



**Portraying Planetary Crisis in the Post-colony: A Study of Janice
Pariat's *Everything the Light Touches***

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Abstract:

This paper endeavours to explore the planetary crisis vis-à-vis post-colonial politics in the light of Janice Pariat's novel *Everything the Light Touches* (2022). In the first section of the paper, I shall attempt to trace the historical roots of planetary crisis following Amitav Ghosh's nonfiction *The Nutmeg's Curse* (2021). Ghosh argued here that the root of the climate crisis went as far as the 17th Century. He described colonialism as a process that not only dominated human beings but also subjugated and muted "an entire universe of beings that was once thought of as having agency" (Ghosh 190). Ghosh finds it ironical that post-colonial countries like India have adopted those settler colonial models and are implementing these models on their own people, especially the forest dwellers. The second section of this paper will consider the role of literatures written by authors from post-colonial countries like India in the context of this planetary crisis. In doing so, this paper will take a close look at Pariat's 2022 novel *Everything the Light Touches* to show how the echoes of state sponsored exploitation in the form of extraction of uranium against the wishes of native people can be traced back to colonialist and capitalist models adopted by the settler colonial masters. This paper will conclude by exploring the potential of postcolonial novels to go beyond this Western binary between human and nonhuman world to portray the later as a living being whose existence is not contingent on human wishes.

Keywords: Planetary crisis, Post-colony, Colonialism, Amitav Ghosh, Janice Pariat.