

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

MARTHA GANO HOUSTOUN
DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR
IN LITERARY CRITICISM

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

WELCOMES



Professor Keya
Ganguly

February 21, 2019

Room C108

4:00 - 5:30 P.M.

Roy G. Cullen

”Reason and the Image: On Satyajit Ray’s Shatranj Ke Khilari (The Chess Players)”

This talk focuses on Satyajit Ray’s cinematic treatment of an episode from India’s late colonial history in *Shatranj Ke Khilari* (The Chess Players, 1977). I suggest that through his portrait of the betrayal of reason under the pretext of law, Ray makes an appeal on behalf of the visual image as a critique of reason (rather than its lure).

Moderator and organizer: Dr. Sreya Chatterjee

Keya Ganguly is Professor in the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota. She is the author of *States of Exception: Everyday Life and Postcolonial Identity* (University of Minnesota Press, 2001) and *Cinema, Emergence, and the Films of Satyajit Ray* (University of California Press, 2010). She served as Senior Editor of *Cultural Critique* from 1998-2010, and her essays have appeared in *Cultural Studies*, *New Formations*, *Race and Class*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, and *History of the Present*. Her teaching interests are in the critical theory of the Frankfurt School, Marxism, film, postcolonial studies, and the sociology of culture. Recent and forthcoming essays have explored the politics of re-reading Orientalism, the aesthetics of exile, and world cinema in dialectical perspective. She is currently writing a book on the radical Indian nationalist, Aurobindo Ghose, entitled *Political Metaphysics*.

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