The relation between portrayals of violence in mass media and actual violence in social life always simmers amongst researchers and the general public. Violence on TV, in films and video games has certainly increased, but actual violence has decreased. So what are we to make of violence in media? What is its meaning? This presentation expands the field of inquiry by examining violence in media within the context of the change in the communication system from domination by print media to domination by electronic visual media. Rather than assessing causal correlations between portrayals of violence in media and actual violence, this approach locates portrayals of violence as features of a resurgent oral culture.

march 21 (wednesday)
5pm-6:20pm
Creative Arts 116
san francisco state university

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