



Film Screening and Panel Discussion: Have you Seen the Arana?

Speaker:

. K. Kariyan, Head, Adiya tribe; Arun P. A., FERNS Naturalist Society; Sunanda Bhat, Filmmaker; Benson Issac, Faculty member at Azim Premji University

Date / Time:

April 22, 2013 - 3:45pm - 5:30pm

Venue:

10th Floor, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

“Have you seen the arana?” explores the effects of a rapidly changing landscape on lives and livelihoods. The film is set in Wayanad, part of the fragile ecosystem of the Western Ghats in Kerala, that is witnessing drastic transformation in the name of ‘development’. A woman’s concern over the disappearance of medicinal plants from the forest, a farmer’s commitment to growing traditional varieties of rice organically and a cash crop cultivator’s struggle to survive amidst farmers’ suicides, offer fresh insights into shifting relations between people, knowledge systems and environment.

Interwoven into contemporary narratives is an ancient tribal creation myth that traces the passage of their ancestors across this land, recalling past ways of reading and mapping the terrain. As hills flatten, forests disappear and traditional knowledge systems are forgotten, the film reminds us that this diversity could disappear forever, to be replaced by monotonous and unsustainable alternatives.

A Note on the Speaker:

Sunanda’s interest in documentaries is to represent people living on the margins of a fascinatingly intricate and stratified Indian society. Unraveling these layers reveals glimpses of lives that are often far more interesting than fiction. “Have you seen the arana?” is her first feature length documentary. She has spent 6 years in Wayanad, looking for ways to capture and represent the complexity of the people and place.

Other films:

Ini oru Vidhi Syvoam (Let's make it right) on rural sanitation, winner of the 'Gold Drop' award, International Water and Film Events 2012, Marseilles, France.

Bol Ayesha Bol (Speak Ayesha Speak) premiered at International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, 1998.

Athani to Dusseldorf on the transformation of leather craftspeople from artisans to entrepreneurs.

Nalai Nammadai (Tomorrow is ours) on micro enterprise.

Yoga as therapy a series of 14 films on Yoga for stress related illnesses.