

**"NEW MEDIA CONFIGURATIONS - CHANGING SOCIETIES? CURRENT RESEARCH
PERSPECTIVES ON SOUTH ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA"**

Poster Session

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"Representation of Kashmiri identities in digital films"

Abstract

The Kashmir-conflict is a foundational crisis of the Indian nation-state that touches some of the central tropes of Nehruvian nationalism: 'unity in diversity', 'secularism' and 'national integrity'. Today, the province is one of the most densely militarized zones worldwide with an infrastructure of bunkers located in the highly populated city centers of the valley, where stone pelting and the responding curfews (and many forms of censorship) are daily occurrences enfolding the valley in a state of immobilizing fear, rumors, and a sense of helplessness. Now, the agents of political change seem to be a networking generation of young women and men, born after the prime time of terrorist militancy from 1989-93, who are producing and circulating Kashmiri voices through various mediascapes. The thesis focuses on the articulations of Kashmiri subjectivities in digital film productions after the year 2001 through a transnational lens. It will engage questions concerning the global politics of film-form and film-address in a continuous dialogue with the filmmakers, the films, and their audiences. The heterogenous corpus of films suggests the detailed analysis of specific films, their aesthetics, production and reception, against the background of global shifts in media practices, film genres and styles. Inquiring into the complexities and intersections of film production and the filmic textures, the thesis will draw on the concepts of mobilities, as developed in transnational film theory (Shohat, Naficy, Ezra) and in the conceptual work of Gilles Deleuze.