

Other Epistemologies Online Lecture Series

Semester Focus: "Other" Forms of Worship: Religion and Popular Culture



The Insight-Image:

Illuminating the Reality of Deleuze's Time-Image

16:15-18:00 (CEST) / 15:15-17:00 (GMT) / 23:15-01:00 (GMT+8), Thursday, December 08, 2022

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

Online Lecture by Dr. Victor Fan, King's College London

In Zen Buddhism, the notion of *here and now* is the key to attain—or return to—*paññā/prajñā* (insight). On a day-to-day basis, we live each moment with a preoccupation of the past and an anticipation for the future. Our retrospection and expectation produce afflictions such as avarice, anger and frustration, as well as delusion. Our penchant for living every moment as a recollection of the past and an anticipation for the future is also propelled by our belief that our existence endures in time; that such afflictions and suffering are both inevitable; and that our *self* and all the other sentient beings and objects arise out of their self-natures. But as Nāgārjuna (150–250 CE) argues, the past does not exist, as its existence has already perished; the future does not exist, as its existence has yet to arise. If the present is an extension of the past, and if it extends itself to become the future, the present does not exist either. Rather, it is a lived point-instant that instantiates an assemblage of interdependent conditions. But how does the cinema, as an image-consciousness, disconceals insight?

In *Cinema Illuminating Reality* (2022), Deleuze's time-image is capable of generating a mindfulness of the *here and now*: that each moment is an instantiation of an ecology of interdependent conditions that affect, and are affected by, one another. The lecture will demonstrate how insight can be attained or returned to via the formational process of the image-consciousness. It will also conduct a close reading of Pema Tsenden's *Tharlo* [2015] to examine how mindfulness is mobilized as a technology that gives the consciousness an agency over its own becoming.

Dr. Victor Fan is Reader in Film and Media Philosophy at the Department of Film Studies, King's College London and a film festival consultant. Fan graduated with a Ph.D. from the Film Studies Program and the Comparative Literature Department of Yale University. He is the author of *Cinema Approaching Reality: Locating Chinese Film Theory, Extraterritoriality: Locating Hong Kong Cinema and Media*, and *Cinema Illuminating Reality: Media Philosophy through Buddhism*. His film *The Well* was an official selection of the São Paulo International Film Festival; it was also screened at the Anthology Film Archives, the Japan Society and the George Eastman House.