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**Title:** Fandom on display : intimate visualities and the politics of spectacle  
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Tamil movie fans typically manifest themselves in public space during movie releases and other special occasions. Scattered all over Tamil Nadu their fan club organizations put up a plethora of billboards, posters and murals. With this 'fandom on display' fans pursue aspirations of power that seem to go beyond fan club's cinematic roots. This ethnography explores these diverse ambitions by looking at the images that fans produce, disseminate and consume. Images, I argue, are crucial for fans in engaging with their star, but they also assist in putting forward their own personas and hence they underpin desires and individual careers of power.

A second important focus of this dissertation situates fan images in Tamil Nadu’s wider mediascape and public sphere. It investigates the role of urban space in the dissemination of political imaginations and aspirations. I show how new imaginations, embedded in neoliberal, global imaginaries of “world class” which are articulated in public spaces, are slowly changing the ways in which fans utilise public spaces, watch films and engage in socio-political networks. I show in the latter part of this dissertation how public spaces and the images present in them become the canvas on which these clashing and shifting discourses are played out.