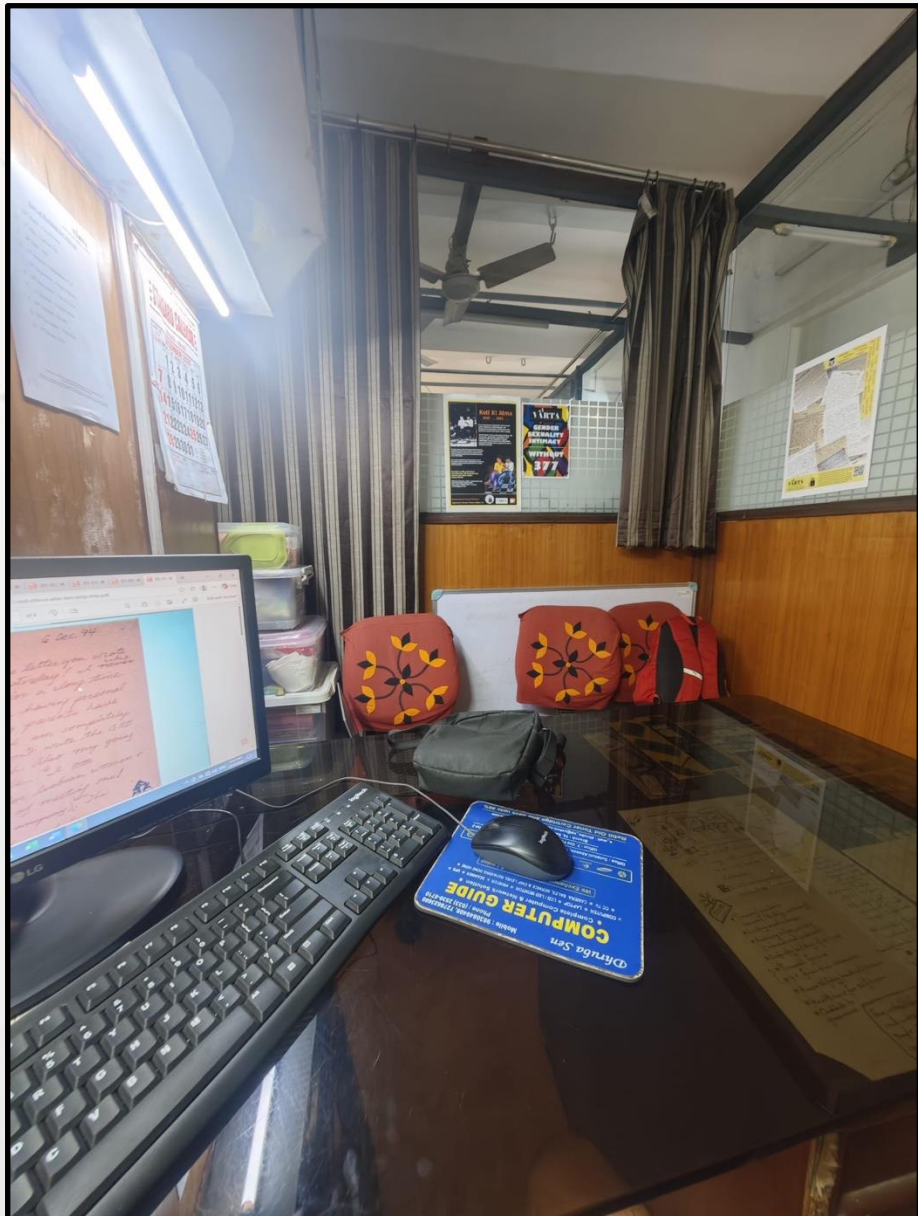


UNEXPECTED PATHS

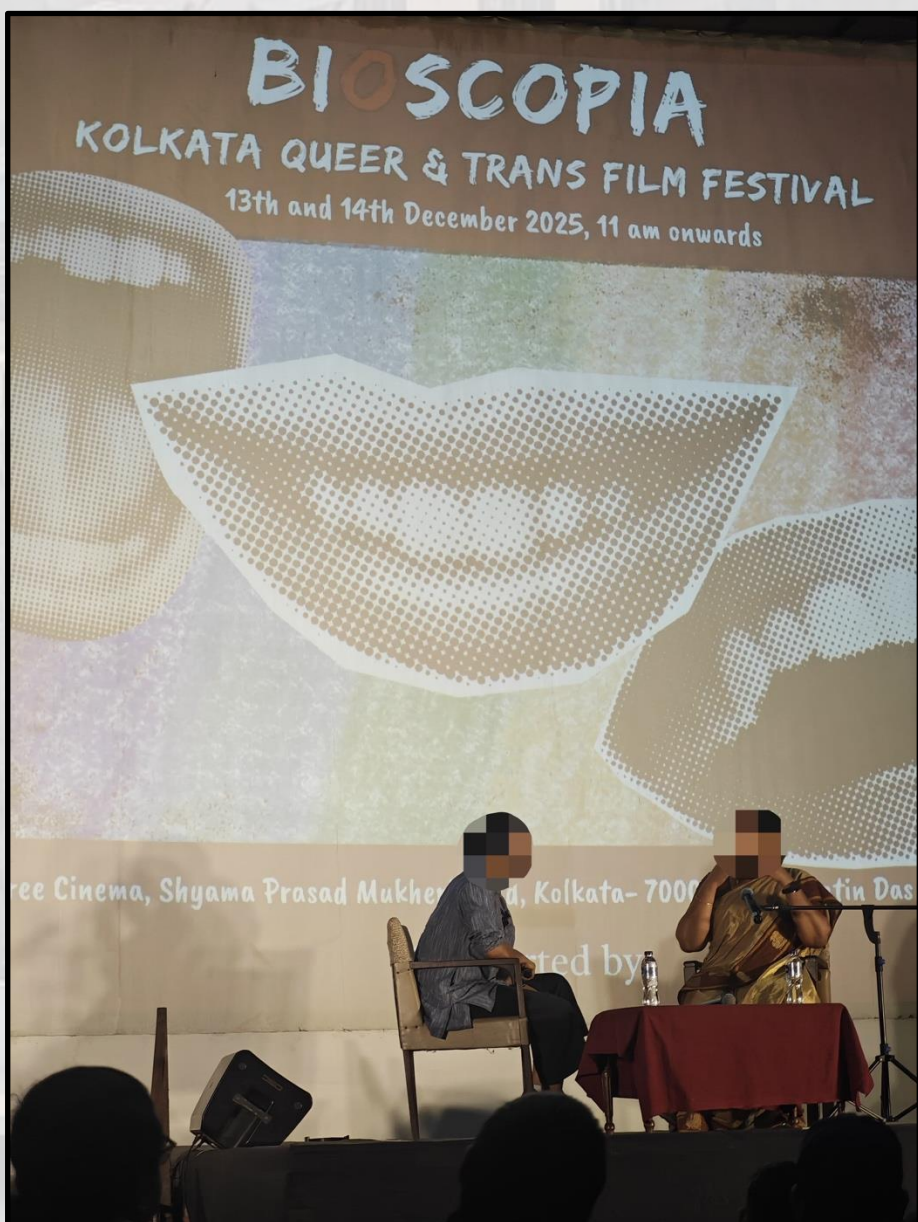
QUEER HISTORIES OF INDIA



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Original Plan

My original research project was planned in rural Kerala and focused on sustainable living and human–nature relationships. Shortly before my departure, the host organisation withdrew from the project. I then shifted my research towards queer communities in Manipur, but bureaucratic restrictions prevented me from entering the state.

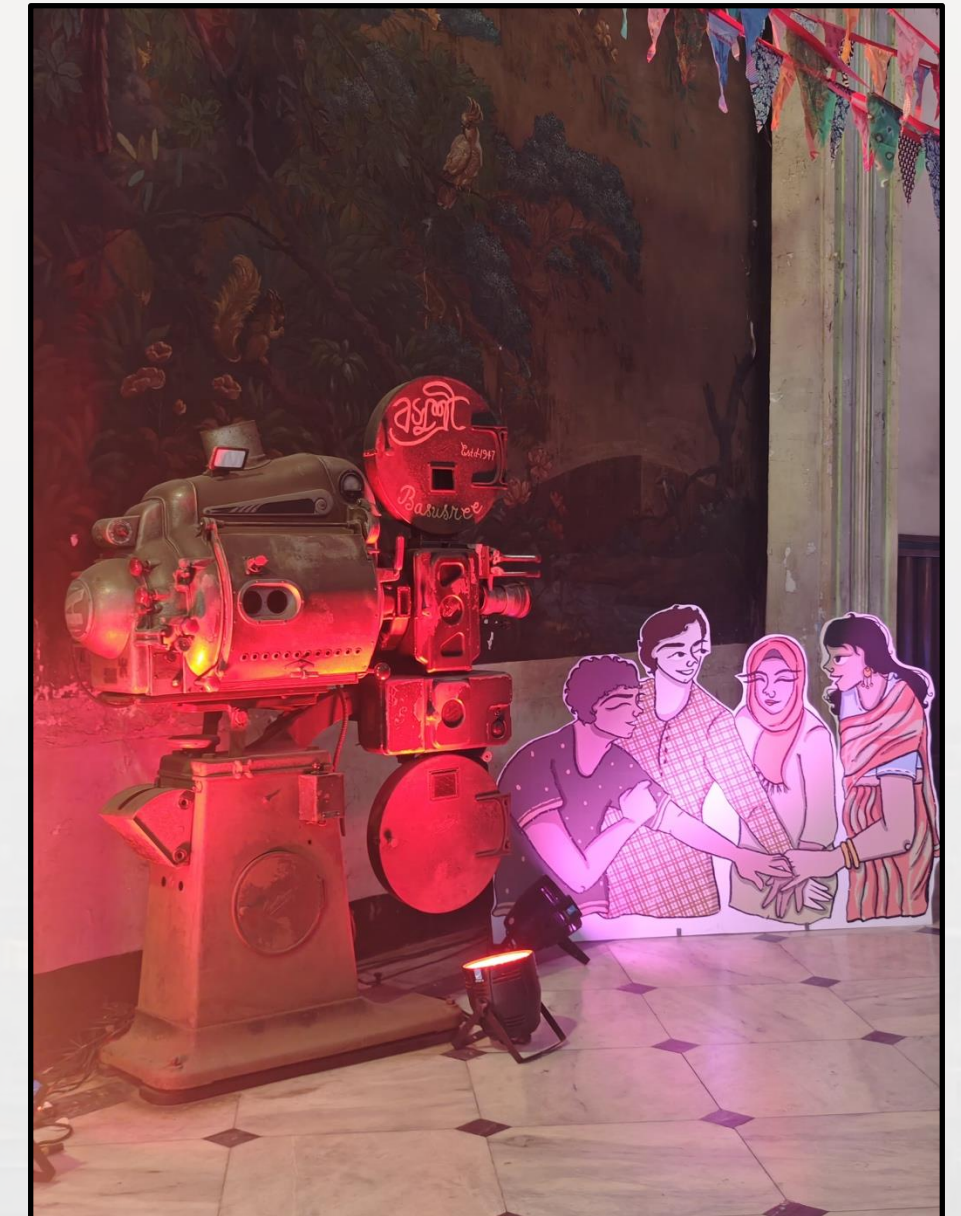
Encountering Queer India

My fieldwork eventually took place at the Varta Trust in Kolkata, an organisation focused on queer rights, publishing work fostering dialogue on gender and sexuality, and providing legal support. There I worked with archival material, attended community events, and spoke with activists about their experiences. Through personal stories and documents, I began to see queer lives and histories from new perspectives.



Reflection

The most important lesson I learned during my mobility semester was how to deal with uncertainty. Sometimes you have to let go of a plan when it simply does not work out. At first, I saw the many changes my project went through as obstacles and failures. But over time, I began to understand that uncertainty is simply part of doing research. So many things can happen that are outside of our control, and sometimes all we can do is learn how to adapt and deal with them.



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