

## **Panel 4**

### **Intermediality, Film and Cross-Cultural Encounters**

#### **From Text to Screen:**

#### **Intermedial Discourse in East Asian Adaptations of Haruki Murakami**

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Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami's literary works have achieved remarkable global reach through cinematic adaptations, yet the intermedial transformations they undergo reveal complex aesthetic and cultural negotiations that remain underexplored. This study examines how two renowned East Asian directors—Lee Chang-dong and Ryusuke Hamaguchi—reconfigure Murakami's fiction for the screen, each employing distinct approaches to intermedial translation. Lee's *Burning* (2018) transforms Murakami's ambiguous narrative into politically charged visual discourse, interweaving social critique with symbolic imagery to address Korea's historical wounds and class struggles. In contrast, Hamaguchi's *Drive My Car* (2021) preserves the polyphonic structure of Murakami's prose while integrating theatrical elements, creating a hybrid form that blurs boundaries between literature, cinema, and performance. Through comparative analysis, this paper explores how these directors navigate the tensions between textual fidelity and creative reinterpretation, shaped by their distinct cultural contexts and artistic philosophies. The study situates these adaptations within broader discourses on intermediality, national trauma, and the ethics of cross-cultural adaptation in contemporary East Asian cinema. By examining the divergent aesthetic strategies employed by Lee and Hamaguchi, this research illuminates the complex negotiations involved in intermedial storytelling and the cultural stakes of literary adaptation across different artistic forms.

#### **Biography**

Fengyun Tang is a postgraduate student in Visual Arts at the University of Malaya. Tang has a BA in Drama and Film Studies from Chongqing University, China. Tang's current research focuses on Asian cinema and intermedial adaptation. Tang has also presented at the Besides the Screen 2025 conference hosted by the University of Nottingham Ningbo.