**Boundaries/Crossings:**

**Art, Culture, Politics, and the Environment in Asia, *April 15-16, 2016***

At the turn of the 21st century, we find our world beset by a growing sense of planetary environmental crisis. This crisis transcends national and regional borders and boundaries; nowhere is it more evident than across Asia. The Asian continent is both subject to intense contemporary pressures of environmental degradation and home to a rich variety of cultural and artistic traditions that represent and negotiate human beings’ relationships with the natural world. At the same time, as boundaries have become more fluid and the movement of people and capital accelerates, questions of natural resource use have become more contested and urgent than ever.

With the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, this conference explores the intersection between culture, arts, and politics in relation to nature and environmental resources in Asia. We aim to address how scholars, artists, and activists have approached the environment in the present and past. For example, how have the visual, literary, and plastic arts, depicted, shaped, and critiqued the dialectics of the artificial and the natural, the human and the non-human? What challenges do cultures and communities face vis-à-vis impacts upon their local ecologies, and how have they responded? How are understandings of nature configured at the level of localities, nation-states, and cross-border regions, and how is access to natural resource usage determined? How have cultural and political actors wielded the earth’s resources and raw materials to make public the precariousness of our ecosystem?

We invite papers from a spectrum of disciplines, so long as proposals address the relationships between art, culture, politics, and the environment in East, Southeast, and South Asia. Topics might include pre-modern poetics of nature and landscape, land and installation art, media representations of disaster, activism and political movements, conservation and conflict in protected areas, the cultural politics of rivers and forests, the place of NGOs in environmental governance, or the imagination of Asia in the global environmental movement, among many others. Just as many of the issues at stake transcend the national and approach the planetary, we are particularly interested in work that addresses transnational, transregional, and cross-border concerns. In addition to analytic papers, we strongly encourage artist and curator presentations, reports from involved parties, and discussions of pedagogical strategies for teaching on Asia and the Environment.

The conference will be held on the campus of Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, in the scenic Hudson Valley and easily accessible by train from New York City.

Funds for travel assistance will be available to accepted participants with limited institutional support. Nearby off-campus dormitory-style housing is available at a low rate, or can be arranged independently at local hotels and inns.

To learn more about the conference, [please sign up for our mailing list here.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nHfm_vnKyFU5)

To submit a paper for participation in the conference, please send a 250-word abstract and brief biography to bard.asia.conference@gmail.com. Proposals are due by Monday February 1, 2016.