

CALL FOR PAPERS

Understanding Global Digital Cultures Symposium
25th - 26th April 2015
Hong Kong

Ever since the Internet developed into a World Wide Web there has been speculation about its potential to breakdown national cultural barriers. In the early years of largely western dominance proclamations about the emancipatory nature of cyberspace were only matched by charges of cultural colonisation by consumer brands. In more recent times however this suggestion of the emergence of a homogenous online digital culture has been significantly challenged. Today at least 40% of Internet users are Chinese and many more languages and cultures are now online. We have also witnessed a resurgence of national, ethnic and identity cultures flourishing on the Internet. Facilitated by social media platforms these new media technologies have given rise to a much more complex picture of cultural diversity and multiplicity. What is clear is that the new media ecology is likely to have a significant influence upon the maintenance, threats, opportunities and emergence of cultural forms. This two-day symposium will seek to explore the emergence and development of global digital cultures through a number of themes including, but not limited to the following:

- Influence upon indigenous cultures;
- Governance of the Internet and how international negotiations might influence cultural identities;
- Social media as cultural artefacts;
- Global branding;
- Resistance and culture jamming;
- Participatory cultures;
- New cultural politics;
- Internet generations;
- Population mobility and social connectivity;
- Surveillance and public cultures;
- Cultural development through social media; and
- Digital archives, narratives and memory.

KEYNOTES

Prof. Saskia Sassen, Sociology Department, Columbia University & LSE

Prof. Hu Yong, School of Journalism and Communication, Peking University

Lee Rainie, Director of the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project

Prof. Pippa Norris, University of Sydney & Harvard University

A selection of the best papers will be published in a special issue of the international journal *Information, Communication & Society*.

KEY DATES

Please submit title, abstract and brief biosketch for consideration to **Brian D. Loader** by Monday 6th October 2014. Notification of decision: 17th October 2014.

ORGANIZERS

Brian D. Loader, University of York

Jack Qui, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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