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### **Dreams and Nightmares: Simulation and Heterotopias in East Asian Sci-Fi**

A cityscape saturated with advanced consumerist technologies of audiovisual reproduction: whether such a phenomenon occasions alarm over the vanishing of reality in the face of simulacra or represents an exhilarating proliferation of “extensions” to man haunts the minds of those who live in East Asian metropolises, where navigating through a world half-real, half-imagined, is a matter of everyday psychic survival. How has this anxiety expressed itself in recent sci-fi films from the region? When Foucault formulated his ideas on “heterotopias” in the late Sixties, he made no speculation on what role such spaces might play in a future of unprecedented consumerist technology. This paper re-situates Foucault’s conceptual framework in a contemporary East Asian cultural context, exploring a range of films that comment on the nature of high-tech simulations. Films such *Avalon*, *2046*, and *Cyber She* will be understood in terms of such themes as escapism, political repression, nostalgia, and pornography.