While the formation of Chinese youth culture is intertwined with the influx of global culture in China and youth’s access to global culture from without, this lecture will discuss Dr. Fung’s paper on an emerging formation of productive culture of the new generation in China that is also associated with the global culture, more specifically, Japanese comics / anime culture. Such production is a second degree of (re)production based on the cultural resources consumed (e.g. Japanese anime) in everyday life or what we called shanzhai. Based on shanzhai or second degree of reproduction of anime and cultural texts, on the digital space, Dr. Fung argues that Chinese youth are able to create an alternative discourse based on the existing controlling narratives of the society to challenge the dominant mainstream in their own youth space. This alternative is seen as something cloned or mimicked and it remains marginal in the eyes of the authorities, and thus it is able to stay intact, reproductive, and regenerative. Through social media and based on concrete examples, in the presentation, in this paper, Dr. Fung explores the implications of such second degree of cultural production for the Chinese society.

Speaker
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