

Department of Languages and Cultures  
2017 Research Seminar Series  
presents:

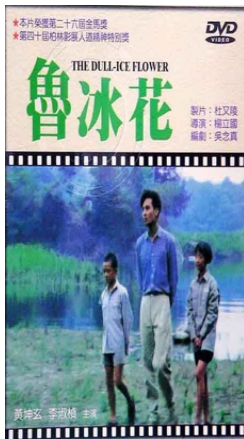
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**“WE ARE ALL USEFUL PEOPLE”: USEFUL CHILDREN AND  
THE  
NOTION OF *GUAI* IN TRANSNATIONAL CHINESE CINEMA”**

BY

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This paper offers a comparative analysis of how *guai* (乖), a key concept governing childhood behaviour, is shared across Chinese societies. Specifically, it examines representations of “good” and “bad” children in four films, namely *Dull Ice Flower* (Taiwan, 1989), *The September of Mine* (People’s Republic of China, 1990), *I Not Stupid* (Singapore, 2002), and *Little Big Master* (Hong Kong, 2015). Comparing and contrasting the ways through which binary oppositions of good and bad children are constructed on the themes of sensibility, obedience, and academic achievement in transnational Chinese cinema, this paper argues that the notion of *guai* is anchored in understandings of the ways children are useful in relation to the family and nation.

Tuesday: August 22, 2017 12:00pm A3N7 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor Arts Building)