

Seminar on Societal Research - "Documenting social issues by capturing real people's stories through film" and screening of "Ocean in a Drop" about the impact of broadband internet in rural India

Resource person: Mr. Andrew Garton, Adjunct Industry Fellow, Media and Communication at the Swinburne University of Technology, Australia.

Andrew is a freelance filmmaker, creative producer, and musician and communications media advisor with over thirty years of experience working within community-based cross-cultural development contexts. With an emphasis on collaboration, Andrew thrives within multidisciplinary production environments bringing a broad range of skills to projects that have seen him work across Australia, Southeast Asia, Indo-China, South Asia, and Central Europe. Andrew was a co-creator of Pegasus Networks, the earliest community focused national internet provider in Australia. Pegasus went online in 1989. In 1995 he co-founded the artist-led production house, Toy Satellite producing cutting edge online interactives for museums and creative research initiatives in Austria, South Korea and Taiwan. In 2001 Andrew produced the opening of the Taipei International Arts Festival in collaboration with Taiwanese artists, touring the completed work, Undercurrents, throughout Australia. Undercurrents focused on the shared social, environmental and cultural concerns of both groups of artists. A series of commissions followed including works for the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Fringe Fashion, Melbourne International Film Festival, MAAP, Ars Electronica, Kunst Radio, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and a two-year artists residency at the Dunmoochin Foundation regional Victoria. Many of these works focused on empathy building through diverse screen culture practices.

In 2015 he began work on his first feature film, Ocean in a Drop - broadband impacts rural India, with the New Delhi based Digital Empowerment Foundation. Ocean in a Drop was launched at the Chennai International Film Festival in 2017 with the support of the Australian High Commission, India.

Details:

AMMACHI Labs hosted a special guest lecture and film screening with filmmaker, producer and influencer, Andrew Garton. Prof. Garton is an adjunct Industry Fellow, Media and Communication at the Swinburne University of Technology in Australia. He has a background in community access video and broadcasting and is very committed to documenting social issues by capturing real people's stories through film. His documentary, "Ocean In a Drop" about the impact of broadband internet in rural India resonated with many at AMMACHI Labs.

Ocean in a Drop is a film about these emergent online populations told by rural women and children, artisans and entrepreneurs. Shot in 2015 the filmmakers visited fourteen villages throughout nine districts across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. Ocean in a Drop describes the impact the internet is having on India's rural & tribal communities; a silent revolution.

Governments aren't being overthrown, something more long term and subtle is emerging. A film about the entrepreneurs, community leaders, youth and children who are making this happen – India's own internet avant-garde.

(<https://www.andrewgarton.com/project/ocean-in-a-drop/>)

Our team shared experiences in the villages with ICT and technology. Prof. Garton also visited Sadivayal village and was touched by the experience and spent time getting to know the various women's empowerment projects through Zonal lead Siva Prasad. Prof. Garton was in India screening his film at the Australian High Commission and the Chennai Film Festival.



Prof. Garton with Sadivayal villagers



Figure 2: Dr. Garton seminar at Amritapuri

SPECIAL GUEST LECTURE



Andrew Garton
 Filmmaker Musician Artist

Join us for an expert talk
 & film screening by
 an influencer in
 media and film.

"Ocean in Drop"

Broadband Impacts on Rural India

"People telling stories, the story of us - is technology the new
 campfire we share our stories by and why story-gathering
 and telling is more important than ever."

Thursday Dec. 21, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
 Shraddha Hall

 ammachi labs