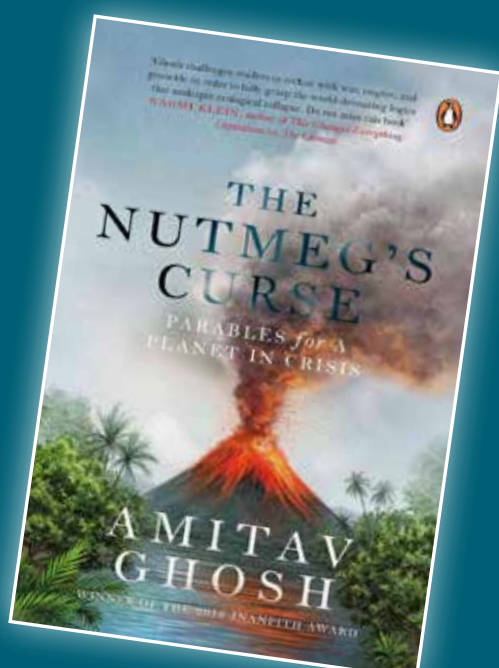
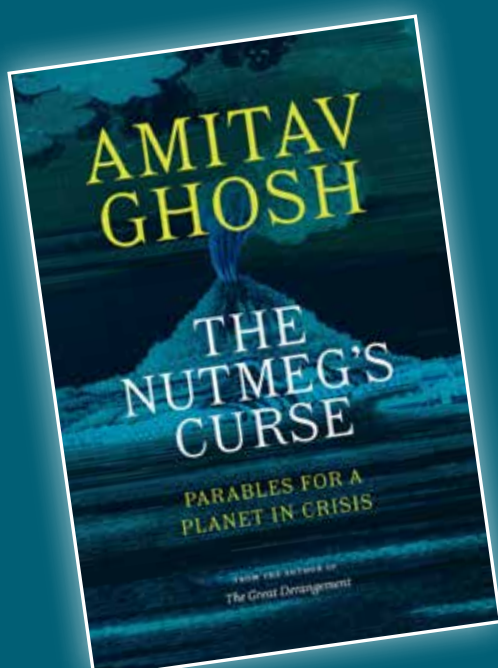


Please join us for a rare SACHI Afternoon as we present *A Conversation with Amitav Ghosh*



In Ghosh's hands, the history of nutmeg's exploitation by the Dutch prefigures our relationship to oil and natural gas and our fundamentally mechanistic view of the earth.

Writing explicitly against the backdrop of the COVID pandemic and Black Lives Matter protests,

Ghosh frames these ongoing crises in a new way by showing how the colonialist extractive mindset is directly connected to the deep inequality we see around us today. By interweaving discussions of everything from the global history of the oil trade, the migrant crises, the hyper-militarization of the US, and the animist spirituality of indigenous communities around the world, *The Nutmeg's Curse* offers a sharp critique of Western society and reveals the profound ways in which human history is shaped by non-human forces.



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Amitav Ghosh, a novelist and essayist is the award winning author of several books of fiction and non-fiction. His transnational narratives sweep across countries, continents, and oceans exploring epic themes of travel and diaspora, movement and migration, power and place, history, capitalism and globalization, and man's relationship to Nature itself. Imparting unusual depth and breadth, Ghosh is a significant voice in 21st century dialogues.

Amitav Ghosh's more recent novels comprise *The Ibis Trilogy: Sea of Poppies; River of Smoke; and Flood of Fire*. This award winning epic saga, set against the background of the Opium War, was received with great acclaim. His recent non-fiction include *The Great Derangement* on the climate crisis; and his latest, *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis* is a brilliant summation of his many big ideas. Ghosh's work has been translated into more than thirty languages.

Ghosh holds two Lifetime Achievement awards and four honorary doctorates. He is the recipient of India's highest honors for distinguished contribution to literature – the *Padma Shri* in 2007, and the *Jnanpith Award* in 2018. In 2019, *Foreign Policy* magazine named him one of the most important global thinkers of the preceding decade.

Born in Calcutta, Ghosh grew up in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He studied in Delhi, Oxford, and Alexandria.



Kum-Kum Bhavnani is Associate Vice Chancellor and Distinguished Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara. An acclaimed film-maker, known for her multilayered approach to documenting inequalities, she fuses scholarship with social justice through the combined lenses of the movie camera and critical research. Her recent work increasingly centers the human aspects of planet earth's climate crisis.

Born in India, Bhavnani grew up in London and joined UC Santa Barbara in 1991. She actively supports movements that foster greater economic equality- anti- racism, feminism, and arguing in favor of the substantial role of culture as lived experience. Her documentary films include *The Shape of Water* (2006); *Nothing Like Chocolate* (2012); *Lutah* (2014); *We are Galapagos* (2016) and her most recent project, *Science for Nuns and Monks*.

From 2018-2020 Kum-Kum Bhavnani served as Chair and Vice Chair of the University of California Systemwide Senate.



Sugata Ray, Director (Interim), Institute for South Asia Studies, and Sarah Kailath Chair of India Studies is Associate Professor of South and Southeast Asian art and architecture in the Dept. of History of Art, and Dept. of South & Southeast Asian Studies. He is co-founder of the South Asia Art Initiative at the University of California, Berkeley.

His research and writing focus on climate change and the visual arts from the 1500s onwards. Ray is the author of *Climate Change and the Art of Devotion: Geoaesthetics in the Land of Krishna, 1550-1850* (2019) and co-editor of *Ecologies, Aesthetics and Histories of Art* (forthcoming) and *Water Histories of South Asia: The Materiality of Liquescence* (2020). He is currently writing a book on Anthropocene extinction in the early modern period.



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