

Exhibitions
Natural History Heritage of India (1st-7th October, 2016)
[CWEH, Kew, BSI, BL and NMNH]

Theme

The Indian Natural History Collections in Botany and Meteorology that comprise the two Exhibitions are a product of the documentation projects of several European colonial empires: British, French, Dutch and Portuguese.

Through the AHRC network, two Exhibitions titled: (1) *Joseph Hooker: Botanical Trailblazer and the Botanical Heritage of India* and (2) *Empire and the Environmental Heritage of India* will be held in Kolkata and Mysore, respectively.

These Exhibitions — besides offering scholars and the general public in India an opportunity to view and access a rich collection — are also intended to set the tone and direction for a range of future research and academic projects. The exhibitions will be inaugurated by two public-facing conferences aimed at involving the wider Kolkata and Mysore public in discussion on environment, climate, science, colonialism and post-colonial landscapes.

The broad theme is aimed at helping us assemble, reconsider and debate fresh frameworks for botanical and meteorological histories of the Indian Ocean region c.1500- c.2000. While mapping and understanding environmental change will be central to the exercise, the contemporary context of climate change and its implications for developing meaningful environmental history narratives will be critical to our discussions in the conference-related discussions in Kolkata and Mysore.



Contact Us

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BMHIOIW/>

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Kolkata Conference [1st-2nd October]
The Natural History Heritage of India
Venue: Botanical Survey of India, Industrial Section of Indian Museum
Kolkata, West Bengal, India

Registration: October 1st – 10.00 am to 10.30 am

Programme

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October 1st
Morning Session (10.30 am to 1.30 pm)

(a) Inaugurating the Exhibition

Secretary (Ministry)
Paramjit Singh (BSI)
Gina Fullerlove (Kew)
Vinita Damodaran (CWEH, Sussex)
Anindita Saha (Curator)

Book Launch

Henry Noltie (RBGE) – *Indian Forester, Scottish Laird: The Botanical Lives of Hugh Cleghorn of Stravithie and The Cleghorn Collection*
Deepak Kumar (JNU) and Bipasha Raha (Visva-Bharati) – *Tilling the Land, Agricultural Knowledge and Practices in Colonial India*

(b) The Archive for South Asian Environmental History (11.30 am to 1.30 pm)

Antonia Moon (BL): *Resources for South Asian Environmental History at the British Library*
Paramjit Singh (BSI) and Subir Dey (JNU): *BSI Archives and Collections*
Arun Bandopadhyay (Calcutta): *Studying the History of Indian Meteorology: Problems and prospects for Research*
K. Anupama (French Institute): *Confluence: Six Decades of Franco-Indian Collections and Ecological Studies at the French Institute of Pondicherry*

Lunch Break (1.30 pm to 2.30 pm)

Available for all attendees courtesy of BSI

Post Lunch Session (2.30 pm to 4.00 pm)

(c) Colonial Science and Empire

Deepak Kumar (JNU): *William Roxburgh, Nathaniel Wallich and Indian Botany*
Rohan D'Souza (Kyoto): *The Roxburgh Monument and the Calcutta Botanic Garden*
Gina Fullerlove (Kew): *Joseph Hooker, Kew and the Plants of India*
Smritikumar Sarkar (Burdwan): *Technology and the Raj*

(d) Round Table discussion on Natural History, Environmentalism and Climate Change (4.00 pm to 5.00 pm)

Robert Prys-Jones (NHM), Sutapa Sarkar (Calcutta), Deepak Kumar (JNU), Mahua Sarkar (Jadavpur), Jenia Mukherjee (IIT KGP), Bikramaditya Choudhary (JNU), Rohan D'Souza (Kyoto)

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Final Session (5.00 pm to 6.00 pm)

(e) Indigenous Collections of Natural History and Environmentalism

Mahua Sarkar (Jadavpur): *Oral Narratives, Environmental History and the Jhumur Songs*

Sutapa Sarkar (Calcutta): *Life, Literature and Folk Deities in the Mangroves*

Sangeeta Das Gupta (JNU): *Many Narratives of Oraon Past*

Cultural Festival – Baul Gaan (6.00 pm to 7.00 pm)

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October 2nd

Morning session: (9.30 am to 11.00 am)

(g) Environmental History in South Asia: New Challenges

Rohan D'Souza (Kyoto): *Politics at Boiling Point: South Asian Environmental History and the Anthropocene*

Vinita Damodaran (CWEH, Sussex): *Post-colonial Botany; the Life of E.K. Janaki Ammal*

Deepak Kumar (JNU): *Science Popularisation in Colonial and Post-colonial India*

B. Choudhary (JNU): *Disease and Environmental History*

Tea break (11.00 am to 11.15 pm)

Second Session (11.15 pm to 1.00 pm)

(h) Empire, Natural History and Forestry

Henry Noltie (RBGE): *Hugh Cleghorn: Indian Forester, Scottish Laird*

Robert Prys-Jones (NHM): *Allan Octavian Hume (1829-1912): The "Pope" of South Asian Ornithology*

Bipasha Raha (Visva-Bharati): *The Flora of Birbhum: Ethnomedicine and the Santals*

Lunch (1.00 pm 2.00 pm)

Available for all attendees courtesy of BSI

Third Session (2.00 pm -3.00 pm)

(i) Panel discussion: Climate Change and History

Rohan D'Souza (Kyoto), Vinita Damodaran (CWEH, Sussex), Sangeeta Das Gupta (JNU) Bipasha Raha (Visva-Bharati)

Tea in the AJCB Indian Botanical Garden, Kolkata (3.30 pm)

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