



2012-2013 Korean Studies Lecture Series 2

The Margins of Love in Contemporary Korean Cinema

28 Mar. 2013 (Thu)
3:30 - 5:20pm
MB217,
Main Building,
HKU



Recently, South Korean cinema has undergone a dramatic change, making visible a range of figures wholly new, marginalized or heretofore invisible on film. They are made visible through melodramatic narratives and romantic themes, arguably the dominant modalities of South Korean cinema. This lecture explores the significance of this cinematic transformations, concentrating on a central tension: how, on the one hand, the radical difference of the newly visible figures is contained by melodramatic love stories and, on the other, the excesses of melodrama sometimes push the new figures into a critique of the very terms of their marginalization.

Dr. Steven Chung *East Asian Studies Department,
Princeton University*

Steven Chung is Assistant Professor in the East Asian Studies department at Princeton University. He focuses his research on Korean cinema, and is drawn especially to the relationship between politics and aesthetics in the film cultures of the late



colonial through the early postwar periods. He has published articles in edited volumes – *North Korea: Toward a Better Understanding* (2009) and *Democracy and Cinema* (Korea) – and in the *Journal of Korean Studies* and *Memory and Vision* (Korea). Chung is finishing his first manuscript, *The Split Screen: Sin Sang-ok and Postwar Korean Film Cultures* and also beginning work on his next book, *Cold War Optics: Asia*.

All are welcome. No registration is required. For enquiries, please contact Ms Lucilla Cheng at luci@hku.hk.