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The Trouble with Chinese Filmmakers in Japan/ Japanese Filmmakers in China

The Japanese mediascope became increasingly reclusive and appears isolated from the regional Asian developments through the long economic decline. Underneath of this trend, however, for many independent filmmakers and film students in East Asia, including Japan, their personal and professional lives had become enmeshed within regional Asian networks. Based on interviews with Chinese filmmakers who studied in Japan and a Japanese filmmaker who studied in China, this paper provides a glimpse of the ways their transnational networks operate.

The Beijing Film Academy opened its door to foreign students in the late 1990s, and, by the mid 2000s, over twenty Japanese students were studying each year. The Japanese filmmaker Takahiro Nakamura, who studied in The Academy, assisted and made the controversial documentary film made by the Chinese director, *Yasukuni* (Li 2007), possible. The paper shows how these transnational collaborations are becoming more and more commonplace.