



**Panel's title :** Interculturality and mobilities. The imaginary of China/Chineseness in cultural production

**Coordinator (Affiliation, University...) :** ...Dra. Amelia Sáiz López, Associate Professor, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

**Language :** English

**Topics :** (Chinese Migration, cultural production, social representation, sociology of art, interculturality)

**Panel presentation :**

The fast and huge movement of products, images, ideas, population and capital is one of the defining characteristics of the global era since the late 20th century. Global flows of objects and people have shaped a diversely complex, ethnically and culturally, societies. At the same time, these global flows are reinforcing the transnational social space. The result of new mobilities is the increase of cultural diversity and dynamism, accompanied by intercultural processes that are also evident in cultural production. The panel proposes a collective reflection on the production, circulation and reception of cultural and social representations about China, understood not as a geopolitical territory but as a concept that gathers and summarizes the constructs elaborate on the image of this country and his population (Chineseness) in the more recent cultural production in Spain (or other countries), as well as in the reception of the Chinese one. Performing arts, visual arts and literature, and other creative works discussed in this panel, contribute to build an imaginary about Chinese that reflects on social issues such as identity, relationship with diversity, sense of belonging, collective embodiment or production of stereotypes, relevant to the analysis of the representations of China at present. The aim of this panel is to show the heterogeneous cultural and social imaginaries and representations of China/Chineseness out of China beyond the dominant knowledge production.

**Key words :** Artistic Reception, Chinese mobilities, cultural imaginary, cultural diversity; .intercultural dynamics.

**Participants :**

1) **Name(s) (Affiliation, University...) :** Dr. Laia Manonelles Moner: Associate Professor, Universitat de Barcelona (UB) Research Groups Inter-Asia and AASD

**Communication's title :** Chen Zhen, transcultural dialogues under construction

**Language :** English :

**Presentation :**

Chen Zhen (1955 Shanghai - 2000 Paris) emigrated to France in 1986 and his work transcends the boundaries between the physical and the psychic being, between the individual body and the collective body, reflecting on the notion of "cultural homelessness" (2003,p.8). This idea of being in movement between different cultures connects directly with the term "Transexperience " coined by Chen Zhen, which leads us to a new way to consider certain emotions linked to the experiences of those who emigrates and who learn to create connections between different cultural frameworks. In his works he reveals that the creation becomes an instrument to generate a debate and critical thought, turning art into a form of cultural resistance. From the analysis of the exhibition discourse



of his first exhibition in Spain, Chen Zhen: In-Between (2014-2015) and its impact on the media, we will examine the artist reception and we will explore -within a supposedly transcultural framework- if certain “clichés” post-Orientalists still persist.

**Key words** : Chen Zhen; Artistic Reception; Sociology of art; intercultural dynamics

2) **Name(s) (Affiliation, University...)** : Dra. Irene Masdeu Torruella, Post-doctoral fellow, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (CCKF). Research Group Inter-Asia

**Communication's title** : Images of mobility: Contemporary visual arts and new trends of Chinese migration in Spain

**Language** : English :

**Presentation** :

Chinese presence in Spain is increasingly heterogeneous, and this diversity is echoing in the Spanish visual culture. On the one hand there is a growing number of artists coming from China to develop their own cultural projects and, on the other hand, young adults born to Chinese migrants –who are socialized in Spain- are also developing artistic works in which they reflect about different migration processes, itineraries, and identities. This papers aims to analyse visual art -including photography and filmic works- produced by Chinese people in Spain, focusing on the relationship artists maintain with the countries that conform their mobile life –mainly Spain and China-, and the way their works represent migration and mobility.

First will examine the characteristics of the art works themselves. Secondly, we will place the analysis in the context of reception: Through which channels do these works circulate? What are the responses of these works among different social groups? What are their capacities to contest the stereotypes and popular images associated with Chinese migration? By looking at different works created by Chinese people in Spain, this paper aims to cast light on the agency of artistic production and mobility in the representation of migration.

**Key words** : Chinese mobilities; Migration; Artistic production; material culture.

3) **Name(s) (Affiliation)** : Dr. Joaquin Beltrán Antolín, Associate Professor. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Research Group, Inter-Asia

**Communication's title** : Chinese on stage. Chinese representation and role in Spanish theater.

**Language** : English :



**Presentation :**

Theater's performances reflect the current cultural diversity of Spanish society, including the Chinese presence. The stage plays show and contribute to build a stereotyped social imaginary about China and the Chinese, as well as to offer alternatives to the dominant representation. The Chinese, in the Spanish theater, brings to light that certain globalization and imaginaries existed since the eighteenth century when some Chinese works translated and staged in other countries, were adapted and/or recreated for own consumption in Spain. This practice, accompanied by "whitewashing", is already at work, but since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Spanish theater stage in relationship with Chinese/China is more complex. In this paper, besides "whitewashing", we will discuss several works where at least some of the actors are Chinese, as well as dramaturgies with only Chinese actors, exposing the imaginary and the representations that project their presence. Now, the Chinese are not only in the role of "Chinese", and so beyond Chinese historical and political works, o Chinese in the role of "migrants", they are also in leading roles without an ethnic mark. The language also (to speak or not in Chinese) sometimes is a key to the plot.

**Key words :** Social imaginary, social representation, cultural diversity, Chinese, theater

4) **Name(s) (Affiliation) :** Dra. Amelia Sáiz López, Associate Professor. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Research Group, Inter-Asia

**Communication's title :** Diversity as cultural topic. The case of Chinese in contemporary Spanish literature

**Language :** English :

**Presentation :**

A new cultural diversity has emerged in Spain society since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century due to international migration flows. These flows have changed the fabric of the society, in a process of enrichment and complexity. This phenomenon has drawn the attention of the mainstream cultural production, included literature, and has been introduced in their works a multiplicity of intercultural situations performed by characters of different geographic, ethnic and cultural origins. The history of Chinese origin population in Spain is relatively short, and so still has not been developed a "literature of the diaspora", as is usual in other Western European countries. Nonetheless, in the last years are increasing the number of Spanish literature works with Chinese leading roles. From a sociological approach focused on social representations, this paper analyzes the main aspects of the Spanish social imaginary about the Chinese that are articulated in the Spanish literature works: from the cultural imaginary, related with the writings works about China and Chinese culture in Spain, to the social meaning to their presence like "our neighbors". The use of a literary intercultural strategy shows the complexity of the present socio-cultural dynamics about the diversity in Spain.

**Key words:** Spanish literature, Chinese, social representation, cultural imaginary