



Studying Contemporary Media Cultures

Two-Day Workshop

10-11 June 2022
(Fri-Sat)

**Dept. of Gender and
Media Studies for the
South Asian Region,**
IAAW, Humboldt
University of Berlin

**Seminar Room. 315
Invalidenstraße 118,
Berlin 10115**

“Wonderfully creepy”: this is how cultural theorist Wendy Hui Kyong Chun described New Media and the cultures that their popular practices generate, in her 2016 book *Updating to Remain the Same*. The phrase encapsulates quite well the many paradoxes of what makes our times equally fascinating and uncanny at the same time. Since the changes in media structures play a key role in constituting the contemporary as a condition, media studies has evolved as an interdisciplinary space to explore a range of themes with broader purchase across disciplines, and across regions, like:

— how do we still generate exciting theoretical questions around the disruptions effected by cultures of new media, now that we know they are not technologies of freedom?

— How do we approach contemporary media cultures as a question of media ecology, reconstituting us anew?

— How can we use problems and themes of contemporary media cultures to reengage with questions related to body, psyche, sexuality, structure, freedom, and politics?

— What kinds of productive conversations can evolve between scholars of media, culture and society working in South Asian contexts and in Europe today?

— How do we conceive a future at a time when our media infrastructure shows the capacity to convert all subversive energies into computable data and bodies to be redeployed?

The workshop brings together scholars from different regional and disciplinary locations to explore themes related to these questions, so as to rise up to the challenges that the present poses.

Keynote Speaker:

**Clemens Apprich, Professor in
Media Theory and History,
University of Applied Arts Vienna.**