

The House on Gulmohar Avenue

A Documentary by Samina Mishra

Family & Roots

“Why is it so important to give roots to children?”
“You need to belong and you get security from that.”¹

In the movie a generational difference of roots is portrayed, influenced also by historical incidents and choices made for children. It is discussed how each parent(s) have different priorities regarding what of their own identity they want to give to their children. Mishra tells her family's history starting from 1935, when her great-grandfather settled first in Okhla, South East Delhi, up to showing her own son and how he is raised. The impact of historical events, like the Partition in 1947, the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 or the Gujarat riots in 2002 influenced the family history and narrations.



Still from "The House on Gulmohar Avenue" 00:22:28 min.



Still from "The House on Gulmohar Avenue", 00:14:02 min.



Still from "The House on Gulmohar Avenue", 00:14:13 min.



Still from "The House on Gulmohar Avenue", 00:17:24 min.

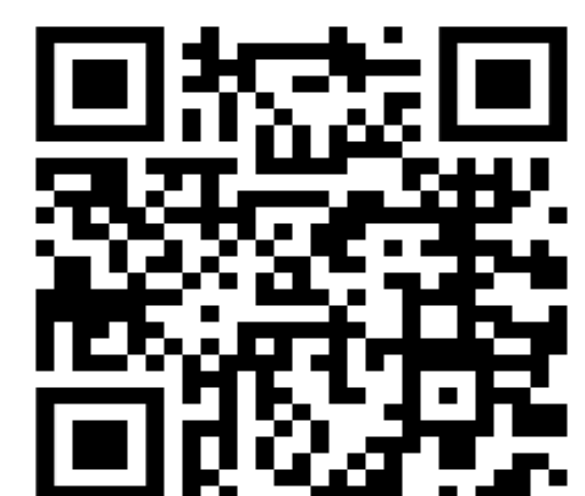


Still from "The House on Gulmohar Avenue", 00:21:21 min. Samina Mishra herself.

Home & Belonging

In the film it is discussed that belonging is built through location, religion, community and family history. Related cultural background and people in the vicinity influence the sense of home and belonging. The connection between the domestic and the nation form a sense of home and belonging.

Scan to watch the full movie:



(Search for) Identity

Who constructs it? The individual for itself or the dominant forces in society (state / institution/ hegemonial discourse)?

The film gives examples of how different identities can be blended, with a focus on living as a Muslim in India. Stereotypes are problematized, as well as the everyday struggles Muslims face as a minority due to increasing anti-Muslim hatred in society. Five generations of Mishra's Hindu-Muslim

Family are portrayed and how they dealt with it. Other people from the Okhla district were interviewed to share not only the story of a family, but also one of the neighbourhood.



Still from "The House on Gulmohar Avenue", 00:10:50 min.

¹ Mishra, Samina: The House on Gulmohar Avenue. Documentary. 00:30:30 min. PSBT India, 2005, here: 00:07:08-00:07:12 min.