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Asian-American Literature and a Lacanian Reading of Maxine Hong Kingston's Tripmaster Monkey

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Abstract

In his paper, "Asian-American Literature and a Lacanian Reading of Maxine Hong Kingston's Tripmaster Monkey," Fu-jen Chen explores the protagonist's subjective progression into the post-Symbolic Real in Kingston's Tripmaster Monkey -- from subject as Demand, through subject as Desire, to subject as jouissance. Tripmaster Monkey records Ah Sing's transformation from a racial paranoiac at the beginning of the novel through a subject as demand to a subject as desire who is learning to target new desires via his engaging in real myth and staging real theater, and finally to a subject as jouissance -- one who is oriented to his own cause of desire and is able to enjoy. As a subject as jouissance, Ah Sing signifies a "New Man" whose racial identity as Asian-American is free from the grip of the nostalgic other (Chinese) or the racist Other (American) but subjected to the hyphen, the rupture as well as the joint that functions as the thing, cause of desire, and object petit a. At the end, Ah Sing finally can act as cause and subjectify the cause of his existence as an Asian-American.

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Maxine Hong Kingston is one of the many contemporary American novelists of non-European ethnicities and one of many women... (More). Is this relevant? 2017. 2017. Asian-American Literature and a Lacanian Reading of Maxine Hong Kingston's Tripmaster Monkey. Fu-jen Chen. 2017. In his paper, "Asian-American Literature and a Lacanian Reading of Maxine Hong Kingston's Tripmaster Monkey," Fu-jen Chen... (More). Is this relevant? Asian-American Literature and a Lacanian Reading of Maxine Hong Kingston's Tripmaster Monkey. June 2004 ·

CLCWeb - Comparative Literature and Culture. fu-jen Chen. Tripmaster Monkey records Ah Sing's transformation from a racial paranoiac at the [Show full abstract] beginning of the novel through a subject as demand to a subject as desire who is learning to target new desires via his engaging in real myth and staging real theater, and finally to a subject as jouissance -- one who is oriented to his own cause of desire and is able to enjoy. The daughter of Chinese immigrants, Maxine Hong Kingston grew up in California. Her first book, *The Woman Warrior*, blended fiction, memoir and myth in innovative ways. A feminist and pacifist, she campaigned against the wars in Vietnam and Iraq, and her latest work draws on the testimony of veterans. When Californian writer and peace activist Maxine Hong Kingston was awarded a humanities medal at the White House in 1997, she astonished the draft-dodging president with a message from Vietnam war veterans. "They said, 'Tell Bill Clinton we're proud of him; he was right and brave not to go to Vietnam!'"