Media & Communications
at ICA24

THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

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We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all.

Cover image: John Woolley Building

Media & Communications
at The University of Sydney

Our research brings the critical power of the humanities to bear on all forms of media and communication. We study digital cultures, social media, new media arts, robotics, games, immersive media, artificial intelligence, journalism, media industries, public and community broadcasting, strategic communication, health communication, media literacies, youth culture, disability, the political economy of communications, the philosophy of communications, and digital policy and governance.

Join us at ICA 2024 at the following sessions.

Bunty Avieson

Bunty Avieson is a Senior Lecturer in Media and Communications, and ARC DECRA Fellow, researching the cultural consequences of digital platforms in a project titled The Bhutan-Wiki project: knowledge, literacy and orality in the digital age

Meet Dr Avieson at *Global journalism under duress: Key findings from World Journalism Survey 3* (panel).

Olga Boichak

Olga Boichak is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Cultures and an ARC DECRA Fellow studying digital war and the networks, narratives and cultures of digital activism. She also leads the Computational Social Science Lab at The University of Sydney.

Meet Dr Boichak at *Beyond witnessing: networked humanitarianism in geopolitical crises* (paper presentation); *Social digital dilemmas: young people's and parents' negotiation of emerging online safety issues* (paper presentation); *Integrated text analytics* (tool demonstration); and at the *Digital sovereignty for whom? Platforms and infrastructures in a global context* (post-conference).

Academics

Benedetta Brevini

Benedetta Brevini is an Associate Professor of Political Economy of Communication and a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Public Knowledge (NYU). Her research investigates the social, political, economic and environmental implications of data-driven communication systems, especially the relationship between data capitalism, AI and the climate crisis.

Meet Associate Professor Brevini at the *From provocation to possibility? Revisiting the "critical" in environmental communication* post-conference.

Sam Chan

Sam Chan is a Lecturer in Digital Cultures. His research examines the relationship between digital platforms, gender and sexuality, and culture. He is the Co-Chair of the ICA LGBTQ Studies Interest Group.

Meet Dr Chan at *How dating apps fail sexual minorities: Hyperpersonal failure as a framework for understanding obstacles and challenges* (paper presentation); *Politics meets dating: Moral concern, utopianism, and communication competence predict willingness to date across the political divide* (paper presentation); *Bridging divides and forging bonds: Examining technology's role in community building and pursuing inclusion* (panel); *LGBTQ+ engagements with identity, family and community* (panel); and LGBTQ Studies Interest Group: Business Meeting and Mixer (co-chair).

Ben Egliston

Ben Egliston is a Lecturer in Digital Cultures and an ARC DECRA Fellow studying the political economy of media and technology, with a particular focus on video games and immersive technologies.

Meet Dr Egliston at the *Critical augmented and virtual reality research network* (CAVRN) post-conference.

Terry Flew

Professor of Digital Communication and Culture Terry Flew is currently an ARC Laureate Fellow leading a five-year study on the topic of Mediated Trust: Ideas, Interests, Institutions, Futures. He also leads the ARC Discovery-Project Valuing News: Aligning Individual, Institutional and Societal Perspectives, and the ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities-funded International Digital Policy Observatory.

Meet Professor Flew at *AI governance in a global landscape: Geopolitical and technopolitical dynamics* (panel); *What is news in a changing media environment? An application of boundary theory to audience definitions of news* (paper presentation); and the *News industries: Funding innovations and futures* post-conference.

Academics

Joanne E. Gray

Joanne E. Gray is a Lecturer in Digital Cultures and Commissioning Editor for the journal Policy & Internet. Her research merges insights from media and communications, political economy and law to examine concentrated private power in the digital economy and support policy-making in the public interest.

Meet Dr Gray at the *Critical augmented and virtual reality research network* (CAVRN) and *Digital sovereignty for whom? Platforms and infrastructures in a global context* post-conferences.

John Hartley

Professor John Hartley is a pioneer of cultural and media studies. He investigates meaning systems to ask how culture makes groups, groups make knowledge, and knowledge makes enemies; how these processes are technologised and weaponised in planetary conflicts; and what everyday cultures can do about that.

Meet Professor Hartley at *Censorship, online resistance and creativity in the Chinese context* (panel) and *Barbie and "female victims" in China: Emerging contradictions and gender anxiety in the post-pandemic era* (research escalator project mentor).

Mitchell J. Hobbs

Mitchell J. Hobbs is a Senior Lecturer in Media and Public Relations. His research spans public lobbying and issue management strategies; AI, strategic communication and disinformation campaigns; and dating apps.

Meet Dr Hobbs at the *Strategic diversion as a rhetorical practice in lobbying and public relations campaigns* pre-conference and *Storytelling as grand strategy in public diplomacy: A case study* (paper presentation).

Justine Humphry

Justine Humphry is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Cultures. Their research studies cultures and politics of mobile media and emerging technologies including digital inequalities and safety, smart cities and urban datafication, and the mediation of home and urban space.

Meet Dr Humphry at *Social digital dilemmas: young people's and parents' negotiation of emerging online safety issues* (paper presentation).

Academics

Jonathon Hutchinson

Jonathon Hutchinson is a Senior Lecturer in Media and Communications and Editor-in-Chief for the journal Policy & Internet. His research covers social media, public service media, cultural intermediation, algorithms and automation in media, and internet governance.

Meet Dr Hutchinson at *Social digital dilemmas: young people's and parents' negotiation of emerging online safety issues* (paper presentation); *Cultural production and generative artificial intelligence: A matchpoint for creativity?* (panel); and the *Digital sovereignty for whom? Platforms and infrastructures in a global context* post-conference.

Catharine Lumby

Catharine Lumby is a Professor of Media and Communication. Her scholarship focuses on the development and application of evidence-based approaches to creating diverse, ethical and accountable cultures across institutions and contexts.

Meet Professor Lumby at *Young people and sexually explicit content online: Exploring parental concerns* (paper presentation).

Joyce Nip

Joyce Nip is an Associate Professor in Media and Communications. Her research focuses on media in Chinese societies, particularly the political and social implications of the internet and social media, journalism, civic uses of media, and community and ethnic media.

Meet Associate Professor Nip at *Reimagining digital activism: Navigating complexities and forging new perspectives* pre-conference.

Catherine Page Jeffery

Catherine Page Jeffery is a Lecturer in Media and Communications. Her research addresses digital media and families, with a particular focus on parenting in the digital age.

Meet Dr Page Jeffery at *Young people and sexually explicit content online: Exploring parental concerns* (paper presentation).

Academics

Alan McKee

Alan McKee is a Professor of Media and Communications specialising in entertainment and healthy sexual development, digital sexual literacy and sexual representations in digital contexts.

Meet Professor McKee at *Young people and sexually explicit content online: Exploring parental concerns* (paper presentation).

Lea Redfern

Lea Redfern is a Lecturer in Media and Communications specialising in audio and cultural studies, including the research and production of narratives in radio and podcasting.
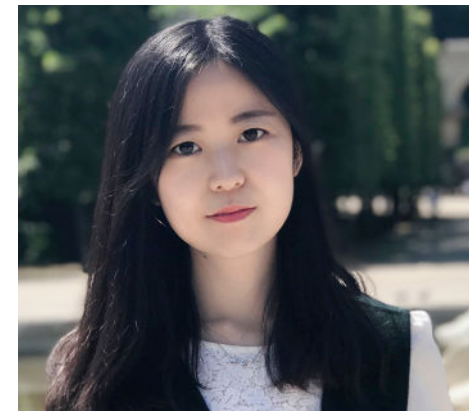
Meet Lea at the *Podcast Studies Roundtable* in Brisbane on June 25, 2024—a bridging event between the ICA24 and IAMCR24 conferences.

Xiang Ren

Xiang Ren is Lecturer in Media and Communication. His research explores various topics related to the business and culture of digital publishing, social media platforms and Chinese media industries.

Meet Dr Ren at *BookTok, super apps, and influencer economy: A study of China's social reading evolution in the context of platform ecosystems* (paper presentation).

Chunmeizi Su

Chunmeizi Su is a Lecturer in Digital Cultures specialising in platform studies, AI and algorithmic culture, Chinese screen industries and cultural soft power.

Meet Dr Su at *Mapping data practices in gaming across publishing platforms, community sites, and online multiplayer games* (poster presentation) and *Cultural production and generative artificial intelligence: A matchpoint for creativity?* (panel).

Olaf Werder

Olaf Werder is a Senior Lecturer in Health Communication. His research focuses on health equity, health communication practices and community-collaborative pathways for improved health outcomes.

Meet Dr Werder at *Health as human right: Centring equity in health policies and communication* (panel).

Students

Lydia Cheng

Lydia Cheng is a Ph.D. candidate undertaking research into Singapore's changing media landscape including the production and consumption of lifestyle content.

Meet Lydia at *"Am I a journalist?" Lifestyle journalists' discursive construction of their profession inside, outside, and alongside the journalistic field* (paper presentation); *Journalist and audience perceptions of commercial influences in lifestyle journalism* (paper presentation); and at the *Journalistic role performance: Paths taken and pathways forward* pre-conference.

Clare Davies

Clare Davies is a Ph.D. candidate whose research explores how contemporary health discourses on digital technologies shape normative ideals of individual health and female embodiment.

Meet Clare at *Health as human right: Centring equity in health policies and communication* (panel).

Cameron McTernan

Cam McTernan is a Ph.D. candidate whose research uses digital and econometric methods to explore Australian news diversity on Facebook, including patterns of concentration over time.

Meet Cameron at *Media concentration in the age of international streaming services and platforms* (Blue sky: Big ideas session).

Justin Miller

Justin Miller is a Ph.D. candidate and HDR student lead at the Computational Social Science Lab. His research explores the application of large language models in summarising textual information drawn from social media platforms.

Meet Justin at *Beyond witnessing: networked humanitarianism in geopolitical crises* (paper presentation).

Students

Angela Palmer

Angela Palmer is a Ph.D. candidate examining digital containment mechanisms and their effectiveness in countering online disinformation and propaganda targeted at European state interests over the past two decades.

Meet Angela at *Public diplomacy as containment strategy: the Ukrainian government response to Russian-led disinformation since February 2022* (paper presentation).

Ryan Stanton

Ryan Stanton is a Ph.D. candidate studying gaming podcasts to improve understanding of the functions and interactions between creators and audiences within the new media landscape.

Meet Ryan at *Personalities and podcasts: Examining gaming journalism's shifting priorities* (paper presentation).

Umar Umar

Umar is a Ph.D. candidate whose research examines Instagram-based disability activism in Indonesia, involving diverse disability stakeholders, from individual activists to diverse-led organisations.

Meet Umar at *Instagram and disability organizations: Indonesia towards inclusion* (panel).

Wenqi Tan

Wenqi Tan is a Ph.D. candidate researching inclusivity in media and communication, with a particular focus on disability inclusion in the materiality and cultures of virtual reality.

Meet Wenqi at *HYBRID: Disability rights, communications and technology* (panel) and *Representations of cyborgs and disability in the worlds of cyberpunk 2077 and citizen sleeper* (paper presentation).

Students

Wenjia Tang

Wenjia Tang is a Ph.D. candidate studying the changing business models of streaming video media from the U.S. and China, including the impact on content production and consumption locally and globally.

Meet Wenjia at *One world, two systems: De-centering platform theory* (panel) and the *News industries: Funding innovations and futures* post-conference.

Jiahui Xing

Jiahui Xing is a Ph.D. candidate whose research investigates the global resonance of Chinese culture within politics, media, everyday practice, creative labours, and diplomacy, with a specific focus on Chinese garments, aesthetics and fashion.

Meet Jiahui at the *Digital Asia* preconference.

Join us at The University of Sydney in 2024

Guest Lecture Philip M. Napoli on *Strengthening the Role of Journalism-Adjacent Institutions in Legitimizing News and Information Sources*
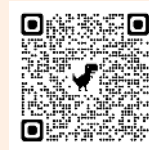19 June, The University of Sydney

Global Media and Internet Concentration Project Symposium
27-28 June, The University of Sydney

Policy & Internet Conference 2024
3-5 October, The University of Sydney

The Media@Sydney Series
Monthly (online)

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Media and
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Computational Social
Science Lab

Sydney Games
and Play Lab