

Bhaskar Sarkar

Department of Film and Media Studies, UCSB

Santa Barbara, CA 93106

(805) 636-1153

sarkar@filmmedia.ucsb.edu

Current Position:

Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Film and Media Studies, UC Santa Barbara.

Affiliated Faculty, Comparative Literature Program, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and Department History of Art and Architecture, UC Santa Barbara.

Education:

1999: Ph.D. in Film Criticism and Theory. School of Cinema-Television, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Dissertation: *Allegories of Dispersal: Nation and Partition in Indian Cinema, 1947-77*.

1988: M.A. in Economics. Department of Economics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

1986: B.A. (Honors), Major in Economics. Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.

1984: B.S. with First Class (Honors) in Economics. Presidency College, Calcutta.

Recent Awards and Grants:

2012-13: Fellow, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University.

2011: “Critical Issues In America” Program Award for the year-long collaborative project, “Speculative Futures: Risk, Uncertainty, Security”

2011: UC Regents’ Humanities Fellowship.

- 2009: UC Santa Barbara Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award
- 2009: Co-convenor and Fellow, UC Humanities Research Institute Residency Project, "Speculative Globalities" (Spring Quarter)
- 2008: UCSB Academic Senate Research Award
- 2006: UC Humanities Research Institute Collaborative Compositions Award
- 2005-09: UC President's Multi-campus Research Group "The Subaltern and the Popular" (5-year Collaborative Grant)

Work in Progress:

Cosmoplastics: Bollywood's Global Gesture. Monograph.

Asian Video Cultures. Collection of essays co-edited with Joshua Neves (forthcoming, Duke University Press).

The Subaltern and the Popular. Collection of essays co-edited with Swati Chattopadhyay.

Pirate Potentialities in the Global South. Monograph.

Publications:

"Media Piracy and the Terrorist Boogeyman: Speculative Potentiations," *positions: asia critique* (forthcoming)

"The Pedagogy of the Piratical," in Katarzyna Marciniak and Bruce Bennett, eds. *Teaching Transnational Cinema* (Routledge, forthcoming)

"Shah Rukh's Hair, Saif's Abs: Towards a Theory of Cosmoplastics," in Chris Berry and Zhang Zhen, eds. *Trans-Asia Screens* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, forthcoming).

"Plasticity and the Global," *Framework* 56.2 (forthcoming, Fall 2015)

"Runes of Laceration," chapter 2 of *Mourning the Nation*, reprinted in Rachel Dwyer, ed. *Bollywood (Routledge Critical Concepts in Media and Cultural Studies) Vol. 1: Hindi Cinema Before Bollywood* (London: Routledge, 2015)

"Industrial Strength Queer: *Club Fuck!* and the Reorientation of Desire," *Media Fields* 7 (2013).

<http://mediafieldsjournal.squarespace.com/industrial-strength-queer/>

“Theory of Third World Cinema,” in Edward Branigan and Warren Buckland, eds. *Encyclopedia of Film Theory* (Routledge, 2013)

“Metafiguring Bollywood,” in Anustup Basu and Meheli Sen, eds. *Figurations in Indian Film* (Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2013)

“The Melodramas of Globalization,” reprinted in Daya Thussu, ed. *International Communication (Sage Benchmarks in Communication)* Vol. 4 (2012).

Co-editor, “Indian Documentary Studies,” special issue, *BioScope: South Asia Screen Studies* 3.1 (January 2012).

“Documentary Acts: Interview with Madhusree Dutta,” in Sarkar and Wolf, eds. “Indian Documentary Studies,” special issue of *BioScope: South Asia Screen Studies* 3.1 (January 2012).

“Cinema,” in Mark Juergensmeyer and Helmut Anheier, eds. *Encyclopedia of Global Studies* (Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2012).

“Review of Sudha Rajagopalan, *Indian Films in Soviet Cinemas: The Culture of Movie-going after Stalin*,” *American Ethnologist* 38.4 (November 2011): 818-19.

“The Mellifluous Illogics of the Bollywood Musical,” in Steven Cohan, ed. *The Sound of Musicals* (London: The British Film Institute, 2010).

“Epic Melodrama, or Cine-maps of the Global South,” in Robert Burgoyne, ed. *Epic Cinema* (New York: Routledge, 2010).

Mourning the Nation: Indian Cinema in the Wake of Partition, South Asia Edition (Orient Blackswan, 2010).

Mourning the Nation: Indian Cinema in the Wake of Partition (Duke University Press, 2009).

Documentary Testimonies: Global Archives of Suffering. Co-edited with Janet Walker (New York: Routledge, 2009).

“Introduction: Moving Testimonies,” co-written with Janet Walker, *Documentary Testimonies: Global Archives of Suffering* (New York: Routledge, 2009).

“Hetero-nation: Toward a ‘New’ and ‘Improved’ Global Public Image,” in Sean Griffin, ed. *Hetero: Queering Representations of Straightness* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2009).

“Tracking ‘Global Media’ in the Outposts of Globalization,” in Natasa Durovicova and Kathleen Newman, eds. *World Cinemas, Transnational Perspectives* (New York: Routledge, 2009).

“Beyond Partition: The Political Horizon of Contemporary Indian and Korean War Films,” *Journal of the Moving Image* No. 7 (2008). http://www.jmionline.org/jmi7_2.htm

“Postcolonial and Transnational Perspectives,” in James Donald and Michael Renov, eds. *Sage Handbook of Film Studies* (London: Sage, 2008).

“Threnody for Modernity,” in Nathan Dunne, ed. *Tarkovsky* (London: Black Dog Publishing, 2008).

“The Melodramas of Globalization,” *Cultural Dynamics* Vol. 20 No. 1 (March 2008): 31-51.

“Introduction: The Subaltern and the Popular” (with Swati Chattopadhyay) in Chattopadhyay and Sarkar, eds. Special Issue, *Postcolonial Studies* 8.4 (2005)

“Mouna Mukhar; Satchallish, Cinema, Itihas Chetana,” *Ababhash* Special Issue on Indian Film Studies (2005) [Bengali]

“Blindness, Visuality and the Ethical Turn: The Burden of *Proof*,” *New Review of Film and Television Studies* 3.2 (2005).

“The Autos of Biography,” *Rethinking History: Theory and Practice* (2003).

“Hong Kong Hysteria: Tales from a Mutating Front,” in Esther Yau, ed., *At Full Speed: Hong Kong Cinema in the Era of Globalization* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001)

“The Inward Look: Self-Reflexivity in Mrinal Sen's Films,” in Sumita Chakravarty, ed. *Mrinal Sen: The Cinema of Politics, the Politics of Cinema* (London: Flick Books, 2000)

“Sound Bites: Fragments on Cinema, Sound, Subjectivity” (Chinese translation), *Film Appreciation Journal* (1999) [Taipei]

“Sound Bites: Fragments on Cinema, Sound, Subjectivity,” *Spectator* (1997)

“Diaspora and Postmodern Fecundity” (with Bishnupriya Ghosh), *Communicare* 16.1 (1997)

“Contested Boundaries: Nationalism, Anti-Colonial Struggles and Post-Colonial Negotiations” (with Bishnupriya Ghosh), *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies* 5.1 (Fall 1997)

“The Cinema of Displacement: Towards a Politically Motivated Poetics” (with Bishnupriya Ghosh), *Film Criticism* 20.1/2 (Fall/Winter 1995)

“Review of the *Encyclopaedia of Indian Cinema*,” *Visual Anthropology Review* 11.2 (Fall 1995)

“Epic (Mis)takes: Nation, Religion and Gender on Television,” *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 16.1 (1995)

Recent talks:

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Montreal, March 2015. Paper: "At the Taj, or, Plasticity and the Global"

Global and Emerging Media Lab, Concordia University, March 2015. Paper: "Speculative Futures: Southern Emergences" [invited lecture]

Asian Cinemas in Global Contexts Symposium, Oberlin College, March 2015. Paper: "Media Piracy and the Terrorist Boogeyman" [invited lecture]

Transnational Cultural Flows Workshop, Concordia University. April 2014, Montreal. Paper: "Plasticity and the Global" [invited lecture]

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. Seattle, March 2014. Paper: "Video Piracy, IP Legislation, and the 'Southern' Performance of Security."

The Centre for the Study of Developing Societies 50th Anniversary Conference, "The Many Lives of Indian Cinema," co-sponsored by SARAI and *BioScope*. New Delhi, January 2014. Paper: "Malegaon Video and the Antinomies of Participation." [Invited Lecture]

"Luminous Celluloid: Shared Reflections on the Cinematic Legacy" Speaker Series, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, January 2014. Response to Thomas Elsaesser, "Productive Pathologies: Melodrama, Trauma, Mindgame Films."

World Picture Conference: "Willing," Toronto, November 2013. Paper: "Manipuri Cinema's Resilient Becoming."

Asian Video Cultures Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI, October 2013. Conference Introduction: "In the Penumbra of the Global."

Brown University, South Asian Studies Colloquium, October 2013. Paper: "The Critical Enchantment of Mourning." [Invited Lecture]

Annual South Asia Studies Conference, Madison, WI, October 2013. Paper: "Malegaon Video Comedies."

Society for the Social Study of Science Conference, San Diego, October 2013. Paper: "Media Piracy, IP Legislation, and the 'Southern' Performance of Security."

Jadavpur University, Kolkata. Film Studies Seminar. August 2013. Paper: "Grounding the Global: Malegaon Video Aesthetics." [Invited Lecture]

Cornell University, South Asia Studies Colloquium. April 2013. Paper: "Grounding the Global: Malegaon Video Aesthetics." [Invited Lecture]

University of Chicago. Indian Cinema Symposium. April 2013. Paper: "Aesthetic and Political Attunements in Post-liberalization Cinema." [Invited Lecture]

Cornell University, Society for the Humanities, [Risk@Humanities](#) Seminar. April 2013. Paper: "Media Piracy and the Terrorist Boogeyman."

Duke University, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Program. March 2013. Paper: "The Plasticity of the Global, or, Manipuri Cinema's Resilient Becoming." [Invited Lecture]

University of Toronto, Cinema Studies and Arts Colloquium. February 2013. Paper: "Grounding the Global: Malegaon Video Aesthetics." [Invited Lecture]

University of Pittsburgh. Film Studies Colloquium. November 2012. Paper: "Cosmoplastics: Malegaon Video Comedies." [Invited lecture]

Cornell University. Society for the Humanities Conference on Risk. October 2012. Paper: "Speculations on Affirmative Speculation." [Invited Lecture]

Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft (German Society of Media Studies) Annual Meeting. October 2012. Frankfurt. Paper: "Speculative Globalities: Southern Emergences." [Keynote]

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. "World Cinemas, Global Networks" Conference. April 2012. Paper: "Plastic Worlds: Emergent Video Industries." [Invited lecture]

Duke University, Durham NC. April 2012. Paper: "Cosmoplastics: Malegaon Video Comedies." [Invited lecture]

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. March 2012. Boston. Paper: "Manipuri Cinema and the Plasticity of Resistance."

Conversation with filmmakers Madhusree Dutta and Mamta Murthy, *Persistence/Resistance* Documentary Festival, Delhi, February 2012.

"Representation, Histories and Memories" Conference, Peking University, Beijing. October, 2011. Paper: "Cinema, 1947, Historical Consciousness." [Invited lecture]

American Studies Association Annual Conference, October 2011. Paper: "Industrial Strength Queer: *Club Fuck!* and the Reorientation of Desire."

UCLA Cinema and Media Studies Speakers Series. May 2011. Paper: "Plastic Globalities: Malegaon Video Aesthetics." [Invited lecture]

"Risk and Speculation" Conference, UC Santa Barbara. April 2011. Paper: "Everybody is in Love with Piracy!"

The Humanities Institute at Stony Brook. March 2011. Paper: "Plastic Archives: Documenting the Cinema City, Bombay." [Invited lecture]

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. March 2011. New Orleans. Paper: "Grounding the Global: Malegaon Video Aesthetics."

World Pictures Conference: Representation. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. October, 2010. Paper: "Plastic Archives: Documenting the Cinema City."

Crossroads Conference, Hong Kong. June 2010. Paper: "Grounding the Global: Malegaon Video Aesthetics."

China-West: Cosmopolitics, Memory, and Visual Culture. Conference, Hong Kong University. June 2010. Paper: Hou Hsiao-hsien and the Folds of Time." [Invited lecture]

"New Research" Colloquium, Film and Media Studies. UCSB, Santa Barbara. April 2010. Keynote: "Because of Recession in the Forest, the Animals Have Joined the Circus: Cinema, Malegaon-style."

Cinema South Asia Conference: "Documentary." U Penn, Philadelphia. April 2010. Paper: "Documenting the Cinema City."

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. March 2010. Los Angeles. Paper: "Plasticity and the Popular: *Jodha Akbar's* Ecstatic Secularism."

World Pictures Conference: Style. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. October, 2009. Paper: "At the Taj: Style-sheet for a Plastic Nationalism."

Speculative Globalities (UC Humanities Research Residency). UC Irvine. June 2009. Paper: "At the Taj: Nationalism by Design."

World Pictures Conference: The Popular. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. October, 2008. Paper: "Plasticity and the Popular: *Jodha Akbar's* Ecstatic Secularism."

The Subaltern and Popular UC Multicampus Research Group, Third International Conference, "Democracy by Force?" Cairo, Egypt. March 2008. Paper: "The Accidental Patriot."

Visible Evidence International Documentary Conference, Bochum, Germany. December, 2007. Organizer and Chair, Panel: "Contemporary Indian Documentaries: Histories, Publics, Politics." Paper: "Textured Temporalities, Possible Futures: the Work of Mourning in 'Partition Documentaries'."

The Subaltern and Popular UC Multicampus Research Group, Workshop on "Legibility and Legitimacy." UC Santa Barbara. October 2007. Plenary: "Spaces of Subalternity."

New Asian Cinema: Trans-Asian Frames. Conference, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. September 2007. Paper: "Between Partition and Reunification: The Political Horizons of Recent Indian and Korean War Films." Plenary: "The Travel of Asian Popular Forms: Circuits of Dissemination, Modes of Adaptation."

South Asia Studies Center Colloquium, University of Texas at Austin. April 2007. Paper: "Shah Rukh's Hair, Saif's Abs: Towards a Theory of Cosmoplastics." [Invited Lecture]

Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. March 2007. Boston. Paper: "Between Partition and Reunification: The Political Horizons of Recent Indian and Korean War Films."

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. March 2007. Chicago. Paper: "Publicity, Plasticity and the 'Southern Gesture.'" Organizer and Chair, Panel: "The Global South: Fantasies, Publics, Politics."

Speculative Globalities Workshop, UC Humanities Research Institute, Irvine, February 2007. Co-convener. Paper: "Publicity, Plasticity and the 'Southern Gesture.'"

The Subaltern and Popular UC Multicampus Research Group, Workshop on 'The Body.' UC Santa Barbara. May 2006. Paper: "Subalternity and the National Mise-en-abyme."

The Social and Material Life of Indian Cinema. Conference at NYU. April 2006. Paper: "The National Mise-en-abyme." [Invited lecture]

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, March 2006. Vancouver. Paper: "The Mellifluous Illogics of 'Bollywood' Musicals."

Cinema South Asia Conference, U Penn. March 2006. "Critical Enchantment of Mourning." [Invited Lecture]

Recent Ph.D. Students

Joshua Neves, Film and Media Studies. Dissertation: *Projecting Beijing: Screen Culture in the Olympic Era.* [Committee Chair] Ph.D., June 2011. Joined Modern Culture and Media Program, Brown University, as Assistant Professor in 2012. Joined Cinema Studies, Concordia University as Canada Research Chair Assistant Professor, 2014.

Rahul Mukherjee, Film and Media Studies. Dissertation Project: *Incommensurable Knowledges, Competing Expressions: Media, Science Debates, and Technopolitics.* [Committee Chair] Ph.D., June 2014. Joined English, University of Pennsylvania, as Dick Wolf Chair Assistant Professor and Television and New Media, 2014.

Athena Tan, Film and Media Studies. Dissertation Project: *Participatory Digital Media and the UN Millennium Development Paradigm.* [Committee Chair]

Hye Jean Chung, Film and Media Studies. Dissertation: *Media Heterotopias: Spectral Effects in Transnational Cinematic Space.* [Committee Member] Ph.D., June 2011. Currently Postdoctoral Fellow, Comparative Media Studies, MIT.

Lily Wong, Comparative Literature. Dissertation Project: *Deflowering Attachments: Prostitutes, Popular Culture, and Affective Historiologies of Chineseness.* [Committee Member] Ph.D., May 2012. Joined American University, Washington D.C., as Assistant Professor in 2012.

Regina Longo, Film and Media Studies. Dissertation Project: *Marshall Plan Films in Italy, 1948-55: Postwar Consensus Building* [Committee Member]

Shalini Kakar, History of Art and Architecture. Dissertation: *Star Deities of South Asia: Rethinking Fan Culture*. [Committee Member] Ph.D., June 2011.

Recent Research Activities and Positions

Fellow, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, 2012-13.

Co-convenor, "Speculative Futures: Risk, Uncertainty, Security," UCSB Critical Issues in America Program, 2011-12.

Co-convenor of the University of California Humanities Research Institute Residency Group, "Speculative Globalities," Spring 2009. http://www.uchri.org/page-no-cat.php?page_id=1263

Co-organizer of three international conferences, *The Subaltern and the Popular*, UC Santa Barbara, 2004 and 2005, and Cairo, 2008.

Member, University of California Multicampus Research Group, *The Subaltern and the Popular*, 2005-09.

Member, Advisory Board, *Cinema & Cie: International Film Studies Journal*.

Member, Advisory Board, Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, UC Santa Barbara, 2007-present. Member of the Security Studies Hub, 2015-

Member, Advisory Board, Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Music, UC Santa Barbara, 2005-2008.

Member, Advisory Board, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UC Santa Barbara, 2006-2008.

Selective Administrative Service

2013- : Vice Chair, Department of Film and Media Studies, UC Santa Barbara

2008-2011: Member, Program Review Panel, UC Santa Barbara (committee overseeing external reviews of academic departments and programs)

2008: Co-Chair, Selection Committee, Mellichamp Chair Professor of Global Media, UC Santa Barbara.

2006-present: Member, Personnel Committee, Department of Film Studies, UC Santa Barbara.

2002-04: Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Film Studies, UC Santa Barbara.

2000-2003: Member, Committee on Diversity, UC Santa Barbara.