



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Nagaland University

is pleased to invite you to an

ONLINE FILM SCREENING

SURVEY CITY

A film about the mysterious life
of documents

OUR SPEAKERS

Short Bio of the Film: **SURVEY CITY**

India's capital, Delhi, is a highly unequal city. For basti residents, such as Ayesha, tenure security and access to legal title to land depends on inclusion in multiple government surveys that promise these. However, though documents produced through surveys promise clarity and certainty to the urban poor, they are simultaneously part of confusing processes that are unclear to both those who are being documented and doing the documentation.

This film explores the human elements – fear, anxieties, hope, 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 that was intended to provided security of tenure but was declared 'lost'. Between the lost document and their eventual discovery in a government office, lies the story of a locality, its people and mysterious relationships between government records and citizens. This is the story of Delhi's Border basti.



PROF. SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

British Academy Global Professor,
Dept. of Anthropology, SOAS
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TARINI MANCHANDA
Filmmaker & Researcher

TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2024 @3PM

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/vra-dttr-eio