

Report of Talk 2

Level: National/International/In-house (select the applicable category) **National**

Title of the Workshop/Seminar: **Human Wildlife Conflict and Popular Culture: The Politics of Conservation in Contemporary**

Category: Faculty Development Programme/Conference/**Workshop**

Area of event: **Research Methodology**/Intellectual Property Rights/Entrepreneurship and Skill Development/ Any other (Please tick the right option)

Duration and Dates: **4 November (3.00-4.30 p.m.)**

No. of Resource Persons: 1

No. of Participants: 30

Sponsor/s: N. A

Organizer/s: **Humanities and Social Sciences Department, LNMIIT**

Resource Person/s: **Dr. Goutam Karmakar, University of the Western Cape, South Africa**

Mode: **Online**/Offline (On-campus)/Hybrid

Objectives: The prime objectives of conducting such a talk on the politics of conservation are

- to acquaint students and academicians with the larger debates of human-wildlife conflict
- to understand the potentiality and role of media in highlighting the deeper complex issues that are the heart of the ecological preservation and wildlife conservation
- to probe the varied ways in which cinema, literature and culture can intersect in commenting on and raising awareness on socio-political issues.

Brief Report: This was the second talk of the eminent lecture series of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department. The resource person was Dr. Goutam Karmakar, NRF Postdoctoral Fellow, University of the Western Cape. There were around 50 registrations and around 30 participants had joined to attend the lecture. The talk was organized through Google meet. The theme of the talk pertinently addressed the complications that inform the cultural mindset regarding tigers and wildlife in general. The speaker had broadly discussed the two recent Hindi cinematic interventions, namely *Sherni* (2021) and *Sherdil* (2022), and analyzed how these two films enunciate the repercussions of ‘ecoprecarity’ and exemplify a newly emerging domain termed ‘Eco-cinema.’

Outcome: This talk provided a nuanced awareness among the audience on how to sensitize themselves more critically on issues related to ecology, environment and animals. It also uncovered new perspectives of thinking and formulating research on cinema as a fascinating medium of reaching larger public and shaping the social consciousness.

11/4/22, 3:23 PM Meet - bq-d-hypw-ijx

Recording Dr. Payel Pal is presenting

Sherni (2021), directed by Amit Masurkar

- The film navigates through the reserved forests of Madhya Pradesh, India to investigate the layers of the wildlife conservational system. Not only are the minimalistic presentations of the forest, wildlife, and conflict scenes the most sensible choice for this film, but these accurate renderings and camera shots are critical in films like *Sherni* that discreetly address wider issues of human-non-human conflict and conservation. Masurkar outlines his choice to make this film in an interview with Srikant Chaudhary:
- I choose these topics because I care about them. I know that there's a large audience that would connect with these stories. Cinema is a very powerful medium and can help shape popular culture and society. What is shown is happening all around us. Habitats are shrinking. Species are getting extinct. Climate change is real. (Chaudhary 2021, n.p)

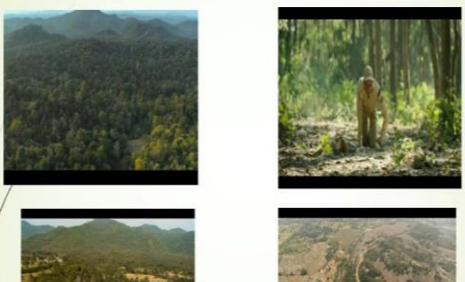
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Goutam Choudhary
Prof. Raghuvir Tama
Sourav Santra
R
22 others

11/4/22, 3:25 PM Meet - bq-d-hypw-ijx

Recording Dr. Payel Pal is presenting

Conservation and development



Goutam Choudhary
Prof. Raghuvir Tama
Sourav Santra