

Editorial Note

Journal of the Moving Image seeks to represent serious thinking on the moving image in the contemporary world. There are many regions in the world with a vast viewing population, often with large industries producing film and television, but corresponding institutions for a serious and informed discussion of this regime of images are sadly lacking. This journal seeks to offer a forum for those who are interested in filling this void. The issues we seek to raise will range from formal properties of the moving image to the social foundation of its production, transmission and reception. Particularly welcome would be attempts to relate the construction and reconstruction of the image to the values and practices of democracy, social agency and control. There is likely to be a special focus on India and South Asia, and on issues of transnational media transactions, but we welcome a wide-ranging discussion on film and television from many different standpoints and from different parts of the world.

Journal of the Moving Image is produced and managed by the Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Calcutta. This Department, established in 1993, is probably the only one of its kind in south Asia. It offers a Master's course of two years' duration in Film Studies, and also a two-year B.A. subsidiary course in Film Studies for undergraduates. There is also a Ph.D programme.

Having the first University Department of Film Studies in Jadavpur is in a way, a fair reflection of the strong film culture in Calcutta, involving not only film-making but also discussion of and writing on the subject of cinema for several decades. The late Satyajit Ray had proposed the study of cinema as an academic discipline in Jadavpur when, in 1980, he visited the University to accept an honorary D. Litt. Jadavpur University has a good support base for a new subject like Film Studies; it has a considerable fund of expertise in the three Faculties of Arts, Science and Engineering, and a very good infrastructural base. The strong cultural and intellectual tradition of Calcutta is also of considerable importance in providing the right kind of ambience for the study of a frontier discipline in this part of the world.

Call for Papers

The Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, is organising an International Seminar on "Satyajit Ray and the Legacy of Realism". The probable dates are 23-25 March, 2000. Papers may relate to the work of Satyajit Ray, particularly the development of a realist-modernist idiom in Indian cinema dating from the 1950s. His contemporaries, including younger directors, may also be considered from this perspective. The general theoretical and historical issues relating to realism in cinema may also be attempted, preferably in relation to third world cinema and the transnational regime of the moving image. The over-arching perspective of realism should be kept in view.

A synopsis of about 500 words should reach the Department by 15 January, 2000. The

University will provide local hospitality, and, in a limited number of cases, AC-II railway travel within India. Those wishing to take part are invited to communicate with :

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