
This presentation examines the linkage between anomalous spaces brought by the development of capitalism, and two Chinese regional cinemas’ participation in the global genrefication of Asian Horror. In Foucault’s “Of Other Spaces” (1967), Foucault provides his only explicit treatment of the relationship among power-knowledge-space. Giving examples on prison houses, mental institutions, cemeteries, boarding schools…etc., Foucault’s heterotopias may be interpreted as a geohistory of marginalized spaces in modernity. However, Foucault’s choices of heterotopias seem to elude the spaces created by global capitalism, leaving the critique of space and power incomplete. In my reading of two urban-based horror films from PRC and Taiwan – Li Shaohong’s The Door (2005) and Chen Guo-fu’s Double Vision (2002), I focus on tracing spaces that do not have proper name or identification, such as the appearance of townhouse and gated communities in Beijing’s suburb. If Foucault’s heterotopia is intended to challenge a center-peripheral relationship by highlighting relations among marginalized spaces, these anomalous spaces that erupt in Chinese horror films suggest capitalism’s irreducible excesses.

Wednesday, March 2nd, 2011

Humanities Gateway 3200

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

A light lunch will be served.
Please RSVP to bbaliga@uci.edu by February 26th, 2011