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Hans Kilian und
Lotte Köhler-Centrum
für sozial- und kulturwissenschaftliche
Psychologie und historische Anthropologie

KKC-BMU Lecture
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(Author)

A critical ecosophy of modernity

Wed., July 16, 2025 - ZOOM
2.15 p.m. - 3.45 p.m. (CEST)
5.45 p.m. - 7.15 p.m. (IST)

The two prevailing frameworks in which the ecological crisis of the earth is widely understood are environmentalism and ecology. Environmentalism has proved limited, often self-defeating, because of its implicit commitment to a technocratic approach. Ecology is inadequate because its approach is dominated by (techno-)science, even when supplemented by the environmental humanities. Neither perspective questions the reigning cosmology of modernity (entailing, for instance, the concept of sustainability) which is at the cognitive and existential root of the precipitous crisis. On the contrary, their problems arise precisely from the fact that they take such a cosmology for granted. We need today an ecological understanding of modernity, rather than a modern view of the environment. The latter belongs to a cosmology which continues to aggravate the crises of culture, ecology, and the psyche.

Ecosophy, defined loosely by the Catalan-Keralite philosopher-theologian Raimon Panikkar, as "the wisdom of the earth" does offer a critical perspective on the cosmology of modernity. His incisive critique of modernity will be discussed. My talk will proceed to introduce some of the basic concepts that Ecosophy explores and builds upon: earth alienation, transnature, species solipsism, homo abstract-us, and arrhythmia. In passing, the related spiritual vision of Rabindranath Tagore will also be referred to.

The talk aims to open a pluralistic, dialogical space for reimagining our place on earth, and to propose ecosophy as a viable cosmology for an ecological ethic of renewal — transcending both technocratic modernity and nostalgic traditionalism.

Free Registration here

Lehrstuhl für Sozialtheorie und Sozialpsychologie
Fakultät für Sozialwissenschaft

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The talk is organised in joint cooperation by the KKC and the BML Munjal University, India