

**PROF. DR. ANANYA JAHANARA KABIR, FBA (KING'S COLLEGE):**

# TRANSOCEANIC BELONGING:

ACTIVATING MEMORIES OF PORTUGUESE PRESENCE IN GOA

6 June 2024 | 6-8pm  
Cas 1.801 (Renate von Metzler-Saal)



This lecture will explore how the memory of Portuguese presence in Goa has been recollected by authors of Goan heritage representing different generations – e.g. Lambert Mascarenhas' 'Sorrowing lies my Land' (1955), Maria Aurora Couto's 'Goa: A Daughter's Story' (2004), and Suneeta Peres da Costa's 'Saudade' (2019). I will read these literary texts within the memory work being undertaken in the post-Pandemic moment by a range of entrepreneurs within Goa's creative economy as well as an increasing body of artists returning to the rich musical legacy of the Portuguese empire. From Nehru's India, when Goa got absorbed into the Indian Union, to the early years of Hindutva ascendancy, and now to Modi's India, turning to the history connecting Portugal to India represent conscious acts of memorialisation by these diverse cultural actors. Their literary, embodied, and performed interventions activate memories of transoceanic belonging whose postcolonial significance I draw out through theories of interimperiality, archipelagicity, and creolisation.

Ananya Jahanara Kabir is Professor of English Literature at King's College London. She researches the intersection of the written text with other forms of cultural expression within acts of collective memorialization and forgetting. She is currently writing 'Alegropolitics: Connecting on the Afrmodern Dance Floor.' Her new research projects explore further the concepts of transoceanic creolization through cultural production across the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds.



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