



ASHOKA  
UNIVERSITY

Centre for  
Climate Change  
and Sustainability

## 3CS NEWSLETTER

February 2022

We at 3CS are very excited to have everyone back on campus. After two years of a virtual existence, the Centre is looking forward to starting some interesting climate conversations over coffee under the Sonapat skies.

What a month February has been!

We started with the launch of our inaugural [3CS Media Fellowship](#). While we have seen a much needed and long overdue increase in the volume and urgency of climate journalism in recent years, there are voices we still don't hear from enough. If field reporters had adequate time and resources, what journalistic stories would they choose that could best help inform public debate on climate change? How does climate change affect the daily lives of the most disadvantaged? How will it impact the lives and livelihoods of marginalised communities in the longer term? The Fellowship will directly support journalists from these communities to cover such stories.

We are happy to announce that The Hindu and The NewsMinute are our media partners for the Fellowship. Their representatives will help select the Fellows and publish their final pieces. To make sure that the opportunity reaches as many people as possible, we've extended the deadline to apply to March 15th, 2022.

On 18th and 19th of February, we organised the second edition of our annual conference — [Healing Earth 2.0](#). Thank you all for the incredible response, we had a very interactive session with our speakers on both days. Check out the recordings below.

We have some interesting projects and opportunities in the pipeline, and we are looking forward to seeing all of you in person on campus and sharing these updates with you!

Regards,

Gautam Menon,  
Director, 3CS

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## Healing Earth Conference 2.0



HEALING 2.0  
EARTH 22

DAY 1

# THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

FEB  
18



JING CAO



E SOMANATHAN



SUZI KERR



GAËL GIRAUD



PRACHI SINGH



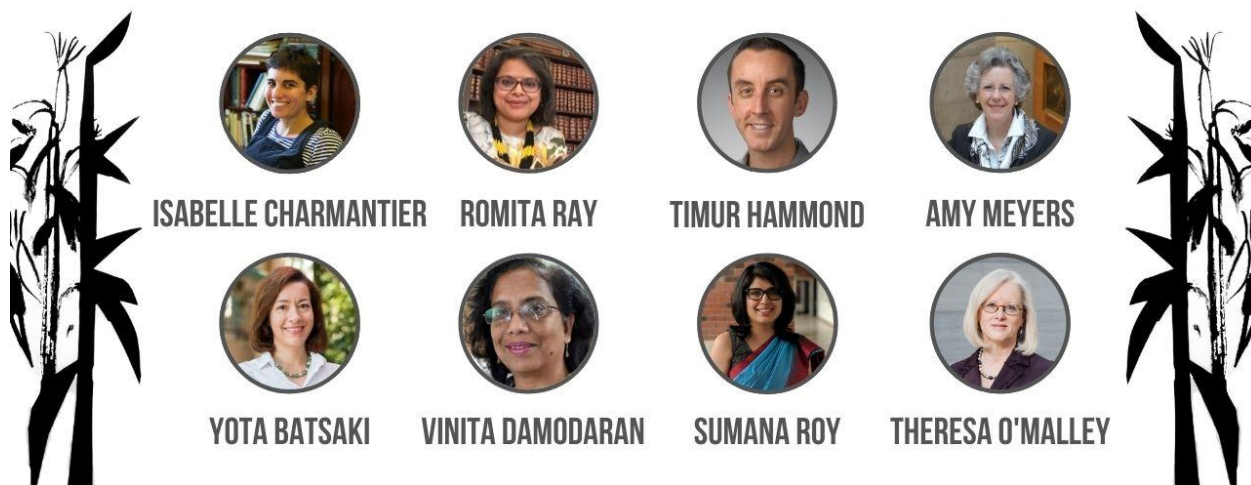
BHASKAR DUTTA



For those of you who couldn't attend, we hope you enjoy the recordings [here](#).

The session on 'the Economics of Climate Change' began with Prof. Bhaskar Dutta, who introduced the theme for the day and the speakers. The first speaker was Prof. Jing Cao, Associate Professor of Economics at Tsinghua University, who spoke about the need and ways to reconcile local pollution and climate change. She was followed by Prof. E Somanathan from the Indian Statistical Institute, who gave a broad overview of the economics of climate change for India. He spoke about the cascading consequences on the economy and shared some strategies on how we can address the most severe impacts by reducing emissions while continuing to enhance growth. The last speaker was Dr. Suzi Kerr, the Chief Economist at the Environmental Defense Fund, who highlighted some strategies for India to work with international partners to accelerate progress on climate action, including through carbon markets.

Following the talks, Prof. Bhaskar Dutta moderated a spirited panel discussion with Prof. Somanathan, Dr. Kerr, and Prof. Prachi Singh, High Meadows Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Environmental Defense Fund (and previously a visiting professor at Ashoka University). The discussion covered the range of topics the speakers touched upon, including some interesting questions from the audience, and a particularly candid discussion on a "controversial" topic (check 2:24:00).



The session on Plant Humanities was organised by Prof. Sumana Roy, who is starting the Indian Plant Humanities project at 3CS. The project will create an archive of thought on plant life by writers, artists, philosophers, and scientists from the Indian subcontinent over the last two millennia. This conference brought together some of the most interesting scholars in this field to get a sense of a history of the discipline, the archives, the possibilities and expectations, both from scholars and the field itself.

The session began with a joint presentation on the work of William Bartram, an American naturalist, by Prof. Amy Meyers, Former Director of the Yale Center for British Art, and Prof. Therese O'Malley, Former Associate Dean of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Following them was Prof. Yota Batsaki, the Executive director of Dumbarton Oaks, a Harvard University research institute, museum, and garden in Washington, DC. She offered some lessons for 'Growing the Plant Humanities', drawing from her extensive experience leading the Plant Humanities Initiative at Dumbarton Oaks.

Dr. Isabelle Charmantier, the Head of Collections at the Linnean Society of London, spoke next about Plants and History in the Society's Collections. She was followed by Prof. Vinita Damodaran, the Director of the Centre for World Environmental History at Sussex, who spoke about the decolonisation of the natural history collections of the British Empire.

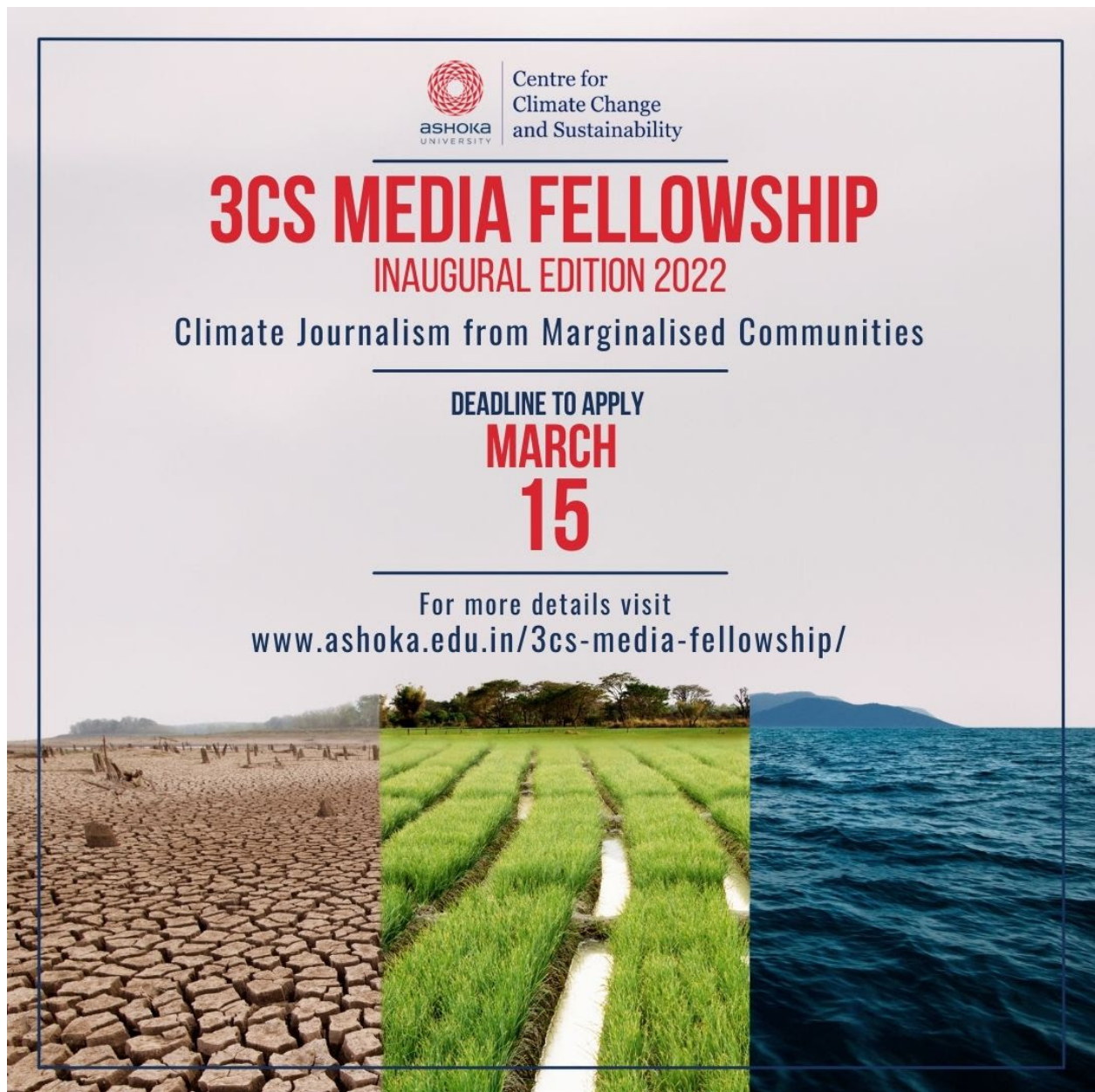
Prof. Romita Ray, Associate Professor of Art History at Syracuse University, shared a visual story — 'Tea Encounters' — asking how we can reimagine plantations in the context of their colonial history, increasing deforestation, and a changing climate. The last speaker for the day was Prof. Timur Hammond, Assistant Professor at the department of Geography at Syracuse University. Through a series of photographs from

the city of Istanbul, he traces how trees growing in the gaps in our cities transform the world around them.


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## 3CS Media Fellowship - Deadline extended to 15th March

We're extending the deadline for the Fellowship until **15th March**. Please share the poster and information below with anyone who might be interested in applying.



The poster is a vertical rectangular graphic with a light grey background. At the top, the Ashoka University logo (a red circular emblem) is on the left, and the text "Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability" is on the right. Below this, the title "3CS MEDIA FELLOWSHIP" is written in large, bold, red capital letters, followed by "INAUGURAL EDITION 2022" in smaller red capital letters. Underneath, the subtitle "Climate Journalism from Marginalised Communities" is in dark blue. A horizontal line separates this from the deadline information: "DEADLINE TO APPLY" in dark blue, followed by "MARCH 15" in large, bold, red capital letters. Another horizontal line follows. At the bottom, the text "For more details visit" is in dark blue, followed by the URL "www.ashoka.edu.in/3cs-media-fellowship/" in dark blue. The bottom third of the poster features a horizontal strip of three images: a dry, cracked earth on the left, a lush green rice paddy field in the middle, and a blue ocean with mountains in the background on the right.


 Centre for  
Climate Change  
and Sustainability

**3CS MEDIA FELLOWSHIP**  
INAUGURAL EDITION 2022

Climate Journalism from Marginalised Communities

DEADLINE TO APPLY  
**MARCH  
15**

For more details visit  
[www.ashoka.edu.in/3cs-media-fellowship/](http://www.ashoka.edu.in/3cs-media-fellowship/)



## **3CS Media Fellowship - Climate Journalism from Marginalised Communities**

**Who can apply:** Journalists from marginalised communities from coastal South India. Dalit and Adivasi journalists are particularly encouraged to apply from any of the following states – Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and from the Union Territories of Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

**Focus area:** Original reportage from the climate change frontlines in South India, coast to coast.

**Deadline to apply:** 15th March 2022

**For more details on the fellowship and how to apply see**

**<https://www.ashoka.edu.in/3cs-media-fellowship/>**

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