This course argues that cinema, the primary vehicle for storytelling in the 20th century, and identification, the mechanism so central to the workings of the cinematic apparatus, are both being redefined in a culture increasingly suffused with social media, networks and algorithms. Through readings, screenings, museum and gallery visits, and diverse media experiences, participants in this class will investigate the various permutations of “the cinematic” as it evolves, alongside new and emerging redefinitions of the human. Where might these two trajectories of redefinition meet and overlap?

Rather than a traditional graduate seminar, this course will take the shape of exploratory laboratory, inviting multiple perspectives and pathways through collectively sourced materials.

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Image: Shu Lea Cheang, 3X3X6, video still, 2019