Moving Images - Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The persistence of Memory and the Cinematic City in Malaysian Chinese Films

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
This paper examines top three box-office earning Chinese-language features films – *The Journey* (2014), *Ola Bola* (2016), and *Ah Beng The Movie: Three Wishes* (2012) – produced and released in Malaysia up to present. Screen images and narratives contribute to a collective knowledge and memory of space and places in the city. Images of settlements (i.e. Chinese new villages, Chinatown) on films give symbolic meanings to spaces by defining purposes and activities for a large audience, and by simplifying and interpreting reality for cinemagoers. This study focuses on critical possibilities of cinema believed to be emerging precisely through its entanglements with urban setup. It also discusses the concept that spaces in city depicted in these films are generated by race and ethnic relations and are a sociological fact that forms itself spatially. The Chinese father portrayed in *The Journey* does not allow his daughter to stay with her English boyfriend at the same bedroom before their marriage. In *Ola Bola*, the football players fight for their country regardless of their race and religion. *Ah Beng The Movie: Three Wishes* depicts Malaysian Chinese in a Chinese community prepare to
receive the auspicious God Of Fortune on the eve of the Lunar New Year – the typical Chinese tradition in Malaysia. The plot and characters of the films demonstrate the complexities of the experiences of Malaysian Chinese citizens allowing for a greater level of identification for local Chinese audience, and also illustrate persistence of shared memory among them.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Wang Changsong is currently Assistant Professor of Xiamen University Malaysia. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts on Advertising from Suzhou University, Suzhou, China, Master of Communication on Screen Studies, and Doctor of Philosophy on Film and Broadcasting from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia. He was a lecturer at the School of Communication, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Currently he is the research fellow of Asia and Chinese language cinema research center of Beijing Normal University, the research fellow of the College of Journalism and Communication, Jinan University, China, the Journalism Program Coordinator at Xiamen University Malaysia and the Founding Director of Center for ASEAN and Chinese Screen Studies (CACSS) of Xiamen University Malaysia. His areas of research expertise include cinema studies, film studies, youth culture and youth/teen genre, Southeast Asian cinema, genre and cultural identities, and social media and crisis communication.