



**SSUS -KSHEC Erudite-Scholar-in-Residence-Programme
on Environmental Humanities**

With

Professor Stephen Muecke

University of Notre Dame, Broome, Australia

11 to 14 October 2022

Department of English

SREE SANKARACHARYA UNIVERSITY OF SANSKRIT

Kalady, Kerala.

Funded by

The Kerala State Higher Education Council

The nature-human relationship is being freshly looked into theoretically and in practical ways with a compelling immediacy. The pandemic experience has shown us that human agency cannot be considered in any exclusive manner and the idea of social justice is now often coterminous with climate justice. The environment of late has become a pressing concern for humans, primarily because of climate change, environmental pollution and other problems, essentially caused by human greed, consumerism, economic globalization and capitalism. Even a pro-capitalist economist like Thomas Pickety discusses the deleterious effects of hypercapitalism and says the loss of humanity's natural capital is world's fundamental long-term worry and moots the urgency of increasing our educational capital to prevent further degradation of natural capital rather than spending several points of global GDP to mitigate the climate change. Virtually every discipline at present has environment as its primary domain of enquiry. Even the term "domain" has been questioned as being inherently imperialist and anthropocentric. The environmental humanities emerged to capture already existing connections between ecoaesthetics, ecophilosophy, environmental history, political ecology etc. as part of repositioning humanities and as Stephen Muecke observed were fairly recently consolidated with the founding of the journal *Environmental Humanities* in Sydney, Australia in 2012. Environmental Humanities as a discipline understands that the problems of Anthropocene are far more complex than can be managed by sciences alone and has critiqued sciences from an ecocentric vantage point, even while maintaining a symbiotic relationship with sciences. They are a program that most research universities would want to proudly display as part of new humanities, as Rosi Braidotti observed. We are hence delighted to welcome Professor Stephen Muecke for the Erudite-Scholar-in-Residence Programme on Environmental Humanities. The Erudite-Scholar-in-Residence Programme of The Kerala Higher Education Council is to provide opportunities for students, researchers and faculty members to interact with and gain from the knowledge and expertise of Nobel laureates or similar scholars with outstanding contributions. This Scholar-in-Residence comprises three segments; a University Lecture, Workshop, and a Public Lecture by Professor Stephen Muecke of University of Notre Dame, Broome, Western Australia, spread over four days. We are happy to invite academics, researchers and students to be part of this programme. The Workshop is primarily meant for academics and researchers from various disciplines, and will have restriction in the number of participants, who need to make prior registrations.

Link for registration:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nYW5FeHqhZR_-sohnPJmTat_2pWgX9ajkCIJ_ffwOsk/edit

Babu Rajan P P

Assistant Professor of English and Coordinator
Baburajan@SSUS.ac.in

Programme Schedule

Venue: Utility Centre, SSUS Kalady.

11 October 2022. 10.30 am

Welcome: **Prof (Dr) Raji B Nair**
Head, Department of English

Chair: **Babu Rajan P P**
Assistant Professor, Department of English

University Lecture: Environmental Humanities 11 to 1 pm.

Prof. Stephen Muecke

12 and 13 October 2022. (Two Days)
10.30 am to 1 pm and 2pm to 4pm

Workshop: Critical Zones

14 October 2022. 10.30 am to 1pm

Public Lecture: 'Whitefella Mischief'?

Prof. Stephen Muecke

Chair: **Prof (Dr) Nisha Venugopal**
Professor, Department of English.



Prof. Stephen Muecke

Professor Stephen Muecke is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Emeritus Professor at the University of New South Wales and Adjunct Professor in the Nulungu Research Institute of the University of Notre Dame Australia. He is a cultural theorist and has worked at the University of Technology Sydney, the University of Western Australia, the University of Adelaide and Flinders University. He has collaborated for many years with the Goolarabooloo people of the Kimberly region in Western Australia. An early result of that collaborative work was the book *Reading the Country: Introduction to Nomadology* (1984), co-authored with Krim Benterak and Paddy Roe, which explored the meaning and politics of place through Aboriginal narratives, songs and paintings. More recently, again with Paddy Roe, he published *The Children's Country: Creation of a Goolarabooloo Future in North-West Australia* (2021). He is also a creative writer (*The Mother's Day Protest and Other Fictocritical Essays* was published in 2016) and has translated several books from French into English, notably *Another Science is Possible* (2018), by Belgian philosopher Isabelle Stengers, *The Wandering Souls* (2019), by French ethnopsychiatrist Tobie Nathan, and *Our Grateful Dead: Stories of those Left behind*, (2021) by Belgian ethnologist Vinciane Despret.