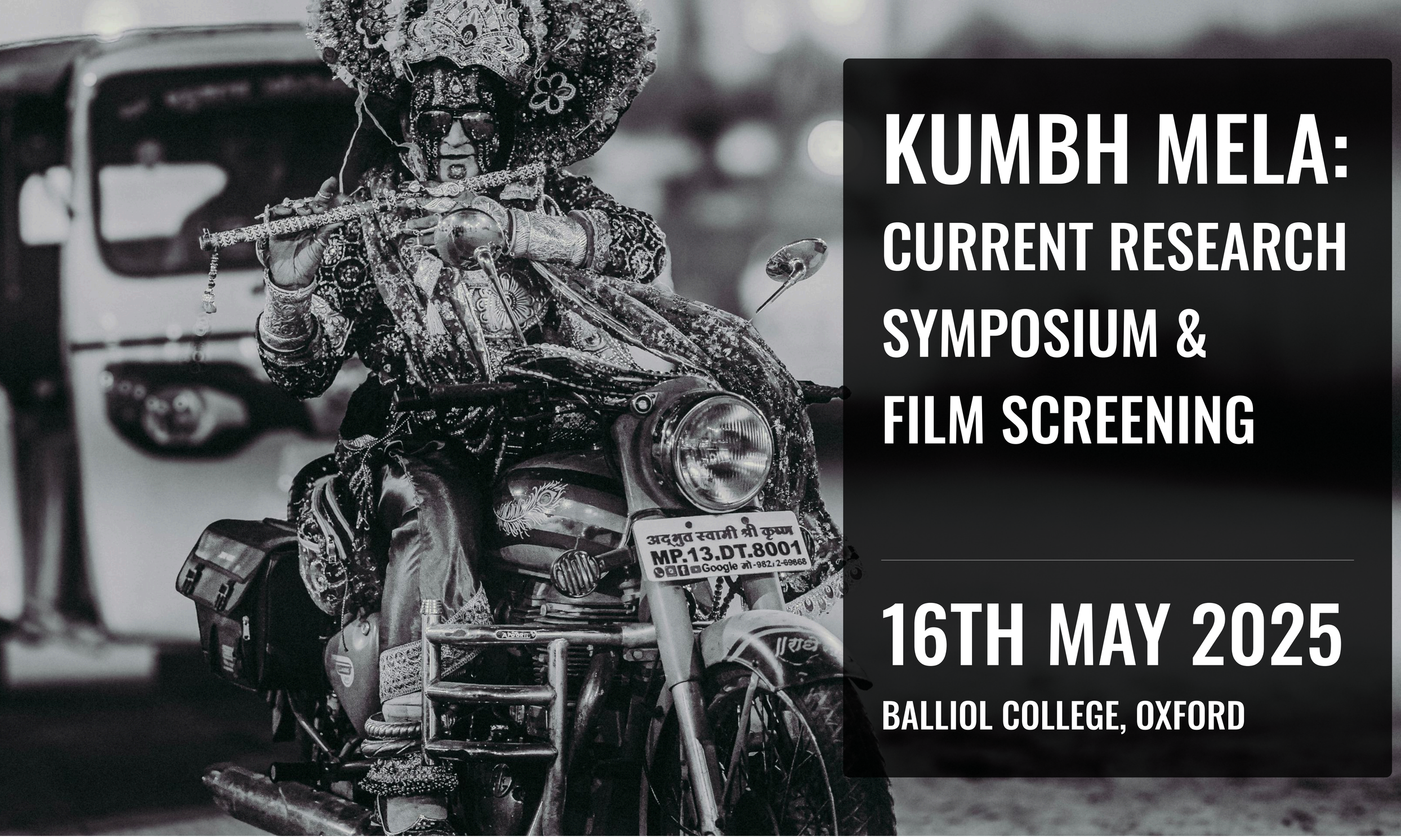


KUMBH MELA: CURRENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM & FILM SCREENING

16TH MAY 2025

BALLIOL COLLEGE, OXFORD

MASTER'S DINING ROOM

2 – 2:30 — JIM MALLINSON (BALLIOL, OXFORD)

THE KUMBH MELA PAST AND PRESENT: A LIVING ARCHIVE

2.30 – 3 — HIMANSHU SHUKLA (JNU, DELHI)

THE POLITICS OF HINDU NATIONALISM IN THE MAHA KUMBH MELA

3 – 3:30 — SONDRA HAUSNER (ST PETER'S, OXFORD)

GENDER AND INVERSION AT THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

3:30 – 4 — TEA BREAK

4 – 4:30 — DANIELA BEVILACQUA (CRIA (ISCTE-IUL), LISBON)

QUEERING THE MELA: THE KINNAR AKHARA'S OCCUPATION OF RELIGIOUS SPACE

4.30 – 5 — MARK SINGLETON (SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

THE DIGITAL MAHA KUMBH; MENTAL BATHS, VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE AND SURVEILLANCE HINDUISM

5 – 5:30 — AMANDA LUCIA (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE)

WONDERTRASH 2.0: THE SUPERSIZED IMPACTS OF KUMBH 2025

GILLIS LECTURE THEATRE

6 – 7:15 — FILM SCREENING (SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL, 2016) FOLLOWED BY Q&A

SCREENING OF 'WEST MEETS EAST'

CONTACT PROFESSOR JIM MALLINSON JIM.MALLINSON@BALLIOL.OX.AC.UK IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND. SPACE IS LIMITED.