

Other Epistemologies Online Lecture Series 2.0

Semester Focus: Innovative Approaches to Gender and Genre: Literature and Women Studies



On Chineseness as a Theoretical Problem

14:00-15:45 (CEST) / 20:00-21:45 (GMT+8), Thursday, 09 November 2023

The lecture will take place via Zoom. Please register here: <https://www.aoi.uzh.ch/registration>

Online Seminar by Prof. Dr. Rey Chow, Duke University

This seminar will be based on the essay "On Chineseness as a Theoretical Problem," which served as the introduction to the anthology *Modern Chinese Literary and Cultural Studies in the Age of Theory: Reimagining a Field* (2000). We will discuss some of the influential legacies of what in North American academia is called "theory," both in relation to humanistic inquiry in general and in relation to area studies, in particular the evolving field of China studies. Among the critical concepts we will focus on are "the ethnic supplement," "the logic of the wound," the conundrum of "literary and/or ethnic difference," and "coerced mimeticism" in the study of an ethnic literature. Above all, we will discuss the ever-interesting if contentious issues arising from the use of the terms "Chinese" and "Chineseness" in contemporary studies of Chinese-language literature, films, artworks, mass culture, and related discourses.

Prof. Rey Chow is Professor of Literature and Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Duke University, USA. Among her many monographs are *Woman and Chinese Modernity* (1991); *Writing Diaspora* (1993); *Primitive Passions* (1995); *The Age of the World Target* (2006); *Sentimental Fabulations, Contemporary Chinese Films* (2007); and *Not Like a Native Speaker* (2014). Her books and essays have been widely anthologized and translated into numerous languages. Between 2017 and 2023, she was Distinguished Visiting Professor in the School of Modern Languages and the School of Chinese, the University of Hong Kong.