

你那邊幾點

What time is it there:

Loneliness in Urban Spaces of Flows
And Their Connections 2018 Fall

Time-Space Compression: Discussion Questions

- ▶ 1. Define Time-Space Compression. How is it related to and different from “Time-Space Distantiation”? What causes Time-Space Compression?
- ▶ 2. What are the effects of Time-Space compression? How is it critiqued? Give examples.
- ▶ 3. How would you describe “internet time” and “internet space”? Are they always compressed into one?



What Time is it There? Discussion Questions

1. What does the film title mean? What do **the clock and watches** in the film mean? Scenes of time-space compression?
2. What does each character (2. mother, 3. Xiao-kang, 4. Xiang-chyi) fear and/or desire? Describe their **“home” spaces**.
3. How do the characters, Kang and Chyi, experience the **Spaces of Flows** (or non-place such as railroad/subway station, theatre, café, road, skywalk) respectively in Taipei and Paris? Do they connect with one another?
4. What are the functions of 400 Blows in the film? (ref. Janeen’s questions) Analyze other frames that show **multiple time-space**
5. What function does **the father** play? Also discuss the beginning and ending of the film. Do the father scenes parallel that of the son’s (Kang)?
6. Are there moments of the film where you find the characters **funny and/or relatable**? Can you sympathize with them?

Characters

- ▶ Xiao-kang (小康) – fear of ghost; need to break away from his time zone
- ▶ Mother – need signs of connection w/ her husband
- ▶ Shiang-chyi(湘琪) –disoriented in Paris
- ▶ Deaths: Father
- ▶ “Unbreakable” watch,
- ▶ Cockroach, dog hit by a car, Jean-Pierre
- ▶ Parisians at the coffee shop, subway station passengers (Chen), Hong Kongese woman



1. What does clock time mean?

- ▶ Time: Relative → multiple
- ▶ spaces of empty time
- ▶ Watches – dual time, alarms ringing all the time
- ▶ Wheel – time in a circle?
- ▶ For Kang & Chyi, watch/clock is a form of connection with someone elsewhere, not much different from the mother's praying ritual



2. Kang: Loneliness in an Apartment of Death –and Fear and Desire



What does he want?

Taipei: Fear and Desire

Calling to find out Paris's Time



Kang: Loneliness in Taipei

Calling for Attention; Re-setting time



Chyi: Loneliness in Paris

Footsteps???



Mother and Son: Re-Setting Time at Home and Spaces of Flows with **Another World**

**Mother –Home → Death
back to life (her own body)**

- ▶ having dinner at midnight;
- ▶ Talking to a fish, weeping; Hsiao-kang weeps, too.
- ▶ Trying to seal the windows with tapes in order to block the light. --He does not want light.
- ▶ Dressing up herself and eating dinner with her husband.
- ▶ Hugging a pillow and masturbating with it: **her own body**

**Hsiao-Kang: Street → Paris
→ Back home**

- ▶ His own watches
- ▶ Those on another watch stand
- ▶ The clock at a theatre, in an MRT station
- ▶ Re-sets the time on top of a building; toasts himself and eats in a car or at food stands;
- ▶ Has sex with a woman in a van
- ▶ Hsiao-Kang **back home**, putting his coat on his mother, who is sleeping

Time – Relativized & Space
Contracted

Hsiao-Kang's Spaces of Flows

Railroad station –time and schedule



Cars reflected on the building windows



Welcoming the dead



Multiple Time in MRT station

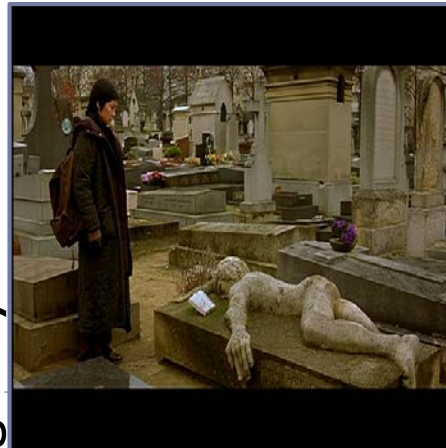


Chyi (湘琪) –disoriented in Paris

- ▶ **Accommodation:** Hotel room with footsteps above
- ▶ **Eating:** Cannot order; Lonely; vomiting
- ▶ **Walking:** Get stopped from entering a place (for a show?); keep losing things; people passing her by; missing chances
- ▶ **The last one to** change to another subway train
- ▶ **Running fearfully** on the street? Eating alone in a hotel room
- ▶ **Alone** in a grave yard;



hotel



graveyard



Entrance blocked

Cannot Order foods



Fluid Identities on Parisian Streets



Fluid Identities on Taipei Streets

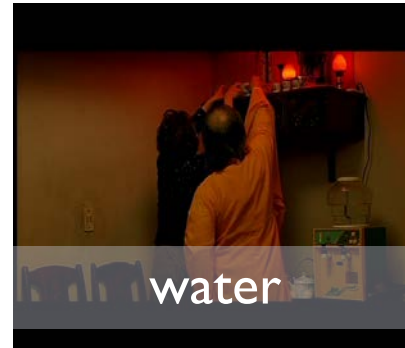


Brief or Failed Connections in the Two Cities

- searches for a telephone number, given one by Jean-Pierre.
- Meets a woman and sleeps with her; the Hong Kong woman stops



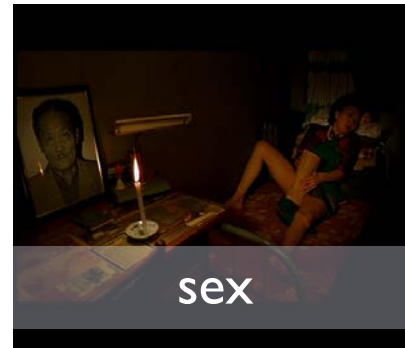
calling



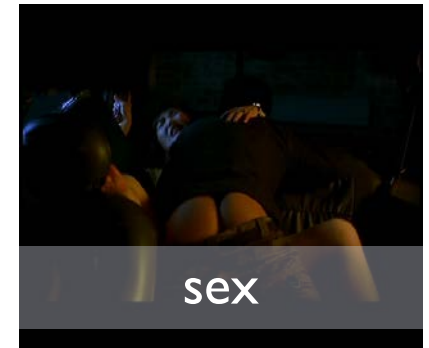
water



fish



sex



sex



Losing phone no.



Watches stolen

Girlfriend?

Connections between Paris and Taipei

400 Blows –spinning cylinder

Stealing a bottle of milk

Jean-Pierre



400 Blows --

27:00 (spinning inside a big can)

▶ 59:00 (stealing a bottle of milk)

Connections in Taipei



Ending: Connection in Paris –Vicious Circle or Circle of Life?



Are there examples of time-space compression in this film?

- ▶ Yes, in the use of multiple clocks and watches with multiple times.
 - ▶ No, for the characters; in their loneliness, their time is lengthened while their space contracted.
 - ▶ They reach out to another time zone mostly without success—**except for the three scenes from the viewers' point of view:**
 - ▶ Kang watching 400 Blows
 - ▶ Chyi meeting Jean-Pierre
 - ▶ The father at the end.
 - ▶ These are moments of connection for the film, and maybe for us, too. For the characters, the only “possible”
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- ▶ moment of connection is Kang sleeping w/ his mother.