

## **Panel 34**

### **Intermediality in Popular Culture**

#### **Hindi Cinema and Plays of William Shakespeare**

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Hindi cinema is one of the largest film industries in the world. It produces nearly one thousand films a year. These films are popular in India and also entertain audiences in the diaspora. Several Hindi films have drawn inspiration from William Shakespeare's plays, with some adapting the plots and characters directly, while others take certain elements and adapt them to a modern Indian context. The objective of this research paper is to discuss some of the films based on the plays of Shakespeare. The way Indian filmmakers adapt them to the Indian socio-economic, cultural, and political landscape will also be examined. The context of cross-cultural influences, especially when colonial rulers introduced the English language and literature in India, will also be analysed. The way female characters have been portrayed in films will also be examined. To name some films inspired by and adapted from Shakespeare's plays include *Zalim Saudagar* (1933), which is based on *The Merchant of Venice*; *Khoon Ka Khoon* (1935), *Hamlet* (1954) and *Haider* (2014), which are based on *Hamlet*; *Do Dooni Char* (1968) and *Angoor* (1982), which are based on *The Comedy of Errors*; *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak* (1988), *Ek Duje Ke Liye* (1981), *Issaq* (2013), *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela* (2013), which are based on *Romeo and Juliet*; *Mashooq* (1992) based on *The Taming of the Shrew*; Vishal Bhardwaj's *Maqbool* (2003) based on *Macbeth*; *Omkara* (2006) based on *Othello*, *The Last Lear* (2009) based on *King Lear*. These films will be examined in an appropriate context to analyse cross-cultural influences.

#### **Biography**

Manoj Sharma is Associate Professor in Modern and Contemporary Indian History at the Centre for Historical Studies (CHS) at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). His specialisation also includes Cinema Studies. He has delivered lectures on Indian Cinema at Washington D.C., U.S.A., Imperial College London, Mahidol University, and Kultur University. He delivers 'live lectures' on History and Cinema on UGC's Vyas Channel, which are available on YouTube. He has completed a research project based on Indian "Society and Culture" for Microsoft. He is pursuing a research project on Indian cinema funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research. He has published various research papers on Indian cinema and history in national and international journals.