

Research project and supervisory team

Supervisory Team	Dr. Mary J. Ainslie and Dr. Mercedes Vázquez
Short introduction & description of research project	This research will critically engage with the theme of urban isolation in contemporary Asian cinema, offering an in-depth analysis of how filmmakers represent and address one of the most pressing challenges of modern urban life. Through its interdisciplinary approach, it will deepen our understanding of how urban isolation is not just an individual experience but a complex societal issue with far-reaching implications. The phenomenon of urban isolation is an increasingly prominent theme in contemporary global cities. With the rise of densely populated megacities in Asia, the challenge of individuals feeling alienated or disconnected amidst urban growth has become a significant sociocultural issue. The subject of urban isolation, as reflected in the daily lives of individuals living in these metropolises, offers an important lens through which to understand the complexities of modern urban life in Asia. This research will explore how urban isolation is represented and addressed in contemporary Asian cinema, focusing on key films and aiming to uncover how filmmakers portray alienation in densely populated, fast-paced environments. This will involve identifying common cinematic tropes, themes, and narrative strategies used to depict alienation, loneliness, and social disconnection in urban environments across different Asian countries. The secondary aim is to explore how such representations are reflective of broader socio-cultural shifts in these societies, as well as how they can potentially contribute to societal awareness or intervention strategies regarding urban isolation.
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