



# SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed-to-be University)

## Department of Languages and Literature - English

*brings to you*

### Lit-Treat: Edition IV International Seminar

on

## **Earthy Echoes in English Literature**

**29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

### Schedule

#### Day 1 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

9.00 a.m. Inaugural session

9.20 a.m. Inaugural Address: Women and Indigenous Knowledge: A Holistic Paradigm by Prof. Krishna Prabha V. P, Former Head, PG Department of English, Adjunct Faculty (Currently) Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru

9.55 a.m. Plenary Talk 1: "The Greening of Literature: Articulating an Earth-based Relational Identity in the Anthropocene!" by Prof. Swarnalatha Rangarajan, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras

11.00 a.m. Plenary Talk 2: "Seeding Ideas: Children's Literature and Eco-consciousness" by Ms. Niveditha Subramaniam, Writer-Illustrator, Editor and Researcher based in Rotterdam, Netherlands

#### Day 2 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

9.00 a.m. Plenary Talk 3: "Reading Environment, Writing Disaster: The Literature of Climate Crisis" by Prof. Pramod K. Nayar, FEA, FRHistS, UNESCO Chair in Vulnerability Studies, Department of English, University of Hyderabad

10.55 a.m. Plenary Talk 4: "The Dance of the Imaginal and the Ecological: A Writer's Perspective on Eco-Writing" by Dr. Shivani Sivagurunathan, University of Nottingham, Malaysia.

2:00 p.m. Valedictory session presided over by Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL

2:30 p.m. Valedictory address by Prof. V.V.N. Rajendra Prasad, Distinguished Visiting Faculty, Central University of Andhra Pradesh

[Click here to register for free](#)

Please join us to intellectually resonate with these rooted minds in the frequency of our #EarthyEchoes!

#DLLEnglish #SSSIHL #InternationalSeminar #Ecocriticism

Join us live by tuning into <https://www.youtube.com/@SSSIHLCommunications>





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## **About the Seminar**

This seminar is being organised to encourage discussion of and engagement with topics related to multi-layered connections among ecology, culture and literature. The focus of the seminar will be on the application of eco-critical thinking to literary texts. The aim is to deepen the understanding and channelise critical approach to eco-literature in the Anthropocene through the analysis of text, language, symbols, and images in literary works. An eco-centric approach establishes an all-inclusive egalitarian perspective that stabilises the complex relationship between people and their environments. Ecological issues have long been investigated by scholars across sciences and the humanities; more recently, after the devastating effects of climate change, they have also come to the attention of politicians, policy-makers and the wider public. Inspired by the debate among activists, writers, academicians, journalists and linguists, this seminar seeks to appreciate connections between literary texts and the natural environment broadly conceived as the air, water, and land inhabited by people, animals and plants. In the seminar, we shall explore literary representations of the Anthropocene by exploring the connections across historical, geographical and cultural contexts.





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**Plenary Speakers – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023**



Prof. Swarnalatha Rangarajan is a professor of English at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras. A Fulbright scholar at Harvard University and a Charles Wallace India Trust Visiting Fellow, Michaelmas 2013, she has had her short fiction stories featured in Zubaan's *21 under 40*, Penguin's *First Proof*, *South Asian Review*, *India Currents*, *New Asian Writing* and *Asia Writes*. Her novel *Final Instructions* throws light on the consequences faced by victims of the Bhopal disaster. She is the founding editor of the academic journal *The Indian Journal of Ecocriticism (IJE)*. She has also served as Guest Editor for two special issues on Indian ecosophy for *The Trumpeter* – the Canadian environmental journal of Deep Ecology published by the Athabasca University Press. She has authored books titled *Ecocriticism of the Global South* (2015) and *Ecocriticism: Big Ideas and Practical Strategies* (2018).

Ms. Niveditha Subramaniam is a writer-illustrator, editor, and independent researcher, originally from the coastal city of Chennai, India, and currently based in Rotterdam, Netherlands. She has published picture books, teen-fiction, and illustrated a graphic novel for young adults. She published a picture book titled *Ammu's Bottle Boat* in collaboration with Tulika Books and WWF India, in 2022. In 2015, she received the Bal Sahitya Puraskar awarded by the Sahitya Akademi, India's Academy of Letters, for the book *Mayil Will Not Be Quiet!*. Her work has been recommended by the CBSE and NCERT boards of education for reading in schools and libraries across India. She is a Charles Wallace India Trust Arts Scholar (2015-2017) and an Erasmus Mundus Scholar (2019-2021).







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### **Plenary Speakers – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**



Prof. Pramod K. Nayar is a professor at the University of Hyderabad since 2001. Since September 2022, he has been the UNESCO chair in Vulnerability Studies at the Department of English, University of Hyderabad, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a Fellow of the English Association. He was the Charles Wallace India Trust-British Council Fellow at the University of Kent, UK (2001) and a Fulbright Fellow at Cornell University (2004-05). He has contributed articles to *The Wire*, *Telangana Today*, *Hindu Business Line*, *Deccan Chronicle*, *Daily News and Analysis* and *Deccan Herald*. His academic interests and specialisations include colonial writings on India, travel writing, posthumanism and Cultural Studies. Besides these he has also published books on ecological subjects like *Bhopal's Ecological Gothic* (2017) and *Ecoprecarity: Vulnerable Lives in Literature and Culture* (2019).

Dr. Shivani Sivagurunathan has been writing and publishing fiction and poetry for over twenty years. Her first book, a collection of short stories, *Wildlife on Coal Island*, was published by UPM Press in 2011 and republished by HarperCollins India in 2012. Her second book, *Yalpanam*, her first novel, was published by Penguin Southeast Asia in September 2021. Her short stories and poems have appeared in numerous international journals and magazines including *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, *Agenda*, *Construction Literary Magazine* and many others. Her poetry collection, *Being Born* (Maya Press) and her book of fiction, *What Has Happened to Harry Pillai?: Two Novellas* (Clarity Publishing) came out in 2022. She is the national coordinator for the World Poetry Movement. She currently teaches English literature and creative writing at the University of Nottingham, Malaysia, and is working on her next novel.







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**Inaugural Session: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023**



Dr. Krishna Prabha. V. P. was Former Head, PG Department of English at Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru. She is currently an Adjunct Faculty at the Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru. She has held various academic and administrative positions at various colleges in South India. She has to her credit more than three decades of experience in teaching and research. Her areas of expertise are ecology and women, post-colonial literature and indigenous studies.

**Valedictory Session: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**



Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad is the Vice-Chancellor of SSSIHL and also an alumnus of the University. He comes with a close association with Indian Institute of Science and Indian Institute of Astrophysics, where he had established various R&D facilities. He was the Principal Investigator of the VELC-Aditya L1, a space solar mission of ISRO which was launched a few weeks ago. He is passionate about Sustainable Energy Technologies & Environment and has worked on several initiatives of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust in this domain.

Prof. V. V. N. Rajendra Prasad retired as the Vice-Chancellor of Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. He has more than three decades of teaching and research experience. He has held several distinguished positions as chairman and board member of various universities and colleges of India. He is currently associated with the Department English Language and Literature of Central University of Andhra Pradesh as a Distinguished Visiting Faculty. His area of interest is Diachronic and Synchronic study of English Language.

