

## **West Sentinel: An island solution?**

Angela Smith

From Europe to the Asia-Pacific, states respond to the “crisis” of irregular migration through deploying ever more complex and punitive practices to ensure that irregular migrants are deterred, detained, deported or otherwise expelled. In doing so, the reach of the state extends offshore, extending its sovereign power far beyond the margins of territory. These strategies include extraterritorial policing and pre-emptive interceptions, the excision of territories, the establishment of offshore detention centres, and a host of “third country” agreements. While Australia and the EU have paved the way in these creative offshore strategies, Asian states are now looking to follow suit, with several potential islands already identified in the Bay of Bengal. This short documentary will explore the possibility of West Sentinel Island - a former British penal colony – being used as a site for offshore detention of South Asia’s unwanted migrants.