



SOUTHASIA INSTITUTE FOR HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

A COURSE ON NEW HUMANITIES

Nature & Language

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Course Objectives:

The objective of the module is to expose participants to the idea of nature, our perception of it, the roles both nature and language play in effecting our understanding. It will seek the participants to examine the a priori of both categories and the limits thereof.

Total Duration: 5 sessions (10 hours)

Mode: Lectures, demonstrations and collaborative discussions

Introduction

Class 1 Language and Nature

Language as a system of symbols not limited to humans. A priori of nature.

Language through Nature

Class 2 Language and its deeper roots. Lexical analogies, imitative character of language.

Nature through Language

Class 3 Taxonomy; the urge and need to classify. Linguistic diversity and biodiversity; differing languages, differing worlds etc.

Nature's Language

Class 4 Nature-speak, through earth systems etc. Interactions in nature, plant-plant, animal-animal, plant-animal.

Absence

Class 5 Cognition and communication without human language; limits of cognition and comprehension.

Assessment: Participation, engagement, inputs and reception; Group discussions

Assignment: Short readings and collaborative models

Auditing: Observational feedbacks and peer-discussions