

economic entrepreneurship. Yet to conclude that the Internet will only reinforce existing practices is to take an unnecessarily static view of both polities and economies. Insofar as costs of Internet use continue to fall, the speed of take up will accelerate, as has already been very noticeable in a country such as Malaysia. In countries as populous as China and India and Indonesia, or even medium-size (*sic*) countries such as Thailand and the Philippines, even a minority of the population represents tens of millions of people. The Internet's rate of diffusion is now such that an increasing proportion of Asians are indirectly if not directly part of an Internet network, having a friend or family member who goes on line and can thereby pass along information through face-to-face discussions. A chapter taking account of the displacement effects on global (that is, transcontinental) developments would have made a good last chapter to this volume or a good first chapter to any successor volume.

RICHARD ROSE

*Centre for the Study of Public Policy, University of Aberdeen*

### **Indian Popular Cinema—A Narrative of Cultural Change**

K. MOTI GOKULSING & WIMAL DISSANYAKE

Trent: Trentham Books, 2004

161 pp., ISBN: 1858563291

### **Soft-Soaping India: The World of Indian Televised Soap Operas**

K. MOTI GOKULSING

Trent: Trentham Books, 2004

133 pp., ISBN: 1858563216

### **Tales of Transitions: The Dialectics of Change in Indian Film and Television**

After years of academic neglect in the West, the past 10 years have witnessed the emergence of a growing range of books and journal articles that focus on cinema and television produced in the world's largest democracy (e.g. Agrawal, 1998; Gokulsing & Dissanayake, 1998; Mishra, 2002; Nandy, 1998; Prasad, 1998; Raheja & Kothari, 2004; Rajadhyaksha & Willemen, 1999). By all accounts, India produces far more feature films than any other country, yet this vast and variegated output has been often discounted and trivialized—or ignored altogether—by film scholars in the West. Thankfully that is changing, and two new books in the field provide a rich and well-researched view into the complexity and importance of Indian media studies for students and scholars. K. Moti Gokulsing and Wimal Dissanayake's *Indian popular cinema: A narrative of popular change* is a recent revision of their groundbreaking 1998 text, while *Soft-soaping India: The world of Indian televised soap operas* is Gokulsing's newest contribution to the field. Both texts are highly readable and leave

- Schaefer, D. (1999a). Communicating in cyberspace: Internet users and a Canadian publication ban. In M. Prosser & K. Sitaram (Eds.), *Civic discourse: Intercultural, international, and global media* (pp. 61–73). Stamford, CN: Ablex.
- Schaefer, D. (1999b). Adult critical viewing skills in a global media environment: Implications for the information age. In M. Prosser & K. Sitaram (Eds.), *Civic discourse: Intercultural, international, and global media* (pp. 169–184). Stamford, CN: Ablex.

DAVID J. SCHAEFER  
*Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore*  
*and Franciscan University of Steubenville, USA*