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## The Voice from the Edge

### A Digital Ethnography on Experiencing Identity Articulation within Creative Collectives in Indonesia and Malaysia

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12th Annual NNC Conference & PhD Course

**Digital Asia - Cultural, Socio-Economic, and Political Transformations**

2-4 December 2019, Lund

**Programme**

**Monday, 2 December**

**Venue: Tera**

- 12:00-14:00**      **Registration**
- 14:00-14:30**      **Welcome**  
Marina Svensson, Director Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University  
Duncan McCargo, Director, NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies
- 14:30-15:30**      **Keynote Lecture**  
**Larissa Hjorth**, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia  
*Digital Kinship, Mobile Intimacy & Digital Wayfaring: intergenerational mobile media practices*
- 15:30-16:00**      **Coffee Break**
- 16:00-17:00**      **Keynote Lecture**  
**Aim Sinpeng**, University of Sydney, Australia  
*Trust, Platform and Political Engagement Online*
- 17:00-18:00**      **Reception**

**Tuesday, 3 December**

**Venue: Tera**

- 9:00-10:00**      **Keynote Lecture**  
**Florian Schneider**, Leiden University, The Netherlands  
*Digital Nationalism and Sino-Japanese Relations: Selling Sovereignty in Digital China*
- 10:00-10:30**      **Coffee Break**
- 10:30-12:00**      **Plenary Panels session**
- Venue: Tera**      **Panel 1**  
*Digital Politics and Governance* Chair: Astrid Norén Nilsson  
- Margaret Jack, "From Documents to Platforms (and Back Again): Facebook and Bureaucratic Governance in Rural Cambodia."

- Marco Zappa, "Breaking Abe's Political and Communication Hegemony= The Case of the Rikken Minshuto at the October 2017 Japanese General Elections."
- Duncan McCargo, "Future Forward: Thailand's First Digital Party?"

**Venue: Giga**

**Panel 2**

*Digital Futures: Social and Urban Changes* Chair: Nicholas Loubere

- Astrid Møller-Olsen, "Data Narrator: Digital Realities in Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction."
- Anupreet Singh Tiwana, "Investigating Urban Revolution in India: Ethnography of Digital Solidarity in Smart Cities."
- Carin Graminius, "Air Quality Apps and Users' Screen Shots—The Everyday Structuring of Environmental Understanding on Sina Weibo."
- Thea Marie Valler, "Governing New Mobility Companies in Urban China."

**12:00-13:00 Lunch**

**13:00-14:30 Parallel Panels session**

**Venue: Tera**

**Panel 3**

*Digital Activism* Chair: Marina Svensson

- Areesh Kumar Karamala and Ashwini K.P, "Analysing Dalit Assertion and Anti-Caste Movement through Digital Activism in India."
- Camilla Buzzi, "At the Limits of Sovereignty—Regulatory Regimes and Cyber Activism in Southeast Asia."
- Carwyn Morris, "Fragile Spaces, Fragime Memories: Memory Work and Memory-Loss Work in the Fragile Spaces of China's Digital Activism."
- Sk Tawfique M Haque and Syeda Lasna Kabir, "Social Movement and Digital Activism: The Case of `Quota Movement in Bangladesh."
- Tobias Burgers, "Resetting the Notion of Cyberspace: China's Efforts to Redesign Cyberspace and its Regional Implications."

**Venue: Giga**

**Panel 4**

*Understanding Digital Media's Entanglement with the Body in South Asia* Chair: Sidsel Hansson

- Nadja-Christina Schneider, "Negotiating Women's Access to Public Space: Loitering Bodies in Digital and Urban Spaces of South Asia."
- Anugyan Nag, "The Aesthetics of Kinesthetics—South Asian Performing Bodies in the Digital World."
- Fathima Nizaruddin, "WhatsApp Messages, Embodied Interactions and the Circulatory World of Hindutva."
- Suruchi Mazumdar, "Electronic Waste and Labour in India: Withering of a Digital Dream."
- Gowhar Farooq Bhat, "Muslim Bodies in (Cow) Music Videos: Old Conflicts in New Media Landscape."

**14:30-15:00 Coffee Break**

**15:00-16:30 Parallel Panels session**

**Venue: Tera**

**Panel 5**

*Digital Nationalism and Populism* Chair: Duncan McCargo

- Alleson Villota, "Online Articulations and Constructions of Masculinities and the Discourse of Misogyny of a Populist Philippine Leader."
- Hui Zhao, "The Impact of Nationalism on Publics' Perceptions of Organizational Crisis with a Focus on Multinational Corporations in China."
- Chang-Ryong Oh, "The Role of New Media in Countermovement: Focusing on the National Flag Rallies of South Korean Conservatives."

**Venue: Giga**

**Panel 6**

*Platform Society: Companies, Labour and ICT* Chair: Nicholas Loubere

- Jina Sarmah, "Impact of ICT on Interactive Service Workers."
- Sunniva Sandbukt, "Emergency Care in the Sharing Economy: The Practice of Algorithm Optimization by Indonesia's Online Taxi Drivers."
- Jillet Sarah Sam, "Negotiating Digital Transformations and 'Geographies of Cashlessness'."
- Karen Ejersbo Iversen, "Introduction of My Number System in Japan."

**16:30-17:00**

**Break**

**Venue: Tera**

**17:00-18:30**

**Roundtable**

*Internet Politics, Populism and Digital Authoritarianism* Chair: Astrid Norén Nilsson

**19:00-**

**Dinner**

**Wednesday 4 December**

**Venue: Tera**

**9:00-10:00**

**Keynote Lecture**

**Pauline Hope Cheong**, Arizona State University, USA

*When robots need people: Understanding communication, culture and artificial intelligence in the Internet of things*

**10:00-10:30**

**Coffee break**

**10:30-12:00**

**Parallel Panels session**

**Venue: Tera**

**Panel 7**

*Global Politics, IR and Conflicts in the Digital Age* Chair: Paul O'Shea

- Nicholas Olczak, "News about International Issues on the Chinese Internet and its Consequences for China's International Relations."
- Oana Iancu, "Sanctions or Engagement towards North Korea? Japanese Rescue Movement's Contribution to Japan's North Korea Policy."
- Stein Tønnesson, "Facebook as a Conflict Actor in Myanmar."
- Tatiana Lobanova, "Chinese Political Media Discourse on Foreign Policy Issues: A Linguistic Analysis (using releases from the channel CCTV Zhongwen guoji)."

**Venue: Giga**

**Panel 8**

*Internet Control, Censorship, and Disinformation* Chair: Barbara Schulte

- Arnoud Zwemmer, "A Fine Balance: The Unevenness of Internet Controls in Malaysia."
- Liu Jun, "Deleting More than Text: Multimedia Censorship on Weibo."
- Paul Gardner, "Information control in China: How the Party-state manipulates content in the news and online to enhance its legitimacy."
- Elaine Yuan and Xiyuan Liu, "The Platforms of Disinformation: The Case of Contraceptive Information on the Chinese Internet."
- Erik Moberg, "Podcasting Power: Internet Journalism and the Long History of 'Post-Truth Politics in South Korea.'"

**12:00-13:00**      **Lunch**

**13:00-14:30**      **Parallel Panels session**

**Venue: Tera**

**Panel 9**

*Online Far-right and Counter-activism in Japan: Actors, Ideologies, and Communication Styles* Chair: Paul O'Shea

- Higuchi Naoto and Natalie-Anne Hall, "The Internet and Socialization of Far-Right Activists: Japan's Nativist Movement and UK's Facebook-Based Brexiters."
- Fabian Schäfer and Tamara Fuchs, "Exploring Online Activism Against Women in Politics: A Corpus-Linguistic Analysis of Abusive Language on Japanese Twitter."
- Jeffrey Hall, "Anonymous Collective Action Against Online Hate in Japan and its Impact on Right-Wing Youtubers."
- Ayaka Lösche, "Fighting for Social Justice or for their Own Amusement? Online Counter-Protest against Far-Right Activism on Twitter in Japan."

**Venue: Giga**

**Panel 10**

*Gender, Youth, and Belongings* Chair: Karin Zackari

- Cassie DeFillipo, "Love, Sex, and Gender in the Digital Age: A Case Study of Gender Performances in Northern Thailand."
- Sonali Sharma, "#delhimetro on Instagram: Gendered Mobility in the City and Digital Media."
- Xinyu Wang, "Digital Technology, Physical Space and the Notion of Belonging among Chinese Migrants in Japan"

**14:30-15:00**      **Coffee Break**

**15:00-17:00**      **Parallel Panel session**

**Venue: Tera**

**Panel 11**

*Big Data, AI, and Surveillance* Chair: Darcy Pan

- Adam Knight, "Local Implementation of Chinese Social Credit: The Case of Rongcheng City."
- Jesper Willaing Zeuthen, "Digitalization and the Future of Chinese Household Registration."
- Garima Tiwari, "India's Cloak and Dagger Digital Surveillance: Fundamental Right to Privacy, State Control and Private Players."
- Joanne Kuai, "Artificial Intelligence in Chinese Newsroom."
- Outi Luova, "China and the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence."

**Venue: Giga**

**Panel 12**

*Religion, Culture, and Identity* Chair: Karin Zackari

- Xenia Zeller, "Digital Religion in Asia: Hinduism and the Social Media and Video Game Boom in India."
- Zaki Habibi, "The Voice from the Edge: A Digital Ethnography on Experiencing Identity Articulation within Creative Collectives in Indonesia and Malaysia."
- Timothy Thurston, "Satire and Hip-Hop in Contemporary Tibet."
- Zhao Shichao, "Designing interactive technology to enhance the cross-cultural appreciation of Chinese intangible cultures heritage"

**Programme PhD Course**

5-6 December 2019

Centre for East and Southeast Asian Studies, Lund University

**Thursday 5 December**

- 9.30 – 11.00**    **Session 1: Digital Ethnography, Venue: Room 005**  
Larissa Hjorth and Pauline Hope Cheong
- 11:00-11:15**    **Coffee Break**
- 11.15 – 12.45**    **Session 2: Interviewing and Analysis, Venue: Room 005**  
Barbara Schulte and Nicholas Loubere
- 12:45-13:30**    **Lunch**
- 13.30 – 15.00**    **Session 3: Paper discussions**  
Group 1 Venue: Room 111  
Group 2 Venue: Room 123
- 15:00-15:30**    **Coffee break**
- 15.30 – 16.30**    **Session 4: Data visualization using Google tools, Venue: Room 005**  
Aim Sinpeng

**Friday 6 December**

- 9.00 – 10.30**    **Venue: Room 005**  
**Session 5: Social media research on politically sensitive field sites**  
Stefan Brehm and Florian Schneider
- 10:30-10:45**    **Coffee break**
- 10.45- 12.15**    **Session 6: Paper discussions**

Group 3, Venue: Room 111

Group 4, Venue: Room 005

**12:15-13:00 Lunch**

**13.00 – 14.15 Session 7: Ethical issues: Discussion session, Venue: Room 005**

Marina Svensson chair

**14:15-14:45 Coffee break**

**14.45 – 16.00 Session 8: Publication advice, Venue: Room 005**

Gerald Jackson and Nicholas Loubere

## **PhD Groups, papers, and assigned readers**

### **Group 1**

Pauline Hope Cheong and Marina Svensson

1. Hanna Mannila: Pauline and Esther
2. Esther Tenberg: Pauline and Adam
3. Xinyu Wang: Marina and Hanna
4. Adam Knight: Marina and Xinyu

### **Group 2**

Larissa Hjorth and Barbara Schulte

5. Cassie DeFillipo: Larissa and Sonali
6. Tina Ren Juan: Larissa and Cassie
7. Sonali Sharma: Barbara and Tina

### **Group 3**

Stefan Brehm, Nicholas Loubere, and Barbara Schulte

8. Chuncheng Liu: Nicholas and Anupreet
9. Sunniva Sandbukt: Nicholas and Chuncheng Liu
10. Thea Marie Valler: Stefan and Sunniva
11. Zhao Hui: Barbara and Tea
12. Anupreet Singh Tiwana: Stefan and Zhao

### **Group 4**

Duncan McCargo, Aim Sinpeng, Florian Schneider, and Astrid Norén Nilsson

13. Nicholas Olczak: Duncan and Alleson
14. Jenny Zheng: Astrid and Nicholas
15. Paul Gardner: Florian and Jenny
16. Zipeng Li: Aim and Paul
17. Alleson D. Villota: Florian and Zipeng Li

## The Voice from the Edge: A Digital Ethnography on Experiencing Identity Articulation within Creative Collectives in Indonesia and Malaysia

**Zaki Habibi**

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### **Abstract**

What do people actually feel when they actively engage in and through digital environment? This question leads me to investigate further the notion of experience that basically examines the way people feel. This paper derives from such a departure point to examine the everyday creativities practiced by individuals within creative collectives in two Southeast Asian creative cities: Bandung in Indonesia and George Town in Malaysia. Informed by digital ethnography, the aim of this ethnographic work is to understand the way in which these people experience their everyday creativities in relation to the use of digital media, here especially the heavily-visual type like Instagram.

By employing a set of relevant methods, from field observation, go-along interview, remote digital observation, soundscape recording, to photo-documentation, this paper argues that the visual presentation of the selves in and through Instagram is a form of identity articulation for these informants. The way these images are produced and perceived by them, including the social settings where these image productions take place, provides more piece of evidence on what they actually feel about the moments, the people they involve with, the things they are surrounded by and relied on, and the place they belong to. In other words, these are their ways in articulating their identities either personally or collectively. These articulations are their voices from the edge that can also be read as an alternative narrative of identity formation against the backdrop of discursive and material elements of creative city and urban modernity as the single narrative projected by the authoritative political and cultural agencies in their respective country.

This paper will also touch upon the methodological reflections of digital ethnography. Including, its methodological strategies, challenges and possibilities to develop digital ethnography as a firm approach, yet still provide flexibilities and openness at the same time.

### **Keywords**

Creative collective, digital ethnography, identity articulation, voice.