



Geographies
of the
Anthropocene

OPEN
ACCESS
PEER-REVIEWED
SERIES
ISSN 2011-3171

IL Sileno
Edizioni

HUMAN MOBILITY, MIGRATION & TOURISM IN THE ANTHROPOCENE
Gian Luigi Corinto, Glen Farrugia (Eds.)

Runaway in and out as a Compulsive Migration in Anuradha Roy's *The Folded Earth*: Exploring the Multi-layered Cultural Geography of the Himalayan North

Tohidur Ramahan

Abstract

Despite being in the global south, diverse landscapes and existing cultural divides create a unique geographic mapping of India. Reflecting on the motif of "runaway", my research aims to explore the issues of migration through the literary analysis of Anuradha Roy's *The Folded Earth*. Travel to the Himalayas works more as a form of escape, a tourist destination, or a place of adventure. The novel primarily elucidates the Himalayan north as a circle where people travel in or out. Thus, my paper aims to engage in cultural geography as a theoretical model, where it will incorporate elements of gender, post-anthropocentrism, and exclusion politics. Here, the patriarchal system frequently leads to this "runaway" state, since many women fear having to deal with the issues of forced marriage. This further leads people to become cultural or familial outcasts. In contrast, the novel also opens up the scope of travelling to the realms of a more-than-human world. Here, the theme of runaway works within the topography of the Himalayas. The microcosmic sketching of the Himalayan town also brings out the psychological dimension of runaway where the exclusive ideals of right-wing politics find it queer to accommodate spaces for minority values in the diverse cultural mapping of India. These things, in turn, reflect a unique aspect of socio-economic and environmental issues in the Anthropocene. Further, it is to see how Roy's sketching of events works on both personal and collective layers.

Keywords: Anthropocene, runaway, cultural geography, gender, exclusion politics

Works cited

- Alaimo, S., 2018, "Trans-corporeality". In: Braidotti, R., Hlavajova, M. (Eds.), *Posthuman Glossary*, Bloomsbury, London, 435-438.
- Antronico, L., Coscarelli, R., De Pascale, F., Di Matteo, Dante., 2020, "Climate Change and Social Perception: A Case Study in Southern Italy", *Sustainability* 2020, 12, 1.
- Braidotti, R., 2013, *The Posthuman*, Polity Press, Cambridge.
- Butler, J., 2002, *The Gender Trouble. Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, Routledge, London.
- Canales, A. I., 2020, *Migration, Reproduction and Society. Economic and Demographic Dilemmas in Global Capitalism*, Haymarket Books, Chicago.



HUMAN MOBILITY, MIGRATION & TOURISM IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

Gian Luigi Corinto, Glen Farrugia (Eds.)

- Carbone, F., Corinto, G., Malek, A., 2016, "New Trends of Pilgrimage: Religion and Tourism, Authenticity and Innovation, Development and Intercultural Dialogue: Notes from the Diary of a Pilgrim of Santiago", *Geosciences*, 2, 2, 152-165. <https://doi.org/10.3934/geosci.2016.2.152>
- Ferrando, F., 2019, *Philosophical Posthumanism*, Bloomsbury, New York.
- Foucault, M., 1988, *Madness and Civilization*, Translated by R. Howard, Vintage Books, London.
- Gadgil, M., Guha, R., 1995, *Ecology and Equity*, Penguin India, Gurugram.
- Keshk, A. A. A., 2019, "Speaking Silence: A study of the Female Image in Alice Munro's Runaway", *Occasional Papers*, 66, 3-23.
- Khair, T., 2011, "The Folded Earth, by Anuradha Roy", Independent. Accessed 13th September, 2022. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/the-folded-earth-by-anuradha-roy-2218075.html>.
- Leggett, R., 2011, "The Folded Earth, by Anuradha Roy", *The Bookbag*. Accessed 13th September, 2022. http://www.thebookbag.co.uk/reviews/The_Folded_Earth_by_Anuradha_Roy.
- Leidig, E., 2020, "Hindutva as a variant of right-wing extremism", *Patterns of Prejudice*, 54, 3, 215-237.
- Meyer-Arendt, K. J., Wall, G., 1990, "North American Tourism and Cultural Geography", *Journal of Cultural Geography*, 11, 1, 1-3.
- Oakes, T., Price, P. L., 2008, *The Cultural Geography Reader*, Routledge, London.
- Price, P. L., 2010, "Cultural geography and the stories we tell ourselves", *Cultural Geographies*, 17, 2, 203-210, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44251334>.
- Roy, A., 2011, *The Folded Earth*, Hachette India, Manipal.
- Sutton, M. Q., Anderson, E. N., 2010, *Introduction to Cultural Ecology*, Altamira Press, New York.
- Thompson, A., 2012, "Peaks", *The New York Times*. Accessed 13th September, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/03/books/review/the-folded-earth-by-anuradha-roy.html>.
- Williams, R., 2008, *Nature*. In: Oakes, T., Price, P. L. (Eds.), *The Cultural Geography Reader*, Routledge, London, 207-211.