



The Anthropocene Everyday?

Re-Imagining Environmental Sociology

Two-Day National Conference

— *Organized by* —

The Department of Sociology, WBSU,

in collaboration with

The Indian Sociological Society
(RC 28: Sociology of Everyday Life)

&

IQAC, WBSU



Date: July 23 & 24, 2026



Time: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM



Venue: Ichamati Hall (Academic Building, First Floor, Room No. 218),
West Bengal State University,
Berunanpukuria, Barasat, N. 24 Parganas, Kolkata 700126

— *Patron* —

Prof. Debabrata Mitra

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, West Bengal State University

— *Convenors* —

Prof. Ritu Sen Chaudhuri

*Department of Sociology
West Bengal State University*

Prof. Amites Mukhopadhyay

*Department of Sociology
Jadavpur University*

— *Organizing Secretary* —

Dr. Titir Chatterjee

*Department of Sociology
West Bengal State University*

THE ANTHROPOCENE EVERYDAY?

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Concept Note

How can an entire geological epoch—defined by humanity’s massive, destructive footprints on the planet— be juxtaposed with the banal everyday? While seemingly an oxymoron, the ‘Anthropocene everyday’ captures the immediate lived reality of planetary crisis. The monumental scale of planetary change is built out of billions of mundane, ordinary actions. Our conference explores the inseparable dynamic between ecological systems and social realities in the Anthropocene. But the relation between social and Anthropocene is a matter of debate in contemporary social sciences, humanities and Earth system sciences. Beyond the nature-social/cultural binary, theorists indicate that there is never a pure realm called ‘social’. Also, humans have never been a unified actor (Latour 1991, 99). They think in terms of hybrid entanglements – continuities between plants, insects, animals, objects, machines, matters, air, water, soil, humans and every other thing.

The Anthropocene forces us to rethink what the social or the natural even mean. It means ‘the social’ is no longer enough. It gets entwined with the earth systems in ways not reducible to social relations alone. While human activity has attained a geopolitical force (Chakrabarty 2021), this shift does not mean we stop critiquing social structures. Social inequalities mediated by capitalist mode of production are causally implicated in the systematic acceleration of environmental degradation. Scholars must therefore navigate both the planetary and the particular, mapping how earth-system transformations are inextricably bound to localized inequalities.

Ecological crises occurring at an earthly scale are manifestations of the underlying social, economic, technological, and political networks that define our epoch. Also, the origins and impacts of the grand disruptions of the Anthropocene often reside in the mundane rituals of everyday life. Examining how ecological issues are woven into our social routines and identity formations we shift our lens from the macro-structures to the micro-sociological engagements. Ecology provides a lens through which we may take a long and often excruciating look at our own lives, offering a chance to evaluate social relationships in a disrupted world. We come to see how cultural practices and social narratives shape our perception of ‘nature’ and how collective action can redefine the ‘natural’ to foster a more resilient and equitable future.

We engage with contemporary issues and theories, particularly the work of Elizabeth Shove (2003, 2012), to see how habits moving beyond individual ‘choice’ are locked into socio-technical systems. Rooted in Henry Lefebvre’s (1947/1991) critique of everyday life we think how capitalism systematically colonizes the domestic sphere, transforming the mundane rhythms of daily existence into a bureaucratically managed circuit of consumption. Critically engaging with Kari Marie Norgaard’s (2011) research on ‘socially organized denial’ we aim to discuss why environmental crises are often normalized in the Global North.

The global grid of asymmetric privilege is anchored structurally by what John Bellamy Foster describes as a worldwide ‘metabolic rift’ (1999). Under this regime of ‘ecological imperialism,’ the Global North systematically pumps out the material bounty and biophysical wealth of the periphery to maintain its own socio-technical insulations, leaving the Global South to bear both the environmental degradation and the depleted ecosystems left in capital’s wake (Clark & Foster, 2009). Yet, this division cannot be reduced to geography. Due to the global nature of advanced capitalism, there is a bit of the North in the South and a bit of the South in the North. Indeed, as the under-class swells inside the North, a privileged elite continues to grow within the Southern continents as well.

Crucially, this conference introduces a post-colonial perspective, challenging the dominant Eurocentric views of nature (Chakrabarty, 2009). Moving away from seeing the Anthropocene as a future global threat the conference reframes it as a present, historically rooted, and deeply fractured domestic reality in the post-colonial India (Nixon, 2011). Drawing on Amita Baviskar's work on 'bourgeois environmentalism,' it examines how urban 'green' aesthetics often displace the working class (2003, 2020). Invoking Ranajit Guha and Martinez Alier's 'environmentalism of the poor,' the conference highlights how the daily survival for the 'subaltern' is an inherent ecological struggle (Guha, 1997; Alier, 2002). Embracing Vandana Shiva's critique of the 'monocultures of the mind,' it explores how colonial legacies continue to dictate water, seed, and land usage in the Indian domestic sphere. How the patriarchal structures disproportionately burden women with the labour of ecological subsistence—such as water and fuel collection—while excluding them from environmental governance (1993).

By shifting the analytical focus from macro-systems to the micro-realities of habitus, lived experience, and localized resistance, this conference grounds its inquiry in the sociology of the everyday life to articulate a post-colonial critique of the Anthropocene.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite scholars, faculties, practitioners, and activists (working on Environmental Sociology, Animal Studies, Cultural and Literary Ecology, Ecolinguistics, Ethnobiology, Ecofeminism, Posthumanism, Environmental Arts, Environmental History and other sub-disciplines) to submit abstracts that engage a micro-sociological perspective to read the relationships between the ecology and the mundane. **Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following thematic strands:**

- ***Lived Hierarchies: Infrastructural Lock-Ins, Class, Caste and Daily Survival***
 - o Socio-Technical Lock-ins and Habitual Realities
 - o The Sociology of Scavenging and Pollution
 - o Environmental Gentrification vs. Lived Space
 - o Caste and Environmental Apartheid
- ***The Domestic Sphere: Political Ecology, Gender, and Labour***
 - o Political Ecology of the Hearth
 - o The Ascetic Everyday vs. Green Consumerism
 - o Ritual, Purity and Pollution
 - o Eco-feminism and Gendered Ecologies
- ***Perceived Crises: Slow Violence, Hyper-objects, and Everyday Denial***
 - o Slow Violence and Subaltern Suffering
 - o Living with Hyper-objects
 - o Socially Organized Denial
 - o Eco-Grief, Anxiety and Solastalgia
- ***Affective Ecologies, Multi-Species Spaces, and Digital Habits***
 - o Cruel Optimism in the Developing World
 - o Multi-Species Entanglements and Climate of History
 - o Digital Environments and Material Waste
 - o Subaltern Cosmologies and Vernacular Resistance



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Name, Affiliation and Designation
- **Abstract:** 250 to 300 Words
- **Keywords:** 3–5
- **Language:** English and Bangla
- **Submission Format:** PDF
- **Submission Deadline:** 02. 07. 2026
- **Submission mail:** deptofsociologywbsu@gmail.com
- **NOTIFICATION of ACCEPTANCE:** 05. 07. 2026
- **Registration Fee:** 500 Rs. (For Faculty Members)/ 300 Rs. (For Scholars)/ 100 Rs. (For Students)
- **Opening of Registration Window:** 25.06.2026, at 00:00 AM
- **Closure of Registration Window:** 12.07.2026, at 11:59 PM
- **Link to the Registration Window:**
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2fouA-setdtZbkIWxZU4hFcpfVsn3odoA3of9d3nLeQ1g3A/viewform?usp=header>

[Online presentation will be allowed only for those presenting from outside West Bengal]

Speakers

Inaugural Address:



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Vice Chancellor
West Bengal State University

Introductory Address:



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Kalyani University (Rtd.)



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