

# HOME



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

## **Women in East Asian Cinema A Chinese Film Forum UK Conference**

**HOME, Manchester  
4 – 6 December, 2019**

Recent interventions into global film and processes of canonisation have worked to highlight the contributions of women in spaces and discourses previously dominated by men. Yet, despite these social and academic movements, women remain under-represented across vital areas of film culture as recent discussions of the 2019 Oscars and the 2018 Cannes Film Festival have shown. This event aims to highlight the increasing English-language research of contributions by self-identifying women in East Asian cinema and to interrogate questions of representation, labour, and production contexts. For English speaking fans, academics and researchers based outside of East Asia, this work is all the more important as a counter to the limiting and selective problems of international film festivals and regional distribution.

This three-day conference seeks to bring together researchers of women in East Asian cinema for a mix of panels, workshops, and film events with industry guests to continue and develop these ongoing conversations. The event is hosted as a collaboration between the Chinese Film Forum UK (CFFUK), a Manchester-based collective, and HOME, Manchester's leading independent cross-art venue and cinema. 2019 marks ten years since 'Visible Secrets: Hong Kong's Women Filmmakers': a film season that was organised by a nascent CFFUK at HOME's old Cornerhouse venue. This year also marks HOME's year-long programming initiative 'Celebrating Women in Global Cinema' which continues the celebratory, research-led and consciousness raising work of that original Visible Secrets project.

This conference invites papers on a variety of topics concerning women in East Asian cinema. We take a loose definition of 'East Asia' - including considerations of diaspora, for example – to encourage submissions from those who may feel limited by narrow geographical boundaries.

Topics include though are not limited to:

- Case studies of directors, producers, and crew members
- Case studies of significant industry figures
- Case studies of stars
- Representation
- Historiographies and redressing the canon
- Generations – i.e. old age, girlhood
- Spaces for women's voices
- Questions of labour and industry practices
- Production histories
- Herstories
- Women in East Asian diasporas

Conference organisers for the CFFUK are Felicia Chan, University of Manchester; Fraser Elliott and Rachel Hayward, HOME; and Andy Willis, University of Salford.

## **Wednesday 4 December**

**12:30 – 13:00** Registration

**13:00 – 13:15** Welcome by Kirsty Fairclough  
Associate Dean, Research and Innovation in the School of Arts and Media, University of Salford

**13:15 -- 14:00 Visible Secrets, 10 years on** (Chair: Fraser Elliott)  
Sarah Perks, Andy Willis, Jessey Tsang Tsui-shan

**14:00 – 15:30 Female labour in Hong Kong cinema** (Chair: Sarah Perks)

Ruby Cheung (University of Southampton), 'Female Screenwriters and the Contemporary Hong Kong Film Industry'

Fiona Y.W. Law, (The University of Hong Kong), 'Work ethic(s) of being a woman: images of female labourers in Hong Kong cinema (1950s-1960s)'

Qi Miaomiao (City University of Hong Kong), 'Ready to be understood: Ivy Ho as the representative of Hong Kong female film screenwriters'

**16:00 –17:00 Angie Chen in Focus** (Chair: Robert Hamilton)

Maja Korbecka (Jagiellonian University in Kraków), 'Girlhood and Female Gothic in Hong Kong: Angie Chen's 1980s fiction films'

Andy Willis (University of Salford), 'Angie Chen: Hong Kong Pioneer'

**17:50 UK Premiere Screening of *The Lady Improper* (2019) + Q&A with director Jessey Tsang Tsui-shan**

## **Thursday 5 December**

### **10:00 – 11:30 Landscape and Place**

(Chair: MaoHui Deng)

Yifen Beus (Indiana University), 'Chloé Zhao's Journey to the West: Redefining Westernism and Chartering Frontiers'

Catherine Liu (UC Irvine), 'Chloe Zhao's Cinematic Vision: A Strong Sense of Place, Interrupted'

Gao Shiyu (University of Edinburgh), 'Re-constructing gendered subjectivity in Cao Fei's virtual urban landscape'

### **10:00 – 11:30 Mediated Bodies**

(Chair: Jonathan Wroot)

Elena Barabantseva (University of Manchester), 'Traversing the hyper-real: white female bodies and the desire of national reproduction in three Chinese TV drama series'

Junnan Chen (Princeton University), 'Under Her Gaze: Teshigahara Hiroshi's 1966 film *The Face of Another*'

Mila Zuo (University of British Columbia), 'Tasting Chinese-ness: Women Stars and Flavorful Embodiment'

### **11:45 - 13:15 Pleasures and spaces** (Chair: Wing-Fai Leung)

Hongwei Bao (University of Nottingham), 'The Importance of Pleasure: He Xiaopei's Queer Feminist Films'

MaoHui Deng (University of Manchester), 'Old Women Having Sex in South Korean Cinema'

Bérénice M. Reynaud (Université Lyon 3 – IETT), 'Spaces of their own? Renegotiating women's positions in contemporary Chinese women's films'

### **13:15 – 14:15 Lunch**

### **14:15 – 15:45 Japanese Documentary Filmmaker Haneda Sumiko: Authorship, Representation and Gender Discourses**

(Chair: Fraser Elliott)

Pre-constituted panel: Armendáriz-Hernández, Alejandra (University Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid), Marcos Centeno Birkbeck, University of London) and Irene González-López (Kingston University, London)

### **14:15-15:45 Gender and Representation**

(Chair: Robert Hamilton)

Jonathan Wroot (University of Greenwich), 'Ichi-san and the Women: Gender Representations in the *Zatoichi* Franchise'

Xuelin Zhou (University of Auckland), 'Patriarchal Victims or Male Saviours? Agency and Subjectivity of Urban Young Women in Qiong Yao Films'

Dave McCaig and Rachel Barraclough (University of Lincoln), 'Functioning On The Fringes': Interrogating New South Korean Womanhood and Millennial Trauma in *Microhabitat* (2017)

**16:00 – 17:30 Keynote address** (Chair: Felicia Chan)

Jinhee Choi (King's College London), 'Directing Girls: Korean Independent Cinema and Women Filmmakers'

**Friday 6 December**

**10:00 – 11:30: Authorship, Representation and Labour** (Chair: Andy Willis)

Wing-Fai Leung (King's College London), 'Representations of Affective Labour in London: Female Migrants in *She, a Chinese* and *The Receptionist*'

Francesca Young Kaufman (University of Manchester), 'Editing, Authorship, and Gender in the Work of Ning Ying'

Felicia Chan (University of Manchester), 'Tan Pin Pin: Observational documentary as feminist historiography'

**11:45 – 13:15 Theory, History and Transcultural Art** (Chair: Felicia Chan)

Yumo Yan (Columbia University), 'Breaking From Theatricality: Locating Chinese Film Theory after the Cultural Revolution in Films of Fourth Generation Female Director Zhang Nuanxin'

Chi-Yun Shin (Sheffield Hallam University), 'Trajectories of Feminist Film History: Seoul International Women's Film Festival'

Maria Roemer (Newcastle University), 'Transcultural Video Art by Contemporary German-Japanese Women Filmmaker'

**13:15 – 14:15 Lunch**

**14:15 – 15:45 Gender and Stardom** (Chair: Francesca Young Kaufman)

Lydia Brammer (University of Warwick), 'The Star Image of Ayako Wakao and the Spaces of Postwar Japanese Sexual Politics'

Lin Feng (University of Leicester), 'Contesting Gender Space: Zhou Xuan and Chinese Female Stardom during the Republican Era'

Till Weingärter (University College Cork), 'Takamine Hideko and Her Directors: The Role of the Film Star in Japanese Cinema'

**15:45 – 16:00 Closing remarks**