



**SUNDARBANS WINTER FIELD SCHOOL**  
**TRANSBOUNDARY, TRANSDISCIPLINARITY, TRANSFORMATION THROUGH TRANSITIONS (4T)**  
**Situated Adaptation and Collective Governance for Viable Social-Ecological Systems**

**V2V Global Partnership, University of Waterloo, Canada**  
in collaboration with  
**Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur and**  
**University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh**

Venue: Kumirmari, Gosaba Block, The Sundarbans, India  
January 17–23, 2025

This is our annual Winter Field School in the Sundarbans, where students, early career researchers and practitioners along with participants from civil society, government and local communities gather to discuss, learn, and brainstorm on pressing social-ecological challenges and multi-level adaptive responses as a way to find novel approaches and concepts focused on inclusive transitions between social-environmental vulnerabilities and community viability. The Winter School is expected to familiarize participants with inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches within social-ecological and environmental humanities and expose them to hands-on skills,

Governance, or the lack of it, is a central issue that determines the arrangements and practices of ecosystem-connected livelihoods and the many drivers that constantly influence it. However, governance is not simply 'decided from above'. It is shaped at the societal level wherein the stakeholders, including community, practitioners, researchers, local governments, policymakers, and others, engage formally and informally at different levels of the governance processes. Transcending disciplinary and institutional boundaries, the critical Anthropocene seeks flexible, hybrid and adaptive ways to perceive governance, encompassing a range of ap-

includes both system-based approaches and context-specific applications; it is mobilized through the heterogeneous participation of actors who have sought to integrate pluralistic understandings of social-ecological processes and place-based adaptations to design response strategies in dealing with complex problems and issues at hand.

The weeklong Winter School brings together a selected group of 20 graduate students and early-career researchers/professionals from academia, government, NGOs, and communities. It provides a creative platform to deliberate collaboratively and learn about concepts, approaches, and methods that help achieve inclusive transitions and pathways for transformation from vulnerability toward viability within the transboundary and transdisciplinary context of the Sundarban mangrove social-ecological system. The School includes a creative mix of classroom teaching and field training in the heart of the world's largest mangrove ecosystem and the fastest-growing delta, the SUNDARBANS. Participants will gain firsthand experience and creatively engage in furthering their understanding and knowledge of adaptive responses, collective governance, vulnerability to viability transitions in the context of complex transboundary social-ecological systems along with concepts and approaches that are novel, transdisciplinary, and problem-oriented in nature.

**Dr. Prateep Nayak | Dr. Jenia Mukherjee | Dr. Samiya Selim | Dr. Anuradha Choudry**  
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