



FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

Centre for Culture, Language, and Traditions
Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai
and
Foundation for Ecological Security
present

Commoning the Commons
a week-long residential winter school
9 – 14 December 2024

Call for Applications

Background:

In a world where the control and management of resources has been divided between individuals and the state, Commons offer a powerful pathway to re-imagine and re-organize our relationships with each other and with nature. Over time, the meaning and idea of Commons has expanded to include other types of shared natural resources such as oceans, atmosphere, and space that transcend national boundaries. This idea also includes other forms of shared resources, such as knowledge, seeds, culture, or collective spaces including shared digital platforms. While the idea of commons may seem abstract, it is an active and living process expressed through acts of mutual support, conflict, negotiation, communication, and experimentation that have played a significant role in managing and sustaining our shared resources. Commons is a paradigm for governance for all shared resources and not just the ecological resources. Recognizing and restoring the rights and agency of communities to shared natural systems can help in unlocking the true potential of community stewardship and lead to emergence of many promising and practical approaches to the governance of our shared resources.

Objectives:

This winter school on Commons aims to introduce the idea of Commons and the cultures of commoning to early career scholars and practitioners grappling with complex problems such as environmental degradation, climate change, and widespread social and economic inequalities. It will help the participants to:

1. Understand Commons as resource systems and paradigms of governance
2. Contextualize “Commoning” in ecological, social, and economic systems



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3. Re-imagine the pathways for addressing complex problems using systems thinking

Design:

This five-day residential winter school will consist of talks by experts, panel discussions, field visits, and group discussions. We will aim to continuously connect theory and practice through real-world examples and interactions with people working in this domain. This program will be conducted in English. Basic proficiency is required. For the field visit, basic understanding of Hindi would be useful but not mandatory.

Intended participants:

We welcome you if you are an early career scholar, practitioner, and/or researcher who is reflecting on the objectives and trying to:

- make sense of concepts around Commons
- validate their role and ideas towards an equitable world

How to apply?

Write 300 words on how you resonate on the subject relating with your experiences and learnings so far. We would be interested in your reflections, interpretations and analysis around commons, natural resource management and the idea of commoning. We shall not be assessing this exercise based on language, grammar, or presentation skills. Please fill the following form to apply:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScx3fN6ERrIfO1ome5iCQNznlQv6EoRq5QCGuLh8TCfZbwimA/viewform>.

Registration:

The registration fee of ₹7500 will cover in-campus accommodation at IIT Bhilai, lunch on all five days of the winter school, and a field visit to be undertaken as part of the programme. Breakfast and dinner may be had on payment basis from the campus mess.

Do not let resources be a hurdle for your interest and application. Need-based fee waivers are available but in limited numbers.

Important Dates:

Application period: 26 October – 10 November 2024



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Intimation of selection: 15 November 2024

Registration period: 18 November – 22 November 2024

Winter School: 9 – 14 December 2024

Venue:

Centre for Culture, Language, and Traditions (CCLT), Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai, District Durg, Chhattisgarh 491002.

Coordinators:

- Dr Anubhav Pradhan, Convenor, Centre for Culture, Language, and Traditions (CCLT), Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai
- Mr Pritish Behera, Programme Manager, Foundation for Ecological Security

Contact details:

In case of any queries, please feel free to write to us at cclt@iitbhilai.ac.in.