

SUB HIMALAYAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE



CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CLIMATE CHANGE AND JUSTICE: THE SUB-HIMALAYAN REGION AND BEYOND

Online

April 2023

CONVENERS:

**Dr. Pratyush Kumar, Fellow, SHRI; Humboldt Stiftung
Post-Doctoral Fellow in Law, Goethe University, Germany
Emeric Prevost, Fellow, SHRI; Lecturer, Meiji University, Japan**

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION LINK:

<https://forms.gle/UZrCTrJGYQZV8RRT9>

**For further information, please see the attached document.
For any question, write to us at: shriclimatejustice@gmail.com**

 **Purnea, India**



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Climate Change Justice:
The Sub-Himalayan Region and beyond
Call for papers

The Sub-Himalayan Research Institute (SHRI), headquartered in Purnea (India),¹ is now inviting authors to contribute to its Climate Change Justice project, which will lead to an online international conference in late April 2023, followed by the publication of selected contributions as chapters of a collective book. For more information and details about the project, please see the description below.

Interested contributors are asked to send a 500-1000 words abstract of their proposed paper, with their names and affiliations, by the **25th of November 2022** at the latest. Authors may freely choose the title of their contribution. Authors of the selected papers will be contacted individually by the 15th of December 2022 and will be expected to send a full draft of their contribution by the 31st of March 2023. The online international conference is scheduled to take place in late April 2023 at a date yet to be determined.

To submit abstracts use the following link: <https://forms.gle/UZrCTrJGYQZV8RRT9>

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SHRI Climate Change Justice Project

The 2022 report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) once again alerts against the high risks raised by Climate Change. It is with a sense of urgency and resolve that concrete measures are called for, as the clock is now ticking at an increasingly rapid pace. Impacts of Climate Change are already visible in various parts of the world, be it on the seaside, the lowlands, or the mountainous regions. To cite only a few manifestations of Climate Change-related consequences, it suffices to think of the rise of erratic monsoon (sometimes with too much and too little rain or the occurrence of draught and flood at the same time), 'regular' landslides and floods, rising temperature levels, decreasing water-levels of erstwhile perennial rivers (some having even turned into seasonal rivers), serious impact on the cycle and frequency of monsoon (which is particularly vulnerable) and rainfall. The changes brought about as a result of Climate Change bear grave consequences on human and non-human ecosystems, damaging and disrupting current infrastructures and

¹The Sub-Himalayan Research Institute, also popularly known as SHRI, is a leading Research Institute in the province of Bihar, India. It is blessed in being based in the great geographical region of Kosi-Mahananda-Ganga - river basins with lovely climate and great historical-cultural past. The Sub Himalayan Research Institute is dedicated to research, discourses, education and general welfare of people, society and culture in the Sub Himalayan Region with a firm belief that this can contribute to the socio-economic transformation in the area. A multidimensional institute, SHRI formulates ideas, undertakes empirical studies, theorizes and disseminates knowledge through training, workshops and publications.



natural cycles. Among the most vulnerable is agriculture and local agricultural production, whose disruption directly affects the lives and livelihoods of many individuals and companies around the world, with, in turn, wide-ranging economic hardships and costs. However, such issues are not new, and were part of the public discourse already since the UN Rio 1992 Earth Summit at least.

In the earlier decades, there was discussion and debate as the first signs of climate change was observable, but, now, humanity and non-human animals and plants (even more so) are feeling the full-blown impact of Climate Change. Some scientists even claim how we have reached a point of no return. Greenhouse gas and CO₂ emissions have to reach net zero emissions the next minute (which is impossible), in order to turn back the clock. All this and much more impacts each and every one across the globe cutting across all dividing lines. It also has implications for “fundamental rights effectiveness” (Peter Häberle) for citizens, regarding their fundamental right to life and to livelihood (which would arguably include *inter alia* the right to safe drinking water, the right to safe air to breathe, the right to food, the right to inter-generationally sustainable environment). Several tools to steer behaviours and governmental action towards a more sustainable development are resorted to, which include soft law instruments, but also internationally binding treaties (e.g. the 2015 Paris Accords). The preservation of biodiversity and the necessities of timely and efficient disaster reliefs also feature today among the most pressing issues that are gaining a large international attention.² The development of a normative framework to tackle Climate Change-related issues also open the door to climate change litigation against both public authorities and private companies. Furthermore, the Sisyphus-like challenges to face Climate Change cast light on the worrying disparities between the richest and poorest regions of the world, thereby raising further fundamental concerns in terms of socio-economic justice. Along with other social, educational, or economic initiatives, Climate Change Justice (taken in a broad sense) therefore appears as a key element to steer behaviours and governmental action towards a more sustainable and responsible social and economic development.

While climate change produces its greater and most visible effects locally, the stakes are eminently global and cross-disciplinary. Thus, a one-size-fits-all or self-centred solution to climate change is not realistic. The multidimensional aspects of climate change in the era of the Anthropocene require multidisciplinary efforts and studies. Only then may the human mind aim to apprehend the complexities of the present and of the world yet to come. It is with such background, it is believed, that tackling the dangers of climate change should be an object of study and the methods employed debated at length.

The present call for papers aims to gather researchers and practitioners from various fields who are interested in Climate Change Justice and willing to present their most recent thoughts and findings. The authors of the selected contributions will be invited to present their paper at an international online conference organised under the aegis of the Sub-Himalayan Research Institute (Purana, India) in spring 2023 (at a date yet to be determined). Following

²See e.g. the 2016 Draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters, adopted by the International Law Commission of the United Nations <https://legal.un.org/ilc/guide/6_3.shtml#fou> accessed 15 August 2022.



the spring conference, all selected contributions will be edited and published as chapters of a collective book.

Contributions from any field of research are welcome. Please note, however, that only English language proposals will be considered. Contributions may focus either on local or global issues. Works adopting a comparative approach will be highly valued.

Please find below a tentative and open-ended list of possible topics for contributions:

- Global supply chains and corporate liability mechanisms: what outcomes for Climate Change Justice?
- Economic, social and governance rules and Climate Change
- What are the social consequences of Climate Change in the Sub-Himalayan Region
- Climate Change: is global constitutionalism at stake?
- Climate Change Justice: Individual Constitutional Perspectives in Comparative Discourse
- The right to a safe environment and Climate Change
- Climate Change in the Alpine region
- What principles for Climate Change justice?
- Climate Change litigation: an effective accountability tool?
- International instruments against Climate Change

Conveners:

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Emeric Prévost, Lecturer, Meiji University, Japan; University Assistant, University of Vienna & Fellow, SHRI

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Manindra Nath Thakur, CPS, JNU & Member, SHRI

Er. Rajesh Chandra Mishra, Secretary, SHRI

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