



Cambridge Graduate Conference in Political Thought

Political by Nature: Political Thought Through the Lens of the Anthropocene

Organizing committee: Sam Harrison, Michael Leger, Carl Pierer, Nanna Sæten

20 June 2023

McCrum Lecture Theatre, Beldam Building, Bene't Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RH (behind the Eagle pub)

8.45 – 9.00 Registration

9.00-9.15 Opening Remarks

9.15 – 10.45 **Panel 1: Nature and Science, Domination and Freedom**

Commentator: Lauren Wilcox; *Chair:* Sam Harrison

- Joel Littler (University of Oxford): *Understanding Nature and Nihilism in Late Nineteenth-Century Japan through the 'Beggar-Philosopher of Naturalism', Isaak Abraham*
- Phil Xing (London School of Economics): *Crania Civilisation: Dilemmas, Social Physics and the Making of Racial Science*
- Jasmijn Leeuwenkamp (University of Amsterdam): *From Natural Rights to Rights of Nature: A Critical Evaluation of the Notion of Property in Rights of Nature Theories*

10.45 – 11.00 Break

11.00 – 12.30 **Panel 2: Scarcity, Crisis, and Community**

Commentator: Sylvana Tomaselli; *Chair:* Carl Pierer

- Shreya Khaund (University of Oxford): *Migrant Experiences in Climate Crisis: Assam in the Mid-Twentieth Century*
- Koen Klein (University of Leiden): *Fighting to survive, losing against nature in Roman Egypt*
- Nicolae Biea (University of Chicago): *Return of the Repressed: Human and Natural Finitude in Mid-Twentieth-Century Social Thought*

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch break

13.30 – 15.00 **Panel 3: Nature as a Political Imaginary**

Commentator: Shruti Kapila; *Chair:* Nanna Sæten

- Alina Utrata (University of Cambridge): *“Cloud First, Land Last”*: Silicon Valley and Its Natural Metaphors
- Clare Francis (University of Cambridge): *The Tulip and the Eagle: Nature and modernity in the political thought of Muhammad Iqbal*
- Shriya Dasgupta (Pondicherry University) and Oyeshi Ganguly (Hertie School Berlin): *Jal, Jangal, Zameen: Locating the Adivasi Woman in Postcolonial Environmental Movements*

15.00 – 15.15 Break

15.15 – 16.45 **Panel 4: Revisiting Origins of Anthropocenic Thinking**

Commentator: Duncan Kelly; *Chair:* Michael Leger

- Tiancheng Yu (University of St. Andrews): *An Analogy Between Nature and the Sovereign State: Malebranche’s Positive Nature and Its Political Metaphor*
- Nayeli Riano (Georgetown University): *The ‘Barbarity’ of Nature: Revisiting the Civilization and Barbarism Debates in Latin American Thought*
- Florian Skelton (Goethe University Frankfurt): *Han Shan in the Anthropocene. On Gary Snyder’s Attempt to “Environmentalize” Eastern Spirituality*

16.45 – 17.00 Break

17.00 – 18.30 **Keynote Lecture:** *The Personal Is Not Only Political but Also Planetary*

Dipesh Chakrabarty, Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor in History (University of Chicago)

18.30 – 19.00 Closing Remarks, followed by a Drinks Reception

19.30 Conference Dinner at *Little Petra* (60 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1LA)

