

Winter School

Media Activism
and Postcolonial Futures

Hong Kong
16 - 21 January 2017



SSRC



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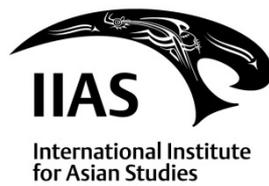


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Organizers



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Theme Description

There has been growing scholarly interest in better understanding the role of media technologies—from Facebook and WhatsApp to cloud computing and location-based services – in transforming the nature of social movements worldwide. But “Twitter revolutions” that subvert existing structures of media and political power are only a part of this story. The Arab Uprisings also taught states across the Middle East, North Africa and Asia how to tame media activism and deploy digital tools for control. Media activism spread across ideological spectrums and has brought to the forefront not only youth and pro-democracy movements. It has also been used successfully by political parties to embrace ethno-nationalist agendas and enable closer alliances with neoliberal capital and military power. These varied political logics and fates of media activism since 2011 make clear that triumphalist accounts of “media technologies-as-liberation” require revision; there is a pressing need to embed media and technology-centric perspectives on activism in an account of historical context and institutional power.

In this Winter School, we are interested in exploring these multivalent dynamics of digital media activism in postcolonial contexts where historical and contemporary legacies of global power relations shape and inflect media and political practices. Specifically, we will trace how media industries, from news to entertainment, from social networking services to print media sectors, create new modes of politics building on existing political divides between minorities of various social class backgrounds and majority publics. We will also consider how the politics of ethnicity, religion, caste/race, gender and sexuality shape these new modes of political engagement. In this process we will pay attention to the role of the state and the expanded influence of established commercial media industries in generating new forms of public-private surveillance and control. Finally, we will consider the shifting political valences of digital activism, paying attention to how political energies have been re-oriented towards right-wing populism and new digitally enhanced modes of authoritarianism.

The Winter School will allow PhD students and advanced research masters’ students with significant professional experience, including journalists and researchers allied with social movements, to problematize these questions in the politically dynamic setting of Hong Kong. Hong Kong is an ideal city to discuss the dynamics of media activism historically and in the present given its postcolonial status, unique media systems in relation to mainland China, and its ongoing power struggle following the Umbrella Movement of 2014.

Conversations at the Hong Kong Winter School will revolve around critical reflections on media activism in the Asian, including West Asia, or the Middle East, and North African context around the following sub-themes, among others:

- Contemporary forms of media activism in historical context in relation to earlier 20th century movements, parties, and struggles
- Dynamics of the relationship between media activism and state and corporate control and surveillance
- Modes of cross-class media activism (middle class, working class/subaltern media campaigns)
- InterAsian (by which we mean historical and/or contemporary transnational/cross-national/trans-regional processes, structures, practices, and flows within, across and beyond the territorial and imaginative space of Asia)/transborder social movements and media
- Media and populism/authoritarianism
- The genres of mediated expression and the question of "political voice"
- Media Activism and Postcolonial Futures

Program

Monday, 16 January

- 10:00–12:00 Welcome & Introductions
- 12:00–1:00 Lunch
- 1:00–2:45 **Convenor led Session I**
Media and Activism in the Umbrella Movement
Francis L.F. Lee
- 2:45–3:15 Coffee/Tea Break
- 3:15–5:00 **Convenor led Session II**
Molding and Resisting Appconn: Toward a Better World of Digital Labor
Jack Linchuan Qiu
- 5:30 *Welcome Dinner*

Tuesday, 17 January

- 9:00–10:45 **Convenor led Session III**
Media, Ethnicity and Religion in Southeast Asia
Zaharom Nain
- 10:45–11:15 Coffee/Tea Break
- 11:15–1:00 **Convenor led Session IV**
Rethinking the Politics of Class in Times of Austerity
Paula Chakravartty and Srirupa Roy
- 1:00–2:00 Lunch
- 2:00–3:45 **Convenor led Session V**
Media, Populism, and Power
Srirupa Roy and Paula Chakravartty
- 3:45–4:00 Coffee/Tea Break
- 4:00–5:00 Students break into 3 smaller working groups to discuss aims and goals for upcoming fieldwork and to begin brainstorming about Saturday group presentations

Apple Daily	HK-In Media	Mission for Migrant Workers
Srirupa Roy, Francis L.F. Lee	Jack Linchuan Qiu, Zaharom Nain	Paula Chakravartty, Jack Linchuan Qiu
Areum Jeong, Hamdi Echkaou, Oscar Tantoco Serquina, Jr., Fiona Suwana, Karin Ahlberg, Srikanth Kharrn, Sarah McKeever	Marta Soler Alemany, Dominic Lehmann, Yara El Moussaoui, Cherie Wu, Huda Alsahi, Gayathry Venkiteswaran, Benjamin Garvey, Evelyn Wan	Lillian H.Y. Liu, Alyssa Miller, Miao Lu, Reema Salha Fadda, Nurul Azreen Azlan, Olivier Ruelle, Anna Julia Fiedler

Wednesday, 18 January

9:00 Breakfast at Hotel – during this time, convenors will be available to meet and discuss questions/issues with students as necessary

All day **Field Trips / Independent Research**

Thursday, 19 January

9:00 Breakfast at Hotel – during this time, convenors will be available to meet and discuss questions/issues with students as necessary

All day **Field Trips / Independent Research**

Friday, 20 January

8:30 Breakfast at Hotel – during this time, convenors will be available to meet and discuss questions/issues with students as necessary

10:00–12:00 **Guest Lecture**
Anti-Democratic Activism: Analyzing Hate Campaigns
Cherian George

12:00–1:00 Lunch

Free afternoon -- participants can use this time for independent research and to prepare presentation materials

Saturday, 21 January

10:30–12:00 **Group Presentations & Discussions (part I)**
Apple Daily

12:30–2:00 Lunch

2:00–5:30 **Group Presentations & Discussions (part II)**
Hong Kong In-Media; Mission for Migrant Workers

Closing Dinner

Workshop abstracts

Media and Activism in the Umbrella Movement

Francis L.F. Lee

The session will focus on the experience of the Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong in late 2014. The talk will discuss the role of digital media in the formation of and mobilization processes behind the occupation campaign, with an emphasis on how event contingencies provided the opportunities for digital media to play their specific roles. The talk will also emphasize digital media as an empowering as well as a de-centralizing force. By drawing a contrast between the Umbrella Movement and Castells' concept of networked social movement, the session will discuss the question of whether digital media can replace conventional movement organizations when a movement campaign cannot live in "timeless time."

Readings

Lee, Francis L.F., & Joseph M. Chan (2016). Digital media activities and mode of participation in a protest campaign: The case of the Umbrella Movement. *Information, Communication & Society*, 19(1), 4-22.

Lee, Francis L.F. (2015). Digital media use and participation leadership in social protests: The case of Tiananmen commemoration in Hong Kong. *Telematics and Informatics*, 32(4), 879-899.

Lee, Francis L.F. (2015). Internet, citizen self-mobilization, and social movement organizations in environmental collective action campaigns: Two Hong Kong cases. *Environmental Politics*, 24(2), 308-325.

**Optional readings:

**Hung, Ho-fung, and Ip, lam-chong (2012). Hong Kong's democratic movement and the making of China's offshore civil society. *Asian Survey*, 52(3), 504-527

**Special Issue on the Media and Umbrella Movement, *Chinese Journal of Communication*, 8(4).

Molding and Resisting Appconn: Toward a Better World of Digital Labor

Jack Linchuan Qiu

Appconn is a shorthand for the symbiotic global system between app-economies such as the Apple eco-system and equipment makers such as Foxconn. This talk introduces (a) how China has become the world's factory of digital gadgets, and (b) how Chinese workers resist the exploitation of Appconn through the creation of worker-generated content (WGC) and the deployment of social media in picket-line struggles. References to historical antislavery movements are made to re-articulate the ties between progressive campaigns today and parrallel movements in the past, between mainland China, Hong Kong, and the cyberspace on the one hand and the revolutionary Atlantic on the other. iSlaves have nothing to lose but our chains. We have a world to win.

Readings

Punathambeker, A., Roy, S., Sabry, T., & Haugbolle, S. (2014). Media, activism, and the new political: "Istanbul conversations" on new media and left politics. *Media, Culture & Society*, 36(7), 1045-1056.

Qiu, Jack L. (2016). *Goodbye iSlave: A manifesto for digital abolition*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press. Chapters 5-6, pp. 119-188.

**Scholz, Trebor (2006, January 1). *Platform cooperativism: Challenging the corporate sharing economy*. New York: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.
Available: http://www.rosalux-nyc.org/wp-content/files_mf/scholz_platformcoop_5.9.2016.pdf

Media, Ethnicity and Religion in Southeast Asia

Zaharom Nain

Across Southeast Asia, certainly within the nation states that belong to ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) both religion and ethnicity have played – and continue to play – important roles in addressing society and, certainly, the role and limits of the media in society. Indeed, it has also been argued that both ethnicity and religion have exacerbated these problems. This relationship between the media, ethnicity and religion is examined in this session. Focusing on three countries – Indonesia, Myanmar and Malaysia – which continue to have their fair share of ethno-religious problems and conflicts, this session aims at problematizing and interrogating questions of economic and political power, especially when compounded with rising religious bigotry and racism.

Readings

Lee, Ronan. (2016). The Dark Side of Liberalization: How Myanmar's Political and Media Freedoms are Being Used to Limit Muslim Rights. *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, 27, 2.

Hamayotsu, K. (2013). The Limits of Civil Society in Democratic Indonesia: Media Freedom and Religious Intolerance. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 43:4, 658-677.

Syed Husin Ali (2015). *Ethnic Relations in Malaysia: Harmony and Conflict*. Petaling Jaya: SIRD.

Rethinking the Politics of Class in Times of Austerity

Paula Charkravartty and Srirupa Roy

The second decade of the 21st century has seen a rise of political activism responding to growing and visible conditions of economic inequality around the world. These have been articulated through new modes of class politics, whether in the form of spontaneous workers' rebellions, strategic precarious urban mobilization or in the form of nationalist and xenophobic politics against migrants, racial and ethnic minorities. What are the commonalities and differences in the formations of mediatized class politics emerging across the Middle East, North Africa and Asia? Are these social movements (or non-movements) effective in pushing back against neoliberal austerity—whether in terms of shifting the blame on ethnic/religious minorities and migrants, or in fact improving labor conditions and wages and enhancing poor people's claims for citizenship and belonging? Are these movements evidence of a "New Left" in-the-making, the consolidation of elite power, or new expressions of "post-political" engagement? We will discuss these questions through an interdisciplinary set of readings that address these questions through specific discussions of contemporary class politics in Tunisia, Egypt, India and China.

Readings

Bayat, Asef (2015). Plebeians of the Arab Spring. *Current Anthropology*, 56(11): 33-43.

Thachil, Tariq (2014). Elite parties and poor voters: Theory and evidence from India. *American Political Science Review*, 108(2): 457-477.

Della Porta, Donatella (2015). *Social movements in times of austerity: Bringing capitalism back into protest analysis*. Polity: Chapters 1 & 2.

Zhao, Yuezhi (2012). The struggle for socialism in China: The Bo Xilai saga and beyond. *Monthly Review*, 64(5): 1-17.

Media, Populism, and Power

Srirupa Roy and Paula Chakravartty

Across the globe today, from Thailand to the US, Turkey to Brazil, we are witnessing the emergence of new political movements passionately advancing the claims of “the people” against the ruling “political classes.” Media of various kinds, from television and social media to camera-enabled mobile phones and text messages, play a key role—whether as tool, site, or agent—in enabling and extending such a politics. This particular formation of mediatized populism is the focus of this session, which will explore the political historical dynamics and implications of media-enabled projects of people-making that have gained prominence in regions across Asia and the MENA region in recent years. Moving beyond the celebratory accounts of technology-as-liberation, we are particularly interested in the question of how mediatized people’s movements reflect and constitute relations and hierarchies of power in the global South, and the role that states, capital, and global geopolitical forces play in shaping politics in the name of the people.

Readings

Jodi Dean (2005), “Communicative Capitalism: Circulation and the Foreclosure of Politics,” *Cultural Politics*

Adi Kuntsman and Rebecca Stein (2011), “Digital Suspicion, Politics, and the Middle East,” *Critical Inquiry*

Paula Chakravartty and Srirupa Roy (2015), “Mr. Modi Goes to Delhi: Mediated Populism and the 2014 Indian elections,” *Television & New Media*

Anti-Democratic Activism: Analyzing Hate Campaigns

Cherian George

Social movement theories have tended to focus on progressive causes. This session argues that the insights gleaned from studies of contentious politics apply equally well to anti-democratic movements. It uses the example of right-wing networks that tapped identity politics to mount effective hate campaigns in various democratic settings, including the United States, India and Indonesia. The presentation draws from George’s new monograph, *Hate Spin: The Manufacture of Religious Offense and its Threat to Democracy* (MIT Press, 2016).

Readings

George, Cherian (2016-online early view). *Hate Spin: The Twin Political Strategies of Religious Incitement and Offence-Taking*. *Communication Theory*. doi:10.1111/comt.12111

**George, Cherian (2016). *Hate Spin: The Manufacture of Religious Offense and Its Threat to Democracy*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Dropbox folder with Readings:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7787214l0iuu07n/AACtSFjX4YRrKKquUhCDWihDa?dl=0>

Documentary Reporters Against Power, Episode 6 Hong Kong:

<http://episode-one.com/productions/reporters-against-power/?lang=en>

Apple Daily



Apple Daily is a Hong Kong-based tabloid-style newspaper founded in 1995. It is one of the two best-selling newspapers in Hong Kong, known for its coverage of celebrities and brash political satire (e.g., through animated storytelling¹) as well as its steadily pro-social-movement and anti-government stance throughout the years. Due to its coverage in support of the Umbrella Movement (aka Occupy Central Movement), Apple Daily headquarters was besieged by hundreds of pro-government people in October 2014² with the intention to stop the distribution and delivery of the newspaper³. Earlier that year, the website of Apple Daily was also brought down by a major cyberattack⁴, for which Apple Daily blamed Beijing. These incidents caused wide discussions on the freedom of speech and press in Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong In-Media"⁵ (HK-based independent media)



A leading example of Hong Kong's Cyber Left, Hong Kong In-Media⁶ is the first and the most influential independent media organization in Hong Kong. Founded in 2004 after a large-scale demonstration advocating election reforms, the organization consists of activists, journalists, citizen journalists, and policy advocates. They have participated actively in grassroots social activism in Hong Kong, including the Umbrella Movement of 2014; the preservation of the Central Star Ferry Pier and Queen's Pier, in 2006 and 2008, respectively; and the anti-WTO demonstrations of 2005. Besides full-time staff and citizen reporters, Hong Kong In-Media also relies on freelancers for news reporting. Now the website has about 20,000 daily active users and it plays a unique role as the most comprehensive online archive center for progressive social movements in Hong Kong.

HK In-Media is dedicated to grassroots movement and advocacy news reporting. It has global connections to independent media outlets elsewhere such as Global Voices, Malaysiakini, and Civilmedia in Taiwan. It also engages in a series of education and training programs⁷ to promote citizen journalism and raise the awareness of political participation among citizens, especially youth.

¹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/06/business/media/06animate.html>

² <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1622338/soy-sauce-attack-apple-daily>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y1uD3KTZDs>

⁴ <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1535484/apple-daily-website-taken-offline-cyberattack-ahead-occupy-vote>

⁵ <http://www.multiplejournalism.org/case/hong-kong-in-media-i-e-a-c-c-a-e-i>

⁶ <https://inmediahk.org/>

⁷ <https://inmediahk.org/education/>

Mission for Migrant Workers



Among Hong Kong's 7-million population, about 300,000 are foreign domestic workers. Most of them are from the Philippines and Indonesia. Starting from October 2016, the minimum wage for foreign domestic workers in Hong Kong was raised to 4,310 HKD (approx. \$556) per month⁸ (compared to the city's average monthly wage of more than 15,000 HKD or \$1,933). Studies have shown that the minimum wage for domestic helpers should have reached 4,500 HKD⁹ to meet the minimum hourly wage equivalent to HongKongers. Fair work condition and minimum living wage for foreign domestic workers are key issues pursued by labor activists and NGOs.

The Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW) is a migrant-serving institution established in Hong Kong in 1981. The organization is dedicated to delivering responsive services to Asian migrants and develop self-sustaining capacities of migrant's organizations for mutual aid and cooperation. An ecumenical organisation assisting migrant workers in distress, the Mission supports efforts which give recognition and respect to the rights and well-being of migrant workers within the larger community. MFMW organizes mutual care support network for domestic helpers while collaborating with researchers and activist groups for policy advocacy by conducting surveys and interviews with migrant domestic workers. For instance, based on a survey study in 2013, MFMW voiced strongly to repeal the mandatory live-in policy¹⁰ because this policy requiring domestic helpers to live in the residence of their employers increases the risk of abuse for female domestic workers.

Further readings: The topic of Foreign Domestic Workers in Hong Kong covered by the South China Morning Post¹¹

⁸ http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/wcp/FDHLeaflet_Eng.pdf

⁹ <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1588860/were-not-cheap-labour-says-maids-group>

¹⁰ <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/panels/mp/papers/mp0227cb2-870-11-e.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.scmp.com/topics/foreign-domestic-workers-hong-kong>

Biographies

Convenors

Paula Chakravartty is Associate Professor of Media, Culture and Communication (MCC), and the Gallatin School, at New York University. Her publications include *Race, Empire and the Crisis of the Subprime* (with Denise Ferreira da Silva, Johns Hopkins Press, 2013), *Media Policy and Globalization* (with Katharine Sarikakis, University of Edinburgh Press and Palgrave, 2006), *Global Communications: Towards a Transcultural Political Economy*, (with Yuezhi Zhao, Rowman & Littlefield, 2008). She is the co-editor of a recent special issue on “Infrastructures of Empire” in *Media, Culture and Society* (2016). She has worked with the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) on Media Activism and the New Political in the Inter-Asia program since 2013. She also works with labor and migrant workers organizations based in New York.

Francis L.F. Lee is Professor at the School of Journalism and Communication, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His recent publications include *Talk radio, the mainstream press, and public opinion in Hong Kong* (Hong Kong University Press, 2014) and *Communication, Public Opinion, and Globalization in Urban China* (with Chin-chuan Lee, Mike Z. Yao, Tsan-kuo Chang, Jennifer Fen Lin, and Fei Shen, Routledge, 2013). He has published in a number of journals, including the *Chinese Journal of Communication*, *Media Culture & Society*, and the *Journal of Comparative Asian Development*. His research interests include press freedom and political change, media and collective memory of political events, media and political scandals, and postmaterialism in Hong Kong.

Professor Zaharom ('Rom') Nain teaches in both the BA in International Communication and the MA in Cultural Studies programmes at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC). Rom's publications include the 2013 book, *Rhetoric and Realities: Critical Reflections on Malaysian Politics, Culture and Education* (SIRD) and two co-edited volumes, *Communication and Development: The Freirean Connection* (Hampton: 2001) and *Who Owns The Media: Global Trends and Local Resistances* (Zed/Southbound: 2004). He has also authored more than 100 book chapters, journal articles and conference papers. He is on the advisory board of the Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) Malaysia, and has been a consultant to the Geneva-based United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Malaysian Institute for Economic Research (MIER). His background and research interests are in the sociology of communications and the political economy of the media. Rom is presently putting together a single author book on the media and politics in Malaysia, to be published in 2016. Also slotted for publication in 2016 is an edited volume of a six-nation study he led on the relationship between civil society, the new media and the state in Southeast Asia.

Jack Linchuan Qiu is Professor at the School of Journalism and Communication, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he serves as Deputy Director of the C-Centre (Centre for Chinese Media and Comparative Communication Research). His publications include *World's Factory in the Information Era* 信息时代的世界工厂 (Guangxi Normal University Press, 2013), *Working-Class Network Society* (MIT Press, 2009), *Mobile Communication and Society* (co-authored, MIT Press, 2006), some of which have been translated into German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Korean. He is on the editorial boards of 10 international academic journals, including six indexed in the SSCI, and is Associate Editor for *Journal of Communication*. He also works with grassroots NGOs and provides consultancy services for international organizations.

Srirupa Roy is Professor of Political Science and the “State and Democracy” Chair at the University of Göttingen’s Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS). Prior to joining the Centre in September 2011 Roy was associate professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and has also held postdoctoral and visiting positions at New York University and Yale University. She has been Senior Advisor for International Collaboration at the Social Science Research Council (New York), and she currently serves on the steering committee/advisory board of the Inter-Asia Program at the SSRC, and the editorial boards of *Critical Asian Studies* and *Contemporary South Asia*. Srirupa Roy is author of *Beyond Belief: India and the Politics of Postcolonial Nationalism* (Duke University Press, 2007) and co-editor of *Violence and Democracy in India* (Seagull Books, 2006) and *Visualizing Secularism: Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, India* (University of Michigan Press, 2012). She has published in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*; *Media, Culture & Society*; *Journal of Asian Studies*; *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*; *Theory & Event*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Identities*; *Television and New Media*; *South Asia*; *Contributions to Indian Sociology*; *Economic and Political Weekly* and in several edited volumes.

Guest lecturer

Cherian George is a writer and academic engaged in journalism research, education and advocacy. He is an Associate Professor in the Journalism Department of Hong Kong Baptist University, where he also serves as Director of the Centre for Media and Communication Research.

His research interests centre on freedom of expression, especially in connection to journalism and public discourse. He studies censorship, media systems and alternative media. His current research focuses on religious intolerance and its implications for freedom of expression. His latest book is *Hate Spin: The Manufacture of Religious Offense and its Threat to Democracy* (MIT Press, 2016).

He is the author of three other books: *Singapore: The Air-Conditioned Nation* (Landmark, 2000); *Contentious Journalism and the Internet: Towards Democratic Discourse in Malaysia and Singapore* (National University of Singapore Press and University of Washington Press, 2006); and *Freedom From The Press: Journalism and State Power in Singapore* (National University of Singapore Press, 2012). Since 2013, he has been the editor of the journal, *Media Asia*.

Before joining academia, he was a journalist at *The Straits Times*, where he wrote mainly on politics and served as the art and photo editor for three years. Early in his career, he twice won the company's Feature of the Year Award. He continues to practise professional journalism as the editor and publisher of *What’s Up*, an independent monthly current affairs newspaper for children, which was honoured for editorial excellence by the Society of Publishers in Asia in 2006.

He takes an interest in media policy and reform, and is actively engaged in forums on freedom of expression in Asia. He blogs on Singapore media and politics at freedomfromthepress.info and airconditionednation.com, and on Asian media issues at mediaasia.info. He was a member of the Media Literacy Council under Singapore's Ministry of Communication and Information (2012-14), and part of “Bloggers 13”, a group lobbying for greater internet freedom. His other civil society contributions include serving as a founding member of The Roundtable in the 1990s.

Participants

Alyssa Miller is a PhD candidate in the Cultural Anthropology department at Duke University. Her dissertation project, entitled “Contraband and Social Contract in the Borderlands of Tunisia,” examines the historical legacy of uneven development in Tunisia following the 2011 Dignity Revolution by tracking the precarious labor of smuggling in a marginalized border community. Her research also illuminates how Tunisian activists are leveraging new institutions and visibilities in public space to demand social justice for Tunisia’s critically under-developed geographies. She focuses specifically on civil society engagements with the Truth and Dignity Commission (IVD), a constitutionally mandated institution of transitional justice, as well as social movements—such as “Manish Msamah”—that defend the IVD’s jurisdiction over financial and economic crimes.

Prior to her doctoral work, Alyssa earned an MA in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Texas at Austin, where her research focused on the trope of “becoming-animal” as a vehicle for representing violence in the Lebanese war novel. As a social scientist grounded in the humanities, she frequently draws on literature, cinema, and other forms of cultural production in addition to classic fieldwork methods.

Anna Julia Fiedler is a recent graduate of the research Masters program Asian Studies at Leiden University. Her thesis “Leadership in a Leaderless movement - How was Leadership in the 2014 'Umbrella Movement' depicted in Narratives of Organizing Activists?” analyses the contesting narratives of leadership within the activist network on the basis of perceived hierarchies. In preparation for the thesis Anna worked as a research intern with the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg and conducted three months of field research in Hong Kong. Her research focal points are networks, social movements, power, and identity in Chinese communities, particularly Hong Kong. She holds a B.A. in Chinese Studies from Free University Berlin. As part of her studies she spent one year in the People’s Republic of China where she studied Mandarin at Guizhou University, helped as a student assistant for the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation to prepare and execute a joint conference with Fudan University on ‘Conceptual gaps in China-EU relations’, and worked at the PR office of the Goethe Institute in Beijing. She is currently interning with the GIZ and preparing for a PhD.

Areum Jeong is a Lecturer/Visiting Scholar in the Department of Theater and Dance at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). She holds a PhD in Theater and Performance Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), a MA in Performance Studies from New York University (NYU) and a BA in English Literature from Ewha W. University (Seoul, Korea). Her training consists of a thorough grounding in the history of theater and performance and her work takes a transnational approach to twentieth and twenty-first-century Asian and Asian American cinema, literature, theater and performance.

Areum’s doctoral dissertation, “Performing Colonial Imagi-nation,” examines representations of national identity in live performance in Korea and the United States from early twentieth century to the present. Through critical readings of selected Korean performances, the research shows that the changing cultural and political climate of the South Korean nation-state creates an urgency for artists to express a particular national identity. By illustrating the shifting rhetoric of the relationship between the individual and the state, such works endeavor to challenge the status quo. Her work focuses on how local cultural and political motifs are deployed as part of South Korean national identity using intermedial performance strategies—performances that incorporate pre-filmed elements, often by projecting film or images into the background of a performance. The interdisciplinary nature of her research has been recognized by the International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR), which awarded her essay on Korean performance the Helsinki Award.

Through a close reading of the recent Sewol Ferry protests in South Korea and diasporic communities, Areum’s next project, “Performing Documentative Imagination: Transnational Acts of

Activism in South Korea and Diasporic Communities,” examines how local activists and artists construct spaces in which the people can both recover and remember through acts of performance and protest against government censorship.

From 2006 to 2010, Areum has served as a staff member for the Jeonju International Film Festival (JIFF) in Jeonju, Korea, where she worked to create a bridge between filmmakers and local audiences with the belief that cultural exchange and understanding are enabled through the medium of film. She has provided English-Korean interpretation and translation for numerous Q&A sessions, reviews, screenplays, and treatments.

Benjamin Garvey is a PhD candidate at the Australian Centre on China in the World at the Australian National University under the supervision of Dr. Luigi Tomba. He was formerly a journalist, working as a reporter or copy editor in Tokyo, Beijing and Hong Kong.

Cherie Wu studied Real Estate (Bsc) at the National University of Singapore and did her Mphil at the University of Hong Kong with her research focusing on real estate credit and episodes of financial instability. She later then decided to change her academic pursuit and studied Anthropology (MA) at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is now completing her PhD at University College London with supervision from both the Department of Anthropology and the Bartlett School of Architecture. She combines her training in both anthropology and real estate to cast urban spaces in a new light.

Dominic Lehmann is a Ph.D. student at the Institute of Sinology at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Germany. His research deals with the history of ideas and in particular examines the spatial and temporal dissemination of the idea of progress and its influence on modern Chinese society. His latest project dealt with the pitfalls of social mobilisation in the digital age in which he analysed the role of social media in the 2014 Umbrella Movement. Holding a Magister degree in Sinology, business administration and law from LMU Munich, Dominic worked for 2 years in Xiamen and Shanghai for a Taiwanese company before returning back to university to pursue his PhD studies.

Fiona Suwana is a PhD candidate of Digital Media Research Centre (2014 – present), a sessional academic and a guest lecturer in Media, Entertainment and Creative Arts (2015 – present) at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane. Her research title is Digital Media Literacy in Indonesian Youth: Building Sustainable Democratic Institutions and Practices. She is really interested in doing research on digital media, digital method, young people and democracy, so her research will focus of the capacities, motivation and barrier of Indonesian youth in using digital media for civic engagement and political participation. She has participated and presented at leading national and international conferences in both Australia and Indonesia, such as recently in AMIC 2013, Yogyakarta 2013; ICA 2014, Brisbane; INDOICC 2015, Depok; KIPi 2016, Adelaide; and ASAA 2016 Canberra also she present at Digital Asia Symposium 2016, Brisbane; AoIR 2016, Berlin; and Crossroad 2016, Sydney . Also, she has presented in CCI Summer School 2015 (Swinburne University of Technology), Postgraduate Roundtable on Activism and Policy-Making in Indonesia 2015 (University of Sydney), CCI Summer School 2016 (Queensland University of Technology) and Political Organisations and Participation in the Digital Age Workshop 2016 (University of Sydney). She graduated with a BA (Hon) Communication Studies (Mass Communication) and M.Sc Communication Studies in Indonesia. She has become a lecturer, thesis advisor, researcher, and editorial team of journal of *Communicare* at STIKOM LSPR - Jakarta. She has teaching experience in several courses, e.g. communication theories, communication science, digital/social media, Indonesian communication systems, mass communication, and seminar research proposals. Also, she had a position as the Research Centre Manager at STIKOM LSPR – Jakarta. Also, she became a finale candidate of Indonesian Google Policy Fellowship 2012 and internal journalist in the Internet Governance Forum 2013, Bali.

Gayathry Venkiteswaran is a PhD candidate at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. Her research focus is on media reforms in Southeast Asia. Prior to this, she was executive director of the Bangkok-based Southeast Asian Press Alliance for five years, working on press freedom advocacy, journalists' safety, access to information and internet freedom in the region. Before joining SEAPA, she headed and was co-director of the Malaysian press freedom organisation, the Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) for seven years, had a stint as a journalist for five years in a Malaysian English-language newspaper and taught media history and journalism in a number of private colleges and universities. She has an MA (International Relations) from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Mass Communication from University Sains Malaysia.

Hamdi Echkaou, is a PhD candidate at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a postgraduate researcher at Mohamed V University of Rabat. He is also a Fulbright visiting scholar at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania for the academic year 2014/15. After working on the online Islamist discourses, he is currently researching on the protest movements' discourses in cyberspace. He coordinated several field researches, particularly about the urban youths in Morocco and about the insecurity realities of Atlas mountain dwellers with the support of the Orientalisch Institute of Leipzig University. He has been an affiliated researcher to centre Jacques Berque in Rabat since 2012. He is a member of the Franco-Allemand Dialogue 2012 and a member of the program 'Committed Youths Network (RJME 2012), hosted by Frederich Ebert Stiftung in Rabat. He was a member of the think-tank 'Denkfabrik' at Goethe Institut. Hamdi has a B.A in linguistics at the University of Agadir, another B.A. in Social Development, and a Master's degree in Communication Studies from the University of Marrakech. He taught English as a Foreign Language for four years both in middle and high-school, as well as at the College of Humanities in Rabat.

Lillian H.Y. Liu is a PhD candidate in Transcultural Studies at the Institute of Transtextual and Transcultural Studies (IETT), Lyon, France. She holds a BA in Applied Foreign Languages and a MA(Res) in Comparative Cultural Studies from Jean Moulin-Lyon 3 University, France. Her current research focuses on the films of Hong Kong and Quebec – particularly on the works of filmmakers Fruit Chan and Xavier Dolan – to discuss the issues related to cultural and linguistic marginalisation in post-colonial regions and to question the meaning and the possibility of distinctive regional identities as a counterbalance to national hegemonic narratives. Besides her studies, she is also a volunteer journalist and translator at a Hong Kong-based LGBT rights organisation.

Huda Alsahi is a second year PhD student in Political Science at Scuola Normale Superiore and the University of Bologna in Italy. Her research interests include the intersection of gender and politics in the Arab Gulf States and the political use of Information and Communication Technologies, as her current research project intends to fill the gap in the contemporary scholarly work on social movements, cyberspace and women's activism in the Arab Gulf States.

She holds a Master's Degree in HR from Durham University in England and a Bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems from Ahlia University in Bahrain.

Karin Ahlberg is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at SOAS, University of London. Her dissertation "They are destroying the image of Egypt," explores how tourism, Egyptian nationhood and 'infrastructures of image making' are entangled in the authoritarian, tourism-reliant and post-colonial context of Egypt. She conducted research for the project in Cairo between August 2011 and March 2013, and is currently in the later stages of the PhD project. Her current research interests are focused on empirically exploring the relations and tensions between late capitalism, global information flows, and statecraft and nationhood in the global south and the 'postcolony.' Before commencing the PhD program, she had completed an MA in Anthropology in Migration and Diaspora Studies, SOAS, as well as MSc in Sociotechnical System Engineering, Uppsala University.

Marta Soler Alemany is a Phd candidate of International Studies at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. Currently working as a TA at the Waseda University Writing Center. Her research topic is “The impacts of civic media on the progress of social movements in Hong Kong,” which focuses on the political usage of social media as key communication tools to create and organize non-conventional political participation, civic engagement and social change. At the moment, she is working on the recollection of data through interviews and network analysis.

Originally from Spain, she holds a Bachelor in Sociology from the University of Barcelona and Msc in International Relations from the Barcelona Institute of International Studies. She did her internship as an Assistant Analyst at the Spanish Ministry of Defense (2011-12). Since 2012 until 2014, she was studying Mandarin Chinese at Tsinghua University in Beijing, while working for a Spanish Consulting Agency and teaching at the Beijing Language and Culture University. It was then when her personal and research interests in politics and society in the East Asian region were consolidated.

LU Miao is a PhD student at the School of Journalism and Communication, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She got her MA and BA in journalism from Communication University of China and Central China Normal University respectively. Her research focuses on the social and historical transformation of Chinese working class from the perspectives of culture and communication. Her interest in this area grows out of her interactions with several migrant worker-led NGOs in China and her participation in their cultural activities. For her PhD, she plans to examine how Chinese workers draw on different cultural resources and ICTs to construct their own culture and develop new strategies of action in post-reform China.

Nurul Azreen Azlan is a PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Architecture and Built Environment, Delft University of Technology, where she is working on her dissertation; Seditious Spaces: Protest in Postcolonial Kuala Lumpur. An architect trained at the University of Technology Malaysia, she received a Masters in Architecture (Urban Design) from the Bartlett, UCL in 2007. Nurul is interested in the power structure that shapes and governs public space in postcolonial societies, and how social media plays a role in redistributing that power.

Olivier Ruelle is a PhD candidate in the Department of Applied Social Sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His thesis concentrates on how public interest (gongyi) actions constitute a sensemaking process for charity practitioners in China. He is also interested in how these practitioners apply innovative approaches to social problems.

Olivier's first stay in mainland China as a Chinese language student was in 1991. Since then, he has lived in this country for over 20 years, working as travel guide, factory manager, entrepreneur, TV host and communication trainer in a PR agency based in Beijing. He went back to university in 2011 and obtained a Master degree in Contemporary Development of China at Beijing Normal University in 2013. His first research topic concentrated on charity actions that aimed at raising public awareness regarding the issue of abducted children in China through the use of various media channels, especially weibo. He then developed an interest in the charity sector or, as charity practitioners refer to it in Chinese, gongyi, literally 'public welfare' or 'public interest'. While his PhD thesis focuses on the motivations of charity practitioners, he is also working on various papers such as public welfare (gongyi) actions as a mode of visibility; switching identities of a Chinese NGO volunteers in various WeChat groups; and gongyi as a new form of charity in China. The discursive construction of identity through interaction on social media in a Chinese NGO, co-authored with Peter Peverelli, is to be published by the Chinese Journal of Communication in the forthcoming special issue: Chinese Non-Governmental Organizations, Digital Media and Culture.

Olivier is interested in pursuing research focused on China after his PhD but he is still trying to figure out how to manage this as an independent or affiliated researcher.

Oscar Tantoco Serquiña, Jr. is a faculty member of the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, where he has obtained his degrees in Speech Communication and in Comparative Literature. He has been a research fellow at the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore in 2013, as well as graduate student exchange fellow at Sciences Po in Paris in 2014. He has also received various writing fellowships from Philippine-based universities such as the De La Salle University, the Ateneo de Manila University, the University of Santo Tomas, and the Silliman University. His research interests are in the field of communication, rhetoric, performance, literature, and discourse analysis. Some of his critical essays and creative works have been published in journals such as *Humanities Diliman*, *Kritika Kultura*, *Kasarinlan: Philippine Journal of Third World Studies*, and *Philippine Humanities Review*.

Evelyn Wan is a PhD Candidate at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICON) at Utrecht University. Her research is supported by the R. C. Lee Centenary Scholarship from her hometown, Hong Kong. She holds a Research MA cum laude in Media & Performance Studies (2014) and an MA cum laude in Gender Studies (2011), both from Utrecht University. Prior to her post-graduate studies in the Netherlands, she graduated with First Class Honours from the programme Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws) at the University of Hong Kong. Currently, she leads the emerging scholar initiative in Performance Studies international (PSi), and is a member of [urban interfaces], an urban research platform at Utrecht University. Her research covers a wide range of subjects including media philosophy, gender and post-colonial theory, new materialism, and affect theory.

Reema Salha Fadda is a researcher and writer focusing on cultural production from the Middle East and North Africa. She is currently completing a DPhil at The University of Oxford, working on the political economy of cultural production and intervention in Palestine. She recently she designed a lecture series on Visual Cultures in a Changing Middle East for Oxford undergraduates, and led a similar workshop series at Darat al Funun in Amman, where she was the 2016 Dissertation Fellow. In 2015 she was awarded the Centre for British Research in the Levant fellowship to conduct research at the British Institute in Amman and the Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem.

Reema writes for *Ibraaz*, a leading publication on visual cultures from the MENA region and has recently joined them as Editor of Commissioning Reviews. Her writing has also appeared in *Ocula* and a forthcoming essay on cultural institution building in Palestine will appear in a publication titled *Future Imperfect: Cultural Institutions and Contemporary Art Practices in the Middle East* (Edited by Anthony Downey, Berlin and London: Sternberg Press).

Previously she has worked on cultural programming and fundraising initiatives in Palestine, Cairo and London. She holds an MA in English Literature from the University of Edinburgh and an MA in Cultural Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Sarah McKeever is currently a third year doctoral candidate at the India Institute at King's College London. She received her Master's of Science in Contemporary India from the University of Oxford in 2013 and her Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from the University of Chicago in 2010.

Ms. McKeever is currently working on her doctoral thesis examining the impact of the digital on activism in the anti-corruption movement in 2011 and the Delhi Rape Case in 2012. During six months of fieldwork in New Delhi, she interviewed forty activists and participants working on issues of corruption and violence against women. Her work explores the intersections of digital, cultural, and class-based political activism in modern India, and specifically digital interventions into issue-based politics. In addition to her studies, Ms. McKeever works as a research assistant for Dr. Jahnvi Phalkey and acts as the social media coordinator for the India Institute at King's College London.

Ms. McKeever also received a Fulbright-Nehru Award in 2010 to work as an English Teaching Assistant in New Delhi from 2010-2011. Following the completion of this programme, Ms. McKeever worked as a Research Assistant at the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington D.C. working

on a monograph on Indo-Sino relations from 2011-2012 along with several other projects related to India's foreign policy record. She also worked as a Program Coordinator for the International Education Foundation in 2012, working specifically on the Fulbright Program, before returning to academia to pursue her Master's degree at the University of Oxford.

Srikanth Krishnaiah is a research scholar at the University of Hyderabad in the Centre for English Language Studies (CELS). He is currently working on the topic "New Technologies and Language". His previous dissertation for an M.Phil. degree was on English Education in 19th Century India. Apart from being part of several seminars and lectures, he has presented a paper in the International conference, "American Studies and the Popular". He had been part of an eight-week long workshop on 'Researching the Contemporary' offered by Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS). His interest varies from Colonialism and English education, Early Indian novels, Shakespeare, Urban space, Dalit studies to Media Studies.

Yara El Moussaoui holds a BA degree in Translation and Interpretation and is currently pursuing her Masters in Sociology at the American University of Beirut. She is an activist working in the field of refugee affairs and is currently conducting an academic research on how the Syrian crisis is affecting Syrian refugees in Lebanon and depriving them from their schooling, security, and future, and how the good use of communication and media tools will impact decision makers and give a voice to those that don't have one and are being denied their rights.

Her professional experience includes working as Direct Dialogue Coordinator with Greenpeace Mediterranean, Fundraising Officer with SKOUN, Lebanese Addictions Center, and Main Interpreter with Oxfam GB. She worked with UNICEF in the Communications department and has been appointed recently as Communications and Advocacy Officer with the UK based INGO International Alert, where she works on developing and managing regional communications and advocacy activities in support of a large-scale project on Syrian youth leadership and social cohesion in Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, UK, Germany, and Belgium. Further, she was a volunteer at the Lebanese Red Cross for 5 years and President of Red Cross Spears Center-Youth Branch.

Organizing Institutions



The 2017 winter school will be hosted by **The C-Centre, the Centre for Chinese Media and Comparative Communication Research** at the **School of Journalism and Communication, the Chinese University of Hong Kong**. The C-Centre aims to contribute to the communication

discipline by conducting frontline research on media in Greater China and comparative communication. It also aspires to be the hub of exchange among communication scholars from around the world. The more specific goals of the C-Centre include:

1. to make the C-Centre the hub of research on Chinese media and comparative communication;
2. to establish the infrastructure to render research support and service to the Centre's research faculty in particular and the academic community in general; and
3. to promote and coordinate research activities within our School and to reach out to relevant researchers and institutions around the world.

See <http://c-centre.com.cuhk.edu.hk/> for more information.



Launched in 2012, the **Transregional Virtual Research Institute (TVRI) Media, Activism and the New Political: InterAsian Perspectives**, is one of many projects that comprise the **Social Science Research Council's** larger **InterAsia**

Program. The TVRI is a collaborative enterprise that brings together faculty from different disciplines, different international campuses, and at different stages of their careers to further research and training on themes addressing the interrelationship of media and politics within and across InterAsia. Events and research projects examine the symbolic dimensions of mediated activism, media as activism, mediated activism and (counter) revolutions, and mediated populism, among other issues.

The TVRI is designed to be catalytic in nature, generating new research questions and collaborations, defining lines of innovative work, and drawing attention to lacunae in the field. As with all InterAsia Program research, emphasis is placed on transnational and transregional dimensions of this work and the reconceptualization of Asia as a spatially and historically networked region and interlinked set of formations stretching from West Asia, through Eurasia, Central Asia, and South Asia to Southeast Asia and East Asia. See www.ssrc.org/programs/interasia-program for more information.



The **International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS)** is a global humanities and social sciences research institute and knowledge exchange platform that supports programmes which engage Asian and other international partners. Aiming to contribute to a more integrated understanding of present-day Asian realities as well as to rethink 'Asian Studies' in a changing global context, IIAS works to encourage dialogue and link expertise, involving scholars and other experts from all around the world in its activities. IIAS thus acts as a global mediator, bringing together academic and non-academic institutes in Asia and other parts of the world, including cultural, societal and policy organisations. IIAS adopts a thematic approach to the study of Asia, fostering research that, by its nature, transcends disciplinary and regional boundaries. The three research foci of IIAS are Asian cities; the uses of culture and cultural heritage; and Asia's projection into the world and intra-Asian connections. In addition, IIAS remains open to other possibly interesting areas of investigation.

In addition to supporting international research networks and programmes, IIAS organises different types of academic events throughout the year, many of them in Asia. These include conferences, workshops and seminars, as well as thematic roundtables and Summer/Winter Schools for PhD students. IIAS runs an international fellowship programme and a publication and publishes 'The Newsletter', its free periodical on Asian Studies which enjoys a worldwide readership of 50,000. IIAS hosts the secretariat of various networks, including the International Convention of Asia

Scholars (ICAS) and the European Alliance for Asian Studies. All of these activities are based on international cooperation. It is this fundamentally collaborative and inclusive nature that has allowed IAS to become the most global research-led meeting ground in the field of Asian Studies. For more information, please visit <http://www.ias.asia>