

circ2021.net

The 18th Chinese Internet Research Conference

The Internationalization of China's
Digital and Communication Industries

Virtual Conference | 25-27 June 2021



FULL PROGRAM

circ2021.net

The 18th Chinese Internet Research Conference

The Internationalization
of China's Digital and
Communication Industries

Day 1

25 June 2021

Opening: Welcome		10:00 – 10:10 AEST (UTC +10)
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Keynote	China's Globalizing Internet	10:10 – 11:30 AEST (UTC +10)
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Panel 1A	Digital platforms and labour	11:45 – 12:25 AEST (UTC +10)
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Panel 1B	Games, gamification and esports	13:00 – 14:00 AEST (UTC +10)
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Mid-day break		14:00 – 17:00 AEST (UTC +10)
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Panel 1C	Chinese Outbound Social Media Platforms in the Indian-Pacific: Just How Soft is Chinese Digital Power?	17:00 – 18:00 AEST (UTC +10)
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Panel 1D	China's digital creative industries	18:15 – 19:15 AEST (UTC +10)
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Workshop 1	Career development for Chinese ECRA doing media studies	19:30 – 21:00 AEST (UTC +10)
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Day 1: 25 June 2021

Keynote 1

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	10:10	11:30
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	08:10	09:30
London, BST (UTC +1)	01:10	02:30
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	20:10 (24 June)	21:30
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	17:10 (24 June)	18:30

circ2021.net/program/key-notes/chinas-globalizing-internet-towards-future-politics-of-the-cybersphere/

China's globalizing internet: Towards future politics of the cybersphere

Abstract

The ascent of China has invited a debate about how it "conditions" the US-led globalism— a debate that is increasingly linked with the broader transition thesis. Just as important, transition studies should heed networking and digitization, or an emergent assemblage of the cybersphere, as the focal disagreement space that spurs discursive and political-economic practices and, thereby, animate transition or entrenchment. By traversing texts and key political-economic sites and processes, this talk will address the potential and limit of the future-oriented cybersphere projects in interrupting, re-directing, or impacting the global order.

Speaker

Hong Yu | Zhe Jiang University

Moderator

Haiqing Yu | RMIT University

Panelists

Hong Shen | Carnegie Mellon University

Peter Yu | Texas A&M University

Michael Keane | Queensland University of Technology

Min Tang | University of Washington Bothell

Day 1: 25 June 2021

Panel 1A

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	11:45	12:45
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	09:45	10:45
London, BST (UTC +1)	02:45	03:45
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	21:45 (24 June)	22:45
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	18:45 (24 June)	19:45

[circ2021.net/program/panels/
platformization-and-digital-labour-in-
china/](https://circ2021.net/program/panels/platformization-and-digital-labour-in-china/)

Digital platforms and labour

Description

In the last decade, the rise of platform economy has become an issue of priority as China continues its urbanization and digitalization. According to the Report of China's Share Economy (National Information Center, 2020), platforms in China have accommodated the workforce population as high as 78 million, among which large numbers of workers have shifted from traditional sector to the platform-mediated service sectors such as ride-hailing, parcel courier, live-streaming, and food-delivery (LinkedIn Netease, 2020). Who are the digital labourers in China's platform economy? How to conceptualize the continued platformization in a Chinese context and how does the rising platform influence individual's daily practice? To what extent can we make sense of the platform capital in an critically historical, cultural and discursive approach? Based on these questions, this panel puts together five excellent papers to explore China's constant platformization and its digital labour dynamics under the intersection among institutional, organizational and socio-cultural structures in China.

Chair

Sophia Ping Sun

Abstracts & Panelists

"Zhibo Gonghui: China's "Live-Streaming Guilds" of Algorithmic Experts"

Chris K. K. Tan | Nanjing University; Tingting Liu | Jinan University

"From Casual Worker (Sangong) to Platform Labor: gig workers in China and the global conditions of (the platform) capitalism"

Julie Yujie Chen | University of Toronto

"The Information Have-more: Understanding the working class in the Platformization of the Chinese Network Society"

WeiMing Ye | Peking University HSBC Business School; Luming Zhao | Peking University HSBC Business School

"Navigating the Economy of Ambivalent Intimacy: Gender and Relational Labour in China's Livestreaming Industry"

Zhen Ye | Erasmus University Rotterdam; Chenyu Dong | Renmin University of China

"The rise of platformized governance in China: Migration, technology and social integration"

Sophie Sun Ping | Institute of Journalism and Communication, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Day 1: 25 June 2021

Panel 1B

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	13:00	14:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	11:00	12:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	04:00	05:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	23:00 (24 June)	00:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	20:00 (24 June)	21:00

circ2021.net/program/panels/games-and-e-sports/

Games, gamification and esports

Description

This panel brings together five papers to examine the politics, cultural logic, and economic paradigm of games, gaming, and games production in and beyond China. It highlights the roles of Chinese internet and game companies, entrepreneurs, individual players in participating, disturbing, transforming, and reshaping the Chinese gaming culture. This in turn has significant impact on the global gaming industry and culture.

Chair

Hugh Davies | RMIT University

Abstracts & Panelists

“From Electronic Heroin to Functional Games: Perceptions of Videogames and Play in China”

Hugh Davies | RMIT University

“Strategies of globalization among China’s digital game entrepreneurs”

Gejun Huang | USC Annenberg

“Dislocating Chineseness: Paratextuality of Chinese mobile game production in going abroad”

Yizhou Xu | UW-Madison

“Gaming Power on the Global Stage: The Case of Tencent in China”

Zixue Tai & Fengbin Hu | University of Kentucky

“Frictions: Fragmented Authoritarianism in China’s Esports”

Junyi Lv | USC Annenberg

Day 1: 25 June 2021

Panel 1C

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	17:00	18:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	15:00	16:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	08:00	09:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	03:00	04:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	00:00	01:00

circ2021.net/program/panels/chinese-outbound-social-media-platforms-in-the-indian-pacific-just-how-soft-is-chinese-digital-power/

Chinese Outbound Social Media Platforms in the Indian-Pacific: Just How Soft is Chinese Digital Power?

Description

This panel members will investigate the 'power' of Chinese social media in the Indian-Pacific. Geographic and cultural proximity are deemed by many cultural nationalists to be assets comparable with the Anglosphere. Chinese tech companies have now 'gone out', echoing the rise of China on the global stage. In the region Made-in-China apps are offering solutions to lifestyle issues while engendering a pan-Asian sensibility. Beijing brands the latter a 'community of shared future'. Chinese digital entrepreneurs as such represent a new generation of national champions which can promote public-private diplomacy, sometimes glossed as 'soft power'.

Chair

Michael Keane | QUT
Crystal Abidin | Curtin University

Abstracts & Panelists

"Socio-cultural strategies of laowai wanghong"

Crystal Abidin | Curtin University

"Soft power bottom up: internationalization of Chinese UGC content"

Xiaoting Yu | QUT

"Soft power via social media: instrument versus resource"

Gary Rawnsley | University of Nottingham

"Digital Cold War: The China-India Dynamic"

Daya Thussu | Sage journal Global Media and Communication

"Assessing the evidence: how far out is China's culture?"

Michael Keane | QUT

Day 1: 25 June 2021

Panel 1D

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	18:15	19:15
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	16:15	17:15
London, BST (UTC +1)	09:15	10:15
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	04:15	05:15
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	01:15	02:15

circ2021.net/program/panels/chinas-digital-creative-industries/

China's digital creative industries

Description

This panel brings together scholars based in Australia, China, and UK to examine the transnational dimensions of Chinese creative and cultural industries and their localisation strategies. Five papers in this paper discuss topics related to entrepreneurship and gender, east Asian creative economy, digital and smart TV industry, and the political economy of Alphabet's expansion in China. Together they will shed light on the geopolitics of globalising digital China.

Chair

Matthew Allen

Abstracts & Panelists

"Connectors: returning female digital creative entrepreneurs in China"

Qing Wang | Curtin University

"Rethinking the creative economy in East Asia: Lessons from China, Japan and South Korea"

Yu Shan | QUT

"Latecomers and Gamechangers: A Comparative Study Between Chinese and Korean Digital Television Industries"

Miaotong Yuan | Communication University of China

"Our Best Friend and Worst Folly: Retelling Alphabet's Story in China (2001-2018)"

Lianrui Jia | York University

"Development of OTT in China: Features, Impacts and Trends"

Yannan Liu | Communication University of China

Day 1: 25 June 2021

Workshop 1

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	19:30	21:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	17:30	19:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	10:30	12:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	05:30	07:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	02:30	04:00

circ2021.net/program/workshops/early-career-development-for-circ-scholars/

Career development for Chinese ECRA doing media studies

Description

This workshop focuses on the career development for Chinese ECRA doing media studies. Invites speakers and participants will share their advice and experiences in finishing their PhDs and developing career paths for early-career scholars doing Chinese internet and media research.

Organizers

Elaine Jing Zhao | University of New South Wales
Junyi Lv | USC Annenberg
Jian Lin | University of Groningen

Invited Speakers

Guobin Yang
Elaine Yuan
Jun Liu
Bingchun Meng

The 18th Chinese Internet Research Conference

The Internationalization
of China's Digital and
Communication Industries

Day 2

26 June 2021

Panel 2A	Invisible Chinese internet users and infrastructures	10:00 – 11:00 AEST (UTC +10)
Panel 2B	China's digital communication industry and its discontent	11:15 – 12:15 AEST (UTC +10)
Workshop 2	Teaching media studies during COVID-19	12:30 – 14:00 AEST (UTC +10)
Mid-day break		14:00 – 17:00 AEST (UTC +10)
Panel 2C	China's techno-social realities and futures	17:00 – 18:00 AEST (UTC +10)
Panel 2D	China's Internet Governance: Domestic Issues and Global Aspirations	18:15 – 19:15 AEST (UTC +10)
Keynote 2	Cyber Sovereignty: Cutting Both Ways	19:30 – 21:00 AEST (UTC +10)

Day 2: 26 June 2021

Panel 2A

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	10:00	11:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	08:00	09:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	01:00	02:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	20:00 (25 June)	21:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	17:00 (25 June)	18:00

circ2021.net/program/panels/invisible-chinese-internet-users-and-infrastructures/

Invisible Chinese internet users and infrastructures

Description

The panel focuses on the invisible labor of building and participating in China's global technology and Internet infrastructures within China, in bordering countries (Myanmar and Cambodia) and in Africa. The panelists highlight how beyond China's official efforts to build and promote a vision of the internet that is closely aligned with the interests of the CCP, inside and outside the country, there are many alternative and grassroots alternatives, which create new and unexpected local and transnational assemblages of technologies.

Chair

Elisa Oreglia | King's College London

Abstracts & Panelists

"WeChat and Chinese e-commerce in Myanmar and Cambodia"

Elisa Oreglia | King's College London

"Rural e-commerce and the Persistence of Gender Inequality"

Cara Wallis | Texas A&M University

"Entrepreneurial Labor between Ghana and China"

Silvia Lindtner | University of Michigan

"Disciplining the Underclass Users on Kuaishou: Hanmai Rap Videos and Social Class"

Jiaxi Hou | The University of Tokyo; Yanhui Zhang | Tsinghua University

Day 2: 26 June 2021

Panel 2B

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	11:15	12:15
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	09:15	10:15
London, BST (UTC +1)	02:15	03:15
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	21:15 (25 June)	22:15
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	18:15 (25 June)	19:15

circ2021.net/program/panels/chinas-digital-communication-industry-and-its-discontent/

China's digital communication industry and its discontent

Description

This panel brings together five papers that examine a diversified range of topics related to Chinese digital and online worlds and cultures. From social media platforms like Sina Weibo to the film industry, from the disorder in news production to intellectual property issues, from sentiments and nationalism to soft power—papers in this panel discuss contentious issues in China's digital communication industry.

Chair

Ben Lee

Abstracts & Panelists

"How Flipping News Interwind With Reversal of Public Sentiment: Analyzing Posts on Sina Weibo"

Yuanfeixue Nan | USC Annenberg

"The Digital Transformation of China's Film Industry and the establishment of Chinese Digital Soft Power"

Wendy Su | University of California Riverside

"Making the Impossible Possible: China's Disinformation Industry"

Mei Nelson | Accenture Security iDefense

"From Idol to State: The Rise of Fandom Nationalism in Chinese Cyberspace"

Yingdan Lu & Leo Yang | Stanford University

"Role of Intellectual Property in China's Thriving Consumer Society"

Bashar Malkawi

Day 2: 26 June 2021

Workshop 2

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	12:30	14:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	10:30	12:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	03:30	05:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	22:30 (25 June)	00:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	19:30 (25 June)	21:00

Teaching media studies during COVID-19

Description

This workshop offers an opportunity for postgraduate students, early career researchers (less than 5 years post-PhD), and their mentors to discuss, reflect and evaluate the challenges and experience of teaching media and communication studies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides the popular fascination of online education, COVID-19 has presented an interesting, albeit testing, case to discuss the political economy and geopolitics of media and communication research, in particularly relating to China and Chinese digital media.

Organizers

Wei Wang | Shanghai Jiaotong University
Pengfei Fu | Monash University
Wilfred Yang Wang | University of Melbourne

Invited Speakers

A/Prof Qiaolei Jiang | Tsinghua University
Dr Jian Xiao | Zhejiang University
Dr Bondy Valdovinos-Kaye | Queensland University of Technology

Day 2: 26 June 2021

Panel 2C

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	17:00	18:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	15:00	16:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	08:00	09:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	03:00	04:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	00:00	01:00

circ2021.net/program/panels/chinas-techno-social-realities-and-futures/

China's techno-social realities and futures

Description

This panel examines the social-technical realities and imaginaries of Chinese digital culture from a diversified range of perspectives. Six papers in this panel discuss aspects of Chinese digital culture, technology, finance, citizenship, and civic actions. Together they raise questions about the continuity and disruptions in people's engagement with the new digital life.

Chair

Tom McDonald | University of Hong Kong

Abstracts & Panelists

"Recontextualizing debt: China's credit collection callers and anti-collection alliance during Covid-19"

Tom McDonald | University of Hong Kong

"Communication placation: State appropriation of satire in China"

Yipeng Xi & Aaron Yi Kai | National University of Singapore

"The social-technical imaginaries of a non-profit platform initiative: platformization of environmental monitoring in China"

Yu Sun | Zhejiang University

"Understanding online citizenship practices of Chinese young adults"

Jun Fu | Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne

"Multiple Discourses of Gene Editing on Social Media: A Case Study of Chinese Gene-Edited Human Babies"

Xing Zhang & Weiyu Zhang | National University of Singapore; Anfan Chen | University of Science and Technology of China

"From Diaosi to Sang: the Youth Culture of Self-Mockery and Self-Defeat in China"

Junqi Peng | Hong Kong Baptist University

Day 2: 26 June 2021

Panel 2D

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	18:15	19:15
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	16:15	17:15
London, BST (UTC +1)	09:15	10:15
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	04:15	05:15
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	01:15	02:15

circ2021.net/program/panels/chinas-internet-governance-domestic-issues-and-global-aspirations/

China's Internet Governance: Domestic Issues and Global Aspirations

Description

China's internet governance is one of the most studied topics in the field of Chinese internet/digital media studies. The topic has become more urgent and important for scholarly inquiry in the last few years with an escalating 'civilising process' of the Chinese internet and digital media in China as well as the rising 'Sino techlash' overseas. The panel brings together speakers from Australia, China, UK and the US to discuss China's internet governance. Domestically, we explore some emerging governance issues, ranging from digital economy governance, big data governance, to the governance of live-streamers and cyber historical nihilism. Globally, we examine how Chinese digital media are governed overseas and how the Chinese global internet governance is critically debated and challenged. The panel aims to provide an up-to-date, critical and complex understanding of emerging governance issues of China's internet and digital media from both domestic and global perspectives.

Chair

Jian Xu | Deakin University

Abstracts & Panelists

"Digital business governance in China: The algorithm design of Tik Tok"

Altman Yuzhu Peng | Newcastle University

"A good China story or a wasteful practice: Chinese social eating livestreams under scrutiny"

Lina Qu | Michigan State University

"Cyber historical nihilism and its governance in China"

Jian Xu | Deakin University; Qian Gong | Curtin University; Wen Yin | Nanjing Forestry University

"How does national policy respond to data flow: Evolution and Prospects of Cyber Sovereignty in current China"

Yin Shan & Jing Xu | Peking University

"Regulating Chinese and North American digital media in Australia"

Chunmeizi Su | QUT

"Towards a critique of the Chinese state – on rising powers, digital diplomacy and norms"

Padmapriya Vidhya-Govindarajan | New York University

Day 2: 26 June 2021

Keynote 2

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	19:30	21:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	17:30	19:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	10:30	12:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	07:30	09:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	05:30	07:00

circ2021.net/program/key-notes/cyber-sovereignty-cutting-both-ways/

Cyber Sovereignty: Cutting Both Ways

Abstract

For decades, China has put sovereignty at the core of its approach to global digital governance. It defined this as the right to regulate its own cyberspace and decide on its own development path. Previously, this stance conflicted with the free and open approach to cyber affairs espoused by Western, “like-minded” governments. However, these are now increasingly coming to advocate in favour of sovereignty in rhetoric, and act accordingly in practice. The proliferation of sovereignty-based measures and practices will have a major impact on global digital processes, ranging from supply and production chains to content regulation and data flows. This keynote will assess those consequences from the Chinese perspective, paying particular attention to the ways in which a Chinese-originated idea may well come to work against it.

Speaker

Rogier Creemers | Universiteit Leiden

Moderator

Haiqing Yu | RMIT University

Discussants

Jack Qiu | National University of Singapore

Florian Schneider | Leiden University

Nina Li | Monash University

Daya Thussu | Tsinghua University

The 18th Chinese Internet Research Conference

The Internationalization
of China's Digital and
Communication Industries

Day 3

27 June 2021

Panel 3A	Wanghong, Social Media Entertainment and the Social Industries	10:00 – 11:00 AEST (UTC +10)
Panel 3B	Global governance of smart cities, facial recognition and the internet	11:15 – 12:15 AEST (UTC +10)
Special Events	Q&A with filmmaker Hao Wu: “People’s Republic of Desire”	12:30 – 14:00 AEST (UTC +10)
Mid-day break		14:00 – 17:00 AEST (UTC +10)
Panel 3C	WeChat and Chinese diaspora	17:00 – 18:00 AEST (UTC +10)
Panel 3D	Algorithmic imagination of social media	18:15 – 19:15 AEST (UTC +10)
Special Events	AWARDS: Best student papers & Closing Ceremonies	19:30 – 21:00 AEST (UTC +10)

Day 3: 27 June 2021

Panel 3A

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	10:00	11:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	08:00	09:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	01:00	02:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	20:00 (26 June)	21:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	17:00 (26 June)	18:00

circ2021.net/program/panels/wanghong-social-media-entertainment-and-the-social-industries/

Wanghong, Social Media Entertainment and the Social Industries

Description

In Chinese, the term wanghong refers to creators, social media entrepreneurs alternatively known as KOLs (key opinion leaders) and zhubo (showroom hosts), influencers and micro-celebrities. Wanghong also refers to an emerging media ecology in which these creators cultivate online communities for cultural and commercial value by harnessing Chinese social media platforms, like Weibo, WeChat, Douyu, Huya, Bilibili, Douyin, and Kuaishuo. Through policy intervention and industry innovation, China has incubated, promoted and controlled this industry, which operates centrally in the rapid transformation of China's digital economy. Framed by the concepts of cultural, creative, and social industries, the book maps the development of wanghong policies and platforms, labor and management, content and culture, as they operate in contrast to its non-Chinese counterpart, social media entertainment, driven by platforms like YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitch. As evidenced by the backlash to TikTok, the threat of competition from global wanghong signals advancing platform nationalism.

Chair

David Craig | USC Annenberg

Abstracts & Panelists

"Industry frameworks for differentiating Wanghong and Social Media Entertainment"

Stuart Cunningham | QUT; David Craig | USC Annenberg

"Wanghong and their unlikely creativities: a study of Chinese social media culture"

Jian Lin | University of Groningen

"Online fiction writers in China: fame and fragility"

Anthony Fung | Chinese University of Hong Kong

"Wanghong as liminal creative labour in China"

Elaine Zhao | University of New South Wales

"How Wanghong is (re)created as a concept: algorithm, space, and everyday life"

Dino Ge Zhang | Zhejiang University

"Microcelebrity Goes to Gay Porn"

Lin Song | University of Macau

"Whose Recognition Is It? The impossible identity of popular eat-streamers in China"

Sijun Shen | Monash University

Day 3: 27 June 2021

Panel 3B

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	11:15	12:15
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	09:15	10:15
London, BST (UTC +1)	02:15	03:15
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	21:15 (26 June)	22:15
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	18:15 (25 June)	19:15

circ2021.net/program/panels/global-governance-of-smart-cities-facial-recognition-and-the-internet/

Global governance of smart cities, facial recognition and the internet

Description

This discussion panel on Internet policies addresses issues of privacy, security and data governance in global settings. Specifically, we are interested in governance issues that manifest in areas ranging from smart cities, facial recognition, to artificial intelligence technologies. We hope to bridge the CIRC community with international standard and policy organizations, and integrate Chinese internet discourse into global discussions on these frontier issues:

- Global governance of data, smart cities, facial recognition, and AI;
- Smart cities as complex systems of technologies that provide ubiquitous connectivity of people in urban spaces;
- Comparative governance perspectives from the US, Europe, Australia, Singapore and China;
- Comparative tech policy models of China, the US, and EU; and
- China's tech influence in the Global South.

Chair

Min Jiang | UNC Charlotte

Abstracts & Panelists

"American, European and Chinese Perspectives on Internet Governance"

Ang Peng Hwa | Nanyang Technological University

"Governance Challenges in Smart Cities: Connecting People, Place and Technology"

Marcus Foth | QUT

"Chinese Cyber Sovereignty in the Age of US-China Tech Rivalry"

Min Jiang | UNC Charlotte

"Principles for Governing AI, Facial Recognition, and Smart Cities: Finding Points of Consensus in a Global Technology Ecosystem"

Lorraine Kisselburgh | Purdue University

Day 3: 27 June 2021

Special Events

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	12:30	14:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	10:30	12:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	03:30	05:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	22:30	00:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	19:30	21:00

circ2021.net/program/special-events/qa-with-filmmaker-hao-wu-peoples-republic-of-desire/

Q&A with filmmaker Hao Wu – “People’s Republic of Desire”

About Hao Wu

Originally trained as a molecular biologist, Hao Wu traveled to the Internet world before focusing on filmmaking. He held various management positions at technology companies including Excite@Home, Yahoo China and Alibaba. From 2008–2011, he was the China Country Manager for TripAdvisor, the largest travel website in the world.

Wu’s documentary films have received funding support from The Ford Foundation JustFilms, ITVS, Sundance Institute, Tribeca Film Institute, NYSCA and international broadcasters. His first feature documentary, *The Road to Fame*, co-produced with BBC, VPRO, CNEX and DR, broadcasted in over ten countries after an extended festival run. He also produced *Nowhere to Call Home*, which *The New York Times* called “Inspiring Dialogue, Not Dissent, in China.” His next feature documentary, *People’s Republic of Desire*, about China’s live-streaming phenomenon, won the Grand Jury Award at the 2018 SXSW, among many other awards. It screened at over 40 film festivals worldwide and broadcasted nationally on PBS Independent Lens. *The New York Times* called the film “hypercharged,” while *The Los Angeles Times* said it’s “invariably surprising and never less than compelling.” Wu followed that film with *All in My Family*, a Netflix Original Documentary Short, that launched globally in May 2019.

76 Days, Wu’s latest work and the first feature documentary on the COVID-19 pandemic to play at a film festival, world premiered at Toronto International Film Festival in September 2020. Distributed by MTV Documentary Films in North America, it was named a Critic’s Pick by *The New York Times*.

Host/Moderator

David Craig | USC Annenberg

Guest

Hao Wu | Filmmaker

Select filmography

76 Days

People’s Republic of Desire

All in my family

Day 3: 27 June 2021

Panel 3C

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	17:00	18:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	15:00	16:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	08:00	09:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	03:00	04:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	00:00	01:00

circ2021.net/program/panels/wechat-and-chinese-diaspora/

WeChat and Chinese diaspora

Description

This panel explores the global uptake of WeChat as the preferred social media platform in the Chinese diaspora, asking what role WeChat plays in the processes of marginalisation, exclusion, empowerment or place-making. Has WeChat become the instrument of China's public diplomacy or is a more complex picture emerging? Does WeChat enable the Mandarin-speaking migrants to continue to live in a 'Chinese world', and does it pose a challenge to the migrants' integration into the society of their host country? Papers in this panel, situated in their respective national context – Australia, Canada, Japan, Africa, Brazil, and Russian – speak to these questions, and point to complex answers.

Chair

Wanning Sun | University of Technology Sydney

Discussant

Haiqing Yu | RMIT University

Abstracts & Panelists

“WeChat use and symbolic boundary making: A case study of Chinese international students in Australia”

Xinyu Zhao | Deakin University

“News via WeChat for Chinese Speakers in Brazil: Towards Integration with the PRC Information Environment ”

Josh Stenberg | Sydney University

“Wechat groups and Chinese migrants in Africa: a comparative study of Zambia and Angola”

Hangwei Li | SOAS, University of London

“WeChat and Migration Infrastructure, the case of Siberian”

Natalia Ryzhova & Yulia Kodzhaeva | Yandex University

“Building a life on the soil of the ultimate other – WeChat and the sense of belonging among Chinese migrants in Japan”

Xinyu Promio Wang | Ibaraki Christian University

“WeChat as Everyday Tactics: Shanzhai-ed Didi Making Place in Pre-Uber Vancouver”

Yijia Zhang | University of British Columbia

Day 3: 27 June 2021

Panel 3D

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	18:15	19:15
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	16:15	17:15
London, BST (UTC +1)	09:15	10:15
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	04:15	05:15
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	01:15	02:15

[circ2021.net/program/panels/algorithmic-
imagination-of-social-media/](http://circ2021.net/program/panels/algorithmic-
imagination-of-social-media/)

Algorithmic imagination of social media

Description

This panel brings together five papers that examine the role of digital technologies and platforms in transforming how people engage with online content, community, and spaces. Whether it is on WeChat or Momo or any other platform, content production, circulation, and consumption have to be reimagined on algorithm-drive social media platforms.

Chair

Weiyu Zhang | National University of Singapore

Abstracts & Panelists

“Live streaming and reinvigoration on Momo: Exploring the dynamic transition of a Chinese social network app ”

Li Haili & D. Bondy Valdovinos Kayel QUT

“Traffic media: How algorithmic imaginations and practices change content production”

Weiyu Zhang | National University of Singapore

“Context the WeChat use in dynamic Internet Era of China: Super App or Super Disruption”

Ying Huang | Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication; Weishan Miao | Institute of Journalism and Communication, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

“WeChat: From mimicry to techno-orientalism”

Fan Yang | Deakin University

“Public engagement in news media spaces on WeChat”

Xuanzi Xu & Joyce Nip | University of Sydney

Day 3: 27 June 2021

Special Events

	Starts	Ends
Melbourne, AEST (UTC +10)	19:30	21:00
Beijing, CST (UTC +8)	17:30	19:00
London, BST (UTC +1)	10:30	12:00
New York, EDT (UTC -4)	07:30	09:00
Los Angeles, PDT (UTC -7)	05:30	07:00

circ2021.net/program/special-events/closing-ceremonies/

Awards: Best Student Paper & Closing Ceremonies

Activities

1. Student Paper Awards (CIRC Steering Committee)
2. CIRC 2022 Announcements (CIRC Steering Committee)
3. Qipashuo (CIRC-edition)
4. Mukbang and Karaoke

Student Paper Awards

Since 2005, the Chinese Internet Research Conference (CIRC) has featured a graduate student paper contest. This important tradition highlights the best work(s) by members of the new generation of CIRC scholars. Winners will be chosen by the CIRC Steering Committee, which will announce the results on the last day of CIRC 2021 on 27 June 2021.

To participate in this contest, the papers need to be authored / co-authored by students only. They cannot be co-authored by any faculty member or postdoc. The papers should be written in full, in a similar format as journal articles. They should include authors' names and affiliations.

Please send your paper to the following email by 30 May 2021, if you wish to be considered for the contest:
submission@circ2021.net

QIPASHUO (CIRC-edition)

MC: Matthew Allen | University of Tasmania

Panellists:

Wei Wang | SJTU

Pengfei Fu | Monash University

Wilfred Yang Wang | Melbourne University

Elaine Jing Zhao | University of New South Wales

Junyi Lv | USC Annenberg

Jian Lin | University of Groningen

David Craig | USC Annenberg

Mukbang and Karaoke Party

(more to come)

More info about the conference
and for Zoom links:
circ2021.net