



Still from *The Che Brother* (2020), © Anysay Keola, courtesy of the director

Women in the Global Pandemic Media Imagination

Mimetic Desire, Scapegoat, and Transcendence

Thursday, September 30, 2021, 14:00

Online Event on Zoom, kindly register in advance: <https://www.aoi.uzh.ch/de/institut/events/registration.html>

Guest Lecture by Prof. Chia-ju Chang, City University of New York

At this particular historical juncture where biological, ecological, and social pathologies collide on a global and planetary scale, how do we free ourselves from the grip of mimetic unconsciousness? What role can Asia or traditional cultures play in showing the way to transcend this tenacious dualism that we mistake as human nature? This lecture sketches the current status quo where media, such as internet, social media, and particularly film, contributes to or ameliorates the mimetic triangle, in which minority groups and women are scapegoats of Covid-19, both

in reality and virtual realms of discourse. Zooming in on the dimension of gender, I consider the figure and trope of woman as Other in three pandemic films, “Hong Kong: A Winner” (Stephen Chow, Hong Kong, 2003), *Contagion* (Steven Soderbergh, USA, 2011) and *The Che Brother* (Anysay Keola, Laos, 2020).

Chia-ju Chang is Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures at Brooklyn College, City University of New York, and International Liaison of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment.