



FORUM ON CONTEMPORARY THEORY, BARODA, INDIA

(A Member of the Humanities Centers and Institutes)

Organizes a National Workshop
with

Stephen Muecke

Workshop Theme: "Critical Zones"

Dates: 6- 7 March 2023

**Venue: C-304 Siddhi Vinayak Complex, Faramji Road,
Vadodara, Gujarat**

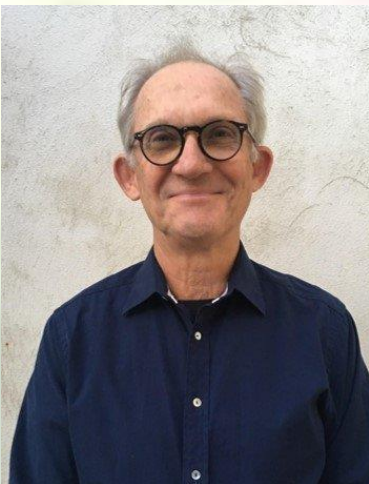
Concept Note

The Workshop is dedicated to continuing the legacy of Professor Bruno Latour, who died in Paris on the 9th October 2022.

This workshop will help participants describe the critical zone in which they are living. Every problem starts with a description of the situation. If the description is inadequate, the problem will be ill-conceived, not to mention the solution. Critique, blame, policy or theory can all come later! Critical zone analysis is one method in the field of the Environmental Humanities (see, for example, the numerous studies in Latour and Weibel, *Critical Zones: The Science and Politics of Landing on Earth*: <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/critical-zones>).

Participants should come to the workshop with a description of where they live and their matters of concern and can start by noting down two simple lists:

- 1) What you are happy about in your place (e.g.: your human and non-human family, plants, animals, the flow of knowledge, spiritual guidance...)
- 2) What gives you concern: supply of goods? Atmospheric pollution? Visible effects of climate change? The concepts behind the idea a developer has for a new building?



Keynote Speaker

Stephen Muecke is Adjunct Professor at the Nulungu Research Institute Notre Dame University, Broome, an Emeritus Professor of Ethnography at the University of New South Wales, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Recent books are *Latour and the Humanities*, edited with Rita Felski, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020 and *The Children's Country: Creation of a Goolarabooloo Future in North-West Australia*, co-authored with Paddy Roe, Rowman and Littlefield International, 2020. His translation of Philippe Pignarre's *Latour-Stengers: An Entangled Flight*, will appear with Polity in 2022

Interested people may email a document stating their intent and expectation from the workshop in not more than 300 words along with a short bio-note of not more than 50 words to the Convener, Forum on Contemporary Theory, Prafulla Kar at prafullakar@gmail.com before February 15, 2023. Kindly note that the workshop would be rigorous and require the full-time participation of the selected participants. The maximum limit of participants that can be admitted to the workshop will be up to 30.

Registration Fee

The registration fee for the workshop per person is ₹ 2000/- (Two Thousand Rupees) which includes lunch, tea and snacks on both days of the workshop. Other costs such as travel and accommodation must be arranged by the participants. Forum on Contemporary Theory will not be providing accommodation or taking care of travel expenses for outstation participants. For payment-related details kindly email Mr Ajay Menon, Fiscal Officer at the following email address: menonajay1953@gmail.com