

Mapping Transnational Urbanism

Culture, Ethnicity, Heritage and Public Response in an Indian/Canadian Context

March 28–30, 2022.

Join Virtual lectures at: <https://bit.ly/3I2XRgd>

No Registration Necessary

The Theme

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and the department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Ropar are happy to present this three day bi-national lecture series. Majorly funded by the former institute, this series will be about a reviewing of the post-millennial, politically aware, culturally vibrant urban 'public' existence in a bi-national context, thereby attempting to identify a similitude between variant societies that is germane for public policies, international relations and preservation of the public heritage of the metropolis. This series talks about the literal and the figurative explorations of public places and spaces (and their (in)adjustment to the postliberal remoulding of the cities), pondering over data, archival records, art, cinema and literature. How does the Canadian city-experience compare to that of India? What are the similarities between their city-based artistic expressions? What is the difference between the 'fantastic' and 'real' cities as far as transnational 'art' is concerned? How is the urban 'art' commercialized and who is its consumer-populace? What are the possible ways of resisting the conglomerate takeover of the performance of the city's public-ness?

The Speakers

[Dibyakusum Ray](#)'s (Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Ropar) talk-- foundational of the series-- will be about the emergence of the public-cities in India. He will (through census-data, agglomeration reports and other historical records) talk about how the public-space (teastalls, chowrastas, public beaches, roads and other 'neutral' zones) emerged in the post-colonial Indian cities as a direct impact of the ethno-sociological confluence of a religiously, politically and economically diverse populace and the differences/clashes therein. His case-studies will also include a survey of urban-themed Indian literature from a decadal approach.

Talk timings: March 28 | IST 20:30, MST 8:00

[Ranjani Mazumdar](#) (Cinema Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU) will talk about the cartographic sensibility at work in the use of European locations in contemporary Bombay cinema and also reflect on the transnational infrastructure and diplomatic networks that have made the use of these spaces possible. She will focus on "location pitching" as a major form of trading practice consolidated under the aegis of the India International Film Tourism Conclave (IIFTC), and argue that screen depictions of European spaces operate like cinematic maps that offer a unique view of the relationship between space, place, power and technology.

Talk Timings: March 29 | IST 20:30, MST 8:00

[Matt Patterson](#) (Department of Sociology, University of Calgary) Investigating the notion of an "confluence" between Indian and Canadian cities, this presentation presents a historical exploration of various ways in which Asian and Asian diasporic identities have been manifested in the architecture and urban design of Canadian cities. Among the issues considered will be the legacy of Canada's history of formal and informal forms of race-based segregation, the rise and impact of Canada's policy of multiculturalism, the establishment of immigrant enclaves as consumer destinations, and the increasing expansion of Asia-based retail and hospitality firms into Canadian cities.

Talk Timings: March 30 | IST 21:00, MST 8:30

About SICI

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) is a unique bi-national organization, mandated by governments of India and Canada to promote, facilitate and nurture academic linkages, collaborations & exchanges, research partnerships, and networks on bi-national corridors. With its physical presence in New Delhi, India and Calgary, Canada, and a strong base of 131 Indian and 37 Canadian member institutions, for past 53 years, SICI is the only organization in the Canada-India higher education corridor that is instrumental in building and strengthening intellectual and cultural relationship through research and dialogue. Funded by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, it supports diverse disciplines including Social Sciences, Humanities, Science & Technology, Biotechnology, Agriculture, Arts, Literature, Culture, Law, Business, Economic Reform, etc. and covers all levels of higher education from undergraduate to postdoc and from faculty to collaborative research.

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