

A two-day webinar on

TECHNOLOGY, CREATIVITY AND YOUTH CULTURE IN CONTEMPORARY CINEMA



30-31st May, 2025



**Organized jointly by J. B. College Film Society,
Assam Film Society and Department of English,
Jagannath Barooah College (Autonomous)**



ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Jagannath Barooah College (Autonomous) ranks as one of the premier institutes of North East India and since its inception way back in the year 1930 it has been relentlessly striving for academic excellence in the field of Higher Education.

Reaccredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade in the year 2018 and awarded Star College status by DBT with effect from 2016-17 the institute also achieved autonomous status on 13th October 2015. Jagannath Barooah College has added yet another milestone in its journey of 93 years with the state government's decision of conferring University status to the institution. With a team of well qualified and competent faculty with their diverse experience and expertise the college boasts of 24 departments providing undergraduate and post graduate courses and research leading to PhD degrees. The institution continues to provide a vibrant space for academic activities with the faculty members ready to take up new challenges to cater to the new requirements in the contemporary global higher education scenario.



ABOUT THE TOPIC

Technology, Creativity and Youth Culture in Contemporary Cinema

Modern technology has revolutionised every aspect of life today, including the way stories are told. It has also unleashed unprecedented creative impulses, especially among the younger generation. Cinematic presentation has certainly undergone a revolutionary change due to intersection of technology, creativity and youth culture. Innovative narratives, fresh perspectives and a new wave of film makers have ushered in a new era of cinematic expressions. Film makers have harnessed various innovations to present compelling stories that resonate with young audiences. The traditional single screen cinema has made way for multiplexes and OTT streaming platforms have made films available for individual viewing on mobile phones or tablet screens. The emergence of social media and online identities have been represented in films like *The Social Network* (2010) and *Unfriended* (2014) and delve into the consequences of online interactions on personal relationships and identity. Films like these explore how technology has become an integral part of youth culture and influence the way in which young people communicate and perceive their own identity. Futuristic worlds governed by technology have been presented in films like *Her* (2013), *Ex Machina* (2014) and *Upgrade* (2018), where technology drives human relationships and raises concerns regarding technology mediated communication.



New forms of storytelling have also been dabbled in, such as found-footage genre in films like *The Blair Witch Project* (1999) and *Paranormal Activity* (2007). Such attempts facilitate low budget narratives that have proved to be extremely popular among young audience. Youth led movements and activism are also a significant aspect of contemporary cinema such as *The Hunger Games* (2012) and *Divergent* (2014) that portray the idealism of youth culture and the power of young people to effect change and challenge the status quo.

Contemporary cinema also explores the blurring of lines between reality and technology. Films like *Inception* (2010) and *Interstellar* (2014) showcase how technology is reshaping our understanding of the world. Problems such as the dislocation, isolation and trauma attendant upon urbanization are dealt with in films like *Trapped* (2016) and *All We Imagine as Light* (2024). In addition to the new innovations, contemporary cinema also employs CGI, HDR and WCG to enhance the visual experience, transforming the landscape of cinematography.

Present-day cinema has been instrumental in shaping attitudes and values of youth, providing role models and fostering empathy and understanding towards mental health, marginalised communities and social justice. The growing popularity of cinema from Korea among the youthful audiences signals an acknowledgement of cultural affinities away from the Western world. In India too, a new generation of filmmakers, such as Sanjeev Reddy Vanga, Vivek Agnihotri, Neeraj Ghaywan, Chaitanya Tamhane, Nagraj Manjule, Payal Kapadia, Kiran Rao and Reema Kagti have emerged to map this entire gamut of cinematic possibilities from the violently jingoistic to the sensitively restrained. The webinar therefore is an opportune intervention that would open up many more avenues of discussion and deliberations among young researchers, students and academicians.



Sub-themes:

- 1. Advances and Impact of Technology on Filmmaking.**
- 2. New Developments in Themes, Treatment and Narratives in Films Across Nations.**
- 3. Youth as Audience, Youth as Characters in Films and Youth as Filmmakers.**
- 4. Rise of Independent and Low Budget Film Making.**
- 5. Youth identity and Coming-of-Age in Contemporary Cinema.**
- 6. Diversity and Inclusion in Film (LGBTQ, Women of Colour).**
- 7. Youth and the Cinema of Propaganda.**
- 8. Social Media as a New Medium for Storytelling.**
- 9. Youth Perspectives in Bollywood Vs Regional Films.**
- 10. Shift from Theatres to OTT.**
- 11. Crowdfunding and Digital Platforms.**
- 12. Sustainable Filmmaking.**
- 13. Any other theme related to the topic.**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



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IMPORTANT DATES:

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:

26TH APRIL, 2025

(should be within 200-250 words)

FULL PAPER SUBMISSION:

17TH MAY, 2025

SEND YOUR ABSTRACTS TO:

webinar.jbc@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FEES:

Rs. 500 (Faculty)

Rs. 400 (Research Scholar)

Rs. 300 (Student)

(Selected papers will be sent for publication)

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