

About the University

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) is located in Awantipora, (Jammu and Kashmir) approximately 30 km south of Srinagar, between the beautiful wastoorvan mountain range on the one side and a majestic view of the Jhelum and Pir Panjal on the other. The university is adjacent to the famed saffron fields. This historically significant town was the capital of Kashmir during the reign of Raja Awantivarman.

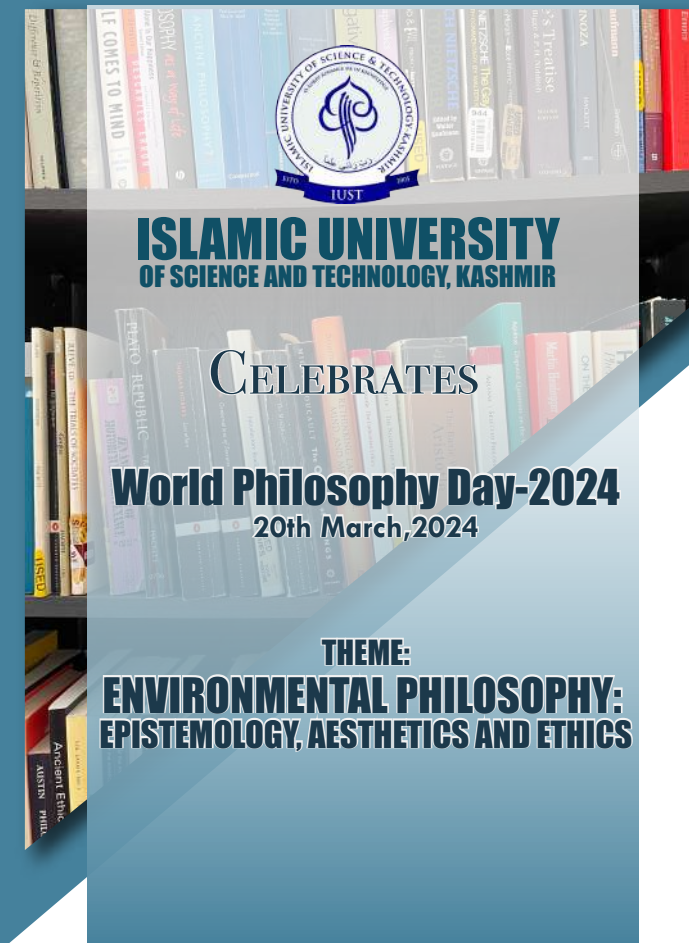
The university was established through an Act passed by J&K legislature and notified through jammu and Kashmir Government Gazette in 2005. The academic programs started in the varsity from July 2006. The university is accredited by NAAC and is recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC) under section 2(f) and section 12 (b) of UGC Act. The technical, nursing, and Architectural programs offered by the university are approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Indian Nursing Council (INC) and Council of Architecture (COA) respectively. The university is a member of Association of Indian university (AIU). The University strives to nurture an environment where students can develop, cultivate and support an academic culture that values interdisciplinary learning. The focus is on promoting studies and research that are socially relevant and that make the students aware of their social and cultural responsibilities.

About the Centre

Averroes Centre for Philosophical Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, Kashmir functions as a teaching and research centre with regard to classical, medieval and modern schools of philosophy across spatio-temporal trajectories. The Centre provides opportunities to students and researchers to build a formidable foundation in Philosophical Studies and contribute to the existing body of scholarly work through their learning and understanding of philosophical concepts such as Ontology and Epistemology (Western, Indian and Islamic), Metaphysics (Western, Indian and Islamic), Value theory, Symbolic Logic, Philosophy of Religion, Social and Political Philosophy etc.

The Centre has been named after the Muslim polymath and jurist, Ibn Rushd whose philosophical works especially his insightful commentaries on Aristotle earned him the title of the 'Commentator and Father of Rationalism'. Referred to as Averroes in Latin West, Ibn Rushd not only paved the way for philosophy as one of the three valid paths of arriving at religious truths but also had a lasting influence on medieval thought and the Western philosophical tradition. He underscored the significance of a critical and philosophical engagement with religion to unravel not only the deeper meanings of Islam but also to arrive at a true and correct understanding of the divine. As such, to name a research centre of philosophical studies after him, means to perceive the relation between philosophy and religion, the non-contradiction of reason and revelation and the consilience of eastern and western philosophical paradigms.

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Environmental Philosophy: Epistemology, Aesthetics and Ethics

Environmental Philosophy emerged as a branch in 1970s and included in its scope all the core discourses of philosophy like metaphysics, epistemology, aesthetics and ethics. While environmental epistemology seeks a sustainable way of life through its postulation of harmony between people and the nature, environmental aesthetics is seen giving rise to renewal and exploration of the relationship between environmental aesthetics and environmentalism. Over the years, the concerns of environmental philosophy have expanded exponentially, turning it into an organized, eclectic and cross-disciplinary initiative to understand and respond to environmental issues. It not only provides a paradigm shift in human thought by raising awareness about myriad issues concerning human mind's mistreatment of the environment but also helps address the new dangers and the new responsibilities created by the dramatic scale and pace of scientific and technological developments. In the words of Camilo Gomides, it raises "moral questions about human interactions with nature, while also motivating audience to live within a limit that will be binding our generations." Environmental Philosophy is all about redefining human relationship with nature and examines the complexity of relationship between people and nature while emphasizing the need and importance of establishing more mutualistic and egalitarian social structures that help re-harmonize human connections with the natural world. Notwithstanding the variety of theoretical disputes that inform the school, Environmental Philosophy in its present-day form seems to be governed by the conviction that all life is interdependent and that the earth's natural ecosystem is a complete web of interconnected elements. The field of Environment Philosophy has expanded with thinkers like Aldo Leopold, Paul Taylor and Lyn White challenging the human-cen-

tered attitude towards nature that was rooted in the Judeo-Christian doctrine. Promulgating a holistic perspective, these thinkers subverted the anthropocentric view to uphold the biocentric view. But, nonetheless this biocentric egalitarianism alongside the question of moral considerability to animals and natural objects remains the subject of discussion among environmental philosophers with no consensus whatsoever emerging on how best to deal with any. Furthermore, it is generally believed that environmental philosophy is increasingly abstract and theoretical, too distant from the practice of environmental protection, environmental pragmatism and real world environmental challenges.

In the light of all this, Averroes Centre for Philosophical Studies, IUST has decided to celebrate World Philosophy Day 2023 by organizing One-day seminar on Environmental Philosophy: Epistemology, Aesthetics and Ethics to explore philosophical approaches to the environment in order to develop a well-grounded environmental perspective informed by philosophical research from both Western and Eastern perspectives. This seminar, we believe, assumes pivotal significance as it helps to provide and promote a philosophical basis for engagement with the environmental problems facing us now and in the future. We hope it will provide a platform for an in-depth discussion of influential environment thinkers and contemporary philosophical discussion of current environmental issues. The chief objective in hosting this webinar is to present and discuss the most recent trends, research results, experiences, concerns, practical challenges and the various nuances of the school of Environmental Philosophy.

The proposed topic hopes to address many issues including the following:

- To track the development of Western and Eastern Environmental Philosophy and explore its key concepts

- To explore the framework of Environmental Philosophy for understanding nature and our relationship with nature
- To examine how philosophers can productively respond to natural disasters and other material effects of environmental degradation
- To understand epistemology, aesthetics and ethics as the core discourses of Environmental Philosophy
- Is Environmental Philosophy inherently an ethical philosophy that makes possible the connections between self, society and nature?
- Does Environmental Philosophy contribute to environmental restoration alongside social and political movements like deep ecology and environmental ethics?
- Does Environmental Philosophy help change the human perception of nature through the incorporation of various religious principles?
- Does Resacralization of Nature help restore help restore the sanctified aspect of nature that has become lost in modern times?