ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES: PAVING THE WAY TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

This symposium brings together scholars, practitioners, and leaders working on environmental concerns, with a focus on the key role of the environmental humanities in creating a sustainable future. This two-day event will inspire much-needed conversations and creative approaches to tackling challenges that, as we well know, no one discipline can tackle alone. An important focus, among others, is the power of storytelling to shape and shift attitudes and behaviours.

Keynote speakers are the renowned novelist and critic Amitav Ghosh and artist and activist Basia Irland.

Amitav Ghosh
Amitav Ghosh was born in Calcutta and grew up in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Educated in Delhi, Oxford, and Alexandria, he is the prize-winning author of a highly distinguished oeuvre – an extensive range of fiction which includes The Circle of Reason, The Shadow Lines, The Calcutta Chromosome, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide, the Ibis trilogy — Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke, Flood of Fire; and non-fiction works such as the brilliant cross-generic In An Antique Land, and, more recently, The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable, described as ‘a book one travels on precariously and obsessively – thinking, trusting and terrified’.

Amitav Ghosh’s work has been translated into more than thirty languages. His essays have been published in The New Yorker, The New Republic and The New York Times. He has taught in many universities in India and the USA, including Delhi University, Columbia, Queens College, and Harvard. In January 2007, Amitav Ghosh was awarded the Padma Shri, one of India’s highest honours. In 2010, he was the recipient of honorary doctorates from Queens College, New York, and the Sorbonne, Paris. With Margaret Atwood, he was a joint winner of the Dan David Award for 2010. In 2011, he was awarded the International Grand Prix of the Blue Metropolis Festival in Montreal. https://www.amitavghosh.com

Basia Irland
Fulbright Scholar, Basia Irland is an author, poet, sculptor, installation artist, and activist who creates global water projects. Many of these projects are featured in her books, Water Library (University of Mexico Press, 2007) and Reading the River: The Ecological Activist Art of Basia Irland (edited with Museum De Domijnen, 2017). These books focus on projects the artist has created over four decades in Africa, Canada, Europe, South America, Southeast Asia, and the United States. Through her work, Irland offers a creative understanding of water while examining how communities of people, plants, and animals rely on this vital element. She is Professor Emerita, Department of Art and Art History, University of New Mexico, where she established the Arts and Ecology Program. She often works with scholars from diverse disciplines building rainwater harvesting systems; connecting communities and fostering dialogue along the entire length of rivers; filming and producing water documentaries; sculpting hand-carved ice books embedded with native riparian seeds; and creating waterborne disease projects around the world.

Irland writes a blog for National Geographic about international rivers, written in the first person, from the perspective of the river. Her 2015 TEDx talk in Val, Colorado was entitled We ARE the River: Urine Watershed – Planting Seeds. Irland lectures and exhibits extensively and was the only artist invited to participate in the Foundation for the Future’s International World Water Crisis Forum in Seattle, Washington, 2010. In November 2015 – February 2016, she had a major retrospective exhibition, Reading the River, at the Museum De Domijnen, Sittard, the Netherlands, curated by Roel Arkesteijn. http://www.basiairland.com

12 – 13 October 2018
Orchid Room @ NTU Campus
Club House
Singapore 639667

More information:

Register:
https://tinyurl.com/EnvH-symposium

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Supported by:
Sustainable Earth Office
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