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Remembering: A Cross-cultural Dialogue on Cinematic Remembrances in the Asian Cinema

This panel seeks to engage in the contemporary debates about the Asian cinema as a possible terrain in contesting, deconstructing and reconstructing history through memories and personal narratives, a topic of special interest in the studies of Asian cinema informed by cultural discourses surrounding nationalism, collectivism, (post)colonialism, diaspora, nostalgia and identities. The case studies of the three Asian directors in this panel – Thai director Apichatpong Weerasethakul's *Primitive* (2009), Mainland director Jia Zhangke's *24 City* (2008), and Hong Kong director Ann Hui On-wah's *Song of the Exile* (1990) and *As Time Goes By: Personal Memoir of Hong Kong* (1997), all articulate in their own ways the complex relationship of “objective” history and “subjective” memories/histories, public and private, authenticity and fabulation. Instead of forging a unified understanding of the historical past, these documentary-oriented works set the stage for discussion about the fluidity, instability and limits of historical representations in the Asian cinema.