



## **– Institute’s Colloquium –**

**Dr. Madhuja Mukherjee**  
**(Jadavpur University, Kolkata)**

### **Little Cinema Cultures: The high and low end of contemporary regional cinema**

This presentation considers the contemporary digital context that has rendered the flow of images forceful, and networks between consumers pertinent. I specifically focus on the videos and digital films, which have become available to me through the TENT (Kolkata) Little Cinema International Festival (for experimental films and media-art); and thereby, through a reading of series of (short and experimental) films I deliberate upon the manner in which the video and the digital medium, has not only forged newer audio-visual forms; moreover, it has initiated a network of circulation. I argue that, with the wide circulation of digital tools a new persona has emerged on the scene, whose “filmmaker” status shares boundaries with other artistic roles. Therefore, by comparing the thriving “amateur” practice -- pursued by many self-taught students, filmmakers and artists -- with the “Little Magazine” and “Little Film” cultures of West Bengal, I examine how the present conditions have grown from, and also triggered, several independent film festivals (across the country). I, therefore, tackle the specific category of “amateur” films, which have been produced primarily from Kolkata, those which are nevertheless, distinguishable from “home videos”. I study the ways in which while some films travel to well-known International festivals, others pass-around on the fringes. In most cases made by college pass outs, such “amateur”/artistic ventures, nonetheless, often excavates a range peculiarities of the city, and functions as a personal and independent gaze that is looking back at the metropolis. By reading the formal explorations of these short and feature-length films, this presentation underscores the ‘toing and froing’ between art and amateur, via which the city underbelly becomes partially visible.

**Wednesday, November 7th 2018**

**4-6 p.m.**

**Institute of Ethnology**

**Stuttstraße 21, Raum STU 105 (2.10)**

**Everybody is welcome!**