The DISCO Network Presents:

Racial Replication: Michelle N. Huang in Conversation with Lisa Nakamura and Huan He

Thursday, Oct. 20 from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM ET

Register to attend on Zoom

Register to attend on-campus event @ University of Michigan
Asiatic interchangeability is made, not born. In this DISCO Network Lecture, Michelle N. Huang will discuss how dystopian clone narratives challenge notions of individual racialized identity at both the genetic and generic levels. Drawing on Saidiya Hartman’s concept of racial fungibility, Huang will examine Kazuo Ishiguro’s Never Let Me Go (2005) and Larissa Lai’s Salt Fish Girl (2002) to trace how Asian American interchangeability is produced through reproductive control as well as an economy of character. In rearticulating, rather than rejecting, notions of shared subjectivity, hivemind, and fellow feeling, Asiatic clones ask for experimental alternatives to the ethnic bildungsroman and demonstrate the novel form itself to be a racialized technology of identity.

Michelle N. Huang is an Assistant Professor of English and Asian American Studies at Northwestern University. She has research and teaching interests in contemporary Asian American literature, posthumanism, and feminist science studies. Her current project, Molecular Race, examines posthumanist aesthetics in post-1965 Asian American literature to trace racial representation and epistemology at nonhuman, minute scales. Molecular Race argues that a rapprochement with scientific discourse is necessary to fully grasp how the formal and aesthetic qualities of Asian American literature unsettle sedimented structures of racial formation.

Michelle’s work appears in American Literature, Contemporary Literature, Twentieth-Century Literature, Journal of Asian American Studies, Amerasia, and Post 45: Contemporaries, among other venues. Her film essay, INHUMAN FIGURES: Robots, Clones, and Aliens can be viewed online at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center website.

Lisa Nakamura is the Gwendolyn Calvert Baker Collegiate Professor of American Culture and Digital Studies at the University of Michigan. She is the author of several books on race, gender, and the Internet. She is the founding Director of the Digital Studies Institute at the University of Michigan and the Lead P.I. for the DISCO (Digital Inquiry, Speculation, Collaboration, and Optimism) Network (disconetwork.org).

Huan He is a Curriculum Development Fellow at the DISCO Network Michigan Hub and holds a Ph.D. in American Studies and Ethnicity from the University of
game studies, and poetics. His book project, currently titled, “The Racial Interface,” explores the racial associations linking Asian/Americans and information technology in the digital era. He is also interested in the relationship between race, gaming, cheating, and scams and pursuing a second project on these topics. His scholarly writing has been published in College Literature: A Journal of Critical Literary Studies and Media-N and is forthcoming in an anthology on Asian/American game studies.

Accessibility:

We want to make our events accessible to all participants. This online event will have CART provided. If you anticipate needing accommodations to participate, please email us at disconetwork@umich.edu or fill out our anonymous access form. Please note that some accommodations must be arranged in advance and we encourage you to contact us as soon as possible.

Co-Sponsored by the following units at the University of Michigan:

Digital Studies Institute, Department of American Culture, Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies Program, Science, Technology & Society Program, Department of Communication & Media, and Department of English Language and Literature.
Our mailing address is:
DISCO Network
G333 Mason Hall
419 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1045

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.