



EAST ASIAN SEMINAR SERIES

An Indian Outcast in Reform China: Hindi Film and the Chinese Imagination of Global Culture Post-Mao

FEBRUARY 28, 2020

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Room 208N,
Munk School of Global Affairs &
Public Policy, 1 Devonshire Place

SPEAKER

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The late 1970s and early '80s saw a Chinese craze for Indian films. Members of the generation that came of age in this time have such fond memories of the foreign and exotic Hindi films that many Indian visitors to China are still serenaded with songs from the handful of films that were screened in that period. This talk examines India's symbolic role in China's post Cultural Revolution healing, looking especially at the discourse around popular Hindi films such as Caravan, Noorie, and Awara. The contemporary rethinking of the 1980s in China serves as the larger framework of the talk, emphasizing how the India craze of the early 1980s challenges how 21st century scholars see 1985 as marking China's entry to "world culture." Looking at Hindi film in the 1980s interrogates the ways in which "the west" can come to symbolize "the world" in contemporary Chinese cultural studies.

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