

# Summer Doctoral Programme

2005 | 07 JULY - 21 JULY 2005 Beijing

Students



**Oxford Internet Institute**  
**University of Oxford**

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### Maria Paula Araujo de Noronha

None Supplied

### Xiaoyan Chen

None Supplied

### Marcus M. Dapp

None Supplied

### Christoph Engemann

Christoph Engemann is currently finishing his dissertation titled 'The Citizen of Electronic Government' at the Graduate School of Social Sciences University of Bremen. His main areas of research are new media and statehood, authentication media, political economy of the Internet, the European unification and its media and Game Studies. He has taught both sociology and media studies at the Universities of Bremen and Weimar. Recent publications are on e-Government, Free Software, Lifelong Learning as well as on critical psychology and critical theory.

Christoph is a Non-Residential Fellow at the Center for Internet and Society Stanford Law School and a Research Fellow at the Faculty of Media of the Bauhaus University Weimar. During the fall term 2005 he will be visiting researcher at the department for comparative literature at Stanford University.

In his Dissertation 'The Citizen of Electronic Government' he utilizes a combination of media theory and political economy to investigate the implicit ideals of citizenship in Germany's e-Government programmes. The study so far has shown that the primary aim of Germany's e-Government initiatives is not the intensification of the democratic discourse between state and citizen via the use of the new electronic media is, but establishing new forms of organizing the production, access and consumption of collective resources, especially in the sphere of social rights. This is shown on the ongoing reforms of the educational sector, health care and the reforms on unemployment insurance in Germany. A rupture in their media-preconditions characterizes all three reforms as they are moved from a paper-based to a code-based system in an end-to-end network environment.

The potential for addressing individuals directly, e.g. processing data at the individualized level, with the Internet as a backbone, is of central importance for the current reforms of state bureaucracies in Germany. The Smartcards being issued in all three of these programs are analyzed as interfaces to collective resources, that

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partly replace the brick and mortar interfaces to collective goods of 'classic' bureaucratic institutions like schools, hospitals and labor-agencies. The Smartcards in Germanys e-Government move the interface to collective resources away from these institutions to the individual. The final part of the dissertation outlines the changing configuration of the rights and duties of citizens within this framework, as well as sketching out the potential conflicts and confusions of citizenship that may arise here.

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### Kenneth Farrall

Kenneth Farrall, a PhD candidate at the Annenberg School for Communication, studies the social impact of electronic network communication technologies, particularly on privacy, human rights, and the distribution of social knowledge. In the summer of 2004, Ken served as a fellow at the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) in Washington, DC, where he researched electronic voting and Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID). He is interested in new theoretical and methodological approaches to Internet research, such as the emerging field of web graph analysis (also known as link structure analysis), and is currently exploring the role of the Internet in events of social instability such as revolutions and terrorist attacks. Ken also has considerable

experience and knowledge of China's Internet. For more details on his current academic work and professional career, see his Annenberg website at : <http://www.asc.upenn.edu/usr/kfarrall/>

### Anne Geniets

Anne Geniets from Queen's College is a doctoral candidate at the Department of Experimental Psychology, Oxford University. Her doctoral dissertation investigates young UK citizens' political engagement, their use of ICT and level of trust/social capital, focusing primarily on gender and age differences. Other research focuses include governmental e-democracy projects in the UK, adolescents' understanding of politics, problem solving and conflict resolution, and children's perception of war and political conflicts (including psychological symptoms and disorders of children living in war zones).

### James Gomez

James Gomez is a PhD candidate at the Monash Asia Institute, Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He has experience working in NGOs and has a track record of publications. His most recent publication is 'Asian Cyberactivism: Freedom of Expression and Censorship'. He also maintains a personal website:

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[www.jamesgomeznews.com](http://www.jamesgomeznews.com)

His thesis aims to evaluate the impact of the Internet on opposition party communication in Singapore. It argues that political parties, especially opposition parties, are an important element of democracy. However in Singapore, the ability of the opposition party to contribute meaningfully to the democratic process is hampered by constitutional and institutional constraints. One such constraint is access to local media, which is government controlled and has a record of media bias against opposition parties. Through a qualitative analysis, the thesis seeks to determine whether the Internet has enabled opposition parties to by-pass this local media barrier and thereby enable opposition parties to make a meaningful contribution to the democratic process in Singapore and keep opposition parties relevant as a variable component of democracy.

### Yu Hong

Yu Hong is entering her third year of the PhD program at the Institute of Communications Research at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received her BA degree in English from Zhejiang University, China. Yu Hong's research interests are on communications and class formation.

### Gang Huang

Huang Gang is currently a doctoral candidate at the Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China. He obtained his Master's degree of communication from CUC in 2004. Prior to his Masters study, he studied advertising in Ningbo University (NBU), Ningbo, China.

He has a great interest in the innovation of communication and marketing research methods. His doctoral dissertation will investigate Internet-based research methods, focusing on three quantitative ones such as Internet surveys, online experiments and content analysis, and aiming to improve the data quality and validity of these methods. He accomplished research on web questionnaire design last summer for his Master's thesis, and plans to complete his doctoral dissertation by next winter. In addition, he is also interested in topics on Internet-mediated communication and social developments, such as the impact of Internet usage on individual psychology, diffusion of ICTs and digital divide, etc.

Since 2002, he has attended the Digital Review of Asia Pacific (sponsored by UNDP) with his supervisor and colleagues. In 2003, he participated in sampling design of the China Internet Development Survey, sponsored by the China Network Information Center (CNNIC). He also had a part-time job in the online

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research department of a marketing research corporation last year. From April to June of 2005, he worked as an intern in the marketing research department of Sina.com, a leading Internet corporation in China.

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### Vikki Katz

Vikki Katz is a doctoral candidate and Annenberg Fellow at the Annenberg School for Communication, at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Her doctoral dissertation investigates the everyday roles of children in their immigrant families as cultural brokers/translators of language and various media forms, including the Internet and new communication technologies. Specifically, she questions how the translating capacities of these children, both within the home and in local community space, are connected to immigrant family adaptation and community belonging outcomes.

Other research focuses include: second generation youths' media connectedness patterns and identity negotiation (in Europe and the US); ethnic media production, consumption, and viability as institutions; and applying media connection patterns to improving

health outcomes in minority and immigrant communities.

### Anastasia Kavada

None Supplied

### Yael Levanon

None Supplied

### Eileen Lübcke

Eileen Lübcke holds a master in Sociology. She works at the Institute of Technology and Education, University of Bremen in the department 'Innovation, HRD, and regional development' as an assistant researcher. Her fields of work are virtual teams, knowledge management and cross-cultural studies.

Dissertation abstract: Problems and pitfalls in the construction of global communication in virtual teams.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) links group members that are spread over geographic distances and time boundaries thereby increasing group heterogeneity. Heterogeneity

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of group members has a variety of effects: for example, heterogeneous groups are able to produce a greater number of alternative problem solving solutions than homogeneous groups through the integration of different perspectives. On the other hand, coordination and communication problems may increase within those working teams.

Existing CMC research is frequently limited to the cross-cultural comparison of culturally homogeneous, but mutually contrasting groups and their virtual interactions. But research in intercultural encounters in CM environments is nearly non-existent. The main question of the dissertation derives from this gap: Is there a contradiction between the global communicative practice that is used for team coordination and the local communicative patterns that work in the local work environments of each team member? Literature review has shown that problems might occur on three levels:

- (a) problems because of a continuation of local communicative patterns in on-line environment;
- (b) problems because of culturally different communicative adaptation to CMC;
- (c) problems because of cultural differences in media use.

These questions are addressed by observations of virtual teams

in a multinational enterprise as well as observation of student virtual teams. The research design shows a multi-methodological approach by combining conversation analysis, social network analysis with interview techniques.

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### Maren Lübcke

Maren Lübcke is an assistant researcher at the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg at the Department of Technology Assessment. She holds a Masters degree in Sociology. Her dissertation is focused on patterns of interaction in online groups, with the aim of discovering possibilities for interventions that would support the vitality of discussions. This work ties together former research projects, including research on Demos, a European R&D project that aimed to develop an on-line platform that would enable political discussions to be conducted on-line. Her current research project is an interdisciplinary effort connecting sociology and computer science in the field of distributed artificial intelligence. Some part of the theoretical work in her dissertation is based on this current research project.

Dissertation abstract: Inline or out of control? Intervention possibilities in on-line discussion groups.

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The rapid diffusion of the Internet has been accompanied by dramatic initiatives for on-line fora, ranging from commercial arenas (such as brand communities) to politics, with efforts to support deliberative democracy. However, the successful implementation of online fora has evaded many, with countless reports of flame wars or lack of participation. Nevertheless, while many predicted the demise of Usenet as early as 1984, it is still alive and vital more than twenty years later. This dissertation will seek explanations for how internet-based discussion processes tend to reproduce themselves and become stable. This stability of course includes changes within the process.

Theoretical insights might help identify points at which it is possible to steer and intervene to support on-line communities not only with regard to their usability design but especially with regard to their 'sociability'. The analysis will be based on a study of Demos, a European R&D project that created a system for conducting political discourse with citizens of Hamburg.

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### Airong Luo

Airong Luo is a doctoral candidate of the School of Information, University of Michigan. She is interested in studying long distance

work and the technologies and social practices that make it successful.

Her dissertation topic is 'How Collaboratory Use Affects Peripheral Scientists?'. A collaboratory is defined as '...center without walls, in which the nation's researchers can perform their research without regard to geographical location - interacting with colleagues, accessing instrumentation, sharing data and computational resource and accessing information in digital libraries.' Recent years have seen an increasing use of collaboratories in scientific work. It is hypothesized that by enabling scientists to reach remotely located data, instruments and experts, collaboratories will benefit peripheral scientists (e.g., scientists from developing countries and scientists from minority colleges in the US) more than core scientists. However, previous studies on computer network use have shown mixed results regarding peripherality effects. Adopting a qualitative approach, this study intends to investigate cultural, political, and technical factors that influence collaboratory use by peripheral scientists.

### Siddhartha S. Menon

Siddhartha S. Menon is a doctoral candidate in mass media at Michigan State University. He completed his MA in Communication, Culture and Technology at Georgetown

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University, Washington, DC, and BA in Diplomacy and World Affairs with an economic emphasis at Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA. He has worked as a research associate and consultant for 1stbooks.com, new media consultant for 1stbooks.com, a consultant for I.M.I. Inc., and assisted in launching an Indian cable TV channel for Sony Pictures (Columbia Tristar International TV). He has published articles in Telecommunications Magazine, Telecommunications Policy and the Journal of Development Communication and Government Information Quarterly. Sid has received a number of awards, including a fellowship for graduate study at MSU.

Dissertation abstract: Policy initiative dilemmas surrounding media convergence: a cross national perspective.

The discourse surrounding convergence of mass media content and infrastructures has been fraught with extravagant expectations and rhetoric. This article utilizes a cross-national perspective and focuses on regulatory aspects of the media convergence issue in order to explore the disconnect between the hype and realities of convergence. Three research questions characterize the relevant existing policy initiatives, identify obstacles to convergence and in comparativist terms ascertain which policy models have been relatively more effective. This paper adopts a case study structure integrating convergence policy models in the US, South Africa, Japan

and India.

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### Lucy Montgomery

Lucy Montgomery is a PhD candidate at Queensland University of Technology's Creative Industries Research and Applications Centre. Her research investigates the impact of formal copyright changes on the development of China's domestic creative industries.

Prior to commencing her PhD in 2003 Lucy graduated with first class honours in Asian Studies at the University of Adelaide. She entered university as a double degree Asian Studies/Law student. As a result she has completed about half of her undergraduate law degree and hopes to polish the rest off once she has finished her PhD. She has spent time at the East China University of Politics and Law in Shanghai studying China's law and legal system, and spent four years studying Chinese at university.

Data collection for her PhD thesis has included approximately nine months living in Beijing conducting first person interviews with individuals involved in the mainland's film and music industries. She is also involved in a major Australian Research Council

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funded QUT research project investigating the development of China's creative industries and was a member of the organising committee for the conference: Creativity, Innovation and China, held in Beijing in July 2005.

Project abstract:

Creativity, Copying and China: Copyright Reform in China's Film and Music Industries.

This project investigates the impact of copyright reform on China's domestic creative industries. Film and music are chosen as specific case studies. The research examines the role of copyright and the development of a formal intellectual property system in the growth of the film and music industries in today's China. Fieldwork, consisting of first person interviews with people involved at various stages of film and music production and distribution in China forms a major component of the project. Key questions that this research aims to answer are: what is the current state of copyright law and enforcement in the film and music industries, what is it reasonable to expect from a copyright regime and how are the film and music industries developing in the face of high levels of piracy and copyright infringement? How is the emergence of new technology, including the internet, impacting on copyright in these industries? Preliminary research findings suggest that copyright is just one factor in the highly complex environment

surrounding industry development. In contrast to audio visual and online technologies, which have spread rapidly throughout China, institutional frameworks remains in a transitional phase. Film and music's shift from servant of politics to legitimate revenue generating entertainment sector is a politically and culturally complex process. The rollout of high speed internet access in China has serious implications for managing copyright in the film and music industries. So, too, does the development of internet enabled mobile phones, as well as 3G technology, which is creating a market for streamed film and music content on handheld devices. As with televisions, VCD, DVD and MP3 players, this technology has the potential to generate a vibrant content industry in China. However, such an industry cannot exist without effective management of copyright. Developing a successful copyright regime, capable of facilitating the emergence of creative industries in such a unique technological, social and economic environment represents a mammoth task. There is little doubt that legal and business models developed in this process will provide valuable lessons for creative industries struggling with the impact of network technology elsewhere in the world.

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### Chrystie Myketiak

Chrystie Myketiak is a PhD student in the Department of Computer Science and the School of Modern Languages (Linguistics) at Queen Mary, University of London. Chrystie is examining the transformation of 'public' and 'private' through the online accessing of sequestered materials regulated through offline social mores and norms.

She uses semi-structured interviews, conversational analysis of chatroom logs, and surveys to understand how the Internet, by affecting individual lives, alters the social world. Her empirical results will be applied to revisit theoretical distinctions between 'public' and 'private' spheres and to place these terms within contemporary culture.

Prior to commencing her doctoral studies, Chrystie earned her MA from the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, and was a research assistant in the Faculty of Health Professions, at Dalhousie University.

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### Y.J. Park

Y.J. Park is a doctoral student at Syracuse University School of

Information Studies. Her main research interests are Internet governance, especially country code top level domain names and generic top level domain names, and virtual community governance in the context of online gaming. She has worked as Executive Director of the Multilingual Internet Names Consortium, and as General Manager of the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association. She has been involved in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) since 1999 and World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) since 2002.

She is one of the founding members of ICANN's Non-Commercial Domain Name Holders Constituency (NCDNHC) and was elected to serve on the

ICANN's DNSO Council from 1999 to 2002, representing the Asia Pacific region. She created WG-Review DNSO/ICANN in 2000 while she was on the council and chaired the WG-Review. She is co-founder of the WSIS Civil Society Internet Governance caucus and co-chaired the caucus in 2003. She has been a member of the civil society bureau in the WSIS since February 2003.

### Nic Suzor

Nic Suzor is in the law school at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia, writing a thesis tentatively titled:

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'Realising democratic culture through cyberspace: evaluating regulatory frameworks'. His interests include the legal ground rules that apply to interaction online, what Professor Brian Fitzgerald calls 'digital constitutionalism', particularly in the role and appropriateness of copyright law in society, communication law (governing access to and openness of communication networks), and more broadly, the role of law in enabling and enhancing democratic participation.

His background is in both law and computer science, holding undergraduate degrees in Law and IT from QUT, and having work experience as a programmer. He is involved in several research projects with Professor Fitzgerald, including Creative Commons Australia, research into Legal Issues of Free and Open Source Software, and computer games, with particular reference to massively multiplayer online environments and collaborative commons-based production. Nic teaches jurisprudence in QUT's undergraduate law programme, and legal issues to journalism students in QUT's Creative Industries faculty.

### Hagit Tal

Hagit Tal is a PhD student in the Department of Geography at Haifa University, working on a thesis entitled: 'The Internet and Social Space: Globalization, Networking and Virtualization'. She

received a Bachelor's degree with Honors in Philosophy and International Relations at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and a Master's degree with Honors in History and Philosophy of Science at Tel Aviv University. She teaches at the Open University and Oranim College, and has work experience in telecommunication and media.

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### Shyam Tekwani

Shyam Tekwani is a doctoral candidate in Media and Information (Internet Studies) with Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Western Australia. His doctoral dissertation investigates the manner in which the incorporation of new communication technologies into the communication and planning strategies of terrorist groups has impacted the dynamics of their operations, identifies the particular advantages and disadvantages of the Internet for such groups and examines how the internet enables overseas and diasporic organizations to gain increased involvement in the political or military agenda.

His publications include:

'The Tamil Diaspora, Tamil Militancy, and the Internet', in Asia.com:

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Asia Encounters the Internet (ed: K.C.Ho, Randolph Kluver and Kenneth C.C. Yang), RoutledgeCurzon, London & New York, 2003.

'The Media, Information Revolution and Terrorism in Southeast Asia', in Terrorism and Violence in Southeast Asia: Transnational Challenges to States and Regional Stability (ed: Paul Smith), M.E.Sharpe, London & New York, 2004.

'Embedded Journalists – lessons from the Iraq War', in Journalism Today – liberal Vision, limited practice, (ed: Nalini Rajan), Sage Publications, India, 2005.

Before entering academia, Tekwani was a photojournalist for nearly 15 years in South Asia during which time he produced an exclusive portfolio of work covering the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, and has been published internationally in publications such as The New York Times Magazine, Newsweek, Geo, and India Today, among others.

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### Lokman Tsui

None Supplied

### Shlomit Wagman

Shlomit Wagman is a Graduate Fellow of the Information Society Project and a J.S.D. student at Yale Law School. She graduated from the LL.M. program at Yale Law School (class of 2003). Prior to that, Shlomit clerked for the Honorable Chief Justice Aharon Barak, the President of the Israeli Supreme Court. Recently, she served as a summer associate at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, located in New York City. Shlomit received, with distinction, a Bachelor's degree in Law and Business Management as part of the Hebrew University's Honors Joint Degree Program. During her studies, she served as teaching assistant for Dean Gilead, worked for the Israeli National Council for the Promotion of the Role of Law and Democracy and served as the vice-president of the law students' council. Shlomit also participated in a unique High-Tech training project combining the Hebrew University's Computer Science School, the Hebrew University's Business Management School, and leading venture capital firms. As part of this project, she participated in the establishment of a start-up company, which developed applications for sending IP communications over power

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lines. Her current research focuses on issues of liability in the networked environment, liability for software malfunction, products liability, defective software, and the social implications of software development.

Dissertation abstract:

Software is a product with unique features. Law should take into account those features when assessing how to apply tort and product liability doctrines to defective software. Current law has failed to do so, and does not provide proper remedies for defective software. This research aims to provide a theoretical and normative foundation for a comprehensive legal approach to software. Based on an analysis of the social, cultural, technological and legal aspects of software and the Global Networked Environment (the Internet), it will suggest a new theory that draws on existing legal doctrines, adjusting and integrating them into an innovative model appropriate to the software's and internet's unique characteristics.

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### Cara Wallis

Cara Wallis is a second-year PhD student at the Annenberg School

of Communication at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles. Her current research area is the intersection between gender, technology, and the negotiation of cultural identity, particularly among dislocated groups caught up in the global flows of people, culture, and information so indicative of our present era. Cara has a diverse research background, having analyzed gender representations in the media in the US and in China, gender and the production of authenticity in independent music scenes, and the role of the media in incidental learning. As a Master's student in applied linguistics at the University of California, Los Angeles, in the early nineties, she had the opportunity to spend two years in Beijing as a teacher/researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Graduate School English Language Center. Since that time, she has continued to study Chinese and periodically travel to China for work or research. She hopes to do her dissertation field work in Beijing among a group of female migrant workers during the 2006-2007 academic year.

Dissertation abstract:

Presently China has many gaps – a generation gap, an income gap, and an urban-rural gap. An extension of this latter gap, and certainly no less significant, is the gulf that exists in Chinese cities between the rural migrant population and their sophisticated urban counterparts. While these two groups often encounter one another on a daily basis, the cultural and economic distance between

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them is usually vast. This study will focus on one segment of the newly urbanized population in China; that is, young women who have migrated to Beijing from poorer western provinces and have begun employment in the low-level service sector. Using a theoretical framework of cultural identity as elaborated by Stuart Hall, where identity is viewed as a fluid process characterized by discontinuities and constituted within a system of unequal power relations, this research will investigate the importance of mobile phone usage among these women in the negotiation and maintenance of cultural identity as they navigate a new and possibly disorienting urban space. The potentially empowering as well as disempowering effects of mobile phone use in these women's lives will also be examined. The methodology will be ethnographic in nature, employing in-depth interviews, logs of mobile phone use (including SMS), and case studies. The study seeks to contribute to the existing body of research on female migrant workers

in the context of China's quest for modernity as well as the growing field of mobile telephony studies.

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### Chen Wenli

Miss Chen Wenli is currently a PhD candidate with the School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. She obtained the degrees of Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts, both in Mass Communication, from Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), China, in 2001 and 1998, respectively.

Miss Chen's research interests include social impact of the Internet, Chinese communication, and intercultural communication. She has participated in a number of research projects funded by various organizations, such as Singapore Internet Project (SIP), Computer-Mediated Social Support and International Migrants, Designing and Delivering Tsunami Stories of Leading News Media, SARS and Public Communication in Singapore and China, Cultural Values in Chinese Internet Advertising, Journalism Education in China, The Role and Effect of Government's Control over Media in China, Media Economy in China, and The Socialization of Single Child in China. Miss Chen has published seven journal papers and five conference papers. She has also co-authored a book chapter.

Miss Chen has worked as a part time tutor lecturing a number of undergraduate courses, including 'Fundamentals of Communications Studies' and 'Communication History and Theories' for NTU, and 'News Reporting' and 'History of China

Journalism' for HUST.

Prior to her PhD study, Miss Chen worked as a journalist with Xinhua News Agency, during which period she won several awards, including the top honor in the Agency: the 'Best Story Award'. She also worked for Changjiang Daily, Economy Daily, and Hefei Evening Newspaper as an intern journalist and has gained substantial experience the in Chinese Media.

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### Yuehua Wu

Yuehua Wu is a doctoral student in the mass media program in the Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies and Media in Michigan State University. She got her Masters degree in communication management from the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California. Her research interest mainly lies in Internet governance and regulation of new communication technologies. One of her particular research interests is the e-government development in China.

Paper abstract:

With the rapid development of the Internet, the Chinese government has devoted great attention and efforts to utilize

the Internet to foster economic growth, to enhance government performance, and to promote democratic citizenry. E-government is one of the important components of China's informatization development strategy. Despite this rapid growth of e-government in China, however, very few studies systematically examine China's e-government development, especially the e-government development status at the provincial level. This study aims to examine the possible relationship between e-government development and economic development by analyzing e-government data at the provincial level. As a preliminary exploration in this aspect, this empirical study finds that per capita GDP is a significant predictor of the quantity of the independent provincial-level government websites in different provinces in China. The statistical result is consistent with the notion that the governments of more economically developed areas are often leading website development and leading e-government development. Further statistical testing shows that there is significant difference in the quantity of independent websites for provincial-level government departments between the low and high-level GDP provinces, while the mid-level GDP provinces do not significantly differ from the other two groups.

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