A New Index for Predicting Catastrophes: 
The Science and the Poetry

Prof. Madhur Anand
University Research Chair in Sustainability Science
School of Environmental Sciences
University of Guelph

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 4:30pm

Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories
25 Harbord Street, Lecture Room 432
(Use elevators at 25 Harbord Street entrance)
University of Toronto

Location map: http://www.sigmaxi.utoronto.ca/events/location.html

Abstract: I will give a talk that entwines poetic and scientific approaches to articulating current and impending crises. From climate change to marital strife, from deforestation to childhood polio, how might we better interrogate our world and learn to accept alternative stable states of coupled existence? The talk will follow an unusual trajectory of communicating both scientific and poetic discovery.

Signed copies of Dr. Anand’s debut poetry collection A New Index for Predicting Catastrophes will be available for sale ($15 cash only).

Biography: Dr. Madhur Anand is an internationally recognized ecologist with research interests ranging from theoretical to empirical studies of natural and human-induced changes in ecosystems at regional and global scales and their implications for sustainability. She has collaborated with mathematicians, theoretical physicists, statisticians, computer scientists and poets on aspects of ecology and sustainability. She has been President of the Sigma Xi Scientific Society (University of Toronto Chapter), one that raises the profile of many different scientific disciplines. In 2011 she was named a Young Scientist of the World Economic Forum which places emphasis on the broader implications of science in society. In addition to having a distinguished interdisciplinary scientific career, with over 80 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 1 co-authored textbook (on Climate Change Biology, CABI) she has presented scholarly research in in ecopoetics, co-edited a book on ecopoetry, and was elected a member-at-large with the Association for Literature, Environment and Culture in Canada in 2011. Her latest book is titled A New Index for Predicting Catastrophes (2015).

All students, faculty, and the general public are welcome.