

Panel 23
Film and Intermedial Encounters

**The Narrated House:
Place and Intermedial Storytelling in François Ozon's *Dans la Maison* (2012)**

Lu Zeng
Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London

This paper investigates François Ozon's *Dans la maison* (*In the House*, 2012)—a film where a student's creative writing assignments detail his real and imagined infiltration of a classmate's family home—to illuminate how place is inherently and reciprocally connected to narrative, a fundamental function shared and contested by both literature and cinema. I argue that the film's titular house operates as an active intermedial zone where the mutual influence between place and narrativity is made explicit. This analysis explores how place shapes narrative possibilities within different media, and conversely, how these media actively create and reconfigure our understanding of place.

I will examine how the physical and perceived attributes of this scrutinized house influence the student's literary choices, shaping his evolving textual accounts. Simultaneously, this paper demonstrates how these written narratives and the film's cinematic interpretations (often guided by a teacher figure) actively construct and redefine the house, transforming it from a physical location into a palimpsest of desires, anxieties, and fictional possibilities. Ozon's film thus showcases narrative as a dynamic process where place is both a catalyst and a creation, powerfully shaped by the intermedial synergy between the literary imagining of space and its vivid cinematic realization. Ultimately, this paper contends that *In the House* offers a potent example of how narrative, as a shared intermedial function, employs place to explore its own creative power and ethical complexities, demonstrating a rich interplay where the spatial and the diegetic perpetually inform and transform one another.

Biography

Lu Zeng is a PhD Candidate at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. Her doctoral research investigates the intersection of place and film theory. Her work has been published in *Film-Philosophy*, *Mediapolis: A Journal of Cities and Culture*, and Routledge (forthcoming).