

Diagnosing deviance on the silver screen
Exploring representations of schizophrenia in Indian cinema

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Abstract

The sociology of deviance has historically explored crime, sexual assertiveness and 'madness' as practices that deviate from a norm(al), and methods and institutions of control thereof. This dissertation focuses on the discourse surrounding mental illness, and how cinema reworks this, leading to a re-interpretation of conceptions of the self and the Other. Concentrating on the exploration of schizophrenia in two Indian films, Aparna Sen's *15 Park Avenue* (2005) and Vijay Lalwani's *Karthik Calling Karthik* (2010), I consider how social situations and discursive regimes are portrayed. Currently, there exists hardly any research of this nature, and I hope that this dissertation will establish the need for it and prove to be a stepping stone for further such endeavours.

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