

Forum on Contemporary Theory

A Member of the Consortium of Humanities Centers & Institutes (CHCI)

Invites you to a talk

on

Abraham Lincoln As America's First Green President

29th December 2022

4.00 pm

venue:

Centre for Contemporary Theory,
Siddhi Vinayak Complex, Faramji
Road, Alkapuri, Baroda

William D. Pederson

Professor Political Science

& the founding Director of the International Lincoln
Center at Louisiana State University Shreveport

Speaker Bio:

A native Oregonian, William Pederson was born and reared in Eugene, home of the University of Oregon, where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to the University of Oregon to complete his graduate work in political science. He accepted his first university faculty position in 1977 and became the holder of the first endowed chair at LSU. In late 1982, Dr Pederson became the founding director of the International Lincoln Center at Louisiana State University Shreveport. Today the multidisciplinary program includes an annual Abraham Lincoln Lecture (which in 1999 became the first LSU event televised by C-SPAN); an annual Constitutional Democracy Lecture; the South's oldest presidential conference series; and the annual Washington, D.C. semester (the first independent one established at a public university in the South). Widely published, Dr Pederson's works include numerous books and articles with an emphasis on the presidency; the first cross-national study of prison camp revolts; and comparative politics.



Abstract: Though more books have been published on Abraham Lincoln than any other democratic political leader in world history, they tend to focus on his democratic leadership during the American civil war rather than his deep "Green" proclivities. Yet Lincoln in an early, significant step advanced the greening of American culture by establishing a Department of Agriculture to support scientific farming in the United States.

He also signed the transformative Land Grant College Act, which created the first public colleges that contributed to expanding the emerging American middle class. He also incorporated the National Academy of Science. In 1864 he signed the Yosemite Valley Act that led to the U.S. national park system. His sense of wonder and awe at nature was reflected in his appreciating trees, witnessing the natural energy of Niagara Falls, and becoming an amateur astronomer. An asteroid is named for him. Lincoln's over-arching democratic legacy was promoting the greening of individual dignity in a green universe.