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CDCS
INFORMATION HUB

Reimagining our common future through critical scholarship and dialogue on digital culture, technology, and society.

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Center on Digital Culture and Society

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Introducing CDCS

2024-25 Doctoral Fellows

The Center on Digital Culture and Society (CDCS) at the Annenberg School for Communication is pleased to welcome its 2024-25 cohort of doctoral fellows.

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Cienna Davis

Cienna's recent projects include the Transnational Feminist Networks Symposium, the Present Futures: Experiments in Feminist Futurity art exhibition, and the Curator Conversation - "Present Futures: Experiments in Feminist Futurity."



Devo Probol

Devo's recent projects include Power to the Players: Digital Activism and Rethinking the Stages of a Social Movement, and Beyond the Binary: Deconstructing Success and Failure in Digital Social Movements through the Lens of Endurance.



Ify Okpali

Ify's research project is interested in examining the saliency of a youth political identity in the West African Context.

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Jenny Lee

Jenny is working on the dissertation and conducting fieldwork across Philadelphia. The dissertation seeks to understand the “why” of surveillance—why everyday residents typically claim to reject surveillance by the state and other invasions of privacy but continue to use surveillance in the form of smart home technologies, namely doorbell cameras.



Liz Hallgren

Liz’s project taking Western popular journalism’s form seriously is key to understanding debates about fact vs. fiction, and mis-and-dis-information – our very understanding of reality – in our contemporary moment.



Lucila Rozas

Lucila is currently working on a project titled “Shaming the State and Centering Vulnerability to Speak Back to Power: Affective Articulations in the Performances of ‘Somos 2074 y Muchas Más.’”

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[Ran wang](#)

Ran is current working on a project titled “Ambivalent Users: Managing the State-Platform-User Co-constructed Digital Censorship.”



[Sara Reinis](#)

Sara Reinis’s research investigates how algorithmically-driven social media brings commercial logic into the most intimate layers of identity formation, cultural norms, and community practices.



[Thomonique Moore](#)

Thomonique currently working on a text analysis of the word ‘misogynoir’ in tweets across 12 years of twitter data. I’m interested in answering the question: How has the term ‘misogynoir’ been used on twitter over time, and during highly-publicized incidents?

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[Yingchuan Qu](#)

Yingchuan Qu's interdisciplinary work unpacks the affective background intensities circulating in China's digital space through the lens of sociolinguistics.



[Zoe Zhao Wins Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Association of Chinese Communication Studies](#)

Former CDCS doctoral fellow and current CDCS research affiliate [Zoe Zhao](#) won Outstanding Dissertation award from the Association of Chinese Communication Studies at the annual meeting of National Communication Association in 2024



CDCS 2024-25 Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Faculty Fellow

CDCS appointed Dr. Lucy March as the center's 2024-25 Postdoctoral Fellow, and Professor Carolyn Biltoft as Visiting Faculty Fellow.

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Lucy March

Postdoctoral Fellow

Lucy March is a scholar of digital culture and popular media. Her work explores how online environments shape cultural production and circulation, and how representations of gender, racial, and sexual identity manifest in digital culture.

Lucy is elated to be a part of the Annenberg community and CDCS and is grateful for the warm welcome she has received. She is the main organizer of CDCS's spring 2025 symposium on *Reframing Leisure, Humor, and Play in Global Digital Culture*.

Her most recent publication, a book chapter in the edited collection [The Adolescentia Project: Essays on Music, Adolescence, and Identity](#), is titled "Raising my voice: Japanese visual kei and musical (self-)discovery." She also authored the book's section on digital music culture in the 2000s. She participated in a panel celebrating the book's publication with the editor, Mary Beth Ray, and two other authors at the Philadelphia Free Library's Central Parkway location in August.

She was recently accepted to present on a panel titled "Embalming the Ephemeral: Online Electronic Music Cultures and Platformization" at the Dancecult conference, which will be held in Berlin in January 2025. During that same weekend, she looks forward to finally attending the CTM Festival for Adventurous Music and Art, at which she gave a virtual talk last year, in person.

Lucy was quoted in the Washington Post on October 24, 2024 for a piece about One Direction and digital celebrity in the wake of Liam Payne's death: "[Grieving One Direction fans return to where they last met — online.](#)" She was quoted in Teen Vogue on December 11, 2024 about the UnitedHealthCare shooting memes: "[UnitedHealthcare Shooting Memes Speak to Anger at the Health Care System and CEO Pay.](#)"

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Carolyn Biltott

Visiting Faculty Fellow

Carolyn Biltott is Associate Professor of International History and Politics, Geneva Graduate Institute. She was trained in the world/global intellectual history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Methodologically, her work fuses the tools of intellectual history, media history and theory, cultural studies and critical theory.

She is interested in how the changing material and immaterial infrastructures of globalization emerged, developed and altered finance, politics and culturally local and globally. Her first book, [A Violent Peace: Truth, Media and Power at the League of Nations \(University of Chicago Press, 2021\)](#) demonstrates how the League of Nations constituted a global stage for the production and contestation of a wide range of truth claims in an era of mass media, propaganda and totalitarian political projects.

Her other work has also focused on the concepts of [modern myths](#) and the question of [belief and disbelief](#) in an era of [disinformation](#).

Her current project is entitled, *The Trouble with Avatars: Henri Bergson's Digital Premonitions*. The book claims that the French philosopher Henri Bergson's theories of the self and consciousness can be interpreted as having anticipated many of the humanistic dilemmas of our own digital age. The book also offers a Bergsonian critique of AI and a scientific defense of humanistic inquiry.

Upcoming Spring 2025 Events

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January 27, 2025 | 12:15-1:30 pm
CDCS colloquium: Professor Carolyn Biltoft

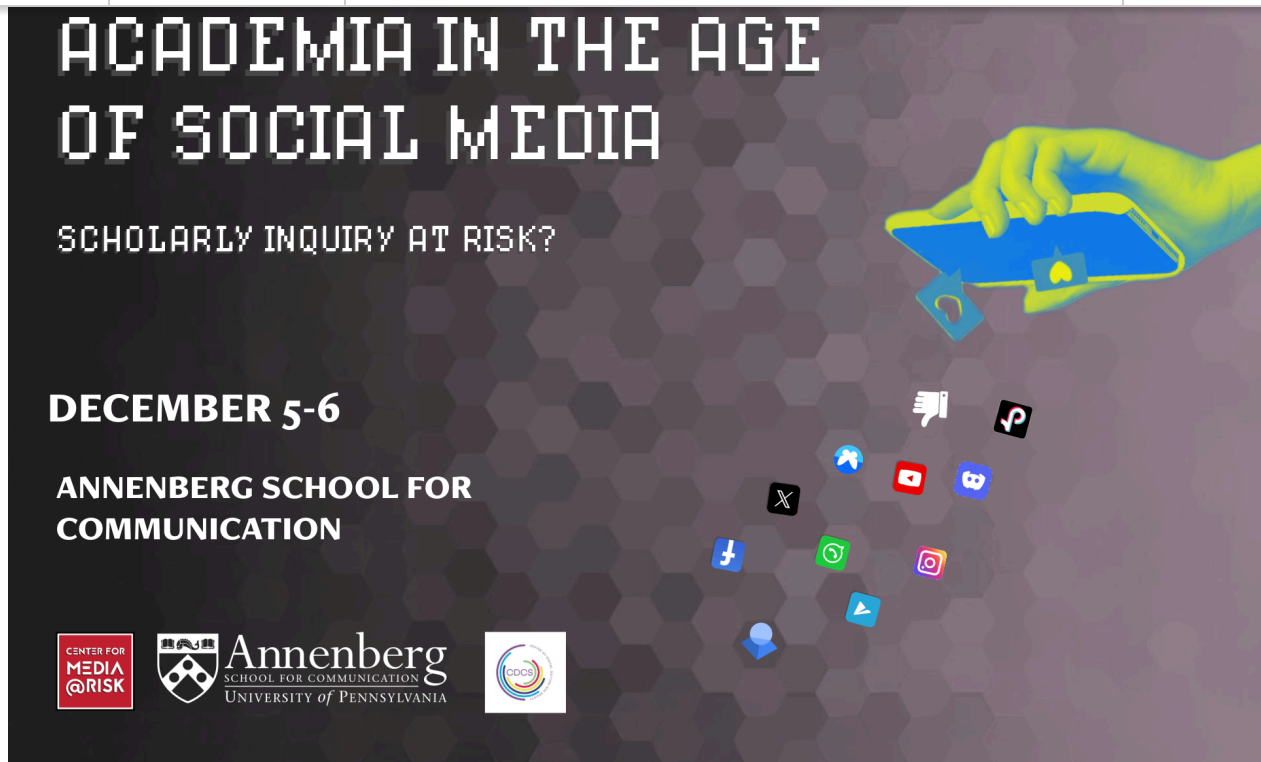


March 31, 2025 | 12:15-1:30 pm
CDCS colloquium: Professor Devon Powers



April 25, 2025
CDCS Symposium on “Reframing Leisure, Humor,
and Play in Global Digital Culture”

Fall 2024 Featured Events




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**ACADEMIA IN THE AGE
OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

SCHOLARLY INQUIRY AT RISK?

DECEMBER 5-6

**ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR
COMMUNICATION**

Academe in the Age of Social Media: Scholarly Inquiry at Risk?

Social media and academe have had an entangled and ambivalent relationship. On the one hand, social media opens new horizons for scholarship and research. They can be powerful instruments of research and make it easier to bring scholarship and expertise to the public. On the other hand, the penetration of social media into everyday life and academic institutions exposes the academic environment to outside scrutiny and the influences of commercial and political interests, posing new challenges to the principles of academic freedom and the integrity of academic communities. In times of global crisis, the entangled relationship between social media and academe becomes even more complicated. Jointly organized by Center for Media at Risk and CDCS, this symposium brings together scholars and practitioners from around the world to analyze the multiple dimensions and consequences of what we call the social media-tization of academe. Such analyses are essential for understanding the ongoing transformations in the academy and their broader and longer-term ramifications.

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September 12-18, 2024
 Art Exhibition, CDCS Co-sponsored Event
[Present Futures: Experiments in Feminist Futurity](#)



September 20, 2024
 CSCC event, CDCS Co-sponsored Event
[WeChat, Diaspora, and a New Chinese Transnationalism](#)



September 30, 2024
 CDCS Colloquium: Lucy March
 watch the recording here: <https://youtu.be/phEQiP5O-c0>



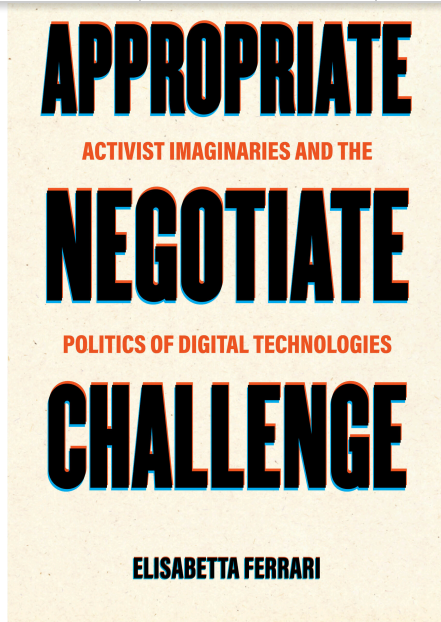
October 29, 2024
 CDCS workshop: [What is digital cultural sociology?](#)

Publications

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Appropriate, Negotiate, Challenge.
Activist Imaginaries and the Politics of
Digital Technologies
University of California Press
Elisabetta Ferrari

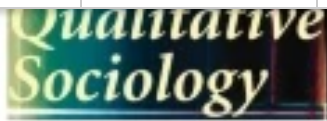


Black hair technologies at the “post-
natural” turn
Critical Studies in Media Communication
Cienna Davis, Sarah J. Jackson

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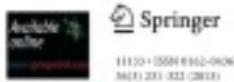
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Censorship and Creative Communities: Fragility and Change of Fanfiction Writing in China

Qualitative Sociology

Ran Wang



Ghost in Dissent: Artifacts and the Architecture of Activism in Digital China

International Journal of Communication

Mengyang Zhao, Ano sartor



Special issue on **Thirty Years of the Internet in China**

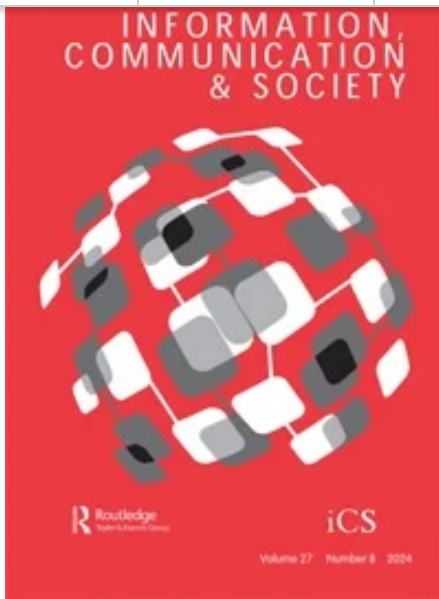
Communication and the Public

Guest-edited by Guobin Yang, Jingyi Gu, and Junyi Lv
with an **Introduction**

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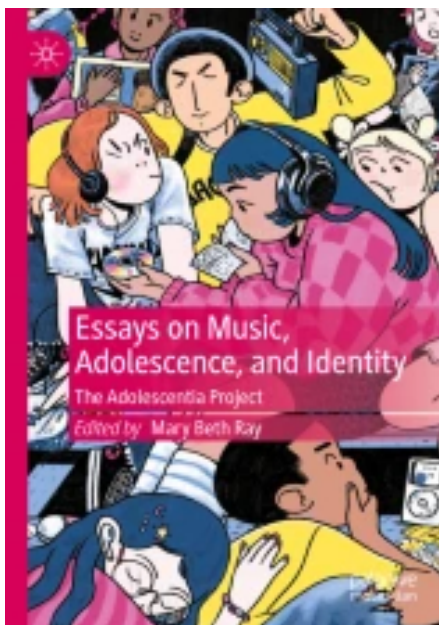
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Mitigating information anxiety in COVID-19 contact tracing for BIPOC Communities

Information Communication & Society

Jenny Lee, et al.



Raising My Voice: Japanese Visual Kei and Musical (Self-) Discovery

Essays on Music, Adolescence, and Identity

Lucy March

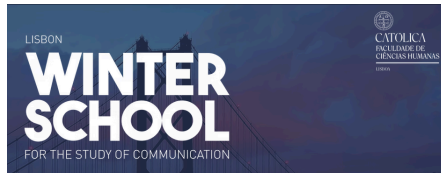
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Seen to be grieved: Queen Elizabeth II's death and the unsettling of the modern media event

International Communication Association

Liz Hallgren

Presentations



“Market Destroyers” & Rogue Archivists: Fear & Loathing of Financial Media”

Lisbon Winter School, January 2025

Devo Probol



“The Future of Digital Pandemic Archives: Mediating between the Local and the Global”

National Communication Association, November 2024

Adetobi Moses



Panel: Black Epistemologies & Transnational Justice

National Communication Association, November 2024

Cienna Davis

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The East Asian Media Culture in The Age of Digital Platforms Conference, October 2024

Guobin Yang



“Seen to Be Grieved: Queen Elizabeth II’s Death and the Nostalgia-Driven Media Event Versus the Critical Memory-Mobilized Viral Event”

74th ICA Conference, June 20-24

Liz Hallgren



“Beyond the Binary: Deconstructing Success & Failure in Digital Activism”

74th ICA Conference, June 20-24

Devo Probol

Accomplishments of Recent Postdoctoral Fellows



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Professor Frances Corry, and Professor Chelsea Butkowski

- [Jingyi Gu](#) (2023-24 CDCS Postdoctoral Fellow) started a tenure-track job as Assistant Professor at University of Hawaii at Manoa.
- [Mohammed Rashid](#) (2023-24 CDCS Postdoctoral Fellow) started a tenure-track job as an Assistant Professor at the School of Media and Communication at The University of Southern Mississippi.
- [Sandeep Mertia](#) (2023-24 Joint CDCS and CARGC Postdoctoral Fellow) started a tenure-track job as an Assistant Professor of Science, Technology and Society at Stevens Institute of Technology.
- [Frances Corry](#) (2022-23 CDCS Postdoctoral Fellow) started a tenure-track job as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Information Culture and Data Stewardship at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Computing and Information.
- [Chelsea Butkowski](#) (2022-23 CDCS Postdoctoral Fellow) started a tenure-track job as an Assistant Professor of Data, Media, and Identity in the School of Communication at American University.



The Center on Digital Culture and Society supports critical, interdisciplinary scholarship and dialogue on all aspects of digital culture, technology, and society.



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