



**DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN**  
**UNIVERSITY OF KERALA**  
Thiruvananthapuram

*INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON*  
*“ECO-PERSPECTIVE IN LITERATURE- INDO- GERMAN*  
*REFLECTIONS”*  
*22, 23, 24 MARCH 2021*



## CONCEPT NOTE

It is obvious from the time immemorial the dependency of humans heavily on 'THE Nature and its abundant resources' for his survival and development. It had been clearly indicated in the early literary forms that the admiration and fear towards 'Nature'. In the course of time, especially after the industrial revolution, the fear and reverence towards 'Nature' has been diminished, and the tendency of exploiting the natural resources on a large scale for the so-called 'development' has been emerged as a priority for every nation in order to compete each other instead of co-operation and interdependence. 'The weapons of mass destruction and lethal nuclear arsenal' have been patented as the resources of hope for humans and it had been tested its capability of mass destruction in World Wars. The change of attitude of humans in 19th, 20th centuries has resulted a bereft view of 'Nature and Environment' as a commodity of exploitation, and the place of dumping the waste, and its aftermath has contributed on a large scale for the climate change globally and the new environmental threats in terms of epidemic and such natural calamities in the twenty first century. The 'Mother Nature' has been facing the atrocities from human beings and it has reached in the pinnacle in the twenty first century, and the ever known living planet is melting and the aftermath has been reverberated through its various forms of forces, which has exerted its dominance across the globe on a large scale. The human beings and the Otherness will be vanished away from the face of the earth, if it is continued to neglect the repercussions of 'Mother Nature'. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has given the clear message of delicacy of human scientific inventions for protecting the human life on this planet. The powerful annihilating weapons and technology couldn't help the humans, and but simply the change of attitude and approach towards 'the Nature and Environment' are needed for healing the wound and fixing the bonding with the surroundings, which are quintessential for the existence of humans and other Beings. In this context of plausible possible speculation of imminent extermination of human race, the writers and the literature have to perform in a better way to give the clarity of thought towards 'the Nature and Environment' to their readers globally, and its influence and support for the survival of all Beings. It is relevant to have a discussion on the attempts made by the writers from Germany, India and others parts of the world to protect the 'Nature' and its influence on the development of highly valuable study of the branch of 'Eco-criticism' in the late twentieth century, and its further advancement across the globe. In this context, the Department of German, University of Kerala has the privilege to organise an "International Interdisciplinary Webinar on Eco-Perspective in Literature- Indo-German Reflections" from 22nd to 24th March 2021 on the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Dept. of German. The Dept. of German, University of Kerala welcomes everyone to this grand event of academic discourse in which scholars from India and Germany will enlighten the sessions with illuminating and illustrious perspectives and reflections.

The Co-founder of ASLE Cheryl Glotfelty writes, "ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment". What is then ecocriticism? Simply put, ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment. The word 'Ökologie' (Ecology) was first defined by nineteenth-century German Zoologist Ernst Haeckel as "the whole science of the relationships between the organism and its environment". Ecocriticism as it emerged in the 1990s was analogously defined in the first major ecocritical volume, *The Ecocriticism Reader*, as the "study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment," advocating an "earth-centered approach to literary studies". The first phase of ecocriticism in the early 1990s therefore involved a preference for nonfictional genres of nature writing, romantic nature poetry, and wilderness narratives. The Eco-critical movements were significantly shaped and theoretically underpinned by such landmark studies as Lawrence Buell's *The Environmental Imagination*, which rehabilitated the referential and representational dimension of textuality that, in Buell's view, had been unduly neglected in poststructuralist theories. William Rueckert delineates ecocriticism as "the application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature, because ecology has the greatest relevance to the present and future of the world". In this context, the possible plausible relations between literature and nature will be examined in the literary works of German and India in terms of ecological concepts. Ecocriticism, then, attempts to find a common ground between the human and the non-human to show how they can coexist in various ways, because the environmental issues have become an integral part of our existence. Serpil Oppermann delineates Eco-criticism as a site at which material-discursive practices are invested with post-anthropocentric meanings, and it is both transdisciplinary and transnational in its relations with literatures, cultures, and local-global ecological issues, and it emphasizes a strong sense of responsibility towards the planet. Konrad von Megenberg (1309-1374) had imparted the knowledge of natural world in his book *'Buch der Natur'*, and it gives a picturesque impression of relationship of man with other external world in the German medieval period. From Theodor Adorno to Gernot Böhmes *'Atmosphäre'* shall be discussed in the event and it may illuminate the participant with the ecological perspective, and as a whole it may change the attitude towards our 'Mother Nature'.

## SUB THEMES

- Representations of 'Nature and Environment' in German literature
- The depiction of challenges of Nature in the twenty first century
- Ecocriticism and its global Dimensions
- Ecological movements in German literature
- Ecology and Aesthetic
- Ecological Imperialism
- Eco-consciousness in classic literature
- Ecocriticism and Folklore
- Eco-poetics
- Environmental challenges and responses
- Women and Nature: similarity and differences depicted in literature
- The laws prevailing to the protection of environment and nature in the global scenario

\*The above sub themes are not exhaustive

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# CALL FOR PAPERS

The organizer of the Seminar call upon the professionals, academicians from other social science disciplines, University students, young and upcoming research scholars and social activists to present their research papers relevant to the theme and sub themes.

## Abstract & Paper Submission

An abstract not exceeding 250 words shall be submitted in .doc or .docx format for consideration on or before March 5th 2021 to [seminardepartmentgerman@gmail.com](mailto:seminardepartmentgerman@gmail.com). Co-authorship up to 2 persons is permitted.

The full paper shall contain:

- Title of paper
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Analysis
- Conclusion
- Notes and References

The abstract shall indicate the name, designation, Institution details, e-mail address and Telephone numbers of all contributors. In case of co-authorship, each author will have to register separately in the event of participation in the conference. The full papers shall be submitted on or before March 12th 2021 to [seminardepartmentgerman@gmail.com](mailto:seminardepartmentgerman@gmail.com)

## Guidelines for Submitting Full Paper

- Length of the paper shall be less than 3500 words (including foot notes)
- Format: MS Word, Font Type: Times New Roman, Font Size: 12 Point, Line Spacing: 1.5
- For title of the Paper 14 point capitals may be used
- Name and Designation of the author/authors shall be mentioned below the title of the paper
- Harvard Blue Book Style (19th edition) shall be used for citation
- Revision (if any) suggested by the reviewer of the paper shall be included. Revisions suggested are on the basis of blind peer review
- Duration of the presentation – 5 -7 minutes

Abstracts and full papers mailed to [seminardepartmentgerman@gmail.com](mailto:seminardepartmentgerman@gmail.com) only be considered.

Status of the acceptance of full papers shall be communicated after blind peer review and plagiarism check.

The registration details along with mode of payment shall be informed with communication of acceptance.

## Publication of SELECTED Edited Articles in German Studies in India,

- The selected full papers shall be published in GERMAN STUDIES IN INDIA bearing an ISSN number published by Department of German, University of Kerala.
- The full paper, if get selected, to be included in the publication shall be intimated to the author.

# VENUE

**Google Meet**

## IMPORTANT DATES & REGISTRATION

### Important Dates

Last date for Abstract: **March 05th 2021**

Communication of status of Abstract: **March 8th 2021**

Submission of Full length papers: **March 12th 2021**

Submission of revised papers (if needed): **March 15th 2021**

Registration: **February 25th 2021 – March 5th 2021**

Date of Webinar: **22nd– 24th March 2021 (Three Day)**

### Registration Fee

Students & Research Scholar : **₹ 300**

Teachers & others : **₹ 500**

Foreign Delegates : **₹ 1000**

### Direct cash payment or online mode

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