

Glossary of Terms and Resource List

ONLINE in-Conversation: Sahjan Kooner and Anthony Acciavatti
30 November 2023, 18:00 - 19:00 GMT



Glossary of Terms

Geologic Colonisation

Geologic colonisation refers to the processes by which race and racialisation have emerged geologically. More specifically it refers to the conventions that underpin geology, such as surveying, identifying, classifying, valuing, and extracting, and the ways in which these established and perpetuated colonial practices which have led to Anthropocene Earth

For more information, please follow this link: [Duke University Press - Geologic Life \(dukeupress.edu\)](https://dukeupress.edu)

Terraforming

“The term ‘terraforming’ usually refers to transforming the ecosystems of other planets or moons to make them capable of supporting Earth-like life, but the looming ecological consequences of what is called the Anthropocene suggest that

in the decades to come, we will need to terraform Earth if it is to remain a viable host for its own life.”

Quoted in: Benjamin Bratton, 'The Terraforming', Strelka Press, Moscow, Russia, 2019 (p.5)

Planetary Geoengineering

Geoengineering is defined by the Oxford Geoengineering Program as “[the deliberate large-scale intervention in the Earth’s natural systems to counteract climate change](#).” There are two main types. One is shading the earth from solar radiation, of which the shroud of sulphates in the stratosphere is emerging as the quickest, most effective, and least costly. The other is to remove more CO2 or other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than nature currently achieves – so-called negative emissions.

For more information, please follow this link: [Geoengineer the Planet? More Scientists Now Say It Must Be an Option - Yale E360](#)

For more information, please follow this link: [Oxford Geoengineering Programme // What is Geoengineering?](#)

Resource List

Books

- Kathryn Yusoff, '*A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None*', University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, USA, 2018
- Benjamin Bratton, '*The Terraforming*', Strelka Press, Moscow, Russia, 2019
- Acciavatti, A. '*Ganges Water Machine: Designing New India's Ancient River*', Applied Research & Design Publishing, San Francisco, USA, 2014
- Mbembe, A, '*The Earthly Community, Reflections On The Last Utopia*', Duke University Press, Durham, NC, USA, 2022
- Le Guin, U.K, '*The Dispossessed*', Harper & Row, 1974

Videos

- [Kathryn Yusoff: Broken Earth & Built Earths: Architectures at an Inhuman Impasse](#)
- [Bodies and Borders // Achille Mbembe // AMP 2019](#)

- [Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing - A Feminist Approach to the Anthropocene: Earth Stalked by Man](#)
- [Earthater: Mitosis \(Cell Biology with Dr. Elizabeth Hénaff\)](#)
- [Whole New World/Pretend World](#)

Speaker's Bios

Sahjan Kooner (they/them), Artist

Sahjan Kooner is an amalgamation of inherited worlds and speculative futures. Using video and installation, they create expansive worlds that explore the traces of love, hope and imagination that make our lives possible, along with examining a debris of questions around the technological, social, and racialised structures that augment life.

They live and work in Wolverhampton.

Anthony Acciavatti (he/him), Architect and Academic

Anthony Acciavatti works at the intersection of architecture, landscape, and the history of science and technology. He is interested in experimental forms of scholarship, pedagogy, and design afforded by humanistic inquiry. He is the author of *Ganges Water Machine: Designing New India's Ancient River* (Applied Research & Design, 2015), which is the first comprehensive mapping and environmental history of the Ganges River Basin in over half a century. He spent a decade hiking, driving, and boating across the Ganges to map it and to understand the historical conflicts over water for drinking, agriculture, and industry. Combining fieldwork with archival research, the book is an atlas of the enterprise to transform the Ganges into the most hyper-engineered landscape in the world. In 2016 *Ganges Water Machine* was awarded the John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize.

Along with the book, Acciavatti designed his own instruments to map the choreography of soils, cities, and agriculture across the Ganges River basin. In 2023 the Victoria and Albert Museum in London acquired these instruments, along with his drawings and photographs, for the permanent collection. His work has been exhibited at the Milan Triennial, biennials in Venice, Seoul, Rotterdam, Quito, as well as at the Nehru Science Museum, Rhode Island School of Design, Harvard University, and Columbia University.

Building on nearly two decades worth of research, Acciavatti currently leads Ganges Lab at Collaborative Earth. Composed of a trans-disciplinary group of scientists, engineers, and designers, the lab is developing new forms of civic infrastructure that integrates the rhythms of the monsoons with urban growth and agricultural production.

He is currently Diana Balmori Assistant Professor at Yale University.