



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE

2021 Geddes W. Simpson Lecture

Decolonizing Botany



Thurs., October 14 | 1:00 p.m. EST | Buchanan Alumni House or YouTube | HOMECOMING 2021 EVENT

You are invited to attend the 2021 in-person/virtual hybrid Geddes W. Simpson Lecture

What does it mean to be a feminist botanist? Tracing the colonial roots of botany, I re-imagine a more inclusive and capacious field of botany untethered and decentered from its origins in histories of racism, slavery, and colonialism. Drawing on recent scholarship in the biological sciences, queer ecology, indigenous ecology, and postcolonial and feminist Science and Technology Studies (STS), I show how gender, race, class, sexuality, and nation shape the foundational language, terminology, and theories of modern botany, and how botany remains grounded in the violence of its colonial pasts. Decolonizing Botany is a project that reckons with these difficult origins and lays a roadmap to imagine a new feminist botany that harnesses the power of feminist thought to reimagine the practices of experimental biology.

Banu Subramaniam is Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Trained as a plant evolutionary biologist, Banu engages the feminist studies of science in the practices of experimental biology. Author of *Holy Science: The Biopolitics of Hindu Nationalism* (University of Washington Press, 2019) *Ghost Stories for Darwin: The Science of Variation and the Politics of Diversity* (University of Illinois Press, 2014), Banu's current work focuses on decolonizing botany and the relationship of science and religious nationalism in India.

The Geddes W. Simpson Lecture Series features speakers of prominence who provide significant insight on the intersection of science and history.

Attend this event virtually at umainefoundation.org/live

Geddes W. Simpson Lecture Series Fund. The Geddes W. Simpson Lecture Series features speakers of prominence "who have provided significant insight into the area where science and history intersect." The Geddes W. Simpson Lecture Series Fund was established at the University of Maine Foundation in 2001 by the family of Geddes Wilson Simpson, a well-respected faculty member who began his 55-year career with the UMaine College of Life Sciences and the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station in 1931. Simpson was named chair of the Entomology Department in 1954 and remained in that position for 20 years until his retirement.



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