

Encore event: Online talk by Dr. Anupama Mohan, Assistant Professor of English, Presidency University, Kolkata

Topic: The Transmodern Novel: Literatures of the Indian Ocean

Date and time: 24th September 2020, 4 pm

Starting the discussion with Eurocentrism, Dr. Anupama discussed the strategies of cartography through which Europe has maintained its social, political, and economic dominance on the global scale. Hegemonic Eurocentric paradigms assume control over cultural and political structures along with the systems of knowledge production. But, Transmodernity, through a reformulation of world history beyond European inclination, challenges the centrality of Eurocentric perception and consequently addresses the renewed modes of articulation of identity. The focus upon the Indian Ocean and the Transmodern novel promotes the emancipated notion of modernity, with a redefinition of territorial boundaries, nation-state, citizenship and other such multitudinous binaries. Using the ideas of Enrique Dussel, Dr. Anupama discussed the temporal and spatial dynamics within Transmodernism, as a geopolitical project, and how it generates a scope for exchange of ideas and technology by overcoming Eurocentric modernity. Transmodern literature inaugurates a pathbreaking dimension in the study of history through a displacement of power matrix within global hierarchies.



A market stall in the Indies, oil on canvas, attributed to **Albert Eckhout, 1640-1666**. This Dutch painting shows an exotic Indonesian market stall, a common site for travellers reaching Java and the Spice Islands. [Courtesy Rijksmuseum, Gift of E.J. Speelman, London] 22



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# Literatures of the Indian Ocean

## The Indian Ocean and The Transmodern Novel

A focus upon the sea and the ocean makes us recognize that land-based figurations of modernity, nationalism, and belonging have some clear features that are common across cultures and time. **Territoriality**, whether we think of it in terms of the nation-state or of ethnic genealogies, is framed by **fixed boundaries** ... In general, **the nation-state** has been the unit of measure for territorial or land-based forms of community ... To look at the sea and its **littoral and coastal cultures** in this way is to also emphasize and closely **re-imagine the sea as a non-static space, or a space of deep and extensive mobilities.**

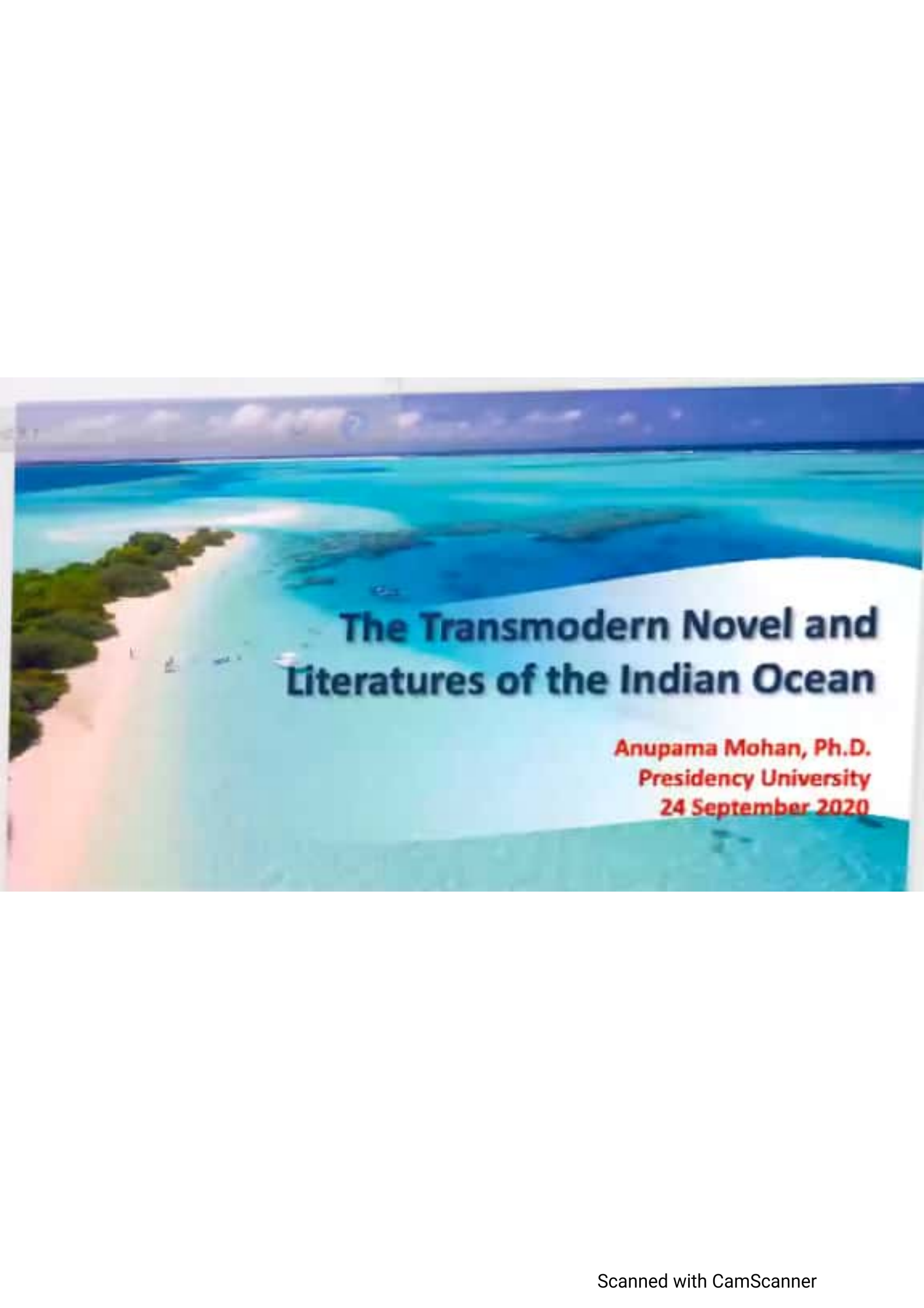
(Anupama Mohan, "Maritime Transmodernities" 2019)

# Peter Projections Map

- The Peter Projections is a version of the world map invented by Arno Peters who believed that although his map also contains distortion, it is a far more realistic and accurate portrayal of the world.
- \*Europe, though still centralized, is significantly smaller.
- \* Asia is the largest continent by area, followed by Africa.
- \* By area, Europe is, in fact, the 6<sup>th</sup> largest continent in a list of 7, larger than







# **The Transmodern Novel and Literatures of the Indian Ocean**

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