Dr Rochona Majumdar
Associate Professor and Interim Director of The Nicholson Center for British Studies, University of Chicago

will give a talk titled:

“The ‘New’ Indian Cinema: Journeys of the Art Film”

Abstract

Like many effective periodizing and historicizing gestures, the use of the appellation “new” to characterize Indian new wave films generated much controversy. It was Satyajit Ray who first raised the question of what constituted newness or even what was wavelike in the phenomenon that was being named the Indian new wave. Briefly reprising that controversy, it played not an insignificant part in making the films of the Indian new wave, the subject of intense cine-debates in film society circles and in more mainstream film publications, I note that there was indeed much that was empirically new: funding structures, certain stylistic features, relationship to the “new” Indian literature, and the activism that developed around film culture epitomized in the manifesto written by Mrinal Sen and Arun Kaul, “The Indian New Cinema Movement” (1968). I will briefly explore these issues concluding with the example of Mrinal Sen’s film, Bhuvan Shome that allegorizes the question of novelty through the confusion experienced by its eponymous protagonist.

Date: Monday, 16 March, 2020; Time: 3 – 5 pm

Venue: CSSSC Seminar Room 2, Patuli Campus

The seminar will be moderated by the Director, CSSSC

Maidul Islam
(Convenor, Seminar Committee)
All are welcome to attend.