New Ecotones (June 11-13, 2015)
Pre-conference Seminars

Tuesday June 9, 2015 – 5.30-7.30

Global Ecologies and the Environmental Humanities: Postcolonial Approaches

A seminar run by Elizabeth DeLoughrey (UCLA) and Jill Didur (Concordia University)

Elizabeth DeLoughrey and Jill Didur (along with Anthony Carrigan) are the co-editors of a recent volume from Routledge that is the first to stage a dialogue between postcolonial studies and the Environmental Humanities. They will discuss their book, focusing in particular on how the history of globalization and imperialism represents a special challenge to the representation of environmental issues, and discuss the role narrative, visual, and aesthetic forms can play in drawing attention to and shaping our ideas about long-term and catastrophic environmental challenges such as climate change, militarism, deforestation, the pollution and management of the global commons, petrocapitalism, and the commodification of nature. The volume presents a postcolonial approach to the environmental humanities in conjunction with current thinking in areas such as political ecology and environmental justice. Spanning regions such as Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Australasia and the Pacific, as well as North America, the book provides new interdisciplinary perspectives on: the politics of the earth; disaster, vulnerability, and resilience; political ecologies and environmental justice; world ecologies; and the Anthropocene. They will discuss how a global, postcolonial, and comparative approach is essential to defining the emergent field of the environmental humanities, and how this field has much to offer in understanding critical issues surrounding the creation of alternative ecological futures.

http://www.sponpress.com/books/details/9781138827721

Elizabeth DeLoughrey is an Associate Professor in English and at the Institute for the Environment and Sustainability at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is co-editor of Caribbean Literature and the Environment (Virginia 2005), Postcolonial Ecologies: Literatures of the Environment (Oxford 2011), and Global Ecologies and the Environmental Humanities: Postcolonial Approaches (Routledge 2015). She is the author of Routes and Roots: Navigating Caribbean and Pacific Island Literatures (Hawai`i 2007) and completing a book about climate change, empire, and the literary and visual arts entitled Allegories of the Anthropocene. She has edited special issues of the journals ISLE (Interdisciplinary Studies of Literature and the Environment) on postcolonial ecocriticism (2007) and New Literatures Review on island studies (2011).

Jill Didur is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of English at Concordia University, Montreal. She is the author of Unsettling Partition: Literature, Gender, Memory (UTP 2006), and co-editor of Global Ecologies and the Environmental Humanities: Postcolonial Approaches (Routledge 2015). She is also co-editor of special issues of Cultural Critique on Critical Posthumanism (2003) and Cultural Studies on Revisiting the Subaltern in the New Empire (2003), and completing a book about imperialism, gardening, and the environment in postcolonial literature.
Amitav Ghosh: The Challenge of Globalization, Genre and the Classroom

A seminar run by Gaurav Desai (Tulane University) & John Hawley (Santa Clara University)

This seminar will focus on the writings of Amitav Ghosh, one of the most celebrated contemporary writers from India. Ghosh is the author of eleven major works which include seven novels, three collections of nonfiction essays and one hybrid text that is poised somewhere between the genres of ethnohistory and travelogue. His debut novel *The Circle of Reason* was awarded the Prix Medicis Etrangere in 1990, and his next, *The Shadow Lines* received both the Ananda Puraskar award in Calcutta and the Annual Award of the Sahitya Academy (the Indian Academy of Literature). Ever since the publication of these early works, Ghosh has gone on to receive a number of international awards including the Arthur C. Clark award for *The Calcutta Chromosome*, the Crossword Book Award for both *The Hungry Tide* and *The Sea of Poppies*, the Tagore Literary Award for *The Sea of Poppies* and the Myanmar National Literature award for the Burmese translation of *The Glass Palace*. The themes raised in his work include colonial/postcolonial transitions, the recovery of lost histories, the ambivalent legacies of European modernity, matters of migration and displacement, the challenges of ecology, human rights, violence, religion as well as questions of literary form and aesthetic value. We anticipate participants to have varying degrees of familiarity with Ghosh’s work. Those less familiar with it will find it useful to browse through the materials on his website at www.amitavghosh.com where interviews, reviews of his books and a blog are archived. Those quite familiar with his work will be invited to engage in a discussion of pedagogical aspects of his work and strategies that best work when teaching his work in the classroom.

**Gaurav Desai** is Professor of English with a joint appointment in the Program of African and African Diaspora Studies at Tulane University. He is the author of *Subject to Colonialism: African Self-fashioning and the Colonial Library* (Duke University Press, 2001) and *Commerce with the Universe: Africa, India and the Afrasian Imagination* (Columbia University Press, 2013) which was a finalist for the Bethwell Ogot Prize offered by the African Studies Association and which won the Rene Wellek Prize awarded by the American Comparative Literature Association. Desai has also edited a number of books and special issues of journals. The book *Postcolonialisms: An Anthology of Cultural Theory and Criticism* (Rutgers University Press, 2005) has become a standard classroom and reference text.

**John C. Hawley** is Professor and past chairman of the English Department at Santa Clara University. He is currently a Fulbright Fellow at Humboldt University in Berlin, working on the literature of migration, and is a former resident at the Rockefeller Research Center in Bellagio. He has served on four executive committees of the Modern Language Association, and is author or editor of 15 books. He is past president of the US chapter of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies.