



The Many Lives of Indian Cinema

1913-2013 and beyond

Disciplines, Histories, Technologies, Futures

Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

9-11 January 2014

BioScope
for the study of cinema and film

sarai

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50

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Programme

January 9, 2014, Thursday

- 009am onwards Registration
- 09:30 - 10:00am Introduction: **Ravi Vasudevan**, CSDS/Sarai
- 10:00-11:30am **Histories: Connections and Comparisons**
Chair: **Rosie Thomas**, University of Westminster, London
- 10:00 - 10:30am *Intimacy and Industry: Close Encounters Between Hollywood and Bombay*
Nitin Govil, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- 10:30 - 11:00am *Asian Cinergy: Chinese Film in the Age of the International Blockbuster and the Search for Alternatives in Asian Cinemas*
Yomi Braester, University of Washington, Seattle
- 11:00 - 11:30am TEA
- 11:30am -12:30pm **Histories: the Itineraries of Urdu**
Chair: **Ira Bhaskar**, School of Arts and Aesthetics,
Jawaharlal Nehru University
- 11:30am - 12:00 *Cross-Wing Filmmaking: East Pakistani Urdu Films and Other Traces from the Bangladesh Film Archive*
Lotte Hoek, Edinburgh University
- 12:00 - 12:30pm *Urdu Cinema During the 1940s and 50s*
Iftikhar Dadi, Cornell, Ithaca
- 12:30 - 01:30pm LUNCH
- 01:30 - 02:00pm **Histories: the Persistence of Genre**
Chair: **Richard Allen**, New York University
- 01:30 - 02:00pm *Remover of Obstacles: The Persistence of the Mythological Genre in Hindi Cinema*
Rachel Dwyer, School of Oriental and African Studies, London
- 02:00 - 02:30pm *The Making of Citizen-Devotees: The Question of Spectatorship in Mythological and Devotional Cinema*
Uma Bhrugubanda, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad

- 02:30 - 02:45pm TEA
- 02:45 - 05:30pm **Experimentation in Cinema**
Chair, **Moinak Biswas**, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- 02:45 - 03:15pm **On the Life and Afterlife of Artists' Film and Video**
Shai Heredia, Director, Experimenta; and
Ben Cook, Director, Lux Cinema, London
- 03:15 - 03:45pm **Genealogy of a Chronology: Thinking Through 100 Years of Experimentation in Indian Cinema**
Ashish Avikunthak, University of Rhode Island
- 03:45 - 04:15pm **Distributing the Unsensable** (in experiments with images)
Shaina Anand and **Ashok Sukumaran**, CAMP, Mumbai
- 04:15 - 04:30pm TEA
- 04:30 - 05:00pm **Post-Celluloid: Next Steps**
Ashish Rajadhyaksha, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore
- 05:00 - 05:30pm **From Archive to Gallery**
Lalitha Gopalan, Dept of Radio/Television/Film, University of Texas at Austin
- 07:00pm Public Lecture: introduced by **Moinak Biswas**, Jadavpur University
Screen Dynamics
Gertrud Koch, Free University, Berlin
Venue: Max Mueller Bhawan, Delhi

January 10, 2014, Friday

- 09:30 - 12:30pm **Histories: Cities**
Chair: **Kaushik Bhaumik**, School of Arts and Aesthetics
Jawaharlal Nehru University
- 09:30 - 10:00am **Early Film-going as Heterotopic Mobility: Urban Journeys, Public Space and Cinema Theatres in Chennai**
Stephen Putnam Hughes, School of Oriental and African Studies, London
- 10:00 - 10:30am **Cinema in the Colonial City: Early Screen Cultures in Calcutta**
Ranita Chatterjee, University of Westminster, London

- 10:30 - 11:00am TEA
- 11:00am -12:30pm **Histories: Cities II**
Chair: **Ranjani Mazumdar**, School of Arts and Aesthetics
Jawaharlal Nehru University
- 11:00 - 11:30am **Dassi (dir. Hiren Bose, 1944): A Materialisation of History, Memory and Urban/Rural Punjabiyat in Lahore**
Nasreen Rehman, University of Cambridge
- 11:30am - 12:00 **Kochi: In Three Parts**
Ratheesh Radhakrishnan, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
- 12:00 - 12:30pm **Slow Cars, Dirty Bodies: Screen Cultures and Automobility Revisited**
Kajri Jain, University of Toronto
- 12:30 - 01:30pm LUNCH
- 01:30 - 03:00pm **Documents and Documentaries**
Chair: **Shohini Ghosh**, Jamia Millia Islamia
- 01:30 - 02:00pm **Archiving Colonial Memories: Amateur Films vs. Imperial History**
Annamaria Motrescu-Mayes, University of Cambridge
- 02:30 - 03:00pm **Institutions and the Video Turn: Translation, Space and Networks**
Shweta Kishore, Monash University, Melbourne
- 03:00 - 03:30pm **Cinematic Recycling in Indian Documentary Films**
Camille Deprez, Hongkong Baptist University
- 03:30 - 04:00 TEA
- 04:00 - 06:00pm **Mapping Archives**
Chair: **Stephen Putnam Hughes**
School of Oriental and African Studies, London
- 04:00 - 04:30pm **The Moving Image: Digitising the Colonial Film Archive**
Tom Rice, University of St. Andrews
- 04:30 - 05:00pm **Films with a Mission: Cinema and Evangelism in India**
Emma Sandon, Birkbeck College, London
- 05:00 - 06:00pm FDZone: **VS Kundu**, Director, Films Division in conversation with
Surabhi Sharma and **Avijit Mukul Kishore**, Independent filmmakers

07:00pm CSDS Golden Jubilee Lecture, introduced by **Ravi Vasudevan**
Cinema After Film: on the future of obsolescence of the moving image
Thomas Elsaesser, University of Amsterdam

January 11, 2014, Saturday

09:30 - 11:00am Panel discussion on curations led by **Rashmi Sawhney**
Indian Foundation for the Arts

Curators will be present to respond to questions and comments

Venkatesh Chakravarthy, Virchand Dharamsey, Moinak Biswas, Madhuj Mukherjee, Jyotindra Jain

11:00 - 11:30am TEA

11:30am - 01:00pm **Detailing Technology**
Chair: **Nitin Govil**, University of Southern California

11:30am - 12:00 **A Difficult Geography: Bombay Cinema's Move to Colour**
Ranjani Mazumdar, School of Arts and Aesthetics
Jawaharlal Nehu University

12:00 - 12:30pm **"No Blue": On the Colour of Sensation in Tamil Cinema**
Anand Pandian, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

12:30 - 01:00pm **Whatever Happened to the Lip Sync? New Media Technologies and the Bombay Film Song**
Shikha Jhingan, Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi

01:00 - 02:00pm LUNCH

02:00 - 04:15pm **The Intermedia Constellation**
Chair: **Anand Pandian**, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

02:00 - 02:30pm **Cinema in the Snares of the Snapshot: Print, Photography and the Cinematic Imaginary in Early Twentieth Century India**
Sudhir Mahadevan, University of Washington, Seattle

02:30 - 03:00pm **Visualising Listening: Radio in Hindi Cinema, c.1935-2000**
Ravikant, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

03:00 - 03:30pm **A Lexicon of Love: Affect, Language, Technology**
Gayatri Chatterjee, Symbiosis, Pune

03:30 - 03:45pm TEA

03:45 - 05:15pm **Screen Cultures and Information Ecologies I**

Chair: **Ravi Sundaram**, CSDS/Sarai

03:45 - 04:15pm **Space and the Social: A Semeiotic Exploration of Melodrama in Indian Cinema**
Rajen Krishnan, Ambedkar University, Delhi

04:15 - 04:45pm **Deleuze, Hindi Film 1, Bollywood 2**

Anustup Basu, University of Chicago at Urbana Champaign

04:45 - 05:15pm **Malegaon Video Cinema and the Antinomies of Participation**
Bhaskar Sarkar, University of California, Santa Barbara

05:15 - 05:30 TEA

05:30 - 06:30pm **Screen Cultures and Information Ecologies II**

Chair: **Ravi Vasudevan**, CSDS/Sarai

05:30 - 06:00pm **Politics after Cinema and Fandom**

SV Srinivas, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore

06:00 - 06:30pm **Distantly Watched Films: The Big Data of Indian cinema**
Lawrence Liang and **Sebastian Lutgert**

Exhibitions/Curations/Installations

A Hundred Years of Experimentation

Ashish Avikunthak, Filmmaker and Anthropologist, and
Pankaj Rishi Kumar, Documentary Filmmaker

A selection of material from the curation presented at FD Zone, Mumbai, 28-30 June 2013

Two Film Sculptures

Curated by **Shai Heredia**, Director of Experimenta India and
Benjamin Cook, Director, LUX, London

Technology and Cinema in Bengal: A Historical Overview

Video presentation by **Moinak Biswas** of the exhibition organized by **The Media Lab, Jadavpur University** on the occasion of 100 Years of Indian Cinema, in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Government of India (ICCR, Abanindranath Gallery, August 13-20, 2013)

Elephants Pictures: The Case of Shree Bharat Lakshmi Pictures

Madhuja Mukherjee, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University

Political and Public Speeches, Monologues and Songs in Tamil Cinema: Video Loop

Pritham and Venkatesh Chakravarthy, Ramanaidu Film School, Hyderabad

Hindi Cinema: An Amateur Inter-Media Assortment

Ravikant, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, and **Prabhat K Jha**, Ankur Societies for Alternatives in Education, Delhi

Winds of Change: Mumbai's Calendar Art in the Mid-Twentieth Century

Jyotindra Jain, Centre for Indian Visual Culture, Delhi

Sound in Cinema

Ritika Kaushik, M.Phil Candidate, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University and
Ishita Tiwari, Research Associate, Sarai-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

1896 – 1935: Cinema in India

Virchand Dharamsey and **Iysha Geeth Abbas**

Sarai Film Posters

Mrityunjay Chatterjee

Screenings

(details about the screening schedule will be circulated at the time of the conference)

Hundred Years of Experimentation, curated by Ashish Avikunthak

Program 1

1. **Raja Harishchandra** - D.G. Phalke (20 mins, 1913)
2. **Explorer** – Pramod Pati (7 mins, 1968)
3. **Koodal** – Tyeb Mehta (16 mins, 1970)
4. **India '67** – S. Sukhdev (57 mins, 1968)

Program 2

1. **Tales from Planet Kolkata** – Ruchir Joshi (38 mins, 1993)
2. **Dust** – Ashim Ahulwalia (20 mins, 1993)
3. **Vakratunda Swaha** – Ashish Avikunthak (22 mins, 2010)
4. **Man Eats Rock** – Nikhil Chopra & Munir Kabani (22 mins, 2011)

Two Light Sculptures, curated by Shai Heredia and Ben Cook

Light Music (Lis Rhodes, 1975) is an innovative work presented originally as a performance that experiments with celluloid and sound to push the formal, spatial and performative boundaries of cinema. An iconic work of expanded cinema, it creates a more central and participatory role for the viewer within a dynamic, immersive environment.

Line Describing a Cone (Anthony McCall, 1973) probes the boundaries between film and sculpture, light and dark, materiality and immateriality. By eschewing conventional narrative content it demonstrates film to be, in its simplest form, a durational process, which, coupled with an activation of the viewing experience, liberates the medium from the confines of cinema while foregrounding the temporal as well as spatial conditions of sculpture.

From Gulf to Gulf to Gulf, 2013, a film by CAMP, 83 minutes
Original format(s): HDV, SDV, VHS, Cellphone videos (variable)

A boat has many powers: to gather a society in its making, to distribute goods, to carry people and ideas across places that, it seems to us, are more different than ever before.

From Gulf to Gulf to Gulf is a result of four years of dialogue, friendship and exchange between CAMP and a group of sailors from the Gulf of Kutch. Their travels, and those of co-seafarers from Pakistan and Southern Iran, through the Persian and Aden Gulfs show us a world cut into many pieces, not easily bridged by nostalgics or nationalists. Instead, we follow the physical crossings made by these groups of people who make and sail boats. And who also make videos, sometimes with songs married to them.

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