

**CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, CALCUTTA,
R-1 BAISHNABGHATA PATULI,
KOLKATA 700094**

GENERAL SEMINAR

Sarunas Paunksnis
Associate Professor of Media Philosophy, Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas,
Lithuania

will give a talk titled:

“Neoliberalism, Cinema, and the City: Anurag Kashyap’s Masculine Urbanism”

Abstract:

In the early 2000s a complex film form began to emerge involving violent and uncanny urban imaginary. This new form, which increasingly is becoming a marker of 21st century *auteur* Indian cinemas, can be seen as a blend of neo-noir and dirty realism, with Anurag Kashyap as its most visible representative working in Hindi film industry. The aesthetic transformations in early 21st century’s Hindi cinema in the form of neo-noir and dirty realism try to focus on the other side of neoliberalism, or, on the dark side of the new regime. The talk shall analyze the subject-formation of an urban male by looking at two films by Anurag Kashyap: *Ugly* (2013) and *Raman Raghav 2.0* (2016). Kashyap is an experimenting filmmaker inventing a new film form, but at the same time his imagination is ideologically very conservative, and evokes an unspoken anxiety regarding the sociocultural shifts in neoliberal India, especially with regards to the position of a man. Being conservative regarding sexuality and gender relations, his films reflect the male anxiety regarding female emancipation in becoming a subject in control of her sexuality. Hindi neo-noir as a form infused with sexual anxiety acts as a symptom of neoliberal restructuring, involving, among other things, cultural hybridization as the outcome of globalization and introduction of new cultural codes into Indian local contexts; growth of the new Indian middle class in urban areas, migration of labour force from rural areas into the emerging Indian ‘global cities’; transforming sexual relationship challenging the male dominance, and at the same time putting the male dominance at the defensive position vis-à-vis the transformations.

Date: Thursday, 29th December, 2016 Time: 3 – 5 pm.
Venue: CSSSC’s Seminar Room, Patuli Campus.

sTrina Nileena Banerjee
(Convener, Seminar Committee)
All are welcome to attend.