

Newsletter from Activism and Academia Network - CWEH

27 January 2020

Greetings for the new year to all our followers and readers.



Here at the CWEH we hold ongoing discussions about what would be our intervention in the climate debate. Research is tied in with commitments:

- To keep environmentalism a democratic movement, learn democracy from indigenous and other grass roots communities, and provide an academic platform to tell the stories.
- To fight climate racism; involve local communities at the forefront of climate change impacts in the growing environmental global movement, in defiance of xenophobic voices.
- To continue expose the externalities, the costs, of mineral extractivist-led development, still essential for the technogreen-fix 'ecological optimism', enshrined in old-new forms of colonial control.

Our programme and actions reflect those conversations.

Upcoming Event

In the **Understanding Environmental Crisis**, a series of 5 collaborative seminar talks by Felix Padel at CWEH, participants encouraged to bring examples from their own work and experience. The talks will be held between January-April 2020. The 1st session:



Conceptualising Environmental Conflict through Multidisciplinary Lenses

Friday 31 January 17:15 - 19:15 Fulton building, room 203

http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cweh/newsandevents/events?id=50976

Felix Padel – anthropologist, writer and musician – has prepared five sessions under the title: Understanding Environmental Crisis. The intention here is to present cases of ecological conflicts and discuss their effect on indigenous and local communities, health implications, loss of nature, and bring the disciplines – science, environmental studies, political economy, history, anthropology - that those are discussed, into one space. This is aimed at better understanding environmental issues if we are to address the real causes of climatic change, beyond individualised well-intentioned actions.

The series of five seminar talks are part of CWEH programme at the University of Sussex, and will take place between January and April 2020. The seminars are conceived as a collaborative effort, with participants encouraged to bring examples from their own work and experience. For more details:





Mapping Iron's Caste: The Agnotology of Plunder Keynote presentation for the Golden Jubilee of Odisha History Congress





Saturday 1 February 2020 at 10:30 U.N. College of Science and Technology, Adaspur, Cuttack, Odisha, India

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଇତିହାସ କଂଗ୍ନେସ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ପ୍ରକାଶ ତିଥ୍ : ୧ ଫେଟ୍ଲାରୀ ୨୦୨୦

Samarendra Das – CWEH Senior research associate - a writer and documentary filmmaker will deliver keynote presentation for the Golden Jubilee of Odisha History Congress, in the U.N. College of Science and Technology, Adaspur, Cuttack, on Saturday 1 February 2020 at 10:30. The title of the talk: Mapping Iron's Caste: The Agnotology of Plunder.

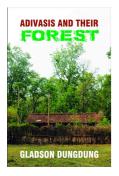
Samarendra Das co-authored the book Out of This Earth (2010, 2020) and co-directed the documentary film Wira Pdika (Earthworm; Conpany Man, 2005).

Part of **Understanding Environmental Crisis** series collaborative seminar talks by Felix Padel at CWEH: **Earth: Land, Lifeforms, Livelihoods**

Friday 7 February 2020 17:15-19:15 Fulton, room 203, University of Sussex

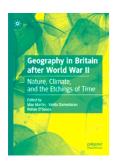
From forest fires to megadams, ecosystems are getting devastated. In India, conservationists are pitted against Adivasi land rights, a telling example to many of environmental racism, compounding the massacre of trees by Adani and other corporate entities. Private ownership undermines common patterns and promotes black money, while 'compensatory afforestation' threatens further displacement. In the soil itself, fecund humus constantly renewed by earthworms is replaced by chemical agriculture – the 'dead earth' that Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962) warned of. Has the Cochabamba Declaration on the rights of nature or mother earth had any impact yet? Our industrial lifestyle depends on vast mining enterprises whose impacts most of us remain barely aware of, devouring huge fertile regions with monstrous craters and complete disruption of livelihoods. The minerals in our mobiles for example are mined in conditions approaching slavery and civil war in Congo...

New Books



Adivasis and Their Forest
Gladson Dungdung (2019)
Adivasi Publications
https://www.adivasipublications.com/product/adivasis-and-their-forest/

Vinita Damodaran, CWEH Director, wrote: 'In this seering indictment of the Indian Government's forest policy in Eastern India the activist Gladson Dungdung carefully outlines and details the deforestation, land evictions and curroption of the State and corporate companies in what is essentially a massive land grab of the lands and forests of the Adivasis.'



Geography in Britain after World War II - Nature, Climate, and the Etchings of Time

Editors: Martin, Max, Damodaran, Vinita, D'Souza, Rohan (2019) Palgrave Macmillan

The social background and upbringing of geographers in post-war Britain, who were influenced by the geomorphologist A. T. Grove, and wrote about changes in landscapes across continents, is the theme of this book. The contributors uncover the relationships and networks that shaped their research on diverse terrains from Africa to the Mediterranean, highlighting their shared concerns for questions of environmental history, ecological conservation, and human security. The book is edited by Max Martin (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, UK), Vinita Damodaran (South Asian History, University of Sussex, UK) and Rohan D'Souza (Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University, Japan).



Out of this Earth Samarendra Das and Felix Padel (Forthcoming 2020) Orient BlackSwan

Updated 2nd edition of the history of aluminium. The authors describe for the first time the global aluminium industry, the economy and externalities of mining bauxite, calculate the true cost of aluminium, contextualise refining and smelting aluminium as a global commodity, telling the story of communities, including India's Adivasis, who pay the price for mineral-extraction based development, the resistance and victories of peoples and forest movements to protect their land, and detrimental role NGO's played in case studies.

Attillah Springer, environmental activist and writer, says: 'An essential manual... a complicated history told with beauty and humanity'.

News





Over the last two years the Adivasis of Jharkhand, in an act of self-determination and rupture from the state, erected Pathalgadi slabs in their villages, inscribed with their rights on the lands and forests. They re-wrote their school books in rejection of the hegemonic State of India cultural directives. The state reacted with violence and arrested thousands of Adivasi people, charged with "Sedition". In recent state elections, a new Chief Minister, Hemant Soren (BJP) declared, that the state will drop all registered cases from 2017-2018 against people during the Pathalgadi movement. We remember Adivasi reporter Amit Topno who was assassinated on the 9 December 2018, for his coverage of the movement [https://rsf.org/en/news/call-independent-probe-tribal-reporters-murder-jharkhand].

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