

THE JAMES K. BINDER LECTURE in Literature Presents BARBARA MITTLER

Feeling Matters: Gender Interactions and the Making of Cultural Memory in China's Vernacular Media, 1900s-2000s

How do beauties touch their men and when and where does this become visible? Put differently: How does feeling matter and what shapes does it take both textually and visually? Does it make a difference whether the depicted is a film star or a commoner, a revolutionary or a bourgeois? And how are these depictions read by contemporary audiences? Does it matter what these audiences remember to have seen, touched, experienced somewhere before? Surveying women's magazines and other entertainment media published throughout China's long 20th century, this lecture discusses the politics of feeling. It will show how form, material and color take on ever-changing meanings and continually reshape the ways in which beauty and intimacy can be played out visually and textually and thus experienced and touched by the audiences reading these publications. The lecture will thus trace textual and visual evidence for dominant and prescribed as well as subdued and subversive modes of seeing, touching and feeling and reflect on the importance of intertextual and intervisual memory-making in this process.

Thursday, April 5, 2018

6:00 p.m.

**The Atkinson Pavilion at the
Faculty Club UC San Diego**

A reception will follow the lecture

Free and open to the public



Barbara Mittler holds a Chair in Chinese Studies at the University of Heidelberg and is Director of the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (former "Cluster of Excellence Asia and Europe in a Global Context"). She began her studies at the University of Oxford (MA Oxon 1990), and has spent research periods in Taiwan, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong and at Harvard and Stanford Universities. Her PhD (1994) and her habilitation (1998) are from Heidelberg. Her research focuses on cultural production in (greater) China covering a range of topics from music to visual and historical print media in China's long modernity. In 2013, her book-length study of the Chinese Cultural Revolution won the Fairbank Prize by the American Historical Association.



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The James K. Binder Lectureship in Literature is made possible by Mr. Binder's generous bequest and honors his wishes that we bring leading European intellectuals to UC San Diego to provide a forum for rigorous discussions of literary topics.



Contact Derrick Chin for reasonable accommodations to enable your access and participation – derrickchin@ucsd.edu