EBERHARD KARLS UNIVERSITÄT TÜBINGEN

AOI Centre for Korean Studies

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Korean Screen Culture (3): North Korea Seen Through Chinese Eyes

Dec 19, 2018 (Wednesday) 6-8pm, Wilhelmstraße 133, Room 30

Abstract:

North Korean films are often analysed regarding their propagandistic content. While this certainly presents a worthwhile and important issue in the historiography of North Korean film, a different perspective will be added to the study of DPRK film history in this lecture. Point of departure is the observation that North Korean films like *The Flower Girl* have been extremely popular with the PR Chinese audience during the Mao era. Not only the North Korean films but also film songs have become part of the collective memory of the generation born in the 1950s and 1960s. As at that time, the Chinese audience was used to a similar tradition of film making in the framework of socialist realism, their evaluation gives a more differentiated view on the national characteristics of North Korean film making within the history of socialist films.

Prof. Yvonne Schulz Zinda is a full professor of East Asian Contemporary Cultures (China/Korea) and the head of the Korean Studies Department at the University of Hamburg. Her research interests include academic disciplines of humanities during socialist construction 1950s-1970s (DPRK/PRC), history of film, modern philosophy of China, and school textbooks from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. After her Ph.D. she was the project manager of the project “Die institutionalisierten Geisteswissenschaften im China der 1950er Jahre” funded by the German Research Foundation and taught as an assistant professor of Chinese Studies at the University of Hamburg.