

CASI Seminar Series

Spring 2025

Retreat or Remain?

Notions of a Full Life and a Slow Death from Sundarbans' Eroding Coastlines

February 20 (12pm)

NASA image created by Jesse Allen, Earth Observatory, using data obtained from the University of Maryland's Global Land Cover Facility.

Megnaa Mehtta (University College London)

In partnership with the South Asia Center, South Asia Studies Dept, EnviroLab
& Environmental Innovations Initiative

Megnaa Mehtta is an Assistant Professor in Social Anthropology at the Department of Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London (UCL). She is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Conserving Life: Political Imaginaries from a Submerging Forest*, based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans. Her writings have appeared in journals such as the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, *Comparative Studies in South Asia*, *Africa and the Middle East*, and *Current Anthropology*. Her next phase of research, funded by an AXA-UNESCO research fellowship, is interested in migration, informality, health, and social reproduction as these themes intersect with climate adaptation policies, land dispossession, and long-standing vulnerabilities. This research is multi-sited and follows a rural to urban continuum of migrant labor from the coastlines of Bengal to a range of worksites, including factory shop floors and construction sites across India, Bangladesh, and Italy.

133 South 36th Street (Suite 230)
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Light refreshments will be served

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