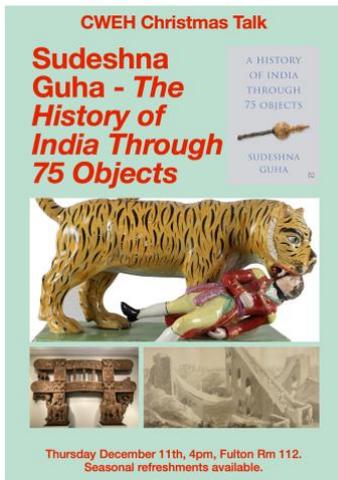


CWEH events and ongoing work /autumn term 2025

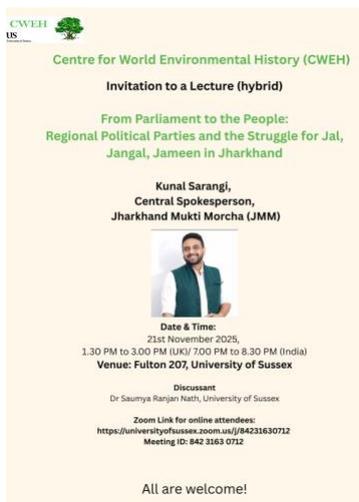
Upcoming

11/12/25 Sudeshna Guha, **The History of India through 75 Objects**. Dr Alistair Grant (Art History, Sussex) discussant, Fulton Building, University of Sussex. Approx 30 in attendance. End of year talk for CWEH. Excellent turn out of faculty and PG students. Fascinating discussion about pop history and publishing, tensions between material and traditional narrative history, reproduction, authenticity, commodification



Past

21/11/2025 Kunal Sarangi (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha). From parliament to the people; regional political



parties and struggle for Jal, jangal, jameen in Jharkhand

12/11/25 - Three Films on South Asia film Screening with director Q and A. Approx 25 in attendance. Held in Fulton building.

The screening was well attended with a number of faculty and post graduates from Global Studies, Anthropology and History. The three films represented very different approaches to film making about and from South Asia. The Q and A session led by Brighton-based Khosi film-maker and musician Wanphriang Diengdoh was engaged and energetic, with a wide range of questions about methodologies

Three Short Films on South Asia; Practices of film-making.



Centre for World Environmental History (CWEH) presents film screening plus Q and A with directors Sani's Zaidi, Saba Thirupathi and Mahmud Hasan Rajesh and discussion! Wanphriang Diengdoh (award-winning documentary maker, India UK).

Two Sinners (2024, 12 mins) When Asha's brother forces her to confront the man responsible for their sister's assault, he is forced into an agonising choice. Does he follow his deep-rooted disdain for violence, or give in to the overwhelming desire for vengeance? Torn between morality and justice, Asha's next move will change everything.

Janaki Anmol and the Generational Society (2023, 13 mins) An experimental essay film in the form of a letter to Janaki Anmol from the filmmaker, as well as letters written by Anmol. The film was commissioned by the Centre for World Environmental History. It uses archival footage from the John Innes Centre, and explores the life and work of botanist and geneticist Janaki Anmol, focusing on her work on sugarcane genetics, eugenics, as well as the anti-apartheid movement and slavery.



House of Light (2020, 16 mins) an intimate portrait of one family's story like when forced to remain together in their apartment in Dhaka, Bangladesh during the Covid-19 health crisis. Filmed by the director on his mobile phone during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, the documentary transcends the quotidian and illuminates the everyday with moments of aesthetic simplicity and ultimately, the spiritual sublime.

12 November 2025, Fulton Rm. 213, University of Sussex campus. From 12.30 -14.00 [RSVP/email CWEH for lunch]



and philosophies of film making, political context and reception.

23/10/2025 - Black History Month. Shane Ballah, Amarnath Praful, Prem Poddar, Fulton Building

CWEH US Centre for World Environmental History (CWEH) Celebrates Black History Month 2025

Invitation to a Workshop (Hybrid)

Tropical Environments in the Caribbean and India

- Tropical Bryophytes in a Changing Climate**
Speaker: Shane Ballah
National Herbarium of Trinidad and Tobago, University of the West Indies
- Search for the Museum: Notations and Significance of Ocular as Method in the V&A Archives**
Speaker: Amarnath Praful
Curatorial Research Fellow, Photography Department, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
- Book Launch**
Through the India-China Border: Kullupong in the Himalayas
Professor Prem Poddar, Roskilde University, Denmark

Date & Time: 23rd October 2025, 1 AM to 4 PM
Fulton 213, University of Sussex

Discussion
Professor Nisha Demodaran, Director, CWEH, University of Sussex
Dr Saung Nabin Nath, University of Sussex

Zoom Link for online attendance:
<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/08639327277/>
Meeting ID: 863 9327 2777

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.
Equip: James.Henriette@sussex.ac.uk;shane@trinidad.gov.tt

All are welcome!

University of Sussex. 30 in attendance.

Shane Ballah, visiting from Tobago, gave a fascinating talk about Main Ridge nature reserve in Tobago, about the history of the reserve and in particular the history of bryophyte research and monitoring within the reserve. Shane also spoke about citizen science projects enabling closer monitoring of species diversity and extent.

Amarnath Praful spoke about early colonial photography in India showing many interesting images and offering useful insight on the construction of tropicality and Indian-ness through the practice of early photographers.

Prem Podar, spoke about his work in the India/Chinese border town of Kalimpong, it's history of espionage and the characters remembered from his childhood living in the town.

21/10/2025. Wanphrang Diengdoh film screening and director Q and A 'Blood and the Border'. Held at



Global Studies Resource Centre, 15 in attendance.

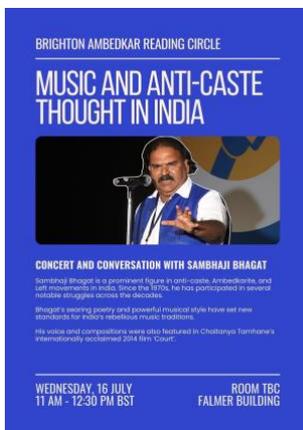
Wanphrang's 60 minute film offers an intimate look at the ritual culture of the Khosi people of Assam, NE India. The Q and A led by Anisha Doberman explored issues of gendered life in this matrilineal but seemingly patriarchal society, issues of cultural preservation, of governmental disapproval, performative elements of identity and the practice of ritual tradition.

25/9/2025 - Subaltern Politics and Society in Contemporary India, Panel Discussion. Prof Narender Kumar, Dr Abdul Matin, Dr Ayan Guha, Sonal Tiwary, Dr Saumya Nath Chair.



16/7/2025 Concert and Conversation with Sambhaji Bhagat, activist and Ambedkarite Singer, held at University of Sussex, outside nr arts cafe, 20 in attendance, UG, PG and faculty.

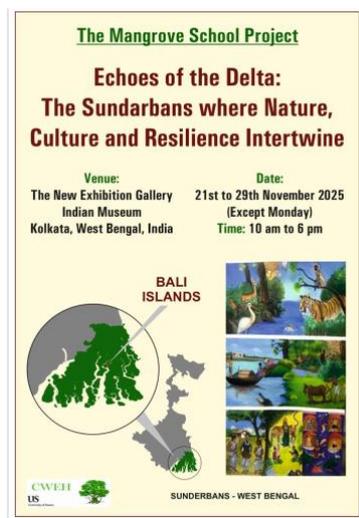
Esteemed Ambedkarite folk singer Sambhaji Bhagat gave a relaxed performance among the trees outside the Arts Piazza Cafe, accompanied by two singers and a harmonium player. In between songs Sambhaji spoke about his personal history as an Ambedkarite activist, and the wider struggle of poor people



across the world to escape authoritarian oppression, impoverishment, alienation and dispossession.

Exhibition

Mangrove School project, currently exhibiting children's work produced at workshop, Kolkata.



Ongoing Projects

Mangrove School Project, Indian Sundarbans, and Tobago, currently exhibiting in Kolkata.

Planetary health in Adivasi communities of Jharkhand and Kerala, British Academy-funded project.

Documenting salt workers in Tamil Nadu, India.

Natural Dying workshop, Santiniketan, Bengal ;

Report on the Natural Dye Workshop at Shantiniketan, Bolpur, West Bengal, India

Two resource personnel, Tapas Paul and Parag Halder, associated with the *Mangrove School Project* led by Professor Vinita Damodaran and co-led by Dr Anindita Saha under the Centre for World Environmental History (CWEH), University of Sussex (UK), completed a six-day Natural Dye Workshop held at Shantiniketan, Bolpur. The programme was organised by Sutra, an NGO based in West Bengal.

The training was facilitated by Ms. Jagada Rajappa, a renowned expert in natural dyes from Hyderabad with over 40 years of teaching experience in India and internationally. The workshop provided intensive hands-on exposure to traditional dyeing practices and sustainable natural dye techniques.

Workshop Overview

The six-day programme (17–22 November 2025) focused on practical experimentation and traditional knowledge systems in natural dyeing. Approximately 15–20 natural dyestuffs were introduced, including Indigo and dye materials sourced from local trees and plants found in and around Santiniketan.

A major highlight was the demonstration of the traditional Indian Indigo dyeing method using *Cassia tora* seeds, a technique now known only to a few practitioners.

The workshop followed a structured plan consisting of:

1. Principles of natural dyeing
2. Stages of textile treatment for natural dye application, including:
 - o Scouring
 - o Tannin treatment
 - o Mordanting
 - o Dye extraction
 - o Dyeing
 - o Fixing
 - o Final washing
3. Collection and identification of indigenous dye sources
4. Indigo reduction techniques and transfer of appropriate traditional knowledge using multiple methods
5. Discussion, review of processes, and sampling documentation

Plant Sources Used for Dye Extraction

Participants experimented with natural dyes extracted from the following botanical sources and applied them to cotton and silk fabrics:

No.	Botanical Name	Common Name	Cotton	Silk
1	<i>Acacia catechu</i>	Katha	Yes	Yes
2	<i>Allium cepa</i> linn	Red Onion Peel	Yes	Yes
3	Alkanet	Ratanjoth	Yes	Yes

No.	Botanical Name	Common Name	Cotton	Silk
4	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	Kathal Bark Powder	Yes	Yes
5	<i>Bixa orellana</i>	Anatto / Jhabbra	Yes	Yes
6	<i>Caesalpinia sappan</i>	Brazil Wood	No	Yes
7	<i>Coccus lacca</i>	Lac	No	Yes
8	<i>Curcuma longa</i>	Haldi	No	Yes
9	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i>	Neel / Indigo	Yes	Yes
10	Mahogany Leaves	(Local)	Yes	Yes
11	<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i>	Eucalyptus Leaves	No	Yes
12	<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>	Kapila	Yes	Yes
13	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Anar	Yes	Yes
14	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>	Manjit	Yes	Yes
15	<i>Tagetes erecta</i>	Marigold Flowers	Yes	Yes
16	<i>Terminalia chebula</i> seed	Harda	Yes	Yes
17	<i>Albizia lebbbeck</i>	Sirish	Yes	Yes

Outcome

The training significantly enhanced the participants' technical skills, confidence, and understanding of natural dye processes. The expertise gained will be applied to future Batik and Tie-Dye workshops planned

under the Mangrove School Project in vulnerable island youths of the Sundarbans, supporting livelihood resilience and sustainable craft practices.



