

THE CENTRE FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES' CINEMAS OF INDIA SEMINAR SERIES

VENUE: CINEMA ROOM, 14 BUCCLEUCH PLACE, EDINBURGH EH8 9JS

MONDAYS 6.30-9.30 PM

TIMETABLE for SEMESTER 2 (JAN-APRIL 2014)

DATE	FILM	LANGUAGE	GUEST SPEAKER	THEMES
13.01.14	<i>Chori Chori</i> (Slowly Stealthily)	Hindi 1956	Piyush Roy Critic, PhD - Indian Cinema Studies, CSAS	Bollywood adaptation of a Hollywood classic; introduction to India's first onscreen star pair of Raj Kapoor & Nargis
20.01.14	<i>Meghe Dhaka Tara</i> (Cloud Clapped Star)	Bengali 2013	Prof. Bashabi Fraser Poet & Post-colonial theorist, Napier University	Bengal Partition; a biopic inspired by the 'eccentric' genius and activist-director Ritwik Ghatak
27.01.14	<i>Kaviratna Kalidasa</i> (Kalidasa - The jewel among poets)	Sanskrit & Kannada 1983	Pt. Vrajvihari Sharan PhD - Sanskrit Studies & Hindu Belief Contact for University of Edinburgh	Historical biopic set in 4 th CE India on the greatest Sanskrit poet-dramatist Kalidasa & his writing of <i>Shakuntala</i> (one of Indian theatre's most seminal plays)
03.02.14	<i>Ankur Arora Murder Case</i>	Hindi & English 2013	Dr. Amit Vyas Orthopaedic Surgeon with interest in patient safety	Medical thriller inspired by a true story on surgical negligence, hospital accountability and patient's rights
10.02.14	<i>Nikaah</i> (The Marriage)	Urdu 1982	Prof. (Emerita) Patricia Jeffery - Sociology, SSPS	Issues around the misuse of Triple <i>talaq</i> and marital rights of Muslim women
	INNOVATIVE	LEARNING	WEEK	SCREENINGS
26.02.14 Wednesday 5.30-9 pm	<i>Ram Teri Ganga Maili</i> (O Rama, Save your Ganges)	Hindi 1985	Dr. Talat Ahmed Lecturer History & Classics, University of Edinburgh	Migrant journeys, women's trafficking; the Indian government's 1980s' purification project of the river Ganges
03.03.14	<i>Madras Café</i>	English, Hindi & Tamil 2013	Luke Heslop PhD - Social Anthropology - Sri Lanka Studies	A political-spy thriller exploring the Tamil Tigers' role in the assassination of ex-Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
10.03.14	<i>Firaaq</i> (Separation)	Hindi 2008	Dr. Radhika Govinda Lecturer, Sociology, SSPS	Inspired by a '1000 true stories' around the 2002 Gujarat riots
17.03.14	<i>Sanyasi Raja</i> (The Royal Sage)	Bengali 1975	Nandini Garia PhD - Social Anthropology, Frankfurt University	The British Raj's most famous Indian civilian court case set in 'undivided' Bengal of the early 20 th century
24.03.14	<i>Manichitrathazu</i> (The Ornate Lock)	Malayalam 1993	Dr. Sumeet Jain Lecturer, Social Work, SSPS	Portrayal of insanity and mental health patients on celluloid
31.03.14	<i>Saaya</i> (Shadows)	Hindi & Angami 2003	Michael Heneise PhD - Dreams - South Asian Studies, Univ. of Edinburgh	Ideas around dreams, rebirth, faith and paranormal experiences in India's north-eastern tribal communities
07.04.14 6-9 pm	<i>Ship of Theseus</i>	English & Hindi 2013	Ashvin Devasundaram PhD Indian indie cinema, Heriot-Watt University	Three contemporary stories with a multi-faith connect; trafficking issues around organs transplant
14.04.14 6-9 pm	<i>Dedh Ishqiya</i> (Love 1.5)	Urdu 2014	Dr. Anuj Kapilashrami Dancer-Lecturer, Queen Margaret University	A romantic poetic thriller set among the Muslim aristocracy in contemporary North India



INNOVATIVE LEARNING WEEK SCREENINGS

& Bollywood Music Appreciation Workshop (Feb. 17-21, 2014)

Organised by the Centre for South Asian Studies



PORTRAYING THE PERIPHERY

(Feb. 17, 18, 19 & 21) – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday/ Max. Capacity – 40; Time – 1-4 PM

Minority Representations in Majority Cinemas using critically acclaimed representative South Asian films as a tool of social analysis and anthropological commentary, this film led discussion workshop spread over weekday afternoons will focus on onscreen representations and issues concerning the portrayal of sexual, religious, ethnic and political minorities in the cinemas of South Asia.

Bol (Speak!) – (Urdu-Punjabi/Pakistan, 2011, 165 mts)

Monday, Feb. 17 – Cinema Room, 14 Buccleuch Place – 1-4 pm

Set in a lower middle class family of six daughters and a transgender boy in contemporary Lahore, *Bol* explores themes of love, trust and concern amongst siblings, whose gender is their greatest disadvantage in a patriarchal society that prides only in its 'complete' sons!

I Am – (Hindi-English-Bengali-Kashmiri/India, 2010, 110 mts)

Tuesday, Feb. 18 – Cinema Room, 14 Buccleuch Place – 1-4 pm

A single mother, a victim of child abuse, a gay man in pre-2009 India (before the decriminalisation of homosexuality as a sexual offence by the Delhi High Court) and a Hindu lady migrant from Kashmir – hailing from the upwardly mobile middle class in different Indian metros, and sharing a common emotional pain – the agony of the outcaste in a society that associates taboo with unusual life histories.

Massey Sahib (Mr. Massey) – (Hindi-English/India, 1985, 125 mts)

Wednesday, Feb. 19 – Seminar Room 5 – CMB – 1-4 pm

Set in 1929 in a tribal district in Central India under the British Raj, the film explores the limits and pressures on a local Indian official, who in his 'over eagerness' to prove his capabilities, ends up alienating both the seemingly 'fair playing' rulers and their oppressed subjects. Man Booker prize winning author and activist Arundhati Roy makes her acting debut.

Charulata (The Lonely Wife) – (Bengali, 1964, 120 mts)

Friday, Feb 21 – Seminar Room 5 – CMB – 1-4 pm

Often rated as India's most famous auteur-director, Satyajit Ray's (*The Apu Trilogy*) finest film – and the one he considered a personal favourite for having "the fewest flaws" – *Charulata* is adapted from Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's 1901 novella *The Broken Nest*. Its story is believed to be inspired by Tagore's relationship with his 'talented' sister-in-law, Kadambari Devi, who committed suicide in 1884 for reasons never explained. *Charulata* explores the frustrations of the 'gifted' amongst the privileged, forced to a 'life-in-the-backseat' because of their gender and class.

BOLLYWOOD BEATS – Thursday, 20 February, 2014

An Audio-Visual Journey of 80 Years of Indian Film Music

Venue & Time: Seminar Room 1&2 – Crystal Macmillan Building (CMB) – 4-7.00 pm

(4-5.30 pm): Visual Tour & Interactive Lecture workshop by Piyush Roy (Film critic & PhD scholar, CSAS, Univ. of Edinburgh & Ashvin Devasundaram, ex-Channel 4 filmmaker & PhD scholar of Indian 'indie' cinema, Heriot-Watt Univ.)

5.30-5.45 PM – Tea/Coffee Break

(5.45-7 pm): The Influence of Classical Indian Ragas on Hindi Film Songs

Lecture demonstration by Birmingham based *sitarist* & *tabla* maestro Puneet Shah Jaiwansh