

MHRD Scheme on Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)

**Contemporary Cultural Studies**

A two-week course organized by School of Media, Communication and Culture,  
Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India  
**5-17 December, 2016**

**Overview**

Contemporary Cultural Studies is an interdisciplinary area continually debated and often described as having no agreed core curriculum. Yet, the recurrence of discussion and theorising around themes as diverse as museum collections, gift exchange, money, time, care, technology and innovation, knowledge and education, social reproduction, precarity and free labour, racism and colonialism, social struggles and history—all share a heritage that in some sense emphasise a core relation to socio-economic context. This two-week course proposes to introduce the themes of contemporary cultural studies in relation to theoretical, social and political styles of critical scholarship made available across almost 100 years. It reaches from French theory, through Frankfurt School, Birmingham, post-structuralist and subalternist studies, to new media, autonomist and accelerationist approaches. This will be a kind of crash course or refresher reading of the core work that has had a lasting impact upon cultural studies and its heritage: theorists range from Georges Bataille, Theodor Adorno, Jacques Derrida and Stuart Hall, to Gayatri Spivak, Avital Ronell, Trevor Paglin and Sylvia Federici.

Through the prism of a *critical social and cultural studies approach*, contemporary scholarship will be considered as necessarily interdisciplinary and this will be evaluated as resource for comprehending social life through cultural knowledge (cinema studies, anthropology, history, musicology, international relations and philosophy). Topics covered include alienation, commodification, production, technology, education, subsumption, slavery, colonialism, anti-imperialism, rebellions, civil war, anti-war movements, globalism, anti-globalisation, development, precarity, three worlds theory, non-alignment and Global South. Using key texts and a series of illustrative films and video, we will examine late 20th and early 21st century manifestations of cultural studies and we will look at how cultural studies copes with (or does not cope with) new subjectivities, cultural politics, class, activism, media, virtual and corporate worlds, environment, global war, terror and austerity.

**Objectives**

- i) Expose participants to core debates in contemporary cultural studies.
- ii) Build capability amongst the participants to relate key concepts in scholarship to recent theoretical controversies and cultural objects.
- iii) Provide the capacity to analyze cultural industries within the context of global knowledge.
- iv) Enhancing appreciation of the literary, philosophical, analytical and historical strength of the critical cultural studies and its significance for new readers.

<b>Duration</b>	<b>2 weeks;</b> 5-10 December, 12 December and 14-16 December, 2016: 2 pm to 4-45 pm every day. 17 December, 2016: 11-30 am to 4 pm.
<b>You should attend if...</b>	you are a college or a university teacher, doctoral or a masters student, or an independent researcher.
<b>Fees</b>	College or University Teacher: Rs. 1000/-; Doctoral student: Rs. 500/-; Masters student: Free, Independent researcher: Rs. 2000/-. <b>Please note that all the participants must register with a registration fee of Rs.500/- on the GIAN portal for attending the course. This is separate from the fees listed above.</b> For details about registration on the GIAN portal, go to: <a href="http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/GREGN/index">http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/GREGN/index</a> Information about how to deposit fees at Jadavpur University and other details will be mailed to the selected candidate very soon. The participants may be provided accommodation on payment basis.
<b>Apply with CV within 8 November, 2016 to...</b>	Abhijit Roy: <a href="mailto:abhijit.ju@gmail.com">abhijit.ju@gmail.com</a> Amites Mukhopadhyay: <a href="mailto:amitesmukhopadhyay@gmail.com">amitesmukhopadhyay@gmail.com</a> <b>Last date for application: 8 November, 2016 (Seats are limited)</b>

**Teaching Faculty**



Prof. John Hutnyk

Prof. John Hutnyk writes on culture, cities, diaspora, history, film, prisons, colonialism, education, Marxism. He studied and first taught in Australia at Deakin and Melbourne Universities; then in the UK in Manchester University's Institute for Creative and Cultural Research, before moving to Goldsmiths (University of London) in 1998, and becoming the Academic Director of the Centre for Cultural Studies (2004-2014). He has held visiting researcher posts in Germany at the South Asia Institute and Institute fur Ethnologie at Heidelberg University, and Visiting Professor posts in Inter-Cultural Studies at Nagoya City University, Japan, Zeppelin University and Hamburg University, Germany, Sociology at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul and at the Graduate institute for Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. He is also an Adjunct Professor of RMIT University, Melbourne.

His books include: *The Rumour of Calcutta: Tourism, Charity and the Poverty of Representation* (1996, Zed Books); *Critique of Exotica: Music, Politics and the Culture Industry* (2000, Pluto Press); *Bad Marxism: Capitalism and Cultural Studies* (2004, Pluto Press); *Pantomime. Terror: Music and Politics* (2014, Zero Books); and co-authored with Virinder Kalra and Raminder Kaur: *Diaspora and Hybridity* (2005, Sage). He has edited several volumes of essays, including *Beyond Borders* (Pavement books 2012), *Dis-Orienting Rhythms: the Politics of the New Asian Dance Music* (1996, Zed Books, co ed with Sharma and Sharma); *Travel Worlds* (1998, Zed Books, co-ed with Raminder Kaur); Edited issues of journals *Theory, Culture and Society* and *Post-colonial Studies*, and both festschrifts for Klaus Peter Koepping called *Celebrating Transgression* (2006, Berghahn, co-ed with Ursula Rao).

**Host Faculty**



Dr. Amites Mukhopadhyay

Dr. Amites Mukhopadhyay is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Jadavpur University (JU), Kolkata and also a Member of the Academic Committee of School of Media, Communication and Culture at JU. Dr Mukhopadhyay had been a faculty at the School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi. He has received Commonwealth Fellowship in UK (1999), received Radcliffe-Brown Award from Royal Anthropological Institute, UK (2003) and currently empanelled with ICCR for its chairs abroad. Mukhopadhyay works on issues of landscape, ecology and governance, identity politics and institutional histories science and knowledge making in South Asia. Some of his recent publications include: (2016) *Living with Disasters: Communities and Development in the Indian Sundarbans*. Delhi: Cambridge University Press; (2013) 'Haunting Tiger, Hugging Ancestors: Constructions of Adivasi Personhood in the Sundarbans' in *Occasional Paper Series, Perspectives in Indian Development*. Delhi: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti; (2012) (ed.) *Social Movements in India*. Delhi: Pearson; (2011) 'In Aila-struck Sundarbans'. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 46(40).

**Host Faculty**



Dr. Abhijit Roy

Dr. Abhijit Roy is Associate Professor and formerly Head, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University (JU). He has also been the Joint Director of School of Media, Communication and Culture at JU. A member of the editorial board of *Journal of the Moving Image*, Roy writes on media, culture and politics, and has presented his work in various parts of India, Asia and Europe. He wrote a book on Sergei Eisenstein in 2004 and has co-edited *Channeling Cultures: Television Studies from India* (Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2014). He has received Visiting Fellowship from Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris (2006), and Visiting Scholarship from Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla (2009). His recent articles include 'Live and Exclusive: Publics between Film and Media' (*Lensight*, 2015) and '(In)visible Publics: Television and Participatory Cultures in India' (in *Cultural Studies in India* eds. Rana Nayar et al. Routledge, 2016). His articles can be downloaded from <http://jadavpur.academia.edu/RoyAbhijit>. Interested in alternative media practices, Roy has worked with his students to develop a number of fieldwork-based online platforms, including one on the book-binding workers of Calcutta (<http://daftaripara.org>).