

PSAGS 2025
ANNUAL MEET & CONFERENCE

PS ∇ GS

Backyard Texts and Junkyard Epistemes

Keynotes

Joanna Page, University of Cambridge
Ankur Barua, University of Cambridge
Julia Wurr, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg
Carola Lorea, University of Tübingen

Invited Speakers

Soumen Mukherjee, Presidency University & Smuts
Visiting Fellow, University of Cambridge
Agustina Altman, University of Buenos Aires
Felicity Apaah, University of Ghana

Academic Collaborator
IIIT GUWAHATI

Conveners

Anindya Purakayastha, ILSR Kolkata
Rajarshi Mitra, IIIT Guwahati
Mursed Alam, Gour College, University of Gour Banga
Arjab Roy, IIIT Guwahati

For cfp queries contact

Manas Dutta of PSAGS at manasduttacu@gmail.com
Rajarshi Mitra of IIIT Guwahati at rajarshi@iiitg.ac.in

19-20 DECEMBER 2025
@ IIIT GUWAHATI



KAIROS

Kairos: A Journal of Critical Symposium

Postcolonial Studies Association of the Global South (PSAGS) Annual Conference 2025

“Backyard Texts and Junkyard Epistemes”

19-20 December 2025

Concept Note

The current conjuncture is marked by the clash of axioms, metaphorically represented by the backyard/junkyard and the fore-yard. While the junkyard/ backward relates to the obscure, the unconscious, the leftover; the fore-yard, the screened and the hyper-projected or hyper-narrativized stand for the accepted, the normative, the light and show, the conscious, the progressed and the advanced. The dominant intellectual leitmotif of our time is a fore-yard show that relegates anything unsophisticated, unprofitable, the heterodox and the “uncouth” to the junkyard. Consumerist Ecocides, mindless accumulation and its productionist metaphysics allow no memory to sediment, no thought to ground. Added to that is our everyday consent to conformity and the formulaic in both the personal and the public space - it governs the monolithic and monolingual media-yard, the dissent yard and the pre-determined yard of the critique. Junkyard is, thus, the repository of memory; an archive of lost times, ways of being and epistemes which have been obscured by the politics of erasure and relegation. Governmentally, we return to this mythic time without, however, taking into account the kernel of the mythos. The mythic past, as imagined by many is sometimes guided by representational calculus and its reflection in the hustings. The mythos, however, transcends this calculative reason. As the house of being and the deposit of collective unconscious, the backyard/ junkyard is also used as an escape route from the invading crisis of the present. This seminar proposes to critically return to the backyard texts and junkyard epistemes - the faded traditions, the left-overs of colonial/ accumulative modernity, the forgotten dialogues on conviviality, and archetypes of co-living and cross-cultural standing.

We invite scholarly submissions from early career and experienced scholars on but not limited to the following areas:

Withering of Texts, Life-worlds and World Views

The Postcolonial Hangover? Ossified Critique? Time for New optics?

Methods of practices, and texts assuming prominence and power

Temporal and Spatial window of synchronicity

Gradual fading of cultural experiences, knowledge systems

Look/gaze to ponder about this cultural electoralisation

Epistemic vantage points, narrative formations

Critique, formulaic reactions, responses

Epistemic monolingualism and monoliths of the media-space

Auto-critique, Immunity to essentialized thoughts

PS  GS

Submit an abstract (300 words maximum) with a short bio-note to psagsindia@gmail.com
within 30 June 2025. Selected candidates will be informed within 6 September 2025.