

The Department of English,
University of Delhi

Invites you to a talk

By

Professor Shalini Puri

University of Pittsburgh

“Hydrocolonialism, Postcoloniality, and the Anthropocene: Imagining Freshwater Justice through Caribbean Arts”

Time : Friday, 1 December 2023, 3:30 pm.

Venue : Room No 22, Arts Faculty Building.

Abstract:

How does hydrocolonialism surface in everyday postcolonial Caribbean life? How have Caribbean literary and visual arts responded imaginatively to their predicament? While such questions have been taken up in important ways in Critical Ocean Studies, this talk focuses on addressing them from a humanities perspective in relation to freshwater. What vocabularies do Caribbean arts fashion from and beyond colonial archives so as to envision *freshwater justice*-- and to envision it outside the terms of crisis and disaster? How do they negotiate between the vast scales of the Anthropocene and the small scales of the Caribbean? What models do they offer to be accountable to the small?

The presentation takes up these questions by engaging contemporary Anglophone Caribbean poetry (by writers such as Derek Walcott, Lorna Goodison, Olive Senior, and Kei Miller), archival postcards, and Caribbean practices of “remixing” alongside the work of theorists such as Isabel Hofmeyr, Saidiya Hartman, Rob Nixon, and Mark Hauser. While the talk will have a Caribbean focus, it will be of broad interest to scholars and students of Postcolonial Studies and environmental humanities.

Bio:

Shalini Puri is Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh and a 2023 Fulbright-Nehru scholar. Her publications include the award-winning *The Caribbean Postcolonial*; *The Grenada Revolution in the Caribbean Present: Operation Urgent Memory*; *Caribbean Military Encounters* (co-edited with Lara Putnam); and *Theorizing Fieldwork in the Humanities* (co-edited with Debra Castillo). She edits Palgrave Macmillan’s series New Caribbean Studies. Her book-in-progress is entitled “Poetics for Freshwater Justice: Postcards of the Caribbean Anthropocene.”

Anil

(Prof. Anil Kumar Aneja)
Head of the Department