

2024年度 宇都宮大学多文化公共圏フォーラム第23回
2024 23rd Utsunomiya University CMPS Forum



Finding their niche

Unheard stories of migrant women

A film by Megha Wadhwa

Event highlights:

- **Documentary screening:** We will watch the shortened version of the documentary.
- **Lecture & discussion:** Dr. Megha Wadhwa will provide insights, followed by an open discussion.

Friday, November 29, 2024

10:20-11:50

5B21

Free and open to the public.

映画上映（日本語字幕あり）と、Megha Wadhwa氏による
公開講義、ディスカッション（英語のみ）
日時：2024年11月29日（金）10:20から11:50
場所：峰キャンパス5B21教室（無料・事前申し込み不要）

Project support by Filmmaking for Fieldwork. Funded by German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.
Supported by Free University of Berlin and Sophia University Tokyo

問い合わせ先： 宇都宮大学国際学部附属多文化公共圏センター
（CMPS）
028-649-5228（Mon-Fri, 10:00~16:00）
<https://cmeps.utsunomiya-u.ac.jp/>

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Film Screening

FINDING THEIR NICHE

UNHEARD STORIES OF MIGRANT WOMEN

A FILM BY MEGHA WADHWA



This film documents the lives of two Indian women migrants who moved to Japan more than a decade ago, as a case study of the 'trailing spouses' concept in migration.

Jyoti, 41 and Mandeep, 39, grew up in the state of Punjab, northern India, in middle-class households. They received a good education and had promising careers in India. Then, in their early 20s, they each agreed to marry men living in Japan by arrangement.

The women were excited to move to a foreign country and to be with their husbands but they had no prior knowledge of Japan. Having witnessed at a distance the lives of their relatives settled in the US, UK and Canada, they had similar expectations for their own future lives in Japan. But the reality was to prove different from the expectation.

In place of comfort, luxury, love, and fun, loneliness and fear took over. Through personal narratives told by the women, we examine past, present and future expectations and see how these affect their roles as Indian women, wives, mothers and workers in a foreign country, as well as the challenges they faced in 'Finding their Niche'.

Filmed, directed and edited by Megha Wadhwa

Editorial advice: Andy Lawrence

Project Support: Filmmaking for Fieldwork

Re-recording Mixing: Francois Yazbeck

Color Correction: Nour Yazbeck

Subtitles: Megha Wadhwa, Ben Stubbings

*The film is a part of project 'Qualification and skill in the migration process of foreign workers in Asia' (QuaMaFA) and funded by Ministry of Education and Research, Germany (BMBF)

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/743482060>

Director's Biography – Dr. Megha Wadhwa is a migration researcher and Japanese and Indian studies Scholar. She is a Research Associate at Free University of Berlin, Adjunct Assistant Professor at Temple University Japan and a visiting fellow at Sophia University, Tokyo, which is also her alma mater. Originally from New Delhi and she was a resident of Tokyo for about 15 years before she moved to Berlin in 2021. She is the author of the book 'Indian Migrants in Tokyo: A Study of Socio-Cultural, Religious and Working Worlds' (Routledge:2021). She has also written several articles on the Indian community in Japan and other topics for The Japan Times and journals. She is also trained in fieldwork filming and her films include "Daughters from Afghanistan" (2019), "Indian cooks in Japan" (2020) and "Finding their niche: Unheard stories of migrant women" (2022). Currently she is working on 'Indian Professionals in Japan and Singapore: Migration Trends, Labor Market Integration and Challenges' and is a part of the research project – 'Qualifications and Skill in the Migration Process of Foreign Workers in Asia, supported by Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany (BMBF).

