

Ko, Mika, Sheffield University, United Kingdom

Borderless Japan? - Representation of foreigners in Japanese Cinema

In recent years, there has been a growing debate about Japanese nationalism and its claims for national homogeneity and cultural uniqueness. Japanese cinema has participated in this debate by seeking to broaden the way in which the Japanese nation is imagined and to draw attention to the ethnic and cultural heterogeneity within Japan. This, however, is a contradictory process insofar as the identification of diversity does not in itself guarantee a subversion of the traditional national framework. By looking at some films, such as Miike Takashi's *City of Lost Souls* and Iwai Shunji's *Swallowtail Butterfly*, this paper will consider the ways in which recent Japanese films, through narrativisation and visual style, both subvert and conform to dominant notions of the Japanese nation.