



POSTHUMANS
The Global Posthuman Network

SECOND WORLD COLLOQUIUM ON EXISTENTIAL POSTHUMANISM

R **POSTHUMAN** *S* **RENAISSANCE**

*Making Self,
Making World*



14 - 16 JANUARY, 2026

**PRESIDENCY
UNIVERSITY**
KOLKATA

PRE-CONFERENCE

13 January Afternoon (3 PM onwards)

Plant Consciousness:
A Visit to the Bi-Centenary Museum at Presidency University
Curated by Dr Upal Chakrabarti

Followed by Tea

DAY 1 — 14 JANUARY

9:30 – 10:00

Welcome Tea

10:00 – 10:20

Opening Circle

(led by Dr Stefano Rozzoni)

10:20 – 11:00

Conference Inauguration

(P C Mahalanobis Auditorium)

11:00 – 12:15

Plenary Multilogue: Existential Posthumanism

Francesca Ferrando, Debashish Banerji and Sumit Chakrabarti

Moderated by Md Monirul Islam

(P C Mahalanobis Auditorium)

12:15 - 12:30

Tea Break

12:30 – 1:30

Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 1: Vegetal Subjectivities

Session Chair: Dr Moley Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Presidency University

Speakers:

Ahana Bhattacharyya, Faculty Member, Chakdaha College — Yeong-Hye Becomes a Tree: A Posthumanist Study of Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*

Tohidur Rahaman, Faculty Member, Sripat Singh College — Posthuman Existentiality of “Weeds” and “Plants” in Gardening Citizenship: Examining Relationality of Arrangement and Displacement through Photographic Practices

Aditi Roy, Student, Presidency University — The Vegetal Rebirth: Bodily Autonomy and Posthuman Interconnectedness in Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*

Mousumi Paul, Research Scholar, University of Engineering and Management— Entangled Identities: A Posthumanist Reading of *How I Became a Tree* by Sumana Roy

AK Basak 1: Nature as Subject

Session Chair: Dr Debanjana Nayek, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers:

Saikat Chakraborty, Doctoral Researcher, Kazi Nazrul University — Natural Sublimity as Crisis: Interrogating Human Supremacy in Ranen Ghosh

Debosmita Routh, Student, Presidency University — Under His Eyes Beyond His Reach: Posthuman Resistance in Atwood's *Gilead*

Hariom Singh, Faculty Member, University of Allahabad — The Posthuman Re(turns): Sublime as a Mode of Being in Sara Wheeler's *Terra Incognita*

Soumya Sur, Doctoral Researcher, IIT Mandi — Toward an Inclusive Discourse of War Suffering: Expanding the Affective and Ethical Boundaries of Conflict

1:30 – 2:30

Lunch Break

2:30 – 3:30

Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 2: The Anthropocene, Question of Agency, and Geopolitical Precarity

Session Chair: Dr Zaad Mahmood, Professor, Department of Political Science, Presidency University

Speakers:

Dr Koyel Basu, Faculty Member, Jangipur College — Posthumanism in the Anthropocene Era: Challenges to International Relations

Apurba Mandal, Doctoral Researcher, Presidency University — Existential Posthumanism and the Rohingya Community: A Reading of Roshidullah Kyaw Naing's Poetry Collection, *The Painful Life of Rohingya: The Voices of Rohingya Genocide Survivor to the World* (2022)

Sainaz Farzana Kazi, Doctoral Researcher, Presidency University — Contagious Becoming: Nonhuman Agency and the Deconstruction of Victorian Dualism in Marryat's *The Blood of the Vampire*

Agni Guha Khasnobis, Student, Pondicherry University — Posthuman Intimacies and the Crisis of Connection: Jeanette Winterson's *Frankissstein* in the Age of the Anthropocene

AK Basak 2: Monster Hybridities

Session Chair: Dr Kalyan Kumar Das, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers:

Reeswav Chatterjee & Shalini Chakraborty, Doctoral Researchers, Bankura University & NIT Agartala — "Hastar Aa Jayega": Anatomy of Humanism's Horror in the Locus of Posthuman Bodies

Rifat Ara Khatun, Doctoral Researcher, IIT Kharagpur — Breaking Free from Humanism and Branching Towards Posthumanism: Tracing Posthuman Reflections in Gieve Patel's Art

Ajith K. Cherian, Faculty Member, GITAM Hyderabad — Feral Images & Howling Words: Stasis & Anastasis in László Krasznahorkai & Max Neumann's Graphic Novella *Animalinside*

Safia Yasmin, Doctoral Researcher, Visva-Bharati — "The Stone-eater, Giants, Ventriloquists, the Invisible Girl, ... All jumbled up together, to compose, A Parliament of Monsters": A Study of Posthuman Body and Death in Nineteenth-century Britain

3:30 – 4:30
Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 3: Spiritual Posthumanism

Session Chair: Dr Sukanya Sarbadhikary, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Presidency University

Speakers:

Kaushiki Chowdhury, Student, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad — You Are a Cosmic Dream: Reimagining Theory through Interactive Fiction

Sruti Bhaumik, Student, Banaras Hindu University — Of Rituals, Rivers, and Rebirth: Towards an Ethics of Posthuman Coexistence

Aiswarya M. G., Doctoral Researcher, PDPM IIITDM Jabalpur — The Divine Self and Posthuman Becoming: Insights from Swami Vivekananda

Dr Emelia Noronha, Faculty Member, Prahladrai Dalmia Lions College of Commerce & Economics — The Multiverse of Folklore: An Insight into Spiritual Posthumanism

AK Basak 3: Performance & Workshop

Performance

Katarzyna Ferworn-Horawa, Doctoral Researcher, University of Warsaw, Poland — ALLOW! Sensitivity, creativity, and agentiality in a nonanthropocentric perspective

Workshop

Gitanjali Chhabra, Faculty Member, University Canada West, Vancouver — Erasure and Emergence, Immersion in Infinity: Posthuman Conceptualization of Consciousness

4:30 – 4:45

Tea Break

4:45 – 5:30

Closing Circle

DAY 2 — 15 JANUARY

10:00 - 11:30

Plenary Workshop: Existential Posthumanism — Making Self, Making World
Led by Stefano Rozzoni (University of Bergamo)
(P C Mahalanobis Auditorium)

11:30 - 12:00

Tea Break

12:00 – 1:00

Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis1: Multispecies Identities

Session Chair: Dr Anirban Ray, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers:

Suryakanth K. B., Doctoral Researcher, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, Chennai — From Homo Faber to Homo Entangled: A Posthuman Renaissance of Co-existence

Tanvi Deepak Shah, Doctoral Researcher, K. C. College, HSNC University, Mumbai, & Dr Shalini R. Sinha, Faculty Member, K. C. College, HSNC University — Utopian Spaces Beyond the Earth: A Posthuman Analysis of Becky Chambers' *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet*

Soumyadeep Sarkar, Student, Ramakrishna Mission Residential College — Decentering the Human: Posthuman Assemblages and Ethical Relationality in Denis Villeneuve's *Arrival*

Rishila Mishra, Student, University of Calcutta — “In Body, and Become a Living Soul”: Wordsworth and the Vision of Existential Posthumanism

AK Basak 1: Birds, Beasts, and Bodies — Multispecies Engagement in the Anthropocene

Session Chair: Dr Shanta Dutta, Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers:

Dr. Hiya Chatterjee, Faculty Member, Swarnamoyee Jogendranath Mahavidyalaya, Vidyasagar University — Birds, Beasts, and Bodies: A Multispecies Engagement in the Anthropocene

Dr Ved Prakash, Faculty Member, Central University of Rajasthan — All That Breathes and All That Belongs: A Study of Air, Space, and Species in the City

Sujay Thakur, Faculty Member, Gangadharapur Mahavidyamandir, University of Calcutta — Invisible Palate(s) in a Violent Savarna-Centric World

Dr Shayeari Dutta, Assistant Professor, Surendranath College, University of Calcutta—Coolie, Cane, Kala Pani: A Multispecies Study of Caribbean Indenture History

1:00 – 2:00
Lunch Break

2:00 – 3:00
Parallel Session

PC Mahalanobis2: Ecological Precarity

Session Chair: Dr Mousumi Mandal, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers:

Dr Surabhi Jha, Research Scholar, Aliah University — Ecologies of Marginality: Nonhuman Forces in Dalit Women's Autobiographical Writing

Soyel Haque, Student, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University — Posthuman Ecology and the Vulnerability of Life in Indra Sinha's *Animal's People*

Siddhesh S. Raut, Faculty Member, Ganpat Parsekar College of Education, Harmal-Goa — Coconut, Sea, and Self: A Posthuman Reading of the Goan Everyday

Vaishnavi Singh, Doctoral Researcher, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University — Terraforming the Self: Ecological Adaptation and Posthuman Identity in *Meru*

AK Basak 2: Technological Incorporations

Session Chair: Dr Samrat Sengupta, Associate Professor, Department of English, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University

Speakers:

Akriti Kujur, Doctoral Researcher, Jawaharlal Nehru University — Worlds in Superposition: Quantum Posthumanism in Select Indian Speculative Fiction

Tajuddeen Nadaf, Doctoral Researcher, IIT Dharwad — Being in the Machine Age: Existential Posthumanism in *Machinehood* (2021)

Dr. Souvik Kar, Faculty Member, Amity University, Kolkata — “The Girl Who Was a Bomb”: Existential Posthumanism, Bioengineering Ethics, and Radioactive (Anti)Heroism in Senaa Ahmad’s “The Glow-in-the-Dark Girls” (2021)

Granthana Ganguly, Doctoral Researcher, Presidency University — Empathy, Recognition and Solidarity: Biovalue and Posthumanism in Chen Qiufan’s Translated Works of SF

3:15 – 4:15
Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 3: Evolutionary Posthumanism /Feminist Interventions

Session Chair: Dr Emelia Noronha, Associate Professor, Department of English, Prahladrai Dalmia Lions College of Commerce & Economics, Mumbai

Speakers:

Aritra Basu, Research Scholar, University of Calcutta — The Anthropocentric Ma(chi)n(e): Evolutionary Posthumanism in *Westworld*

Swapnajeet Das, Research Scholar— ‘Evolutionary Posthumanism’: Exploring the Evolution of (Post)Humans in the Post-natural Planet

Dr Rumela Saha, Faculty Member, Kazi Nazrul University — Planetary Becoming: Decolonising Posthumanism in Vandana Singh’s *The Woman Who Thought She Was a Planet and Other Stories*

Eshani Bhattacharjee, Student, IIT Madras — “When He Wished Me to Live”: Radical Reinscription of the Posthuman Feminine in Narrativizations of the Galatea Myth

AK Basak 3: Philosophical Posthumanism

Session Chair: Dr Inamur Rahaman, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Presidency University

Speakers:

Sreyasi Dey, Student, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata — Looking at Yorick: The Posthuman Condition

Rubaiya Nasrin, Doctoral Researcher, Jadavpur University — Rewriting the Human: Speciesism, Media Ecologies, and the Posthuman Renaissance

Jayjit Sarkar, Faculty Member, Raiganj University — From Studia Humanitatis to Humusities: Rethinking Human and Humanities through Parasites

Subhagni Jana, Doctoral Researcher, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur — The Who, the What, the Why of Posthuman Retellings: How Human Rhetoric and Human Mythology Meet the Posthuman Narrators

4:15 – 4:30

Afternoon Tea

4:30 – 5:30

Plenary Talk — Francesca Ferrando

DAY 3 — 16 JANUARY

10:00 – 10:50

Sharing Circle (Indoor)

11:00 – 12:00

Plenary Conversation: Posthuman Renaissance(s)

Md. Monirul Islam, Samrat Sengupta, Stefano Rozzoni

Moderated by: Debashish Banerji

(P C Mahalanobis Auditorium)

12:00 – 12:15

Tea Break

12:15 – 1:15

Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 1: Existential Praxis I

Session Chair: Afsheen Toosinejad, California Institute of Integral Studies

Speakers:

Kusumitha R, Doctoral Researcher, Bangalore University — Meditating the Molecule: Genetic Memory, Inner Silence, and the Becoming-Posthuman

Dr Ramapriya Ramachandran, Faculty Member, Kunthavai Naacchiyaar Government Arts College for Women — Aerological Self and the Posthuman Condition: An Irigarayan Reading of Jenny Offill's *Weather*

Keerthi Shree S. S., Doctoral Researcher, Kunthavai Naacchiyaar Government Arts College for Women — Existential Bioethics and Foucauldian Technologies of Self in Jennifer Egan's *The Candy House*

Rahana P. S., Doctoral Researcher, Kunthavai Naacchiyaar Government Arts College for Women — Digital Sublime and Existential Posthumanism: A Reading of Don DeLillo's *Zero K*

AK Basak 1: Existential Praxis II

Session Chair: Katarzyna Ferworn-Horawa, University of Warsaw

Speakers:

Jose Joseph, Faculty Member, Kunthavai Naacchiyaar Government Arts College for Women — From Dasein to Earth-Being: Heidegger, Existential Posthumanism and Planetary Ontology in Richard Powers' *The Overstory*

Summer LaPointe, Research Scholar, University of Cincinnati — To Be and Become: Beyond Life toward Existence in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

Dr Diksha Tripathi, Faculty Member, CMP & J.C. Bose University YMCA — Between Dust and Data: Liminal Existence in the Age of Existential Posthumanism

Malang Cilangasan, Student, RCSD, Chiang Mai University — When Local Wisdom Meets Sustainable Development: An Ethnic Karen Village in Northern Thailand

1:15 – 2:15
Lunch Break

2:15– 3:15
Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 2: Artificial and Cultural Intelligence

Session Chair: Priyanka Das, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University

Speakers:

Deepanwita Saha, Research Scholar, Presidency University — Meme and Existential Posthumanism

Prerana Sana, Student— When Companionship Turns Obsession: Affective Autonomy and Emotional Collapse in Posthuman Cinema

Violina Kalita, Doctoral Researcher, Gauhati University — Extending the Self: AI, Authorship, and Existential Becoming in Appupen's *Dream Machine*

Humaira Mariyam B., Doctoral Researcher, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli — Beyond Human Exceptionalism in AI-Enhanced Posthuman Language Classroom

AK Basak 2: Medical Considerations

Session Chair: Dr Anirban Das, Professor, The Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata

Speakers:

Debayan Das, Doctoral Researcher, Banaras Hindu University — Vibrant Bacillus and the Humanist Ideal: Cholera and the Unmaking of the Bengal Renaissance

Ashish Kumar Pandey, Doctoral Researcher, IIT Jodhpur — Existential Becoming and Corporeal Revival in Priya Sarukkai Chhabria's *Clone*

Dr Pritikana Karmakar, Faculty Member, GITAM Hyderabad — Beyond Technomedical Victories: Counter-Narratives of Ebola and Eco-Compassion in Véronique Tadjo's *In the Company of Men*

3:30 – 4:30

Parallel Sessions

PC Mahalanobis 3: Workshop

Session Chair: Stefano Rozzoni, University of Bergamo

Presentation/Performance:

Rosalie Purvis, Assistant Professor of Theatre and English, University of Maine — “Would You Still Love Me If I Were Secretly a Mermaid?” On Love, Disclosure, and Mythic Bodies

Workshop by the Members of Turin University (30 minutes)

AK Basak 3: Workshop

Conducted by:

Pratyay Raha, Doctoral Researcher, RMIT University — Sensing Entanglements: Field Recording Techniques from a Posthumanist Perspective

Dominic Bucci, Student, California Institute of Integral Studies — Posthuman Praxis: Using a Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) to Optimize Scholarly Performance

4:45– 5:30

Closing Reflection on the Conference and Closing Circle: Design by Dr Debaroti Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, Presidency University, Scenography: Kaushani Mukherjee
(A K Basak Hall)

5:30 Onwards (Green Zone and Portico)

An Immersive Performance by the Students of the Department of Performing Arts, Presidency
University

The Art of Communion

Decades ago, Walter Benjamin, in his essay "The Storyteller" (1936) rang a prophetic bell when he declared that the figure of the storyteller is dying out as we enter an age when "experience has fallen in value". *The Art of Communion* validates experiencing through the senses in an age of 'witnessing'. What do we know of the self and the world through a smell, a touch, a sight, a moment of the day, the memory of a taste? It attempts to create an immersive space that privileges the visceral as the medium of making meaning. This rubric of fragments offers a predilection for vulnerability as opposed to certainty; senses as opposed to intellect; truth as opposed to fact and poetry as opposed to productivity.

7:00 – 9:00

Farewell Dinner & Informal Performances (Campus)

DAY 4 — 17 JANUARY

Walking Tour in Kolkata: On the Footsteps of "Bengal Renaissance"
(Curated Trip at additional cost payable directly to the curator)
