

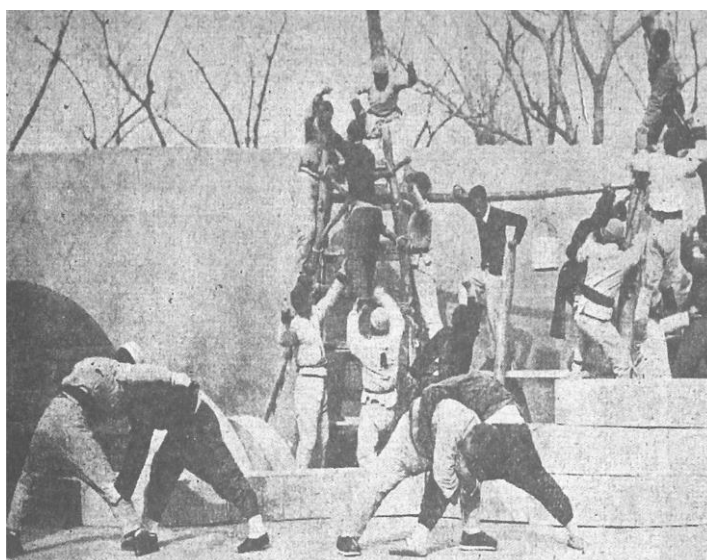


Dr. Weihong Bao (Associate Professor,
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“What is An Environment? Set Design and the Art of
the Human”

22.07.2022 at 11:00 c. t.

Hauptgebäude, Raum E216, Geschwister-Scholl-Platz



In this talk, I explore the promise and pitfalls of medium as environment by tracking the twin development of environmental thinking and set design in and beyond film and theater in China, considering it as a problematic of epistemology, technology, and aesthetics. I treat *huanjing* (environment) as a neologism, a new episteme, a dispositif, and a mode of power, taking set design as the companion medium that reconnects art and technology, aesthetics and politics. Reconceptualizing set, design, and environment at the intersection of industrial design and progressive education, I focus on modernist and propagandistic practice of set design in China in the 1930s and 40s, moving from set design in film and theater to the design and practice of human/environment that constitutes the landscape of the social. How these aesthetic and technical experiments rework the social will help us reconfigure the human in the reassemblage of our medium /environment complex.