
Impact of Climate Change in Threshold Environments of India: A Pedagogical Framework for Experiential Learning



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This presentation will focus on the conceptualization of an experimental approach that analyses how high school students from urban metropolises in India immerse in, interact with and experience complex issues of climate change in threshold environments. Threshold environments are specific geographical locations that undergo the immediate effects of natural disasters and are rendered vulnerable to continual disintegrations by the forces of nature. The presentation emphasizes the requirement of a pedagogical framework in academia that enables high school students from cities and urban metropolises to travel to ecological sites that are under the direct impact of disasters driven by climate change. Such a framework allows the students to have first-hand conversations with the people of threshold environments and it helps them to understand the gravity of the climate crisis, which, however contested, has a real-time picture of lived experiences.

This presentation will also show how such a pedagogical framework can educate students about the far-reaching implications of climate change and cultivate in them the environmental imagination that is required to develop an encompassing awareness about places, societies and cultures that are vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters. It will focus on specific islands, deltaic and archipelagic geographies of India's eastern coastlines that are undergoing considerable land-loss and soil erosion due to tropical cyclones, floods and rise in the sea level, as potential sites of this experiential learning. The presentation will conclude by emphasizing on the emergence of experiential learning pedagogies that can generate awareness about climate change in India.

Biography:

Sanchar Sarkar is a research scholar (PhD) at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India. He is engaged with writing research papers on specific topics that trace the contemporary trajectories of ecocriticism in post-apocalyptic environments and literature. His interest lies in the field of eco-speculative fiction and he is also passionate about visual narratives within the discipline of environmental humanities that represent and engage with the insights of environmental consciousness. Currently he is working in the arena of climate change games and its eco-speculative performativity among the contemporary young adult generation.