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
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

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**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

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, Madhuja 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 Nehru 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 - 0415pm The Intermedia Constellation
Chair: Anand Pandian, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
0200 - 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 Iyesha 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)
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)

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.