

## Dr Sonali Joshi

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curatorial projects | distribution | subtitles, translation & audio-description | writing

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### Profile

I am a moving image curator, writer and subtitler working across the film exhibition, distribution, production and access sectors. My curatorial work and writing is largely focused on Asian cinema and artists' moving image. I am currently working on a 3-year Japan focused curatorial project entitled "Urban, Natural, Human", looking at representations of architecture and landscape in Japanese cinema and moving image.

As a subtitler and translator, I have specialised in providing access services for exhibition and distribution, having worked across the sectors in tandem throughout my career. As a cultural practitioner, I have actively drawn from my time spent working in Paris, Copenhagen and Tokyo, as well as in the UK, bringing cross-cultural approaches into my professional practice. I have drawn together the different strands of my work through a commitment to championing accessibility, diversity and inclusivity in moving image culture and the arts more broadly.

Following completion of my MA degree in Media & Communications at Goldsmiths, University of London, I began working in film programming and marketing at Cornerhouse (now HOME) whilst studying for my PhD in Cinema Studies. I went on to work in film distribution in Paris in acquisitions and marketing, before returning to London to head the foreign-language subtitling department of a post-production company.

In 2006, I founded Day for Night, with the core aim of seeking to offer broader access to high-quality independent cinema from around the world and particularly under-represented and under-acknowledged areas of cinema, in response to a changing landscape of film exhibition and distribution. I am also the Founder and Artistic Director of Aperture: Asia & Pacific Film Festival, the only specialist UK festival covering the whole of the Asia.

I am currently producing a feature film, which is in development and was selected for the Open Doors Hub at Locarno Film Festival 2018. I also produced a short film by the same director, which had its World Premiere in the Open Doors section of the festival the same year.

My industry practice covers:

Curatorial and research interests:

- \* Asian Cinema: Himalayan, Japanese, regional Indian and Southeast Asian cinemas
- \* Architecture and Cinema
- \* Screen Translation and the moving image
- \* Cultural Activism

Exhibition & Distribution:

- \* Curatorial design and production: film festivals, touring programmes
- \* Independent film distribution – specialist / alternative models of distribution
- \* Consultancy: festival strategies, audiences, accessibility and diversity

Access & Screen Translation:

- \* Subtitles: French>English, English subtitles for the d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing, managing multi-language projects, technical and linguistic advice for +45 languages
  - \* Audio Description: managing English and foreign language audio-description projects (script/voice/record)
  - \* Script Creation
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## Education

2004 PhD Cinema Studies, University of Glasgow – Thesis: “Jean-Pierre Léaud: Star of French Cinema”

1997 MA Media & Communications, Goldsmiths College, University of London

1996 LLB (Hons) Law & French, Manchester Metropolitan University

1995 Certificat d’Études Politiques, Institut d’Études Politiques, University of Bordeaux IV

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## Professional Experience

2006-date Freelance Moving Image Curator, Writer, Subtitler

Founder & Director, Day for Night, [www.day-for-night.org](http://www.day-for-night.org)

### *Curatorial projects and film festival programming:*

- Urban, Natural & Human – architecture and landscape in Japanese moving image: currently in advanced research phase [2021-2022, UK/Japan]
- Founder & Artistic Director, Aperture: Asia & Pacific Film Festival, UK: the UK’s only film festival focusing on the whole of Asia, and exploring Oceania, launched in 2018 in partnership with CREAM, University of Westminster and supported by the Arts Council of England and Purin Pictures [2018-date]
- Masala Festival, Newcastle: Film Curator [2018-date]
- India at 70, UK-wide: BFI supported touring film programme marking 70 years since Indian independence and Partition [2017]
- Thai Indie Fest, London: film season of debut features by emerging Thai directors [2015]
- South East Asian Arts Fest, London: Short Film Curator [2014]
- Beyond the Mango Film Festival, Bradford: Film Programming [2013]
- Dharamsala International Film Festival, India: Festival Consultant [2012-date]
- Nordic Film Festival / Nordic-Baltic Film Festival, UK: Founder & Artistic Director [2011-2017]
- Pan-Asia Film Festival, Asia House, London: Artistic Director [2010-2012]
- The Third Pole - Water Narratives from the Roof of the World, UK/Copenhagen: film season and photography exhibition on climate change in the Himalayas and downstream nations in Asia [2010]
- South Asian Minority Arts Festival, Newcastle: Film Programmer [2009]
- Through an Exile Lens, UK/Copenhagen/Vienna/Seoul/Taipei – film season exploring the refugee experience of Tibetans in India and beyond [2008-2010]
- Northern Lights Film Festival, Newcastle: Programmer - Nordic & Baltic section [2008]

### *Film distribution/acquisitions – titles include:*

*Thursday Till Sunday* (Dominga Sotomayor, Chile 2012), *Court* (Chaitanya Tamhane, India 2013), *Hotori no Sakuko* (Koji Fukada, Japan 2014), *By the Time it Gets Dark* (Anocha Suwichakornpong, Thailand 2016), *Ascent* (Fiona Tan, Japan/Netherlands 2016), *Nervous Translation* (Shireen Seno, Philippines 2018), *Too Late to Die Young* (Dominga Sotomayor, Chile 2018), *Balloon* (Pema Tseden, China 2019)

### *Film festival jury participation:*

- Leeds International Film Festival 2018: International Shorts Jury
- Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival 2018: Berwick New Cinema Award Jury
- International Film Festival Rotterdam 2018: NETPAC Jury
- Five Flavours Film Festival [Warsaw] 2017: NETPAC Jury

*Subtitling, audio-description, translation:* in +50 languages for film festivals, exhibitors, distributors, filmmakers, producers, galleries and museums including:

Arrow Films, British Council, Cornerhouse (Manchester), Dartmouth Films, Dogwoof, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Filmhouse (Edinburgh), Fukuoka Focus on Asia Film Festival, ICA, Illuminations Media, London Short Film Festival, Modern Films, MUBI, Munro Films, Opera Vision, Pearson, Raven Row, Royal Opera House, Science Museum, Second Run DVD, Tate

2013-date Visiting Lecturer - various MA Film Curating, Marketing and Distribution programmes:  
Birkbeck, University of London; Birmingham City University; London Film School; National Film & TV School;  
Oxford Brookes University; University of Reading

2001-2005 Head of Translation - Subtitling, International Broadcast Facilities, London  
- senior level operations, supervising and training subtitlers and translators, subtitling

2000-2001 Film Marketing & Publicity: Idéale Audience, Les Films du Paradoxe, Film Office [Hachette  
Filipacchi], Paris

1999-2000 Film Studies Tutor, Manchester Metropolitan University

1998-2000 Film Reviewer, Flux Magazine, Manchester

1998-2000 Cinemas Publicity, Cornerhouse, Manchester  
- coordinating publicity, programming film seasons, project management, editing programme notes

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### Voluntary Work

2020-date Founder / Director of Policy & Communications, ExcludedUK ([www.excludeduk.org](http://www.excludeduk.org))  
One of four Founder-Directors of a grassroots NGO (registered as a CIC) working to bring about an end to the injustices caused by the exclusions in UK Government Covid-19 support schemes for the 3 million UK taxpayers affected. In my role in charge of all policy and communications related matters, I have led and been invited as a guest speaker at various events including:

- WFTV webinar: “Forgotten Freelancers – What Next?” panellist [Oct 2020]
- MP Q&A series and group surgeries: Moderator [Jul-date 2020]
- All-Party Parliamentary Group Inaugural Meeting: Introductory speech to 152 MPs at the largest ever inaugural meeting of an APPG, plus further speeches at subsequent meetings [Jul-Aug 2020]
- Bectu webinar: “Excluded, but not Forgotten” panellist [Jul 2020]
- Association of Independent Professionals and the Self-Employed (IPSE) webinar: “Covid Webinar” guest speaker [Jul 2020]

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### Publications

- “Enhancing Access and Diversity in Film Exhibition Through Subtitles & Audio-description”, ICO Blog [forthcoming]
  - “Jean Eustache – *un cinéaste maudit*” & “François Truffaut – like trains in the night” in “*Portraits de cinéastes*”, Phaeton Publishing [forthcoming]
  - “Where to start with Kiyoshi Kurosawa”, BFI [Sep 2020]
  - “In the Film Industry and Excluded”, Bectu Blog [Sep 2020]
  - “On Space, Temporality and Memory: architectural representations in contemporary Asian cinema”, Asian Film Archive [Aug 2020]
  - “Cultural Activism and Covid-19: ExcludedUK and the film industry”, ICO Blog [Aug 2020]
  - “The Best Japanese Film of every year from 1925 to now” (various contributions), BFI [May 2020]
  - “My Top 5 Japanese Films of All Time”, PEN Magazine (Japan) [May 2019]
  - “The Rise of Marathi Cinema – paving the way for a new Indian cinema”, European Marathi Sammelan magazine [Jun 2018]
  - “Jean-Pierre Léaud - *l'enfant terrible* and darling of the French New Wave” in “French Cinema in Close-up - *La Vie d'un acteur pour moi*”, Phaeton Publishing [May 2015]
  - “Indie Cred - a second Thai New Wave”, Sawasdee Magazine [Jul 2014]
  - “Tibet’s Rebel Poets - Creativity in Exile”, Exiled Ink [Spring/Summer 2009]
  - “Nordic and Baltic Cinema Comes to the North East”, Flyaway (Denmark) [Dec 2007]
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## Conference Papers, Lectures, Talks and Q&As

- Q&A moderator: *Made in Bangladesh*, Take One Action Film Festival, UK [Sep 2020]
  - Symposium Organiser: Asia Through the Aperture #3 / "Experimental Filmmaking and Collectives in Southeast Asia", Birkbeck, University of London [Sep 2019]
  - Symposium Organiser & Speaker: Asia Through the Aperture #2 / "Approaches to Curating", Birkbeck, University of London [Jun 2019]
  - Lecture: "Film Exhibition & Subtitles: audience reception, accessibility & diversity", University College London [Mar 2019]
  - Introduction: *This Charming Girl*, London Korean Film Festival [Nov 2018]
  - Symposium organiser & Keynote lecture: Asia Through the Aperture #1 workshop / "Curating Asia", University of Westminster, London [Sep 2018]
  - Panellist: Short film programmes "Awake" & "Changes", Masala Festival, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Newcastle [Jul 2018/Jul 2017]
  - Introduction: *In the Mood for Love*, Lexi Film School, London [May 2018]
  - Panellist: Indie Film Distribution Summit, London [Nov 2017]
  - Panellist: *Tharlo* post-screening, Chinese Visual Festival [May 2016]
  - Employability Seminar on Subtitling, Roehampton University [May 2016/May 2010]
  - Employability Seminar: Case Study – Nordic Film Festival, "A Creative Enlightenment", Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities [Dec 2015]
  - Panellist: The Bridge Briefing: Culture, Language & Architecture, Nordicana, London [Jun 2015]
  - Introduction: Roy Andersson: Shorts & Commercials, Flatpack Film Festival, Birmingham [Mar 2015]
  - Workshop on Subtitling, University of Essex [Mar 2015/Mar 2014]
  - Symposium speaker: Migrating Texts: Subtitling, Translation, Adaptation, University of London [Oct 2014]
  - Moderating/interpreting Q&A with Claude Lelouch, Ciné Lumière, London [Jun 2014]
  - "Translation Nation" video presentation on subtitling, Eastside Educational Trust, London [Apr 2014]
  - Paper: "From Paris to Taipei: echoes of the *Nouvelle Vague* fragile male in East Asian cinema", conference in honour of Professor Keith Reader, University of London [Jun 2012]
  - Paper: "Asian Cinema in the UK", Chinese Film Forum, Cornerhouse, Manchester [Mar 2012]
  - Paper: "Exhibition and Distribution of Foreign Language Cinema in the UK", New Forms of Cinema Exhibition conference, University of East Anglia [Nov 2011]
  - Paper: "Screen Translation in a Changing Landscape of Film Exhibition and Distribution", Media4All conference, University of London [Jun 2011]
  - Workshop on Subtitling, University of Glasgow [Jun 2011]
  - Employability Seminar: "Making an Impact with your PhD", University of Glasgow [Jun 2011]
  - Conference organiser and Paper: Re-Imagining Tibet / "Youth, Nation and Identity: Towards a Construction of a Tibetan 'National' Cinema", SOAS, University of London [Dec 2009]
  - Conference organiser: Re-Imagining Tibet, SOAS, University of London [Dec 2009/Jul 2008]
  - Introduction: *Les 400 Coups*, Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle [May 2009]
  - Q&A moderator: for regular Day for Night post-screening events [2008-date]
  - Lecture: The Challenges of Translating for the Screen, University of Newcastle [Dec 2007]
  - Paper: "In Other Words: the role of subtitles in film exhibition and distribution", Anglo-French Cinematic Relations conference, University of Southampton [Sep 2007]
  - Paper: "Utopia & Dystopia in the Films of Jean Eustache", Australian Society for French Studies / University of Otago, New Zealand [Jul 2006]
  - Paper: "Jean-Pierre Léaud: Star du cinéma français" - Institut national de l'audiovisuel, Paris [May 2006]
  - "Folle Embellie - stardom and popular cinema", Issues in Popular Contemporary French Cinema conference, Manchester [Jan 2006]
  - Paper: "Jean-Pierre Léaud: Genre & Stardom", Studies in French Cinema conference, London [Mar 2005]
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