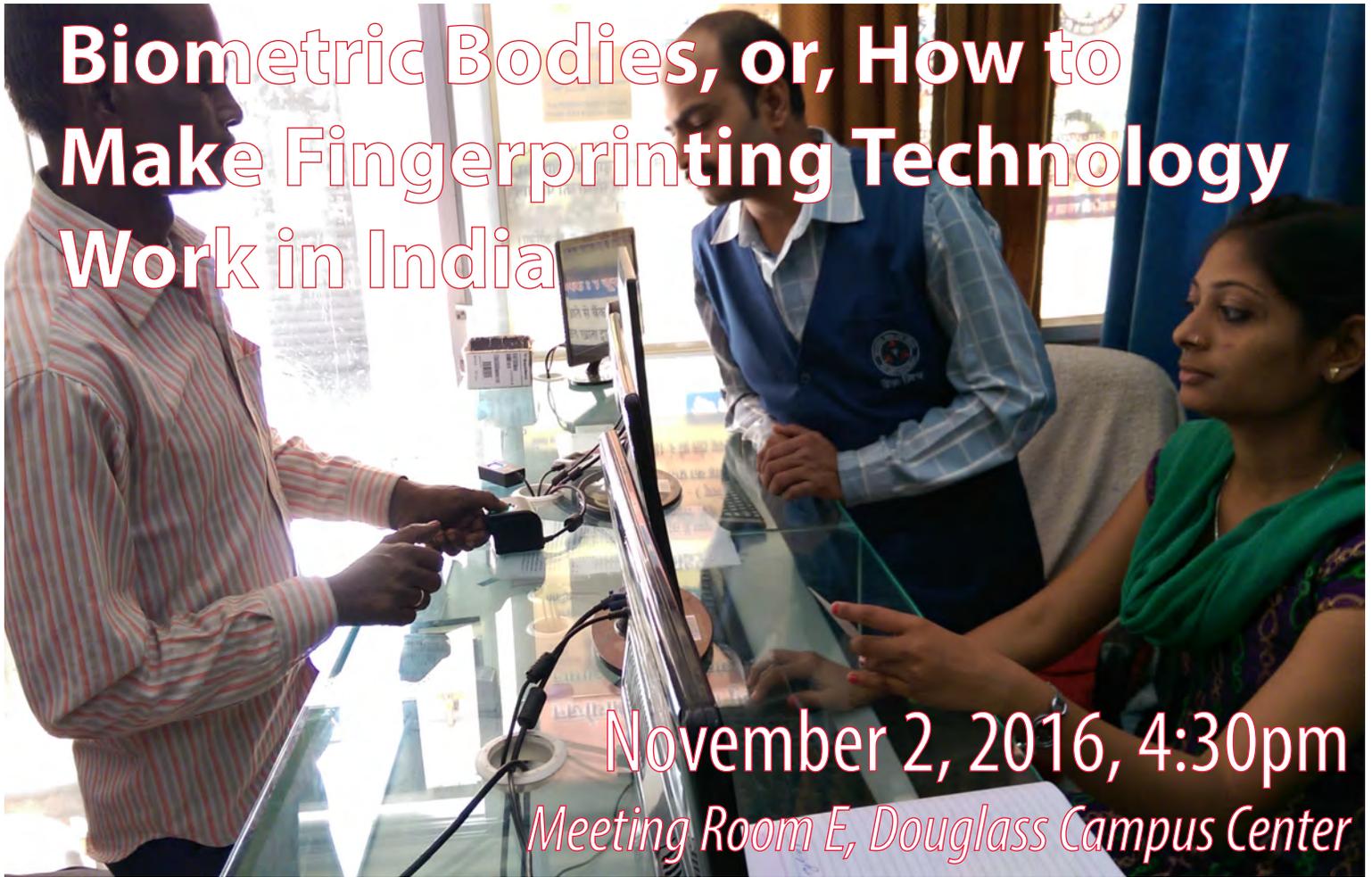**The South Asian Studies Program is pleased to present:**

Biometric Bodies, or, How to Make Fingerprinting Technology Work in India

November 2, 2016, 4:30pm
Meeting Room E, Douglass Campus Center

A talk by Dr. Ursula Rao, University of Leipzig

Biometric technology is proliferating around the globe, led by India, despite the fact that we know almost nothing about the social impacts of biometric devices. How are people repositioned when identification is assigned to an electronic inspection of the body? Routine users of digital fingerprinting devices learn to render a specific social and physical body. They must frequently cope with a "false reject" that causes a disjunction between the body-as-person and the body-as-data. The biometric body is the body of the perfect match. It is created through new hygienic regimes and the manipulation of relations of distance and closeness, such as assertion of class differences and kin solidarity.

Ursula Rao is Professor and Director of the Institute of Anthropology at the University of Leipzig. She is the author of News as Culture: Journalistic Practices and the Remaking of Indian Leadership Traditions *(Berghahn, 2012). Her work examines three topics related to rapidly globalising cities: (1) how social security changes interactions between urban poor and the state; (2) how changing news media shapes urban politics; (3) the role of religious institutions and ritual for renegotiating social relations*

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