



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series

presents a lecture

"Dil Se: Love, Fantasy and Negotiation in Hindi Film Songs"

Speaker

Rita Kothari

Professor of Humanities and Translation Studies, IIT, Gandhinagar

Date: September 23, 2016 (Friday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Venue: Seminar Hall, 10th Floor, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

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About the Lecture

Research on what we call Hindi Cinema/Bollywood tends to focus largely on its narrative role especially with regards imperatives of nation and nationalism. Occasional interest on songs and dance has focused heavily upon the incidental (or not) nature of the song sequence and manufacturing of consent in the narrative. We (Rita Kothari and Apurva Shah) shift the attention from the film to its life outside, in the making of self and memory through songs. In the process we also move from song-as-visual to its verbal architecture. This paper deals with the semantic and semiotic field of *dil* [heart] in Hindi film songs. Dil, as one of the most recurring motifs in Hindi film songs, provides a layered and dynamic view into the way self and non-self are both constituted by and reflected in language. As a trope, dil draws from poetic traditions and metaphors of Persian and Urdu, overlaid ever so often by other conventions and idioms of love in South Asia. Besides locating the unspoken and spoken conventions of dil, we also underscore specific psychoanalytic meanings of 'self' and argue that dil is the site of both desire and denial; an alternative but culturally acceptable possibility of romance and a transferred epithet under watchful eyes.

About the Speaker

Rita Kothari is a Professor of Humanities and Translation Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar in India. She is a reputed theorist and practitioner of translation with numerous books and awards to her credit. She has also done extensive work on borders, partition and language politics in India. Her monographs include *Burden of Refuge: Partition, Sindh,*

Gujarat, Memories and Movements: Borders and Communities in Banni, Kutch, Gujarat and *Translating India : The Cultural Politics of India*. Kothari has translated from Gujarati, *Angaliyat* (The Stepchild), the first Dalit novel; poetry and short stories from Sindhi and Gujarati. She is currently editing *A Multilingual Nation: Translation and Language Dynamics in India* (forthcoming, Oxford University Press) and translating *Agnipariksha*, a memoir based on riots of 1969 in Ahmedabad.