

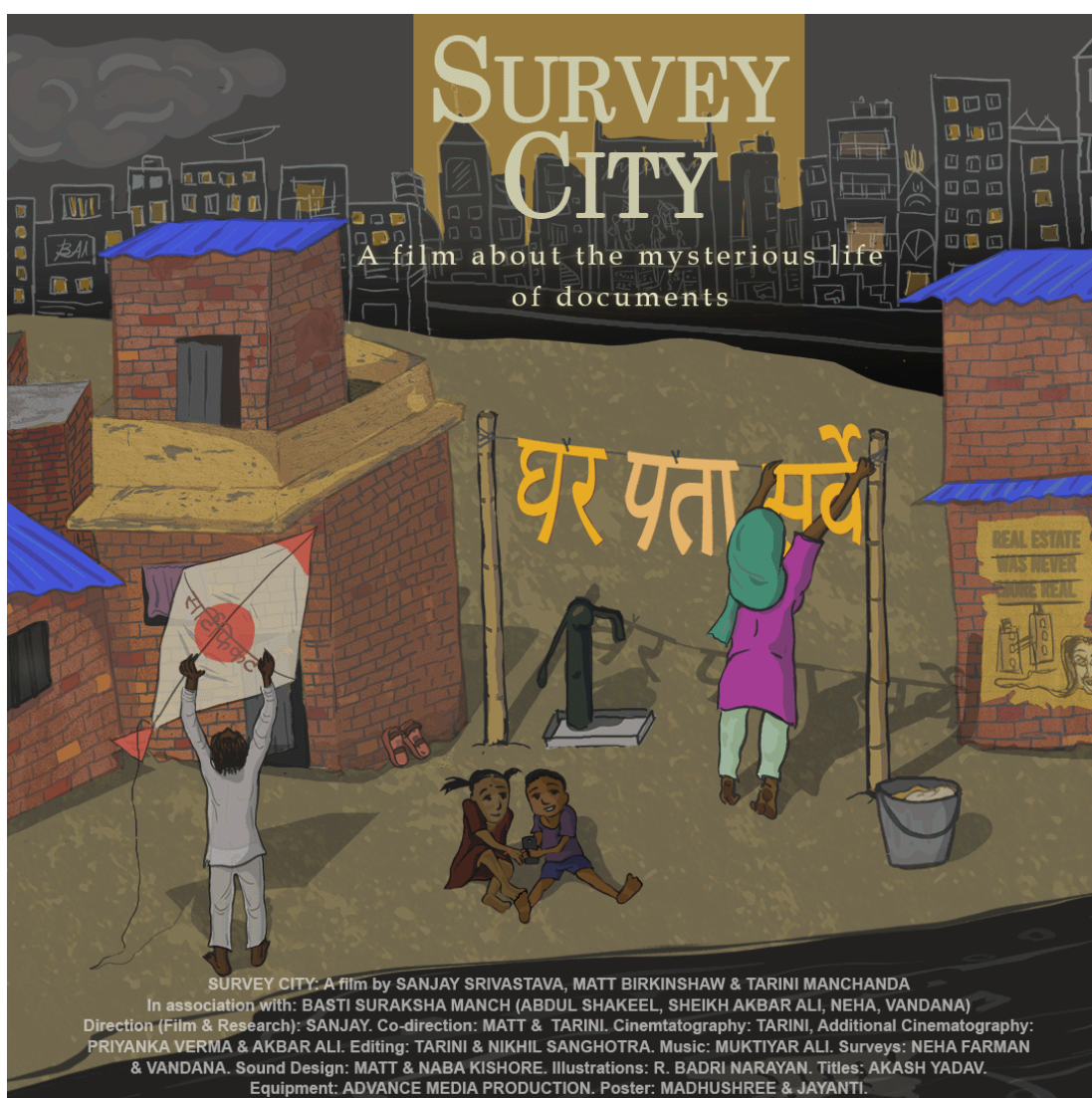
CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
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Survey City

A film about the mysterious life of documents
Film screening and discussion - Prof. Dr. Sanjay Srivastava



Ayesha and her family live in a Delhi basti (informal settlement). She wants nothing more than to have security of tenure of her tiny house at the precarious edges of Delhi. There are always rumours of demolition as the land is classified as 'illegally occupied'. Ayesha and her neighbours – who mostly collect materials for recycling – are always trying to work out ways of becoming permanent residents of a city in which they were born and have lived.

This film explores the fear, anxieties, hope, and confusion that surround the urban poor's efforts to be good citizens and listen the state as it promises a better life through surveys and documentation. It also explores the frequently inexplicable nature of the state and its processes as it deals with those at the precarious edges of the city. The film focuses on the discovery of a set of survey-related document intended to provided security of tenure but was declared 'lost'.

Sanjay Srivastava is an anthropologist and British Academy Global Professor (SOAS, University of London). His research is primarily focused on South Asia and spans across themes of urbanism and urban cultures, consumer cultures, the new-middle classes, masculinities, and new cultures of work. An interest in ethnographic film has led to collaborations with film-maker David MacDougall on 'The Doon School Chronicles' and 'Kotla Walks. Performing Locality' with Simon Wilmot.



Screening: Wednesday, 12.06.2024: HCTS room 400.02.12 – 17:00-19:00
After the screening, a discussion will be held with the scholar and filmmaker.