The Lost Craft of Sakha

Ratan Kumar Roy - South Asian University



Duration: 13mins Spoken language: Bengali Subtitles language: English

Abstract

Sakha, conch bangle, has religious significance in the everyday life of the Hindus. According to Hindu mythology, sacred conch symbolizes the purity and chastity of women, and loyalty to their husbands. A pair of conch bangles is an essential adornment for all married woman as it brings fame and prosperity to one's husband in everyday life. It is a handcrafted work of art having a rich history and heritage since unknown time. This beautiful and delicate artwork is done by the Sakha artisans, the Sakharis. The Sakharis came to Dhaka (Bangladesh) during the 17th century, while the Mughals, impressed by their craftsmanship, allotted an entire area to these artisans now known as Sakhari Bazar, a neighborhood in Old Dhaka city. This age-old intangible cultural heritage of Bangladesh is on the verge of extinction today because of multifarious reasons relating to the life and livelihoods of the Sakha craftsmen. This visual narrative explores their struggle of everyday life and challenges they are facing under rapidly transforming social realities of Bangladesh.

The Control, Contestation and Trend of Political News Coverage in Contemporary Bangladesh: Ethnographic Explorations of Viewing and Making Television News presenting session: June 26, 13:30-15:30, Focus 1

50 Years of Affirmative Action in Boston

Joyce Sebag, Jean-Pierre Durand, Jean-Pierre Lenoir - University of Evry Paris-Saclay



Duration: 52mins Spoken language: English Subtitles language: French

Abstract

Issues around multiculturalism make "Affirmative action" a major political and societal problem. Making a documentary film on Affirmative Action in the United States has been the opportunity to work with many researchers and theorists. It should participate in a thorough understanding of the history and the issues associated with the implementation of an affirmative action device. This documentary could be distributed in American universities and high schools in light of the Affirmative Action debates that cross these institutions. As part of this documentary, the interviews with the theoreticians (sociologists, philosophers, historians) of the Affirmative Action at Princeton, Harvard, MIT and with professionals working on the application of these principles (Boston and its suburbs) assumed a very broad knowledge of the problematics and therefore a characteristic work of any research in Social Sciences and more particularly in sociology.

Through contacts made during the first research, work could be continued and led to the shooting of a second documentary addressing the issue of positive discrimination in terms of the trajectory of a black American family this time. It can be a first step in the comparison between the United States (which has addressed the issue of the treatment of affirmative action since the 1960s and have significant experience in this field) and France where this idea is debated

Filmic Sociology, a French Approach presenting session: June 25, 15:45-17:30, Plenary Session