

Posthumanism and India: Envisioning and Manifesting

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Type:

Symposium

Date:

June 5, 2021 to June 13, 2021

Location:

India

Subject Fields:

Colonial and Post-Colonial History / Studies, Humanities, Literature, Philosophy, South Asian History / Studies

Posthumanism and India: Envisioning and Manifesting

An online Symposium

Inaugural Event of The Indian Posthumanism Network

June 5-13, 2021

Request for Proposals

We stand today at the threshold of a crisis and a reimagining of ourselves. We find ourselves in the thick of a global climate crisis that scrambles and disrupts our geological foundations, unleashing frequent mass-scale life-threatening events. The tight co-dependence of global psychosystems and ecosystems are forcing a transversal splicing of life-elements leading to unprecedented hybridities, such as our present protracted pandemic. These conditions force us to rethink our future. Such a rethinking cannot be a set of surface patches to help us return to our comfortable human business as usual, it needs to address the unprecedented nature of our historical location, and our philosophical, psychological, political, cultural and technological norms of human existence. Posthumanism promises new possibilities and directions in this context. It constitutes a revised understanding of the planetary situation helping us to re-envision our imminent future.

Posthumanism and India is a weeklong symposium, from June 5-13, 2021, interested in opening this field of inquiry in its various ramifications in the Indian context. The overarching areas we wish to examine include:

(1) Globalization and technological ontology:

Considerations within this area may include:

- Adoption of colonial anthropocentrism in national policy-making
- Neo-liberal casteism, othering and thanatopolitics
- Scientism and technological overdetermination in human normativity
- “Not Quite.Not White”: Wombs for sale, cyber coolies, ethnic zoos and dumping grounds

of the fully human

- Technology and the manufacture of national memory
- Posthumanities in a postdisciplinary academy
- Collective subjects and anarchist polities
- Human impact on biodiversity and geosustainability
- Understanding the Anthropocene in postcolonial nations

(2) **Internal normative humanisms and their others:**

Considerations within this area may include:

- Posthuman Indian feminisms
- Cyber-identities: liberation or subterfuge?
- Caste and gender hierarchies
- Modernity and its others
- Hindus and their others
- Heterodoxies and hybrid humans
- Human/Non-human relations in pre-modern Indian cultures
- Boundaries of the human: Religious minorities, Dalits, abjection and rejection

(3) Existential posthumanism and Indian philosophies:

Considerations within this area may include:

- Yoga and existential posthumanism
- Modern and premodern epistemologies of becoming
- Ethics of the will to power in posthuman becoming
- Climate change, yoga and becoming-cosmos
- Human/Non-human communication
- Singularities and universality in the posthuman cosmopolis
- Boundaries, liminalities and relations of the living and the dead in Indian traditions.

(4) Posthuman Cultural Imaginaries:

Considerations within this area may include:

- Supernaturals, animals, plants and “non-living” others in premodern cultural imaginaries
- Contested and alternative human identities in premodern texts
- Imagining Gender, Gender-Identity, Gender Expression and Sexual Orientation in nationalist/postcolonial spaces
- Dalit and minority imaginations of posthuman destinies
- Contemporary Indian science-fiction
- Siddhis and supernatural powers in contemporary cultural imaginaries
- Neo-liberal futures and cyborg imaginaries

For more information:

<https://posthumanism.in/announcements/posthumanism-and-india-an-online-symposium-june-5-13-2021/>

Or email info@posthumanism.in

For the Indian Posthumanism Network visit www.posthumanism.in

Symposium Format:

There will be two sessions dedicated to each of the above four areas. The symposium will be conducted in the form of panel discussions of 2 hours duration with four to five participants each. Participants papers will be archived on the conference site for all participants and attendees to read before the session. Participants will not read papers during the session but introduce their ideas briefly in not more than 8-10 minutes and conduct a discussion among themselves and with the audience. Participants will be selected by the organizers based on their proposals (200 words).

Request for Proposal:

If interested to participate, please submit your proposal at <https://posthumanism.in/announcements/posthumanism-and-india-an-online-symposium-june-5-13-2021/#submitproposal>.

Organizers:

The Posthumanism and India Symposium is the inaugural event of [The Indian Posthumanism Network](#). It is part of the [Global Posthuman Network](#). It is being organized by the founder-members of the Indian Posthumanism Network:

Francesca Ferrando, Dept. of Philosophy, NYU-Liberal Studies, New York University, New York.

Debashish Banerji, Chair, East-West Psychology, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco.

Samrat Sengupta, Head, Dept. of English, Sammilani Mahavidyalaya, Kolkata.

Md. Monirul Islam, Dept. of English, Presidency University, Kolkata.

Contact Info:

Can contact any of the following persons by sending emails to info@posthumanism.in

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