

**Indo-Canadian Studies Centre, University of Mumbai**

**Fellowship Programme**

**7<sup>th</sup> December to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

**A Report**

The ICSC's Fellowship Programme was inaugurated on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 with a series of lectures by Dr. Monica Turci, University of Bologna, Italy. Dr. Turci spoke on Micheal Ondaatje's Docu-fiction: from The Collected Works of Billy the Kid to Running in the Family –

Her lectures focussed on Ondaatje's career up to Running in the Family and will engage with the relation between history and fiction. A detailed analysis of the photographs Ondaatje includes in the Running in the Family were also considered in these lectures. She also did a session 'An Analysis of the Lemma dark\* in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness'. Here she did close readings that used quantitative and qualitative analysis to try to find out what is the meaning of dark and darkness in Conrad's novella. Her final lecture was on 'The Representation of the Body of the Slave in Turner's The Slave Ship. Slavers Throwing Overboard the Dead and the Dying'. This lecture looked at how this painting was a reflection on the representation of the body of slave in Turner's painting. The focus was interdisciplinary and included visual arts and literature, particularly that which deals with slavery in the nineteenth century but also post-colonial writing that was inspired by the painting, such as Dabydeen's poem "Turner".

In this fellowship programme there was also a guest lecture by Dr. John Kear, University of Kent, U.K. who provided the participants with a contemporary perspective on conceptual art juxtaposed with language. He discussed the work of a group called "Art and Language" and with slides demonstrated how their installation 'Portraits and a Dream', involved a series of interrelated works, including written texts pasted on the gallery walls and another set of the same printed writings cut up and re-fashioned into paper-chains.

Dr. Turci's Fellowship lectures and Dr. Kear's guest lecture at the ICSC enabled University of Mumbai students to interact with academics from Italy and the U.K. and extended the concept of Indo Canadian Studies in not just the diasporic context but also took it to an interdisciplinary level where art and literary texts interacted with one another in a postmodern sense.



**Figure 1: Dr. Monica Turci, University of Bologna, in the ICSC room with participants of the ICSC's Fellowship Programme, University of Mumbai**



**Figure 2: Dr. Monica Turci, with some of the participants of the ICSC Fellowship Programme**