



**School of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Management  
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
BHUBANESWAR**

**in association with  
Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute  
New Delhi**

**Invites you to join  
the**

**Virtual International Symposium  
on**

**Mapping Memory in the Wake of the  
Posthuman: India and Canada**

**25-26 March 2022**

## Concept Note:

Since the onset of Gutenberg's print culture in 1440, human presence has been central to the existence of social, political, cultural contexts of recorded imagination on planet earth. For centuries now, western thinkers have dwelled upon the 'human condition.' The seemingly innocuous universalization of epistemological engagement emanating thus, has found recurrent encouragement from conventional sources of wisdom. Sociologist Maurice Parmelee in her 1916 essay titled *Poverty and Social Progress* first propagated the possibility of the Post-human. While it is indeed challenging to express the Posthuman in concrete and definite terms, Donna Haraway's *A Cyborg Manifesto* and Cary Wolfe's *What is Posthumanism?* with their striking observations of the concept tell us that the idea of the Posthuman not only decentralizes human beings from a hitherto grand narrative and replaces them with other 'nonhuman/inhuman' possibilities such as nature, animals, cyborgs, robots and such like, but also opens a minefield of discourse that can potentially negate all kinds of hegemonic signifiers currently in circulation. Hayles amalgamates the Postmodern and hallucination, cybernetics and informatics to observe that the Posthuman is both immediate and intimate in the temporal as well as spatial sense, that it exists here and now. In the wake of the Posthuman then, how does one make sense of a world perforated by long-drawn conflicts, war zones, forced displacements and voluntary migrations, and diseases? Is the Posthuman likely to emerge from a degenerative space inherited by a depleted earth or is it likely to create a more-than-human existence, a utopian occurrence that lay hitherto unimagined? What lies ahead and how is it plausible to negotiate memory from what has passed by? How do India and Canada, diverse in terms of their populations, communities, cultures, and geopolitical realities, deal with this inevitable onset of the Posthuman? What prepares these two diverse democracies of the world for what is about to appear? How will it impact their narratives of existence and sustenance? What ruptures and continuities are

these two giant nations of our interest likely to experience owing to the sweeping changes brought in by an ever-expanding possibility of the Posthuman?

**The two-day International Symposium seeks to invite papers from Faculty, research scholars, independent researchers, students, and other interested professionals in the following areas to deliberate upon:**

- The human and the posthuman
- Speculative fiction
- Resistance Literature
- Utopia and dystopia
- Memory and the posthuman
- Borders and the Posthuman
- Animal Studies
- Disease and the Posthuman
- Displacements and Migrations
- Conflicts and warzones
- Human, inhuman and nonhuman
- Indigeneity and foreignness
- Home and exile
- Memory and trauma

***Select papers from the symposium will be published after peer review with a publishing house of repute.***

## **Keynote Address by:**

- ❖ **Dr. Rijuta Mehta, Faculty of English, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.**

## **Confirmed Speakers:**

- ❖ **Prof. Mukesh Ranjan, Director, Centre for Canadian Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, India**
- ❖ **Prof. M.S. Sapna, Prof. of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Mysore, Mysore, Karnataka, India**
- ❖ **Dr. Shruti Das, Director, Centre for Canadian Studies, Berhampur University, Berhampur, Odisha, India**
- ❖ **Dr. Angkayarkan Vinayakaselvi, Director, Centre for Canadian Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India**
- ❖ **Dr. Amarjeet Nayak, Reader (F), NISER Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India**

## Organizer

**Dr. Punyashree Panda**

**Asst. Professor**

**School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management**

**IIT Bhubaneswar**

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## Contact Details of Team Members:

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## Important Dates

**Deadline for Abstract Submission: 3 March 2022**

**Notification of Abstract Acceptance: 5 March 2022**

**Deadline for Submission of Full Paper: 15 March 2022**

**Deadline for Registration: 15 March 2022**

**Symposium Dates: 25 - 26 March 2022**

## To join:

**Link to register:** <https://forms.gle/JKt3FF812mimuC6CA>

**Link to submit abstract:** <https://forms.gle/F1Ku3PQdP84Yhcgv5>

**Registration fees:** INR 500/- (Indian Rupees Five Hundred only)

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