

Dept. of Humanities
and Social Sciences

lecture

In the last fifteen years, access to inexpensive smartphone technologies have revolutionized how people come to see and represent themselves in the worlds they inhabit. In this talk Dattatreyan draws from his long term research on the use of smartphones as a creative tool for shared expression amongst young people in urban India. Utilizing clips from a film he made on TikTok and Instagram Reel production in viral hotspots around the city, he discusses the emergence of what he calls still/moving images. Still/moving images is the audio-visual product of a contemporary sensibility towards short video production made possible by new technologies that blurs the distinction between photography, videography, and choreography to express various explicitly categorized affects. This aesthetic is shaped by the affordances and limits of social media platforms, but also by the desire to collectively express one's classed masculinities for social media fame in ways that link collective performances of gender to particular spaces and repertoires of capitalist modernity. Dattatreyan shows how these audio-visual projects push us to reconsider approaches to doing visual and media anthropology.

Still/Moving Images— Performances of Masculinity in Delhi's Hotspots

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22. **5pm at**
01. **L2**
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