

*The Great  
Derangement:  
Climate Change  
and the  
Unthinkable-  
Impressions*

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# What?

- Non-fiction by Amitav Ghosh
- A book about climate change
- Analyzed through the lens of
  - Literature- novel in particular
  - History
  - Politics

Stories





# The Great Derangement?

“In a substantially altered world, when sea-level rise has swallowed the Sundarbans and made cities like Kolkata, New York and Bangkok uninhabitable, when readers and museumgoers turn to the art and literature of our time, will they not look, first, and most urgently, for traces and portents of the altered world of their inheritance? And when they fail to find them, what should they- what can they- do other than to conclude that ours was a time when most forms of art and literature were drawn into the modes of concealment that prevented people from recognizing the realities of their plight? Quite possible then, this era, which so congratulates itself on its self-awareness, will come to be known as the time of the Great Derangement.”

## Why is climate change so elusive?



probability!

Little One, it's a ~~simple calculus~~

Again, why is climate change so elusive?

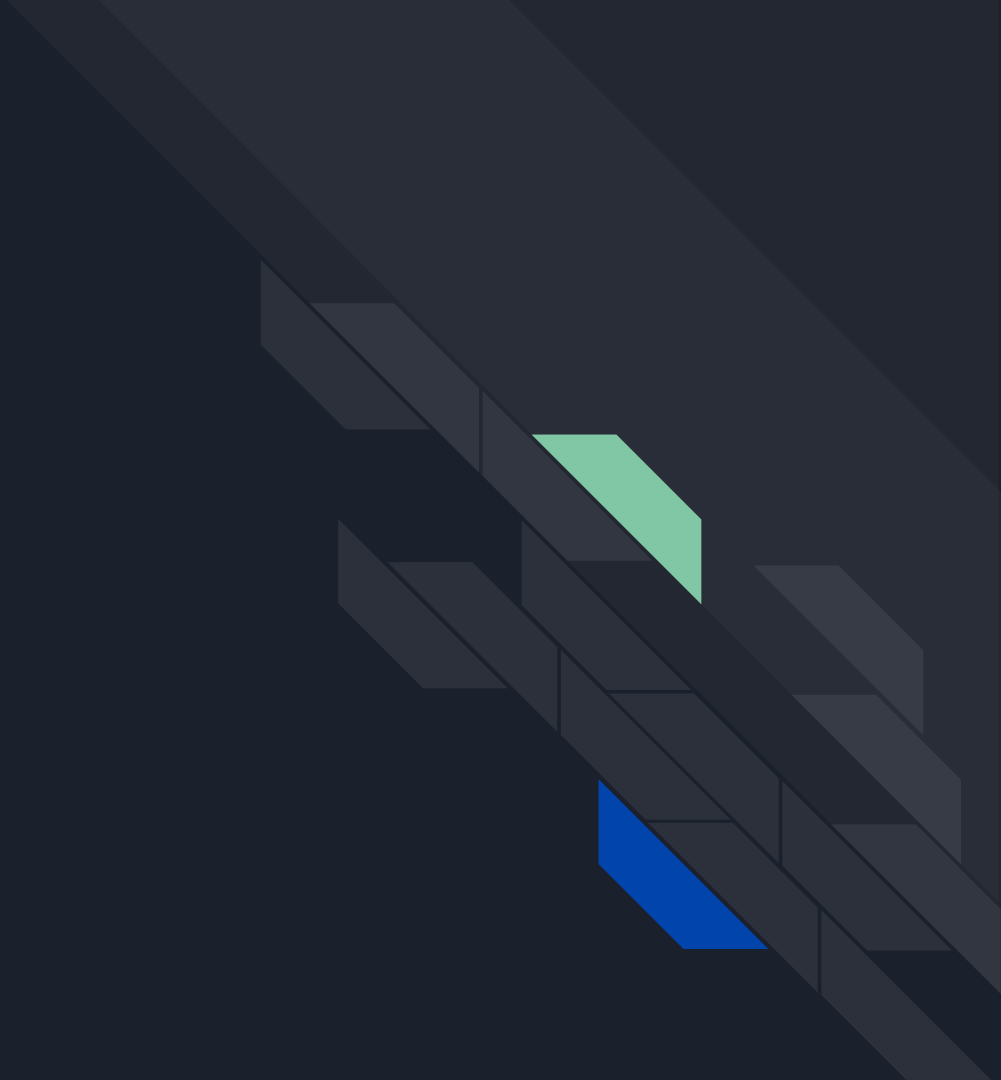


Climate change happens over time and spatial scales that are difficult to capture in the modern novel.



Individual moral adventure over stories of the collective.

History



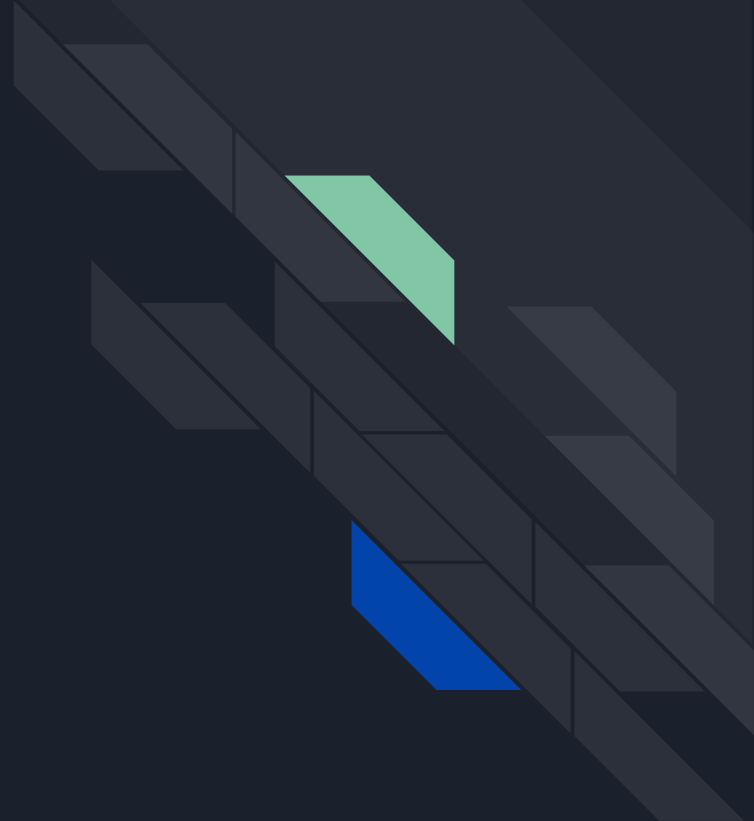




## Focus on Asia

- Lifestyle shifts have accelerated climate change
- Asia- large and “developing” populations
- Decolonisation directly affected the shift towards a Carbon economy
- Climate justice?

Politics





# Challenges of the politics of climate change

- Politics is increasingly a moral journey and performance centered
- Divergence between the will of the governed and actual policy
  - Deep state
  - Fossil fuels = power
- Shift from coal to petroleum: loss of control and leverage



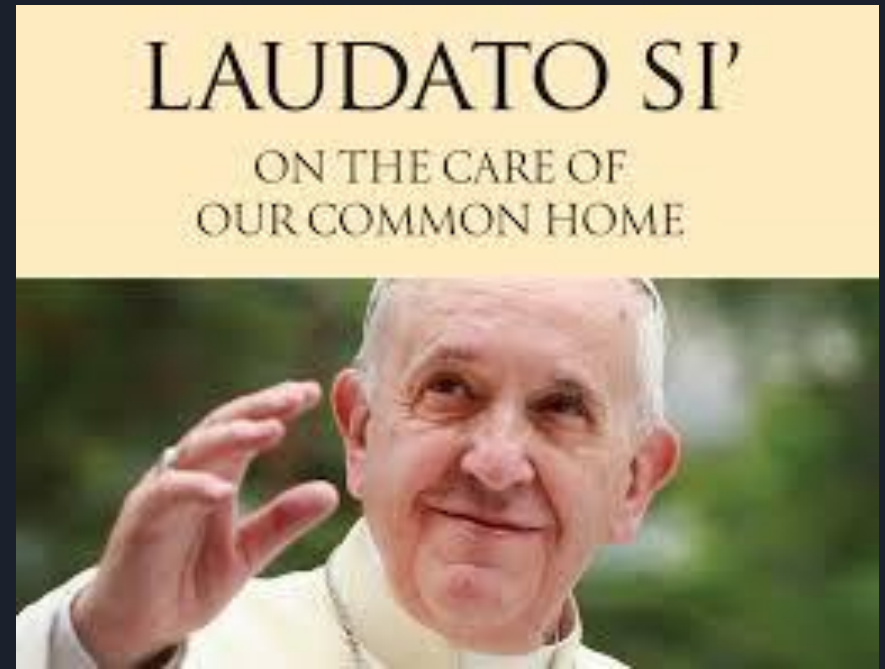
## More counter intuitive challenges

- Problem of commons
- Moral arguments allow media/opposition to hijack discussion
- Be the change you wanna see?
- Global inaction- politics of the armed lifeboat

# A case study

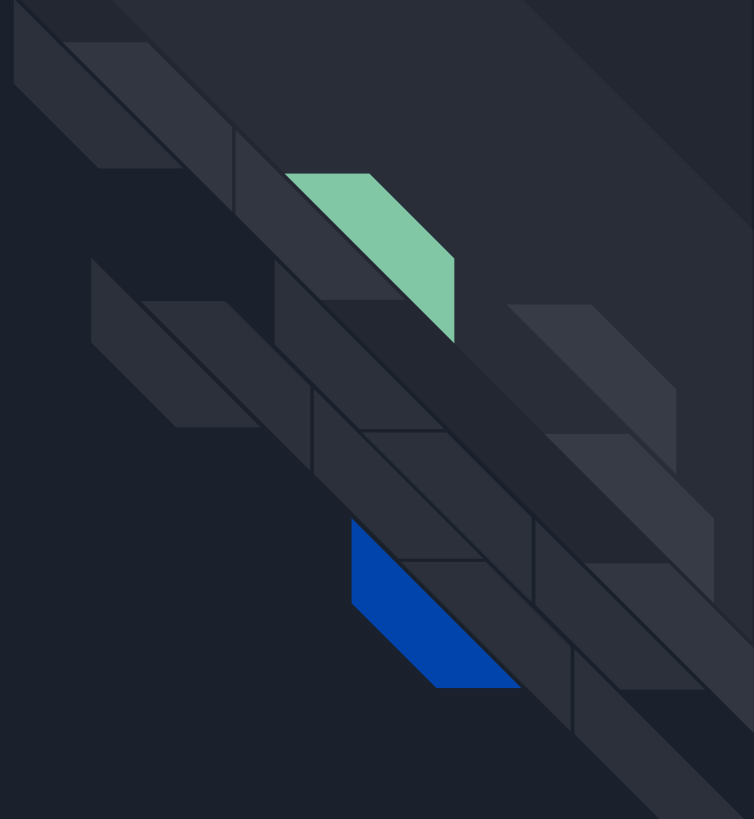


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Thank you!





# Sources

- Ghosh, Amitav. *The great derangement: Climate change and the unthinkable*. Penguin UK, 2018.
- <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2017/07/20/book-review-the-great-derangement-climate-change-and-the-unthinkable-by-amitav-ghosh/>
- <https://www.livemint.com/Leisure/JwugTXAn0AHsGECTWuYZfP/Book-review-The-Great-Derangement-by-Amitav-Ghosh.html>