

Humanities Symposium

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2025 Humanities Symposium: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor



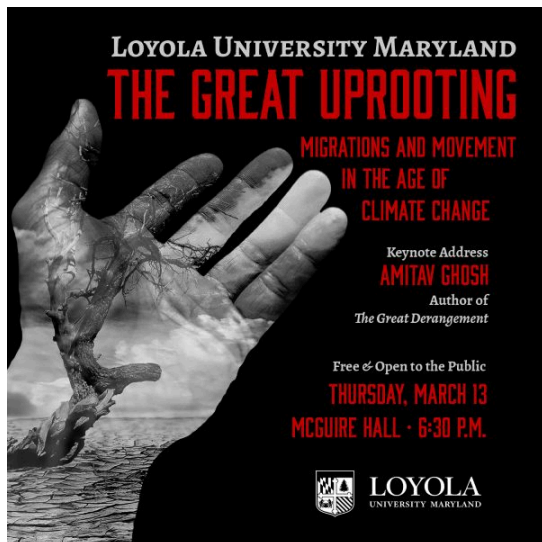
Keynote Address, "The Great Uprooting: Migration and Movement in the Age of Climate Change"
by Amitav Ghosh

Thursday, March 13, 2025

McGuire Hall

Andrew White Student Center

6:30 PM



In his keynote address, acclaimed novelist Amitav Ghosh will explore the climate crisis and human migration:

"It has long been predicted that climate change will lead to large-scale displacements of population and mass migration. Is it possible to look at the European 'migrant crisis' of recent years through this prism? This, and many other related questions, prompted me to travel to migrant camps in Italy in 2017, to interview

migrants whose languages I am familiar with: that is to say speakers of Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and Egyptian Colloquial Arabic. This talk is an attempt to identify some of the underlying patterns in the stories I was told by the migrants, in their own languages."

This year's Symposium text is Ghosh's non-fiction work, *The Great Derangement*, which explores the climate crisis through multiple disciplinary lenses. In three short chapters: Stories, History, and Politics, which also address art, colonialism, and Laudato Si among other topics, Ghosh interweaves reflections on how we are constrained by our current modes of thinking and how we might find a way forward.

Amitav Ghosh was born in Calcutta and grew up in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He studied in Delhi, Oxford and Alexandria. Amitav Ghosh's work has been translated into more than thirty languages and he has served on the juries of the Locarno and Venice film festivals. *The Great Derangement* was given the inaugural Utah Award for the Environmental Humanities in 2018. His essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic* and *The New York Times*. Amitav Ghosh holds four Lifetime Achievement awards and five honorary doctorates. In 2007 he was awarded the Padma Shri, one of India's highest honors, by the President of India. In 2010 he was a joint winner, along with Margaret Atwood, of a Dan David prize, and 2011 he was awarded the Grand Prix of the

Blue Metropolis festival in Montreal. In 2018 the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honor, was conferred on Amitav Ghosh. He was the first English-language writer to receive the award. In 2019 *Foreign Policy* magazine named him one of the most important global thinkers of the preceding decade. In 2024, he was awarded the Erasmus Prize by the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation. Headshot credit: Mathieu Genon.

[Listen to Ghosh interview](#) with Sheilah Kast on WYPR's On the Record from March 12, 2025.

Read March 13, 2025 Ghosh [Baltimore Banner interview](#) with Adam Willis.

March 6, 2025 Ghosh [WEAA interview](#) with Deanna Neal on Morgan Newshour.

Listen to interview with Dr. Billy Friebele, director of the Humanities Symposium, and Nestor Aparicio on [Baltimore Positive](#), about the Symposium Keynote and related events.

Faculty Teaching Seminar

Faculty members are invited to attend a Humanities Symposium Teaching seminar on Wednesday **February 5** in **College Center Conference Room 105**. The event will run from **12:00-1:00 PM**, but we have the room reserved until 1:30 PM for informal discussion. We hope to create a space for sharing ideas and connecting with colleagues.

Faculty from three different departments will share ideas about how to incorporate the text into your spring courses and to prepare your students to participate in the colloquia.

This seminar will feature:

Toja Okoh (History)

Stephen Park (English)

Yu Stearns (Modern Languages & Literatures)

Lunch will be provided. Let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

Student-Faculty Colloquia

Wednesday, March 12 and Thursday, March 13, 2025

McManus Theatre

Faculty from all disciplines and their students attend colloquium sessions together during their regularly scheduled class times.

Please register on the Bridge to let us know when you and your students will be participating on **Wednesday, March 12** and/or **Thursday, March 13**. Use the quantity box in each time slot to tell us how many students you will be bringing during that time.

Faculty members may select multiple time slots if participating with more than one class. Faculty whose classes fall outside the colloquia hours (Wednesday, March 12 from 8-5 and Thursday, March 13 from 8-4:20) may ask students to attend individually as long as the faculty member also attends one session.

For more information about the 2025 Humanities Symposium events, please email Billy Friebele, associate professor of Visual and Performing Arts, at wefriebele@loyola.edu.

Related events:

Future: Evergreener **From Destruction to Abundance**

Art Exhibition on Climate Change

January 13 - February 14

Julio Fine Arts Gallery

Andrew White Student Center

[Opening Reception](#) on Thursday, January 16 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the Julio Fine Arts Gallery

Artist Panel Discussion on February 5 at 6:30 PM in McManus Theater

Future: Evergreener features art by local artists Andrea Sherrill Evans, Maggie Gourlay,

Eileen Wold, and Jowita Wyszomirska, and is curated and organized by Loyola's Fall 2024 Museum Studies Class taught by Kerry Boeye.

All gallery events are free and open to all. Registration for the Artist Panel discussion is requested but not required.

The [gallery's open hours](#) are M/Tu/W/F: 10AM – 4PM; Th: 10AM – 8PM; Sa/Su: 12PM – 4PM.

O Rio Negro São As Pessoas (Rio Negro is Its People) **Environmental Film Screening & Discussion with Filmmakers**

Monday, February 3

Loyola Notre Dame Library Auditorium

6:00 PM

followed by a talkback with some of the film's creators



The Anavilhanas National Park, in the Rio Negro Amazon, is the environment for presenting characters living in the tenuous orbit between the city Manaus and riverside communities on the banks of this historic river. The film explores the contemporary meaning of being at and growing up by the banks of a river with the power of Rio

Negro, submerged in a dense forest and surrounded by global elements of today; the need to leave, the forgotten desire to return, the choice to stay, the immensity and the time of the river, form an intuitive and imaginary narrative set to suggest deeply local stories that serve the reflection on human life.

Presented in cooperation with the Baltimore Environmental Film Series, the Loyola Environmental Studies Program, Visual and Performing Arts, and the Dean of Loyola College.

Daniel Deudney - Modern Masters Reading Series

Thursday February 13

McGuire Hall

Andrew White Student Center

6:30 PM

Daniel H. Deudney teaches political science, international relations and political theory at Johns Hopkins University. He holds a BA in political science and philosophy from Yale University, a MPA in science, technology, and public policy from George Washington University, and a PhD in political science from Princeton University. His areas of research are general international relations theory, international political theory and republicanism, and contemporary global issues (nuclear, outer space, environment, and energy). His publications include *Renewable Energy* (Norton, 1983), co-author; and *Contested Grounds: Conflict and Security in the New Global Environmental Politics* (SUNY, 1998), co-editor.

Toxic Tour of Curtis Bay and Community-Led and Controlled Development

Friday, February 21

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

(Bus transportation will be provided)

Students will have an opportunity to see, to hear, to witness the environmental violence of 77+ stationary toxic facilities in Curtis Bay. Due to the cumulative impact of stationary toxic facilities, this community has some of the highest cases of respiratory illnesses in the entire country.

We will go back in time to 2012 when youth from the community heard about a plan to build the nation's largest trash to energy incinerator a mile from their high school. This youth group has grown from stopping one polluting industry to now thinking about longer term community-led and controlled development.

- Bus will depart from Loyola (Boulder stop) at 8:30am
- Visit to the CSX Coal Terminal and garbage incinerators

- Hear from scientists about trail cameras and air monitoring
- Meet with community organizers
- Learn about the Free Your Voice youth activist movement in Curtis Bay
- Lunch provided (Red Emma's Co-Operative)
- Learn about Land Trust and passive home
- Bus will arrive back at Loyola by 3:30pm

Register by Friday February 14 in order to participate in the Toxic Tour.

This is a two-part event. Please consider also registering for the follow-up meeting on campus described below. This [Roundtable on Environmental Justice](#) will build on the Toxic Tour and provide students with opportunities for advocacy and action.

Roundtable on Environmental Justice with Nicole Fabricant

Monday, February 24

Humanities Café (main floor of the Humanities Building)

6:00 PM

Monday following the toxic tour, Loyola students will have an opportunity to plug into roundtable discussions about the ongoing work in South Baltimore. One table will focus on legislation and policy, another will focus on alternative housing and the third table will focus on environmental justice and youth education. These three roundtables will allow students to explore the ongoing work in South Baltimore. There will be popular education and activities to get them thinking about their own interests and talents and how this can feed into the grassroots organizing work.

Nicole Fabricant is Professor of Anthropology at Towson University in Maryland. She teaches courses on resource extraction, environmental justice, and the climate crisis. Her most recent book, *Fighting to Breathe Race, Toxicity and the Rise of Youth Activism in Baltimore* (University of California Press 2022) looks at the cumulative impacts of industrial stationary toxic facilities in South Baltimore, Maryland. The book follows a dynamic and creative group of high school students who decided to fight back against the race- and class-based health disparities and inequality of industrial expansion.



If you're interested in this event, please consider registering for the [Toxic Tour](#) on Friday February 21. Attendance at both events is not required but strongly encouraged.

We are Guardians **Environmental Film Screening and Discussion**

Monday, March 10

Loyola Notre Dame Library Auditorium

6:00 PM



In the heart of the Brazilian Amazon, thousands of people are unlawfully invading protected lands, devastating centuries-old forests for resources and fast profits. Now as the health of the entire Amazon teeters at the edge, will Brazil and the world take notice?

Indigenous forest guardian Marçal Guajajara and Indigenous leader Puyr Tembê stand at the frontlines of this fight, risking their lives to protect their ancestral lands from relentless invasions and deforestation. On the other side—Valdir, an illegal logger, is trapped in a desperate struggle to make ends meet and sees no other way than continuing to cut down the forest.

Through a tapestry of voices, this award-winning documentary provides a raw and intimate look at the lives of those closest to the Amazon and peels back the layers of this

critical situation to reveal a story that ultimately affects all of us. The film is an exploration of the human spirit and our collective responsibility to protect the fragile balance of our world. Ultimately, it illuminates a path forward, where hope and unity can guide us toward a brighter future for the Amazon and our planet.

Plant a Spiral of Native Plants with Artist Stacy Levy!

Wednesday March 19 and Thursday March 20

The Gardens, near the Volleyball Court



Join us as we install our Public Eco-artwork by Environmental Artist Stacy Levy!

Get your hands dirty and help us plant "Spiral Cafeteria": a living artwork for humans, birds & insects; future supplier of the birds' lunch and the bees' breakfast; and a place for our Loyola community to find some time to walk up-close with nature.

Read more about Stacy Levy's [Loyola project](#) in [JMore](#).

Watch WBAL TV's interview with Stacy Levy and [Loyola's Living Landscape Project](#).

Note: Planting will occur over two days (Wednesday March 19 and Thursday March 20). Make sure to tell us when you will be there by signing up for as many hour long slots as you can--just select as many tickets as number of hourlong time slots you can attend!

This project is in conjunction with the 2025 Humanities Symposium, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, and is co-sponsored by The Center for Humanities, Loyola University

Maryland, and The Julio Fine Arts Gallery.

To Hold Paramount the Safety, Health, and Welfare of the Public: An investigation **A Humanities & Engineering Panel**

Wednesday, March 26

Cohn Hall 133

6:00 - 8:00 PM

A panel from Baltimore Sections of Professional Engineering Societies ASME & IEEE will discuss the following themes:

- The Opportunity Cost of Ecosystems
- Era Centric Ethics and Morals
- Defense Technology Development

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by the Engineering Department and the Loyola Humanities Symposium.

Can't Stop Change - Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines **Environmental Film Screening and Discussion**

Monday, April 7

Loyola Notre Dame Library Auditorium

6:00 PM

As Florida's violent legislation dominates headlines, LGBTQ2S+ communities are also on the frontlines of accelerating climate change. *Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines* weaves interviews with 14 LGBTQ2S+ artists, organizers, and educators across Florida (and the new Florida diaspora) into an intersectional climate justice narrative.

Amidst so much unknown, Can't Stop Change shares an emergent hope: Moments of disaster create opportunities for immense transformation, where what once seemed impossible becomes possible. As we look towards the next hurricane season and next legislative cycle, how can we work with the changes to come to shape the futures we want?

[Register](#) to attend.

Hanna Geldrich-Leffman 2025 Language, Literature, and Society Colloquium: ***“Writing Mother Nature: Global Perspectives on Literature and the Environment”***

Wednesday, April 9

AWSC Fourth Floor Program Room

The purpose of this colloquium is to explore the relationship between the environment and humanity in different literary traditions from the perspective of ecocriticism. The negative effect of human actions on Nature is, undoubtedly, one of the major concerns of our time, and ecocriticism examines our global ecological crisis through the intersection of literature (among other cultural productions and humanities disciplines) and the physical environment. In presenting fictional writings from different cultures that engage with this crisis, our speakers will illustrate the variety of imaginary standpoints from which this major change of dynamics between human beings and nature can be expressed.

11:00 AM

“Italian Fables for the Anthropocene”

Dr. Laura Di Bianco, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University

2:00 PM

“Eco-Gothic Literature Reimagined: New Perspectives from Latin America”

Dr. Ana María Mutis, Ph.D., Trinity University

3:00 PM

“Zhuangzi’s Butterfly and the Neo-Baroque: A Complex Image of Nature in Contemporary

Sinophone Speculative Fiction”

Dr. Mingwei Song, Ph.D., Wellesley College

Event Information

Theme: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

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Text: *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable* by Amitav Ghosh

Questions? Please contact Billy Friebele, Associate professor, Visual and Performing Arts

wefriebele@loyola.edu

Additional Information

Center for the Humanities



Let's stay in touch!

Join our mailing list to learn more about Loyola

Request information