



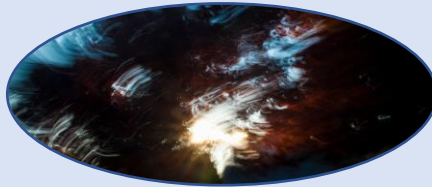
University of
Zurich^{UZH}

ISEK – Institut für Sozialanthropologie und Empirische Kulturwissenschaft

South Asia Forum

Lecture Series Spring Semester 2022

Everyone is cordially
invited to participate!



ISEK University of Zurich
Andreasstrasse 15

3rd of June 2022

Vindhya Buthpitiya (University of St. Andrews)

Timothy P.A. Cooper (University of Cambridge)

Film screening followed by discussion with film makers, *Scratches on Celluloid* (Directed by Timothy P.A. Cooper, Vindhya Buthpitiya. Produced by Abeera Arif-Bashir)

ISEK, Andreastrasse 15, Room 5.03, 2-4pm.

Summary: In the rapidly changing urban landscapes of Jaffna and Lahore, the social and public space of cinema halls are recognisable for their longevity and resilience amid insurgency, war, and infrastructural breakdown. *Scratches on Celluloid* explores such urban cinemas as symbols of state enforced amnesia and collective attempts to remember.

Between 1983 and 2009, Sri Lanka endured a protracted armed conflict. In Jaffna, the largest city in the Tamil-majority North, cinemas became places of political significance. Government embargoes forced larger spaces to close, making way for “mini theatres”, providing cinemagoers escape from war and the social segregations of caste and class. In Pakistan, film and cinema-going have been the subject of fierce debate. Ever since the closure of the last domestic celluloid processing lab, Punjabi films have struggled to switch to digital technologies. The remaining repertoire of celluloid films circulate between the three remaining analogue cinemas in Lahore.

Conducted through extensive ethnographic research in Jaffna and Lahore the film seeks to contribute to an understanding of how belonging and exclusion are forged in the built heritage of urban cinemas.