

Departmental Report 2021-2022

19th May, 2021 : Resource Talk on Digital Content Creation by Biswas Timshina

Biswas Timshina, is a writer, comic and a YouTuber. He has worked in Mumbai as a freelance screenwriter, has worked in the Nepali movie 'Pahuna' and working on other projects as well. He is a regular in the open mic circuit of Mumbai and after performing for a year there, he, along with a few comedy enthusiasts from Sikkim started a comedy group called Hasais Katle.

He also creates content on YouTube and go by the name BT Kancha which is usually a parody songs and funny Nepali movie reviews.

In a competitive world, it was not easy to stand out, but choosing vernacular language as a medium of communication has helped him attain his success as an influencer. Enthusiastic students interacted with him and he concluded the session by saying- why can't I do the things I like and make money from it. Why should there be a segregation between things I want to do and things I have to do.

Having boosted the confidence of the students he encouraged the students never to give what you believe in and hence continue to pursue despite failures and rejections.



29th May, 2021 : Webinar Presentations by Nalini Bhutia and Roshan Rai

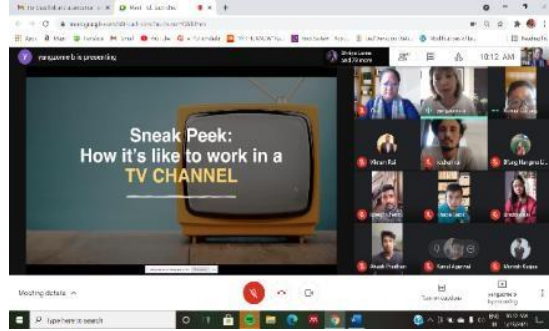
Miss Nalini Bhutia has worked as a senior producer in VH1, Star and Channel V and now as a promo designer in Discovery Channel. She has her graduation degree in Fine Arts and has completed her PG Degree from NID. As an aspiring creative, it was not easy for her to get her first assignment but the her persistence and hardwork landed to where she was today.

Talking about the functioning of the TV industry, she stressed on the fact that connections can get you somewhere, but your creativity, wiliness to learn and your hard work is the key to success. She also talked about the need to get higher education in premier institutes which will help them address the issues of exposure, campus recruitment, interaction with other streams helps



to create a basic knowledge. Research is primary and hence, that should not be ignored. Portfolios are of utmost importance, therefore, one needs to learn from good cinema, techniques and continue to do projects even with your mobile phones in order to get the best of the situation.

Roshan has worked as an assistant cinematographer in films like Khamoshiyaan, Marjavan, Satya Mev Jayate, Family Man, Raakh Poster Boys and Great Grand Masti till date, As an alumni of the department, he expressed immense gratitude for introducing Mr. Nigam Bomzan, DOP who had already worked on various films, by taking him as the intern while visiting the department. It is important to be in touch with the alumni who will guide you and take you under their wings. Although, Darjeeling is a small town, one should feel lucky to have a course in Mass Communication. He talked about passion being the second nature to oneself and therefore, its not about the equipment, but what you make out of the equipment.



The session ended with a positive response from the students who had some interactive questions to ask and the take away was never stop learning and experimenting.

18th June 2021 : Resource Talk by Vivek Chhetri

As we move towards the convergence phenomenon, the digital platforms have taken over physical spaces. Similarly the medium of platform for print journalism has also shifted print to virtual. However, the print media gives a different edge and perception than the online version hence creating different narratives.

Mr Vivek Chhetri enlightened the students about his experience as field journalists and now as the assistant editor of the Telegraph. He referred to various case studies and interviews where students were given in-depth knowledge about the boon and bane of journalism.

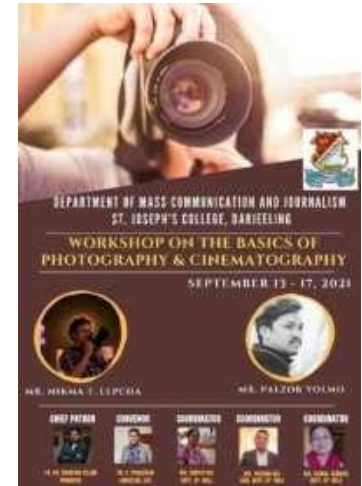
The emerging trends has not actually faded away the print media, but he believes that it's the same, just platform remains virtual. However he told the students to follow ethically responsible ways of reporting as that was the key to becoming the foundation contributing towards the growth and success of an area.



The session ended with vibrant discussions followed by Q&A and ended enthusiastically with a great learning experience for the participants.

13th – 17th September, 2021 : WORKSHOP on the Basics of Photography and Cinematography by Mr. Mikma T. Lepcha and Mr. Palzor Yolmo

The webinar lecture series has begun for the second half of the departmental activities and therefore, the guests this time are our own alumni, Mr. Mikma T. Lepcha and Mr. Palzor. Mikma besides being alumni of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism also is an alumni of the prestigious institute FTII, Pune where he has completed his P.G in Electronic Cinematography. His FTII Diploma film " Vavtaal " The Whirlwind has won 2nd Best Film at Kalpanirjhar International Film Festival and has been screened at Dhaka International Film Fest and SILVEREYE International Film Festival, 2020.



Palzor Yolmo on the other hand as worked as wedding cinematographer and in Kolkata Worked as an intern with Bollywood celebrated cinematographer Mr, Nigam Bomzan for the Hindi feature film Marjavaan. He has also worked in promo videos for Channel V India and Discovery India.

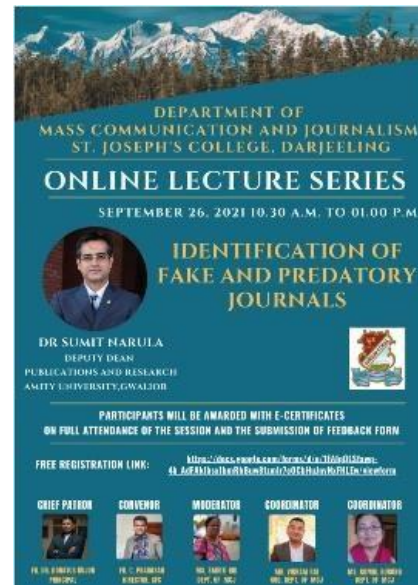
The workshop consisted of various aspects of photography composition, basic of camera tutorials, intense discussions on the various tools of photography. This workshop has enabled the students to learn from the professionals about the tips and tricks about taking well composed photographs. The students were also exposed to various types of lighting used in photography. In depth discussions were made between the students and the professionals who had a thirst for learning and equal queer eye for teaching.

At the end of day 5, the students were given an assessment where they had to take two photographs using the methods and practices learned and adopted during the workshop. The students had amazing positive feedback, however, they regretted that it was done in an online mode, however, it did not dim their spirit of learning and attended all 5 days of the workshop. The workshop ended with a positive note wishing all these hands on practical training to be done on physical mode too.

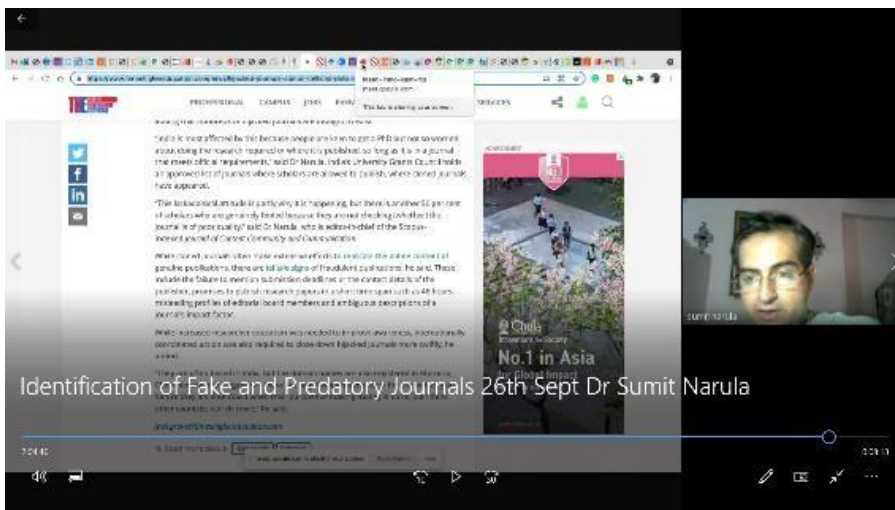
26th September, 2021 : Webinar on Identification of Fake and Predatory Journals by Dr. Sumit Narula, Deputy Dean Research (Publications and Research) at Amity University Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Research is creating new knowledge- Neil Armstrong. Research is something that everyone can do and everyone ought to. UGC is committed to raising the standards if research at institutions of high education in India at par with the other notable global research practices. The fake and predatory journals are often duping the academicians and researchers with humongous publication fees, zero transparency, misleading and hence threatening to erode the trust and confidence of scientific accord. However in order to combat the shortcomings, we at Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, St Joseph’s college had today with us Dr Sumit Narula is a Ph.D. in Electronic Media and Conflict Resolution from Panjab University, Chandigarh. He is presently working Deputy Dean Research (Publications and Research) at Amity University Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. He is also the Director/Head of Institution in Amity School of Communication in Amity University, Madhya Pradesh.

He has got two masters and two Postgraduate diplomas to his credit. He has published two books in Mass Communication/Journalism and edited seven books. One of his books Environmental Awareness and Role of social media with IGI Publications USA has recently been indexed by Clarivate book Citation Analysis (Web of Science) and has also published several national and international research papers in journals. He has also been to London, Dubai, Slovenia, Nepal, Singapore and Amsterdam for his research work and paper presentations.



The core areas for his research are New Media/Convergence Media, Media Research in Print Media, Electronic Media, Fake News Detection, Peace Building, and conflict Resolution etc. He is also the Editor in Chief of the bi-annual SCOPUS indexed and UGC CARE Listed Journal named Journal of Content Community and Communication. He is also the Chairman of the recently established Centre of Excellence for Detection of Fake News and Disinformation at AUMP. He is well-versed with software like SPSS, Smart PLS, NVIVO 12, Citavi 6, and Mendeley. He has taken several workshops on the topic ‘How to catch Fake/Predatory/Cloned journals in Academics’ and has developed a course with Taylor’s University, Malaysia on it. He has also spoken about Academic integrity at various platforms.

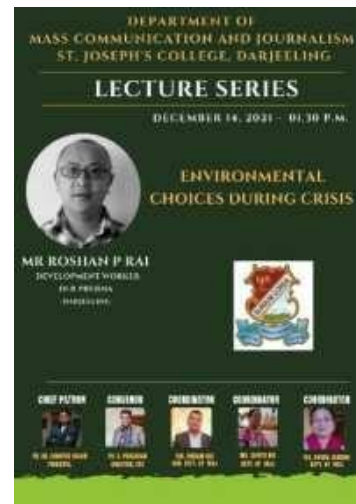


The webinar had participants from all over India and abroad. The impact on research by the fake, predatory and clone journals were discussed which was enlightened by the resource person. It addressed critical issues of good research and various

impact factors of the journal. It also busted the myth of Google indexing. The areas of Indian Researchers being naïve and falling prey to these journals were discussed where the Indian academics needed revamped and more awareness on campaigns to create awareness regarding the quality of research. The session as very interactive, where questions of doubt, uncertainty were address by the resource person which appreciated by the participants through their feedback. The session was attended by 50 participants amongst the 80 who had registered.

14th December, 2021 : Resource talk on Environmental Choices during Crisis by Mr. Roshan P. Rai

Mr. Roshan Rai is a development worker with DLR Prerna a unit of CHAI Project, an NGO based in Darjeeling. He has been educating people regarding the usage of plastic and its harmful effects on the environment for more than a decade. He has been instrumental in implementing various projects on Menstrual Hygiene, Permaculture, Sustainable mountains, Waste Management, Saving the Himalayas.



Mr. Roshan Rai, DLR Prerna, has often asked us thought-provoking questions and made the audience ponder upon their sustainable environment choices. On 14th November,2021, he addressed the students of Mass Communication and Journalism, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling on the “Climate Crisis”. His extensive research and experiences over the topic exposed the

students behind the ugly truths of multi-billion-dollar companies, which catered to the needs of millions of people on earth, however at the expense of the earth and its natural resources. The issues of the nuisance of plastic, microplastics in Arctic snow and its hazards on individual health to waste management globally and locally, were discussed on how each individual can make active and careful choices of refusing the use of single-use plastics and contributing towards cleaner environment. He encouraged students to buy more local unpackaged items and go zero waste if they are concerned about the planet. The impact of global warming and its direct impact on the Himalayas, thus affecting us was a reality check on the current climate crisis in the vulnerable ecosystem of the hills.

Hence the ultimate message of how our choices ultimately contribute to waste, as throwing it away in the dustbin is not the solution but the beginning of our problem and how each individual has an onus about the planet's sustainability.



14th December, 2021 : Pixels 2021

Two years later, as we almost breathe in relaxation after the pandemic of COVID-19, the students from the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, St. Joseph's College, were keen enough to explore their surroundings and focus on photos which represented a neo-realistic approach.

Their new perspective on their views of society was very reflective in their work. The judges- Mrs. Meenakshi Pradhan, HOD, Dept of BBA, Mr. Ashish Chettri, Dept of English and Mr. Pravat Titus Mukhia, Dept of CSA/BCA gave their expert inputs on photo captioning, compositions and elements of making a photo-worthy of the exhibition. Their valuable inputs indeed provided much-needed insights into various perspectives about issues that were pertaining and apt.

The winners were declared through online and offline voting criteria. The winners were: 1st- Yugal Gurung, 2nd - Aryanth Tamang, 3rd - Upesh Chettri, 4th Priyanka Sharma Upreti and 5th Ananyeya Gurung.

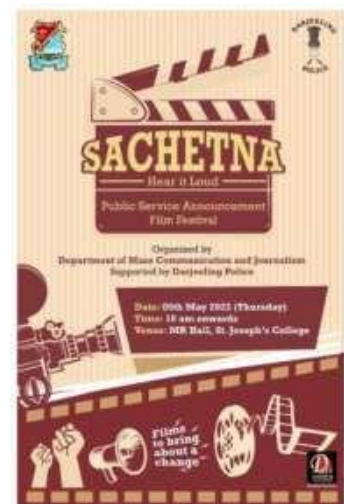
8th March, 2022 : Women's Day

The Mass Communication and Journalism Department of St. Joseph's College marked the occasion of International Women's Day to pay tribute to all the women around us. The 1-hour programme commenced with a dance performance by Shreyanjali Yonzon, a fourth semester student. She danced to the ever powerful rhythms of Aigiri Nandini, a symbolism to The strength women possess. In quick succession to this, Pratham Sharsar, student of the fourth semester, orated a message about The International Women's Day. The Speech highlighted the history of the International day of women and the significance of woman in our lives.

Following this Nilesh Sinha, Saiden Sherpa and Anantdip Rasaily, all students of the fourth semester, presented an amazing song entitled Afnai Sansaar by Albatross. This song depicts a daughter's suffering having been abused. Mr. Vikram Rai delivered some words of wisdom about the same and wished everyone a Happy International Women's Day.

5th April, 2022: Sachetna : A PSA Film Festival

Sachetna, a Students' PSA Film Festival, was organized on May 5, 2022 at St. Joseph's College in Darjeeling. The Darjeeling Police supported the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism's presentation, which was both fun and honourable. Dr. Santosh Nimbalkar, Superintendent of Darjeeling Police, was the Chief Guest, along with other distinguished visitors. The goal of the programme was to raise awareness about the many viewpoints on societal issues such as different perspectives which talked about acceptance of change dealing with burning issues of domestic violence, gender equality, save the environment, traffic jam etc. All twenty-two films screened were made by students.





The students put forth extra effort in creating these PSAs, however, the Darjeeling Police picked the three finest films and presented them with certificates of appreciation, medals, and cash awards.

The following PSAs were recognised for their outstanding production value and powerful message:

1. YOYO Productions' Domestic Violence, awarded with ₹ 15,000
2. Waddow Productions' Mobile Phone Addiction, awarded with ₹ 10,000
3. Patla Productions' Trash Talks, awarded with ₹ 5,000

Following this, the Darjeeling Police invited the Sachetna winners to Ambotia Tea Garden for their Monthly Crime Conference, where they were honoured with cash awards and gift hampers.

24th May, 2022 : Resource Talk by Shempenn Khymsar

Shempenn Khymsar a Director, writer, composer based in Los Angeles, Vancouver and Darjeeling came and addressed the Department of Mass communication and Journalism Dept of St Joseph's college, Darjeeling and promoted his film "Broken wings".

Mr Khymsar , started off his session on an interactive note where the students asked him questions about his personal film journey and about few technical aspects of film. The session followed by an intense discussion about his purpose of coming back to the hills and mostly his thought provoking questions which made the audience ponder upon it.

He spoke about spirituality, realism and healing. Balancing of female and male energy in one's body, how it is the most important to become a good human first, to have empathy ,courage and patience. In his words, one can do spiritual service by sharing experiences.

Adding to it more, he pointed out how youth is still clipped in Darjeeling hills because of the lack of progressive mindset , the older generations, and how we can actually change the narrative, in spite of knowing it is not going to be an easy job.



Having boosted the confidence of the students he encouraged the students to never stop questioning, give in their beliefs, and continue to pursue and practice the art of thinking, writing and re-writing.

26th August, 2022 : Students' Short Film Festival



St. Joseph's College organised a short film festival in liaison with the Mass Communication and Journalism Department. Fr. Pragasan initiated the event with a grand welcome address at the celebration which was gracefully started with the Bandana Swagat Dance by Shreyanjali

Yonjan. The short films included 'Taar Churiyako Sarangi', 'Bhraam', 'Jaar', 'Parjeevi' and lastly, 'Speak' – some inspired from traditional Nepali folklore and some originally composed. The shooting of these 5 short films was completely done by the students of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, St. Joseph's College in and around Darjeeling.

Four judges who graced the event with their presence include Menuka Pradhan, Akhilesh Rai, Fr. Alex Gurung and Prof. Balaram Sapkota.

According to the verdict of the revered judges, among all the beautifully produced short films, 'Speak' achieved the 1st place followed by 'Jaar' at the 2nd and 'Parjeevi' at the 3rd. The awards for best actor and best actress were received by Dan Sherpa of 'Speak' and Drishya Rai of 'Jaar' respectively. All five films were critically judged and the screening of the teaser of the upcoming movie 'Jaar' by Ferry Tale Productions was a visual treat.

In the student-run film festival, Prof. Vikram Rai enriched the celebration with a few words along with other judges. The audience included professors from various department, students and film enthusiasts galore.

31st August, 2022 : "The Change Through The Lens"

The students from the department of Mass Communication and Journalism of St. Joseph's College took part in "The Change Through the Lens", a film festival mainly focusing on spreading awareness about various social issues. This event was an initiative of Anugyalaya DDSSS in collaboration with the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of St. Joseph's College.

Students showcased their films in the Media Hall at St. Robert's School and were successful in spreading awareness and disseminating their respective messages. The films were judged by various judges with the



winner, runners-up and the second runners-up being awarded.

13th September, 2022 : Workshop on the Basics of Filmmaking and Cinematography by Mr Mikma T Lepcha and Mr Sanket Katha Ray

Mr Mikma T Lepcha being alumni of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism is also an alumni of the prestigious/reputed institute FTII, Pune where he and Mr Sanket have completed their P.G in Electronic Cinematography. Mikma's FTII Diploma film "Vavtaal " The Whirlwind has won 2nd Best Film at Kalpanirjhar International Film Festival and has been screened at Dhaka International Film Fest and SILVEREYE International Film Festival, 2020.



On the other hand Sanket 'Katha' Ray is a documentary film-maker and educator. His films, 'This Is My Home' (cinematographer and editor) have been showcased at 17th Mumbai International Film Festival (Mumbai - 2022), South Asian Short Film Festival (Kolkata - 2022), 14th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (Kerala - 2022) and was nominated for Sony's World of Film Contest (2021). His previous film 'Daydreaming' was showcased at the Swiss Film Festival (2020). He is a facilitator with Auroville Film Institute, Auroville. He is the director of Green Strokes Art Gallery, Thane.

Katha completed his graduation in journalism from Mumbai University in the year 2012 and has worked with Times of India, Times Now and NewsX. He has conducted various film-making and photography workshops with school children across India. He also conducts art and drawing classes at Green Strokes Art Gallery.



The workshop started off with a simple yet an intriguing question “what is cinema for you all?” the answers from the students were also fascinating . Some of them answered “It’s a way of life”, “I believe everything is cinema” while Sanket believes “Cinema is like a dream, where we watch everything in bits and pieces just like we see it in our dreams”.

It continued with a few more exercises which included basics of scriptwriting through actuality exercise and other various aspects of filmmaking .

In the end in a small group discussion both of them inspired the aspiring filmmakers, and gave tricks and tips about how to crack entrance examinations of these Indian film schools.

They educated the students about how analyzing different art forms , especially World and Indigenous films can make a difference in the craft of an artist.