



Institute of Chinese Studies

WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

*From Old to New: Tere Ghar
Ke Samne and fractious
neighborships in 1962*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Speaker:
Navnidhi Sharma

12 June 2024

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Speaker: Ms. Navnidhi Sharma, Doctoral Candidate, Cinema Studies, New York University, New York.

Chair: Prof. Patricia Uberoi, Emeritus Fellow and former Chairperson

Date: 12 June 2024

Venue: Zoom Webinar

- The seminar examined the cultural representation of the 1962 India-China war through the Hindi film *Tere Ghar Ke Samne* (1963). The speaker analysed and reimagined the impact of the war on the Indian psyche through a domestic and urban lens, offering an unconventional method of understanding geopolitical tensions.
- Ms. Sharma argued that the film's portrayal of two feuding families building homes across from each other in New Delhi serves as a symbolic reflection of India and China's adversarial postures during the 1962 conflict. This metaphorical framing reveals how internal, everyday disputes mirror international rivalries, facilitated its assimilation into popular culture and its reinterpretation through films, which in turn served as accessible platforms for processing and discussing the aftermath of the conflict.
- The presentation highlighted how *Tere Ghar Ke Samne* shifts the site of conflict from remote borderlands to urban domestic spaces, enabling a critique of post-colonial state-building and neighbourhood diplomacy. It draws attention to the possibilities of conflict resolution in both personal and political realms through mutual understanding.
- Ms. Sharma's research underscored the idea that cultural artefacts such as cinema not only reflect societal anxieties but also contribute to collective memory formation and identity construction in post-colonial India, especially in times of geopolitical crisis.

- The Chair, Prof. Patricia Uberoi highlighted the value of an interdisciplinary methodology, which integrates film studies with historical and political analysis. She emphasised that cultural representations are crucial to comprehending public sentiment and national narratives during pivotal historical moments.

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