

Arts Faculty Research Seminar Series

1 Mar 2023 (Wed)
3:00pm–4:20pm



Professor LEE Sangjoon
Associate Professor
Department of Digital Arts and Creative Industries

Chelsia, Jackie, A Better Tomorrow, and the Hong Kong Syndrome in South Korea

Those who spent their teenage years in South Korea during the 1980s will recall the heyday of Hong Kong cinema and popular culture in the local cultural sphere. Hong Kong cinema had long been regarded as a "low-end" cultural product in South Korea, where most local intellectuals loathed it. Despite the objections of local intellectuals, it is indisputable that Hong Kong cinema had a significant impact on South Korean culture in the 1980s. The enormous popularity of Chelsia, My Love (秋霞) in 1977 and the record-breaking hit of Jackie Chan's Drunken Master (醉拳, 1978) converted a "working-class men's culture" into "popular culture for everyone." And these two genres, melodrama and kung fu comedy, dominated the reception of Hong Kong cinema in South Korea until the development of gangster films, the third type, in the late 1980s. This short presentation will trace the rise and fall of Hong Kong cinema's local receptions in South Korea, from the early 1980s' Jack Chan, Yuen Biao, and Sammo Hung to the mid-1980s' Hong Kong gangster films of Chow Yun-fat, Andy Lau, and Leslie Cheung, and finally to the final chapter, the early 1990s' return to wuxia, with Swordsman 2 (笑傲江湖之東方不敗, 1992), which ended the syndrome.



Professor LU Miao
Assistant Professor
Department of Cultural Studies

Global China Meets Digital Africa: Technology Translation as a Framework

As two emerging forces from the Global South, "Global China" has coincided with "Digital Africa" in the past two decades. This talk examines their encounter in the mobile phone sector through the case of Transsion, a Shenzhen-based company that dominates Africa's phone markets. Critiquing "technology transfer" literature, I propose "technology translation" as a complementary framework to understand technology flows. Based on fieldwork in both China and Ghana, I will elaborate multi-layered technology translations by focusing on three moments in the social life of Transsion phones—design, marketing, and repair. While presenting new possibilities outside Silicon Valley, Transsion is also becoming a regional power in Africa. I argue that it is possible for Shenzhen to be Silicon Valley's "South" and Africa's "North" at the same time.



Moderator
Professor Isaac HUI
Associate Professor of Department of Translation

The seminar will be conducted via Zoom.
No registration is required.
1.5 ILP units (Aesthetic Development)
Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3CGBvkC>