



Universität Zürich  
Gender Studies

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## Liquidity of Being: An Approach to Chinese Cinema

Öffentlicher Vortrag von Prof. Rey Chow, Duke University USA

With reference to a number of directors and film works, including classics such as "Spring in a Small Town" (Fei Mu) and contemporary art house films such as "Still Life" (Jia Zhangke) and "I Don't Want to Sleep Alone" (Tsai Ming-liang), this lecture will approach Chinese cinema by way of metaphoric-cum-material significations of liquidity, from libidinal blockages and disappointments, to organic community formation, ecological crises, and media-specific illuminations. Among the socio-political, as well as philosophical, issues discussed will be sovereignty, female desire, subalternity and modernization, bodies and objects, and the imaginary of non-heterosexual group existence.

Rey Chow is Visiting Professor at Duke University and Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities at Brown University. She is the author of many books, including "Woman and Chinese Modernity" (1991); "Writing Diaspora" (1993); "Primitive Passions: Visuality, Sexuality, Ethnography, and Contemporary Chinese Cinema" (1995); "Ethics after Idealism" (1998); "The Protestant Ethnic and the Spirit of Capitalism" (2002); "The Age of the World Target: Self-Referentiality in War, Theory, and Comparative Work" (2006); and "Sentimental Fabulations, Contemporary Chinese Films" (2007). She has edited the collection "Modern Chinese Literary and Cultural Studies in the Age of Theory: Reimagining a Field" (2000). Her book "Primitive Passions" received the James Russell Lowell Prize from the Modern Language Association. Her work has been widely anthologized and translated into major European and Asian languages.