CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT SEIT 1386

The Medical Anthropology Forum presents

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Craving to Be Heard But Not Seen : Chatbots, Care and the Encoded Mental Health Universalism

With psychologial infrastructure scarce and demand for services accelerating due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the search for technical fixes to the mental health and wellbeing crisis through the use of artificial intelligence (AI) has enticed engineers and psychologists to experiment with inexpensive technological innovations. The app Wysa is one example of how globalized mental health and wellbeing discourses are migrating into the digital sphere. This Indian-developed app responds to and articulates the hopes and hypes of mental health digitization disseminated by proponents of global health and business alike. Global mental health actors celebrate mental health apps such as Wysa as a scalable and low-cost solution to the presumed mental health treatment gap. In this lecture, I investigate the aesthetics of the digital therapeutic encounter, the assumptions about the psyche that designers encode into their apps, and the techno-optimism of the designers themselves.

Tuesday, June 29 **17:15–18:45** (CET)

All are cordially invited!

Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/j/92030763034?pwd=R1lZY2diRXoxUjZkeFBvUTFQWThOdz09
Meeting ID: 920 3076 3034
Passcode: 574379