

Making Migrant: Dialogues through Film
15-18 January 09
India International Centre Auditorium

Programme

Thursday, 15 January

06:30 pm

A FORGOTTEN PEOPLE: THE SAKHALIN KOREANS

Dai Sil Kim-Gibson | 1995 | 59"

The documentary presents a neglected aspect of World War II and a tragic legacy of the Cold War: the saga of the Koreans who spent 50 years on Sakhalin Island. Koreans were brought by the Japanese to the island as forced labourers during the war, only to be abandoned to the Soviet Union in 1945. Forgotten by everyone including their own country, less than 1,000 remain of the original 43,000 labourers. It is a universal story of displaced peoples whose lives were assigned to oblivion as the power struggle unfolded in the latter part of the 20th century.

Film Courtesy: Dai Sil Kim-Gibson

Discussion: Prof. Radha Kumar

Friday, 16 January

06:30 pm

OIJDA FRONTIERLAND

From Sahara Chronicle: A Collection of Videos on Mobility and the Politics of Containment in the Sahara

Ursula Biemann | 2006-07 | 7".10'

A video collection containing a number of short videos that visually chronicle the current sub-Saharan exodus towards Europe. The piece examines the politics of mobility and containment which lies at the heart of the current global geopolitics and takes a close look at the modalities and logistics of the migration system in the Sahara. This piece looks at the impossibility of marking borders in desert landscapes.

Film Courtesy: Ursula Biemann

06:40 pm

DUR KINARA (SHORES FAR AWAY)

Savyasaachi Jain | 2007 | 53"

A film about the thousands of Indians who are smuggled across borders to Europe every year. Their journey is a saga of risk, deprivation and imprisonment. Many die en route. Some freeze to death, others are killed by the smugglers' mafia or disappear without a trace, leaving their families wondering what happened to them. The film moves across the borders of Austria, the UK and India to highlight the multiple crossings of transnational migration.

Film Courtesy: Savyasaachi Jain

Discussion: Dr Prabhu Mohapatra, Prof. Meenakshi Thapan, Savyasaachi Jain

Saturday, 17 January

11:00 am

SAHAR: BEFORE THE SUN

Sahar Adish, Joe Babarsky, Sanja Jovanovic, Luke Tilghman 2005 | 5".30'

From "Beyond Borders: Personal Stories from a Small Planet"

After the Taliban took control of Kabul in 1996, Sahar Adish fled Afghanistan with her family to find safety in the United States. Sahar, at age 18, speaks powerfully of the courage and aspirations of her parents, her family's struggle for intellectual freedom and educational rights. Her fierce will to continue her schooling

in her new homeland is in part a reflection and remembrance of the denial of education imposed by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Film Courtesy: Listen Up! Youth Media Network

11:10 am

FOREIGNERS

Ayala Sharot | 2006 | 9". 40'

The film is based on interviews with ten young people from different countries who live in London. These interviews suggest a fresh look on contemporary English culture, and raise more fundamental questions about cultural differences and human nature. The animation combines various techniques including rotoscoping, sketches and hand rendered animation.

Film Courtesy: Ayala Sharot

11:20 am

I FOR INDIA

Sandhya Suri | 2005 | 70"

A bitter-sweet time capsule of alienation, discovery, racism and belonging, "I for India" is a chronicle of immigration in sixties Britain and beyond, seen through the eyes of one Asian family and their movie camera. Images of events travel across space and time to capture the links between multiple homes.

Film Courtesy: Sandhya Suri

Discussion: Sir Mark Tully

04:00 pm

CONTINUOUS JOURNEY

Ali Kazimi | 2004 | 87"

In 1914, the Komagata Maru, a ship carrying 376 immigrants from British India, was turned away by Canada. The consequences were felt throughout the British Empire. Continuous Journey is a compelling and eye-opening investigation into the past and present ramifications of this incident. A provocative, moving, and multilayered essay that interweaves photographs, newsreels, home movies and official documents to unravel a complex and little-known story.

Film Courtesy: Ali Kazimi

05:30 pm

REX VS SINGH

Ali Kazimi, John Greyson, Richard Fung | 2008 | 30"

The film documents the trial of two Sikh men charged with sodomy in Vancouver in 1915 and explores the intersections of race, homophobia and the law, where sexual orientation was deployed for deportation.

Film Courtesy: Ali Kazimi

06:00 pm

BACKSTAGE BOYS

Meera Dewan | 2002 | 30"

An exploration of illegal immigration of young men, from Punjab to Europe and North America, in search of a better life and 'for the sake of the family'.

Film Courtesy: PSBT

Discussion: Prof. Harleen Singh, Prof. Shohini Ghosh, Richard Fung, Meera Dewan

Sunday, 18 January

04:00 pm

DREAMING OF TIBET

Will Parrinello | 2006 | 60"

In isolated communities around the world, particularly in India, Nepal and the United States, Tibetan exiles have created a 'virtual Tibet,' where they have endured and even flourished in the face of overwhelming adversity. The film looks at the lives of three extraordinary Tibetan exiles who have survived in exile and are deeply involved in working for the survival of their culture.

Film Courtesy: Foundation for Universal Responsibility

Discussion: Dr Bharati Puri, Youdon Aukatsang

06:00 pm

DESERT RADIO DRONE | 5"40'

INTERVIEW ADAWA | 10"20'

DEPORTATION PRISON LAAYOUNE | 5"46'

From Sahara Chronicle: A Collection of Videos on Mobility and the Politics of Containment in the Sahara

Ursula Biemann | 2006-07

The piece examines the politics of mobility and containment which lies at the heart of the current global geopolitics and takes a close look at the modalities and logistics of the migration system in the Sahara. Unlike the networks facilitated by lasting material infrastructures such as rails or fibreglass, the trans-Saharan migration network is a vibrant process of spatialisation performed by the psychic dynamics of anxiety, fantasy and desire, a web made of obstinacy and vulnerability.

Film Courtesy: Ursula Biemann

06:30 pm

X-MISSION

Ursula Biemann | 2008 | 35"

"X-Mission" explores the logic of the refugee camp as one of the oldest extraterritorial zones. Taking Palestinian refugee camps as a case in point, the video engages with the different discourses – legal, symbolic, urban, mythological, historical – that give meaning to this exceptional space. According to International Law, the Palestinian refugee represents the "exception within the exception" outside the domain of rights.

Film Courtesy: Ursula Biemann

Discussion: Prof. Achin Vanaik, Dr Nivedita Menon

Conceptualised by Dr Radhika Chopra, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi.

Curated by The Public Service Broadcasting Trust and Dr Radhika Chopra, in partnership with the India International Centre.