a geological agent – capable of making changes to the most basic physical processes of the earth, its complex climatic system. The classical division in history – the natural vs. human history no longer remained viable as the humans increasingly and consciously encroached upon nature. This would clearly suggest that the current moment in the geological history of the earth cannot be identified as Holocene but as "Anthropocene"- an era marked by human-induced climate change. It may be considered a moment in time unbridled by the heydays of industrial civilization as well as an age marked with existential threat to the life of humankind on planet earth. It appropriately is a planetary crisis – the time of 'Great Derangement'.

So, while one may accept the crisis as the planetary crisis of our time, it may be worthwhile to examine the propriety of the nomenclature "Anthropocene", at least for two reasons. First, it is implicit that the entire humankind positioned in an unequal world, is responsible for this disaster; Secondly, it can be presumed that the impact of the catastrophe would be felt universally again across unequal world. In both cases, caution is required in the conceptualization of climate change, its impact and action in an unequal world. The scholarship on climate change has proven remarkably that climate change has brought further discrimination and inequality in this already unequal world. Disadvantaged communities – socially, economically, politically – that faced oppression and marginalization are affected even more disproportionately. In the Indian context, women and communities like scheduled caste and scheduled tribe can be cited as examples worst affected by climate change as compared to others. It is imperative therefore that any discussion on the crisis or strategies to manage it including its mitigation and adaptation, should address the questions on caste, class, community and gender.

Program Schedule

08 September, 2020

11.30 am: Introduction

Dr. Meena Bhargava

OSD, Department of Geography, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi

11.40 am: **Welcome Address**

Prof. Babli Moitra Saraf

Principal, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi

11.50 am: **Inaugural Keynote Address**

Prof. J. Srinivasan

Distinguished Scientist

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

Panels

09 September, 2020

12.30 pm: 'Gendering Climate Change'

Prof. Sucharita Sen

CSRD, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

10 September, 2020

12.30 pm: 'Caste, Tribe and Climate Change'

Prof. Govind Kelkar

GenDev Centre for Research and Innovation, Gurugram

11 September, 2020

02.30 pm: 'Class and Climate Change'

Dr. Rohit Azad

CESP, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

12 September, 2020

12.30 pm: 'Climate Change Policy'

Mr. D. Raghunandan

Delhi Science Forum & All India Peoples Science Network, New Delhi

01.30 pm: **Vote of Thanks**



Register by 5 September 2020
http://bit.ly/IPC_Climate-Workshop