



Invitation

Thursday, April 14th, 2016, 5 pm

Indian Ocean Memories and African Migrants

Documentary by **Dr. Shihan de Silva**
Film Screening and Discussion

Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

The film *Indian Ocean Memories and African Migrants* directed by Dr. Shihan de Silva explores the cultural memories of the largest Afro-Sri Lankan community. Dances and songs (in creolised Portuguese, a language of trade and commerce for 350 years in Sri Lanka) connect the Afro-Sri Lankans to Africa, their erstwhile homeland. The vast majority of Afro-Asians were pushed to the margins by colonialism and by the loss of patronage. Traditional dances and songs enable Afro-Sri Lankans to carve out a niche in the cultural arena of their host land. Fading memories of slavery and the slave trade can still be discerned in the narratives of their oral literature. The documentary was screened at the School of Oriental & African Studies and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (University of London), the University of Vienna, the High Commission for Mozambique (London), the Universities of Kobe and Kansai (Japan), the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain), the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) and the University of Colombo (Sri Lanka).

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
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und Forschung

Dr. Shihan de Silva is a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study (University of London). She has a BSc (Econ) and MSc (Finance) from the University of London and a PhD (Linguistics) from the University of Westminster. Her works include numerous peer-reviewed articles in international journals, monographs and ethnographic films in the fields of Historical Linguistics, Ethnomusicology, Portuguese Studies, Diaspora Studies and Literature.

