

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata
Department of Film Studies
and
The Bhawanipur Education Society College, Kolkata
Department of Film Studies
present
RE-THINKING LEGACY: RITWIK GHATAK AS A SYSTEM OF THOUGHT
A Two-Day International Seminar on Ritwik Ghatak Centenary
3rd and 4th November 2025
Supported by
St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association

DAY 1
November 3, 2025

Inauguration

9:30 am - 9:45 am

9:30 am - Address by Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata.

9:35 am - Address by Dr. Subhabrata Gangopadhyay, Teacher-in-charge, The Bhawanipur Education Society College, Kolkata.

9:40 am - Mr. Firdausul Hasan, Immediate Past Secretary, Ex-Officio Member. St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association.

9:45 am to 10:00 am

Registration and setting up the stage.

10:00 am to 10:40 am

Keynote Speech by Ashish Rajadhyaksha, Independent Film Scholar, Historian, and Art Curator, Bangalore.

Title: The Ghatak Meme, or, How Nilkantha Hovers Over Millennial India

10:40 am to 10:50 am - Tea Break

Session 1

10:50 am to 12:40 pm

Chair: Ira Bhaskar, Professor (retd.), Cinema Studies at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

10:50 am - 11:20 am

Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay, Professor (retd.), Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Title: One Hundred Years of Solitude: Ritwik Ghatak

11:20 am - 11:50 am

Jean-Michel Frodon, Journalist, Critic, and Historian of Cinema, Professor, Sciences Po Paris.

Title: Ritwik Ghatak, a Unique Path from Trauma to Cinema: The Memory of the Partition in the Mirror of Other Cinematic Patterns of Collective Dislocation

11:50 am - 12:20 pm

Anindya Sengupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Title: Sceptic Artists Imagining Fragile Deities: Ghatak's *Meghe Dhaka Tara* and Godard's *Vivre sa Vie*

Discussion: 12:20 pm to 12:40 pm

Session 2

Special Lecture (recorded)

12:40 pm to 1:10 pm

Erin O'Donnell, Associate Professor, Department of History, East Stroudsburg University, PA.

Title: The Particular, the Universal, Historicity and Narrativity: Reflecting on Ritwik Ghatak's Cinema in His 100th Year

1:10 pm to 1:40 pm – Lunch Break

Session 3

1:40 pm to 2:55 pm

Chair: Ritu Sen Chaudhuri, Professor, Department of Sociology, West Bengal State University.

1:40 pm - 2:10 pm

Asijit Datta, Associate Professor, SCMC, Symbiosis University, Pune.

Title: A Machine is a Machine is a Machine: Driving Ghatak's Car and Finding Nothing Non-Mechanical About It

2:10 pm - 2:40 pm

Avipsha Ghosh, Independent Scholar, Kolkata.

Title: Of Migration and Mother Tongues: A Sociological Reading of Ritwik Ghatak in the Light of Bangla-dialect Debates in a Decolonising Country

Discussion: 2:40 pm - 2:55 pm

2:55 pm to 3:05 pm - Tea Break

Session 4

3:05 pm - 4:35 pm - Practitioner's Roundtable

Moderator: Siladitya Sanyal, Professor, Direction and Producing for EDM, Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata.

Speakers:

Debalina Majumder, Cinematographer and Filmmaker, Kolkata.

Sukanta Majumdar, Sound Designer, Professor, Sound Recording and Design, Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata.

Sharmistha Jha, Editor, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Videography, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata.

Basab Mullik, Cinematographer, Kolkata.

Indranil Roy Chowdhury, Filmmaker, Kolkata.

4:35 pm

Chair: Mr. Firdausul Hasan, Immediate Past Secretary, Ex-Officio Member. St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association.

Felicitation of Ritaban Ghatak, filmmaker and son of Ritwik Ghatak, by Parambrata Chattopadhyay, actor and director.

4:50 pm

Vote of Thanks

Day 2 November 4, 2025

10:00 am to 10:40 am

Keynote Speech by Moinak Biswas, Professor, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Title: Witness of the Face

10:40 am to 10:50 am - Tea Break

Session 1

Special Lecture

10:50 am to 11:30 am

Chair: Ashish Rajadhyaksha, Independent Film Scholar, Historian, and Art Curator, Bangalore.

10:50 am to 11:20 am

Richard Peña, Director Emeritus, New York Film Festival, Professor Emeritus of Film and Media Studies, Columbia University.

Title: Ritwik Ghatak and Cinematic Modernism

Discussion: 11:20 am to 11:30 am

Session 2

11:30 am to 1:50 pm

Chair: Anindya Sengupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

11:30 am to 12:00 pm

Rongili Biswas, Associate Professor, Economics, West Bengal Education Service.

Title: Mapping The Musical Imagery: Ritwik Ghatak's *Komol Gandhar* and *Jukti Takko Aar Gappo*

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Paulomi Chakraborty, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay.

Title: Violence of Symbols: Durga/Uma in *Meghe Dhaka Tara*

12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Ritu Sen Chaudhuri, Professor, Department of Sociology, West Bengal State University.

Title: A Death and the Curse of *Pratiloma*

1:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Anirban Das, Associate Professor, Cultural Studies, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta.

Title: The Many Worlds of Ritwik Ghatak: *Ajantrik*

Discussion: 1:30 pm to 1:50 pm

1:50 pm to 2:20 pm – Lunch Break

Session 3

2.20 pm to 4:00 pm

Chair: Moinak Biswas, Professor, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

2.20 pm to 2:50 pm

Madhuja Mukherjee, Professor, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Title: Stories of Soil and Skin: Ritwik Ghatak and a Cinema Beyond/between Frontiers, Friction, Fiction, and Floating Landscapes

2:50 pm to 3:20 pm

Sanghita Sen, Assistant Professor, Visual Communication and Digital Cultures, Northumbria University, Newcastle.

Title: The Documentarian Ritwik Ghatak —People's Artist, People's Cinema

3:20 pm - 3.50 pm

Ira Bhaskar, Professor (retd.), Cinema Studies at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Title: Ghatak's Critical Melodrama

Discussion: 3:50 pm – 4:10 pm

4:10 pm to 4:20 pm - Tea Break

Session 4

4:20 pm to 5:35 pm

Chair: Sanghita Sen, Assistant Professor, Visual Communication and Digital Cultures, Northumbria University, Newcastle.

4:20 pm to 4:50 pm

Soumya Mukhopadhyay, Producer, Filmmaker, Co-founder, Cherrypix Movies Private Limited.

Title: Karuṇa Rasa and the Partitioned Soul: Tragic Affect in Ritwik Ghatak's Cinema

4:50 pm to 5:20 pm

Ankhi Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Amity School of Communication, Uttar Pradesh.

Title: Crossing Borders, Erasing Boundaries: Ghatak and Cinema Novo, an Imaginary Dialogue

Discussion: 5:20 pm - 5:35 pm

5:35 pm

Vote of Thanks