

2020 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on E-Society

CRISIS ACCELERATED

Problems and Solutions We Should Care

SEPT. 7-9 14:00~18:00

Kaohsiung City, Taiwan + Virtual Conference



主辦
單位



國立中山大學政治學研究所
Institute of Political Science | National Sun Yat-sen University

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National Sun Yat-sen University Institute of Marketing Communication

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Institute of Political Science, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan

Co-Organizers:

Institute for Media Studies, KU Leuven, Belgium

Institute of Marketing Communication, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan

Sponsors:

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2020 E-Society: About the Conference

Following the release of the first smartphone in 2007, human societies have witnessed dramatic changes. The adoption of new technology and mobile services has led to changes in both the behavior and mindsets of individuals and societies. From the means by which individuals express themselves, communicate with others, and selectively comprehend information, to how political actors campaign for office and govern the public, the complexity of issues has gone far beyond what individual scholars, institutes, or disciplines could have foreseen. “E-Society” research represents a concept that echoes this dramatic demand for identifying and responding to the changes which are most worthy of our attention.

This biennial conference of E-society research has become a platform for scholars of conventional and emerging disciplines to exchange first-hand observation and the fruits of their research addressing ongoing issues. This conference aims to facilitate trans-disciplinary collaboration on problem identification, mechanism description, and solution discovery. We welcome scholars who have been investigating political, social, and psychological issues concerning the widespread use of the Internet, mobile devices, and social media, to meet and brainstorm at the Sizihwan Beach at National Sun Yat-Sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Building on the 2018 Conference focused on democracy and societal change, the theme of this year’s conference is “Crisis Accelerated? Problems and Solutions that We Should Care”. Main focal points include :

1. Evaluating lasting issues
2. Identifying emerging concerns
3. Sharing possible and noteworthy solutions and practices

This year’s three-day conference will be composed of a keynote speech plus the presentation of 18 selected papers. There will be no parallel sessions. so all attendants will be participating in cross-disciplinary conversation, contributing expertise from their own fields, and taking insights from observers from other fields.

Conference Program

Monday, September 7, 2020

1:30~2:00 pm	Registration and Networking	Hua Li Hall, International Research Building 1F, NSYSU
2:00~2:40 pm (40 min)	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Charles Chin-Rong LIN Deputy Mayor, Kaohsiung City Government, TW</p> <p>Ming-Chi CHOU Senior Vice President of NSYSU, TW</p> <p>Wen-Bin CHIOU Dean of College of Social Sciences, NSYSU, TW</p> <p>Frank C.S. LIU E-Society Conference Chair, NSYSU, TW</p> <p>Leen d'HAENENS Professor of Institute for Media Studies, KU Leuven, BE</p> <p>Ping SHAW Director of Institute of Marketing Communication, NSYSU, TW</p> <p>Da-Chi LIAO E-Society Program Initiator, NSYSU, TW</p>	
2:40~3:40 pm (60 min)	<p>Keynote Speech</p> <p><u>The Communicative Role of Digital Media in a Decentralized Movement: LIHKG in the 2019 Protests in Hong Kong</u></p> <p>Francis L.F. LEE Director and Professor of School of Journalism and Communication, Chinese University of Hong Kong, CN</p>	
3:40~4:10 pm	Coffee Break	
	Research Presentation and Panel Discussion	
Session 4:10~5:20 pm (70 min)	<p>Panel 1: COVID-19 and E-Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Conspiracy Theories and Fake News Beliefs During a Pandemic: An Eight-Country Study</u> David de CONINCK, Thomas FRISSEN, Koen MATTHIJS & Leen d'HAENENS (Institute for Media Studies, KU Leuven, BE) ▪ <u>Longitudinal Evidence of how Media Audiences Differ in Public Health Perceptions and Behaviors: Caught in a Double Bind and Dual Effect during a Global Pandemic?</u> Thomas FRISSEN, David de CONINCK, Koenraad MATTHYS & Leen d'HAENENS (Institute for Media Studies, KU Leuven, BE) ▪ <u>The China's Propaganda during COVID-19 Pandemic</u> Che-Jen WANG & Kuan-Chen LEE (Institute for National Defense and Security Research, TW) <p>Moderators: Frank C.S. LIU (Professor of Institute of Political Science, NSYSU, TW) Titus C. CHEN (Professor of Institute of Political Science, NSYSU, TW)</p>	

Conference Program

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

1:30~2:00 pm	Registration and Networking	Hua Li Hall, International Research Building 1F, NSYSU
	Research Presentation and Panel Discussion	
Session 1 2:00~3:10 pm (70 min)	Panel 2: Information Disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Socialbots and Disinformation in Political Domains: A Systematic Literature Review</u> Trisha T.C. LIN & Jo-Yu WANG (Department of Radio and Television, NCCU, TW) ▪ <u>Information War: The Availability of Deep Fake Technology</u> Tzu Hao LIAO (Department of Political Science, NCCU, TW) ▪ <u>Religiosity and Happiness Relationship: A Study in Taiwan Society</u> Huei-Hua HUANG & Asih PURWANTI (Institute of Political Science, NSYSU, TW) <p>Moderators: Jinhyeok JANG (Professor of Institute Political Science, NSYSU, TW) Chia-Yu TSAI (Professor of Department of Applied Economics, NUK, TW)</p>	
3:10~3:30 pm	Coffee Break	
Session 2 3:30~4:40 pm (70 min)	Panel 3: Mediascapes: Social Media and Wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Vulnerable Youth in a Digital World: The Influence of SES, Mental Wellbeing, and Migration Background on Adolescents' Digital Skills</u> Joyce VISSENBERG, Willem JORISA & Leen d'HAENENS (Institute for Media Studies, KU Leuven, BE) ▪ <u>Overcoming Mobile Addiction through Enhancing Life-satisfaction</u> Sungjun Steven PARK (Department of Business Administration, NCCU, TW) ▪ <u>Analyzing the Determinants of News-Seeking Behaviours of Older Adults in Terms of Digital Inequality</u> Ferruh Mutlu BINARK, Özgür ARUN, Duygu ÖZSOY, Kadriye Beren KANDEMİR & Gül ŞAHINKAYA (Department of Radio, TV, and Cinema, Hacettepe University, TU) <p>Moderators: Chia-Hung TSAI (Director of Election Study Center, NCCU, TW) Rogelio Alicor L. PANAOL (Professor of Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines Diliman, PH)</p>	
4:40~4:50 pm	Coffee Break	
Session 3 4:50~6:00 pm (70 min)	Panel 4: Radicalization and Polarization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Discourse on Muslim Radicalization in News Stories and Fear of Terrorism Among Readers: Does Ideology Still Play a Role?</u> Stefan MERTENS, David de CONINCK, & Leen d'HAENENS (Institute for Media Studies, KU Leuven, BE) ▪ <u>Authoritarian Regime's Propaganda Strategies in Economic News: Sino-US Trade War as a Quasi-experiment</u> Greg Chih-Hsin SHEEN, Wei-Hao HUANG, Hsuan-Yu LIN & Titus C. CHEN (Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, TW) ▪ <u>Is Taiwanese Politics in the Grip of Populism? Examining Five Parties' Facebook Communication during the 2020 Taiwanese National Election</u> Jiun-Chi LIN (Institute of Political Science, NSYSU, TW) <p>Moderators: Samuel C.Y. KU (Professor of Department of Southeast Asian Studies, WZU, TW) Albert CHIU (Director of Department of Political Science, THU, TW)</p>	

Conference Program

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

1:30~2:00 pm	Registration and Networking	Hua Li Hall, International Research Building 1F, NSYSU
Session 1 2:00~3:10 pm (70 min)	Panel 5: Social Media and Netizens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Local Government Identity: The Link between Emotives and Actorship through Social Media</u> Christopher James GREEN (Department of Global Politics and Economics, TKU, TW) ▪ <u>Facebook is the Internet in Myanmar: Promises and Practices of Growth in Two Myanmar Media Industries</u> ▪ Zin Mar MYINT & D. Bondy Valdovinos KAYE (School of Communication, Faculty of Creative Industries, QUT, AU) <u>Online Donation to Fight COVID-19 as Connective Action in Indonesia and Vietnam</u> Tonny Dian EFFENDI & Thi Xuan NONG (Institute of Political Science, NSYSU, TW) <p>Moderators: Chung-Li WU (Director of Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, TW) Da-Chi LIAO (Distinguished Professor of Institute of Political Science, NSYSU, TW)</p>	
3:10~3:30 pm	Coffee Break	
Session 2 3:30~4:40 pm (70 min)	Panel 6: Internet and Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>A Moderated Model of the Relationship between Online Community Social Support and Conformity</u> Chien-Po LIAO & Cho-Wa LAW (Department of Business Management, NSYSU, TW) ▪ <u>The Correlations of Social Media, Social Movement, and Political Identity Recognition: the Taiwan Communication Survey in 2015</u> Jeremiah Yat Ming LAI (Research Centre for Public Opinion and Election, NTPU, TW) ▪ <u>Protesters on Trial: Examining Factors Influencing Court Decisions in Social Protest Litigation in Taiwan</u> Alex Min-Mei LIN & Chung-Li WU (Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, TW) <p>Moderators: Wen-Chin WU (Researcher of Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, TW) Nick LIN (Researcher of Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, TW)</p>	
4:40~4:50 pm	Coffee Break	
4:50~5:50 pm (60 min)	Round Table <p>Frank C.S. LIU Professor of Institute Political Science, NSYSU, TW Ping SHAW Professor of Institute of Marketing Communication, NSYSU, TW Leen d'HAENENS Professor of Institute for Media Studies, KU Leuven, BE Da-Chi LIAO Distinguished Professor of Institute of Political Science, NSYSU, TW</p>	
5:50 pm	Closing Remarks	

Conference Location

Hua-Li Hall, International Research Building,
1F National Sun Yat-sen University
70 Lienhai Road, Gushan District
Kaohsiung 80424
Taiwan



Rules and Regulations

1. In response to the latest announcement on the prevention and control the COVID-19 pandemic, participants are requested to cooperate in measuring body temperature, wearing masks and filling out the care form.
2. No food and/or beverage are allowed in the Hua Li Hall, with the exception of bottled water.
3. Rules for Paper presentation, as follows :
 - a. There are three papers in each session (70 minutes per session)
 - b. Each presenter has 10~12 minutes to present for sessions and no longer than 15 minutes.
 - c. Moderators will comment on the paper followed by the Q & A session.
4. Better time control, the presenter will be given three-minute reminder with raising card. When the time is up, the card will be raised twice.
5. During the conference, please turn your cell phone to silent or vibration mode.
6. Please be sure to wear your nametag during the conference.
7. Lunch is not provided, but there will be snacks and beverages provided for the participants

Covid-19 Prevention Policy

防疫期間

的社交距離



保持距離
減少交談

室外：保持1公尺距離



室內：保持1.5公尺距離



正確戴口罩四步驟

開



打開包裝檢查有無破損，且鼻樑片應在最外層上方。

戴



兩端鬆緊帶掛於雙耳，鼻樑片固定於鼻樑上方，口罩拉至下巴。

壓



雙手食指輕壓鼻樑片，使口罩與鼻樑緊密結合。

密



可透過鏡子輔助檢察口罩和臉部內外上下是否密合。

FDA 衛生福利部食品藥物管理署 廣告

TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES inside a facility.

Upon entering a facility make sure to tell about your history of **travel, occupation, contact, and clusters (TOCC)** in the last 14 days.





Persons with fever / respiratory symptoms / potential exposure to COVID-19 SHOULD NOT enter a facility

Central Epidemic Command Center

www.cdc.gov.tw

1922防疫達人

www.facebook.com/TWCCDC

Taiwan CDC LINE@

Toll-free hotline : 1922

9

To prevent the spread of

COVID-19

Protect yourself and others by

**CLEANING YOUR
HANDS**

upon entering and leaving a

HOSPITAL



**Wash Your Hands
with soap and water
for 40-60 seconds.**



**Rub Your Hands
with 60% to 80%
alcohol-based sanitizer
for 20-30 seconds.**

Central Epidemic Command Center



www.cdc.gov.tw



1922防疫專線
www.facebook.com/TW-CDC



Taiwan CDC
LINE@

Toll-free hotline : 1922

廣告

預防

COVID-19(武漢肺炎)

進出機構**務必**

洗手

保護自己 保護他人

濕洗手
以肥皂徹底搓洗
雙手40-60秒



乾洗手
使用酒精含量
60%至80%的
乾洗手液搓洗
20-30秒

中央流行疫情指揮中心 關心您



www.cdc.gov.tw



1922防疫專線
www.facebook.com/TW-CDC



Taiwan CDC
LINE@

疫情通報及諮詢專線 : 1922

廣告

Navigating through COVID-19 Dining

Trade a bit of spontaneity for assured health

During COVID-19, we can balance disease prevention and life by choosing restaurants that take prevention and safety measures, so we can enjoy good food comfortably.



Maintain social distancing

1 meter indoors or 1.5 meters outdoors
Spare a seat from the next diner
or install partitions



Protect each and every one

by wearing a mask, taking
temperatures, and providing handwashing
products at entrances or in restaurants.



**Facilitate tracing by keeping a record
of customers, managing crowd, and
sanitizing environments after every
customer visit.**



**Complete fire safety and
public safety inspections.**

The 2020 E-Society Board Committee members



Frank C.S. LIU
Professor
Institute Political Science
NSYSU, TW



Leen d'HAENENS
Professor
Institute for Media Studies
KU Leuven, BE



Ping SHAW
Professor
Institute of Marketing
Communication
NSYSU, TW



Da-Chi LIAO
Distinguished Professor
Institute of Political Science
NSYSU, TW



Titus C. CHEN
Professor
Institute of Political Science
NSYSU, TW

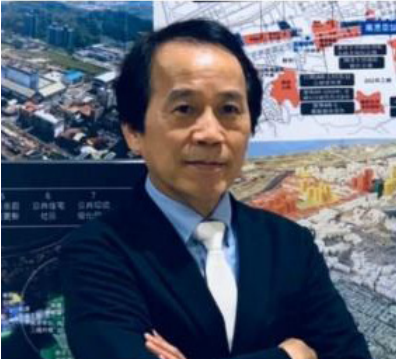


Jinhyeok JANG
Professor
Institute Political Science
NSYSU, TW

Opening Remarks

Chin-Rong LIN 林欽榮

Deputy Mayor for the City of Kaohsiung



My name is Chin-Rong Lin and I am the Deputy Mayor for the City of Kaohsiung. I am grateful to the organizers for the honor of this invitation, and the opportunity to represent Kaohsiung's city government at the opening of this year's International Conference on E-society International Research. Regarding the title of the conference, I have special feeling about "E-Society". I have advocated the "Smart City" initiatives for ten years and they are coming to fruition, such as information security coming to fruition, such as as information security and open data to promote government accountability and citizen participation. These are part of the governance in the digital age, which is covered well by the concept of E-Society.

Smart cities should focus on critical areas of digitization, such as using AI and machine learning to streamline services, big data for the integration of transportation, communication, medicine, housing, and infrastructure, as well as the automation and processing of all of our cities' data.

Smart cities also take care of healthcare digitization that integrate the management of public health risks and epidemics. 2020 has been forever marked by the outbreak of the Wuhan Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, but Taiwan's strategy and response to the outbreak merits the world's consideration.

Therefore, I believe that the research and policies concerning smart city and e-society will bolster citizens' confidence in the capability of governments, and ultimately make cities safer. Kaohsiung's city government has been accumulating know-how, facilities, and infrastructure to be proactive in managing crises. As this takes shape as a smart "eco-system," we hope to share our expertise and findings with other cities around the world.

It gives us immense gratification to see National Sun Yat-sen University hosting pioneering these new fields of knowledge, assertively grasping the future, and giving a diverse multi-national platform for interdisciplinary exchange on culture, science, and management. Facing the challenges brought by changing technology and the communication revolution, universities too must play a leading role in parsing fact from fiction in the era of fake news, and extreme political polarization when incredulity is strained.

(continued on page 14...)

Opening Remarks

Chin-Rong LIN

Deputy Mayor for the City of Kaohsiung

(continued from page 13...)

National Sun Yat-sen University represents a major part of Kaohsiung's historical development and formed the cornerstone of Kaohsiung's role as a burgeoning center of knowledge, industrialization, and the incubation of human capital. My hope is that with close cooperation with devoted universities, our city government can increase community ties and foster the integration of our knowledge base within the city.

Kaohsiung can benefit from having one of Taiwan and the world's top research universities right next to its city core, and National Sun Yat-sen University can benefit from being in the sunny heart of Taiwanese culture, with access to the "great city" status that Kaohsiung holds in Taiwan. The world faces a tidal wave of changes from the internet, pandemic, and now public confidence in society. Still, Kaohsiung's disease prevention could serve as a model for other cities. To host this meeting here in Kaohsiung not only shows off its uniqueness and successes, it expresses National Sun Yat-sen's ambition to become a top tier global university. I look forward to these three days of discussion and hope that what we learn will not only stay in the universities, but will spread beyond, pushing us and our cities towards smarter governance, and better responses.

Thank you.

Opening Remarks

Ming-Chi CHOU 周明奇

Senior Vice President of NSYSU



To all our guests, both those attending online and those fortunate enough to be here with us in person today in Kaohsiung.

Good afternoon! My name is Ming-Chi CHOU 周明奇, Senior Vice President of NSYSU. On behalf of our President Ying-Yao CHENG 鄭英耀, welcome to this E-Society 2020 International Conference held in National Sun Yat Sen University.

Many societies are facing extreme turmoil right now, and it is getting more important that we remain strong and connected. The pandemic of Covid-19 has pushed us to examine the roles of our profession. The most important are how our profession leads us, and to help the societies towards a cooperative future.

Since 2018, National Sun Yat Sen University has been collaborating with international communities, particularly our colleagues from KU Leuven, Belgium, in the fields of social sciences and communication research. Over the past two years, many topics discussed in that conference have been witnessed in the current spread of crisis. The entire world has been witnessing crisis and uncertainty in many aspects--from school education to governments, and from facts to fake news.

We are here to state that universities still and should continue to play a critical role of dealing with such uncertainty. In our pursuit of democratization and openness of knowledge, we are now working together to solve social issues across disciplines and to face the problems that are emerging in this transition to an increasingly online social and educational space.

This biennial E-Society International conference is determined to be a platform for scholars and institutions to demonstrate their compassion to truth, profession in domain knowledge, and openness to collaboration. In the coming 7 sessions, you will see how scholars from a variety of fields join the problem-driven collaboration online and offline, including young and established scholars from journalism, mass communication, political science, sociology, law, management, marketing, and data science.

Those of us here today are pioneers of knowledge and problem identification. National Sun Yat Sen University is very honored to host all of you here. Thank you and have a very successful meeting.

Opening Remarks

Wen-Bin CHIOU 邱文彬

Dean of College of Social Science.



Dear Vice President Chou, Deputy Mayor Lin, my colleagues from Institute of Political Science and partners from Institute of Marketing Communication, scholars from Taiwan, KU Leuven, and the World, and our students.

I am 邱文彬, the Dean of College of Social Science.

Thank you to all for being here, both online and in person.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the hardship and suffering felt across the world during this global pandemic. In the face to crisis in today's E-Society, such social disorder, polarization, and health issues causing by the use of the Internet, we have seen the value of research about people and the need to connect our knowledge about people to policy makers. From political science to my own field education, understanding how we make links between professions about people can help us to learn from our mistakes and face our future.

Since 2018 this college and the faculty of social sciences at KU Leuven have been working together to build this platform for scholars interested in human and humanity in the digital age. Since the unfortunate surge of coronavirus hitting us last year, researchers of people and society are facing increasingly complex issues when doing research. I see this E-society conference as a platform for the intellectuals to address the accelerated crisis in many aspects of our life.

Millions of people around the world are waking up to a new reality- work online, study online, socialize online. In the pandemic era, we spend the majority of our waking hours online, in a space and environment that just 30 years ago would have been inconceivable to most of us, yet now we can hardly imagine living without. Therefore, the division of knowledge is not enough. Led by this conference's organizers, we created this E-society platform to synergize the research fields regarding people, bringing together fields from political science and communication, to education.

This E-Society platform is for problem diggers and solution seekers. In this three-afternoon conference, we have 18 selected papers and over 80 registered participants from the world to exchange thoughts in this conference. I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to enjoy the contribution from multiple institutes and diverse disciplines.

Thank you!

Keynote Speaker

Francis L.F. LEE



Director and Professor of School of Journalism
and Communication,
Chinese University of Hong Kong, CN

Professor L.F. Lee had B.S.Sc., M.Phil. from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Ph.D. degree from Stanford University

Research Interests: Journalism Studies, Political Communication, Public Opinion and Public Discourse, Media and Social Movement, Changes in Cultural Values

Current Research: Press freedom and political change, Media and collective memory of political events, Media and political scandals, Postmaterialism in Hong Kong

Research Awards:

- Research Excellence Award, Faculty of Social Science, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2013
- Second place Top Faculty Paper, Communication Technologies Division, Association of Education for Journalism and Mass Communication annual convention, 2014
- Gene Burd Award (Top Faculty Paper Award), Communication Technologies Division, Association of Education for Journalism and Mass Communication annual convention, 2013
- Top six paper, Language and Social Interaction Division, International Communication Association annual convention, 2012.
- Top ten paper, Language and Social Interaction Division, International Communication Association annual convention, 2005.

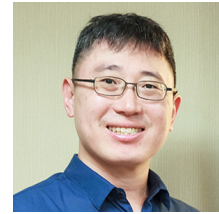
Moderators



Frank C.S. LIU
Professor
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NSYSU, TW



Titus C. CHEN
Professor
Institute of Political Science
NSYSU, TW



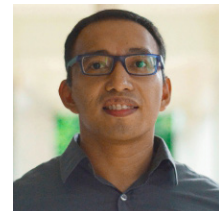
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Chia-Hung TSAI
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U P Diliman, PH



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Chung-Li WU
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Da-Chi LIAO
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Nick LIN
Researcher
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Wen-Chin WU
Researcher
Institute Political Science
Academia Sinica, TW



2020 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on E-Society

Paper Abstracts

Paper Abstracts

Panel 1: COVID-19 and E-Society

Conspiracy theories and fake news beliefs during a pandemic: An eight-country study

David De Coninck¹, Thomas Frissen², Koen Matthijs¹, Leen d'Haenens²

While the SARS-CoV-2 virus—responsible for causing the COVID-19 disease—spread aggressively and rapidly across the globe, many societies have also witnessed the spread of other seemingly viral phenomena such as fake news, conspiracy theories, and general mass suspicions about what is really going on. Some of the most prevailing narratives are the ones claiming that the virus is caused by 5G cellular technology (Vincent, 2020) or that Bill Gates uses the virus to enslave humanity by enforcing a global vaccination and surveillance program (Shahsavari, Holur, Tangherlini, & Roychowdhury, 2020). While some perhaps hold the belief that fake news and conspiracy theories are fringe phenomena or mundane digital artefacts with little impact on real-world actions, several events during the COVID-19 pandemic across different countries demonstrate the opposite.

Given the serious consequences that fake news and conspiracy theories may have in terms of critical public health behavior and public safety, it is important to investigate who believes in such stories and who does not. To what extent are beliefs in conspiracy theories and fake news associated with one's exposure to, and trust in, different information and communication channels (RQ1 and RQ2)? Besides individual differences, it is known that beliefs in such narratives also differ across geographical contexts (Bruder, Haffke, Neave, Nouripanah, & Imhoff, 2013). Given the unprecedented global nature of the deeply mediatized COVID-19 pandemic, it seems therefore of essential importance to examine whether beliefs in fake news and conspiracy theories vary in different countries and geographical regions (RQ3). In the current study we aim to answer these research questions by analyzing a unique data set collected in eight different countries (Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, UK, US, Hong Kong, Philippines, New Zealand, N = 8,806) at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19; pandemic; conspiracy theory, fake news, coronavirus; media; public health

¹ Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven, Belgium

² Institute for Media Studies, KU Leuven, Belgium

Paper Abstracts

Panel 1: COVID-19 and E-Society

Longitudinal Evidence of how Media Audiences Differ in Public Health Perceptions and Behaviors: Caught in a Double Bind and Dual Effect during a Global Pandemic?

Thomas Frissen^{1,3}, David De Coninck², Koenraad Matthys² & Leen d'Haenens¹

The current study investigates how public attitudes and perceptions about the COVID-19 pandemic evolve over time and influence self-reported health behaviors (e.g. social distancing). Specific attention was paid to respondents' exposure to different news media channels (public versus commercial). We used data from a two-wave panel study with a three-week interval (W1 at the start and W2 at the peak of the pandemic) and a large sample of the adult population in Flanders, Belgium (n=870).

The results of mixed ANOVAs indicate that besides a time-effect there was also a significant effect of the different types of news media exposure and respondents' support for protective health measures and behaviors. Whereas perceived vulnerability to disease, feelings of loneliness, and solidarity were mostly determined by respondents' overall frequency of media exposure, support of governmental measures and self-reported health behaviors were mostly determined by the type of news media exposure. Respondents with a predominantly public/quality news media diet had the highest scores on these variables. A stepwise linear regression analysis with individual's change scores demonstrated that (self-)protective behavior was positively determined by respondents' age, solidarity, and the belief that the measures are necessary, but negatively determined by one's cumulative exposure to commercial/tabloid news media.

This longitudinal study provides a new perspective on the role of news media in times of a public health crisis. It offers support for (A) the 'double bind hypothesis' (i.e. while news media consumption encourages (self-)isolation, it fosters feelings of loneliness); and (B) the 'dual effects hypothesis' (i.e., exposure to commercial/tabloid news media generates different outcomes than exposure to public/quality news media). Affective responses and socio-psychological perceptions are influenced by overall news media exposure, whereas support for the government and their handling of the crisis is mainly determined by one's selection of media channels, whereby audiences of public news media evaluate these outcomes more positively than the audiences of commercial news media channels.

¹ Institute for Media Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

² Centre for Sociological Research, Faculty of Social Sciences, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

³ Department Technology and Society Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands

Paper Abstracts

Panel 1: COVID-19 and E-Society

The China's Propaganda During COVID-19 Pandemic

Che-Jen Wang¹, Kuan-Chen Lee¹

The COVID-19 pandemics has produced considerable influence not only on the China's domestic politics, but also on the international positive image of China as a rising power. To influence the international criticism, Chinese Communist Party employs its national news channels and try to deflect global blame. The paper analyses tweet texts retrieved from China Global Television Network's Twitter account (@CGTNOfficial) and finds 7 subjects of China's propaganda efforts. These purposes are dissipating pandemic information, promoting China's achievements in fighting COVID-19, Countering international attacks and criticism, China's aid to foreign states, foreign states' assistance to China, positive energy, and cooperative initiative for shared future. By using the Labelled Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) procedure in the Stanford Topic Modeling Toolbox, the paper identifies topic words of the 7 subjects and learns the changing focus of propaganda over the first four months of year 2020.

¹ Center for Quantitative Analysis and Decision-Making Simulation,
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Paper Abstracts

Panel 2: Information Disorder

Socialbots and disinformation in political domains: A systematic literature review

Trisha T. C. Lin, Ph.D.¹ , Jo-Yu, Wang²

The increasing use of socialbots that manipulated online public opinions has brought negative impacts on democracy crisis. This study systematically reviews 16 scholarly articles published from 2010 to 2019, which provides insights about the maneuver in using socialbots for computational propaganda to shape online opinions or spread political disinformation. The empirical studies apply different methods to examine socialbots' manipulation in various cases, including American presidential election, Brexit referendum, Macroleaks, and anti-Qatar campaigns. The results identified characteristics and patterns of socialbot campaigns that misled human users to widely share bot content and thus deteriorate elections and democracy. Implications about socialbots, disinformation, and politics are discussed.

Keywords: Socialbot, political bot, disinformation, fake news, troll, systematic literature review, politics

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Paper Abstracts

Panel 2: Information Disorder

Information War: The Availability of Deep Fake Technology

Tzu Hao, Liao¹

The rapid development of audio technology has allowed users to fabricate or synthesise fake videos, images and soundtracks. The mechanism of deepfake technology is rather simple and automatic. Through Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) learns to alter real content and test the authenticity of the changes, which means the network itself is capable of self-improvement. This article is meant to demonstrate how deepfake works and the common access to everyone alongside with how it endangers our democracy and society, in order to raise public concern and provide as an overview in the process of policy-making.

Keywords: Disinformation, Information War, Deepfake

¹ National ChengChi University, Taiwan

Paper Abstracts

Panel 2: Information Disorder

Religiosity and Happiness Relationship: A Study in Taiwan Society

Huei-Hua Huang¹ & Asih Purwanti¹

This study examines the relationship between religiosity and happiness among Taiwanese society and looks at the contribution of internet to the relationship. The rapid development of internet technology has contributed for the change to our today society, including for mental health for individuals. Using Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA), we analyze the relationship between the two concepts in the Taiwan society. We use data from the 2018 Taiwan Social Change Survey. In the study we look at the categories of happiness levels and the categories of religiosity. The result of the research is that in Taiwan, people who fell under the happy people is people between 27 and 61 years old, usually have religion and believe in god, often engage in religious activities, find their beliefs are meaningful, have harmonious family relationship and in good health conditions. People who fell in unhappy category is the people who are under 26 years old and over 62 years old, they are usually do not have religious beliefs, do not believe in God, they think belief in God is meaningless, do not often engage in religious activities, unmarried, have family disharmonious, have unhealthy conditions, low income, low education and do not often use internet for religious activities. The result shows that people in Taiwan often use internet for religious activities, although in MCA dimensions they fell in the happy dimension, but there is not to strong correlation between people often use internet for religious activities and happiness. In addition, the gender category, highly educated, with middle-income, we cannot see a clear relationship between happiness or unhappiness.

Keywords: religions, happiness, MCA, Taiwan

¹ Institute of Political Science, NSYSU

Paper Abstracts

Panel 3: Mediascapes; Social Media and Wellbeing

Vulnerable Youth in a Digital World: The Influence of SES, Mental Wellbeing, and Migration Background on Adolescents' Digital Skills

Joyce Vissenberg¹, Willem Joris¹, & Leen d'Haenens¹

In today's digital society, adolescents are increasingly moving their lives online. ICTs allow them to communicate with friends and family, stream the latest episode of their favorite show, or search for information for their homework. To adequately navigate the online environment and to fully benefit from it, as well as to avoid harm from any negative online experiences, digital skills are of increasing importance. Indeed, digital skills are relevant for adolescents' education, participation in society, and general wellbeing (van Deursen, Helsper, & Eynon, 2016).

However, not all adolescents do (fully) master these digital skills. Moreover, digital divide scholars suggest that these skills are not equally distributed between adolescents. While the first- and second-level digital divide concerned user's access to and uses of the internet, a third-level digital divide is present when certain users do not possess the same digital skills as other users do and as a consequence are unable to fully benefit from their Internet use (Scheerder, Van Deursen, & van Dijk, 2017; van Deursen et al., 2016). Different demographic and psychosocial factors have been proposed as determinants of the first- and second-level divide, but knowledge regarding the role of these variables in predicting digital skill levels, especially in adolescents, remains scarce (Scheerder et al., 2017). Therefore, the current study aims to study whether socio-economic status (SES), mental wellbeing, and migration background are determinants of adolescents' digital skill levels.

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Paper Abstracts

Panel 3: Mediascapes; Social Media and Wellbeing

Overcoming Mobile Addiction through Enhancing Life-satisfaction

Sungjun (Steven) Park¹

Due to the COVID-19, a report by McKinsey and Company illustrates for individuals, who are being trapped in a limited space, there is a growing demand for e-sports, mobile games, and video contents in comparison to other product categories. Through mobile devices, individuals can escape reality to engage in cyberspace. Unfortunately, the number of users with mobile addiction is also rapidly growing. According to a recent report, when there is no sign of ringing or vibration, about 67% of mobile consumers check their phones to see if there are any messages or calls. Such preoccupation and oddly high dependence on mobile devices can be a symptom of addiction (Bian & Leung, 2014). This research aims to examine factors that will help individuals overcome mobile addiction.

According to gratification theory, individuals go online to get away from their negative life events (Gutiérrez, de Fonseca, & Rubio, 2016). For example, students try to relieve their school stress through mobile devices in classes. Through a simple click of their mobile, individuals can tap into a virtual world, seeking happiness and enjoyment by avoiding issues facing in a real life. In this regard, low life-satisfaction can be a precursor of mobile over-usage, which may later on translate into mobile addiction (Linnhoff & Smith, 2016).

Then, how can we enhance our life-satisfaction? This study focuses on the role of leisure activities. Leisure activity refers to a non-compulsory behavior that an individual engages in during his/her discretionary time. It includes recreational activities such as playing sports, games, and going on tours (Lu & Hu, 2005; Mahoney & Stattin, 2000). Leisure activity is known to generate positive benefits. For example, engaging in leisure activities enhances positive mood states, reduces anti-social behaviors, facilitates a better ability to cope with life stress, and it contributes to physical fitness. Accordingly, this paper argues that a greater involvement in leisure activities is likely to increase one's life-satisfaction, which can ultimately decrease mobile addiction.

To validate the hypothesis, a cross-sectional survey was conducted to examine the relationships among the constructs. A total of 293 university students were invited to participate in the survey. There were more female participants ($n = 195$; 66.6%) than male participants ($n = 98$; 33.4%). The average age was 21.89 ($SD = 1.87$). For the analysis, a structural equation model (SEM) was used. SEM is often used in research when assessing relationships between latent constructs. The latent constructs were measured by more than one observed item, consistent with previous literature (Beard & Ragheb, 1980; Diener et al., 1985; Salehan & Negahban, 2013).

Overall results indicate that the overall fit indexes of the structural model were satisfactory: CMIN = 383.871, d.f. = 191, $p < .000$, CFI = 0.959, IFI = 0.960, RMSEA = 0.059. More importantly, the indirect effect of life-satisfaction between leisure activities and mobile addiction was significant. Specifically, the path from leisure activities to life-satisfaction was significant ($b = 0.669$, $t = 8.064$, $p < .001$). Also, the path from life-satisfaction to mobile addiction was significant ($b = -0.208$, $t = -2.122$, $p < .05$). In summary, this paper empirically shows that leisure activities significantly reduce mobile addiction through life-satisfaction.

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Paper Abstracts

Panel 3: Mediascapes; Social Media and Wellbeing

Analyzing the Determinants of News-Seeking Behaviours of Older Adults in Terms of Digital Inequality¹

Prof. Dr. Ferruh Mutlu Binark, Associate Prof. Dr. Özgür Arun, Assistant Prof. Dr. Duygu Özsoy,
Kadriye Beren Kandemir, Gül Şahinkaya¹

The aim of the study is to examine the determinants of news-seeking behaviours of older adults of during the COVID-19 in Turkey and to analyze how differences in these practices feed inequalities in the society and the role of the Internet in this process within the context of aging. Although predominantly it is considered as a homogeneous category in the digital inequality literature, it is known that older adults are a heterogeneous group, which this heterogeneity leads to different experiences of inequalities. The data have been collecting from the representative sample (n = 1073) of 65+ older adults in Turkey through surveys.

During the pandemic, the information needs of people has increased all over the world. At the same time, a significant portion of the previously offline work has started to be done online. Thus, media and ICT use have increased and become more important, which has brought along some problems. The increasing information requirement has enhanced the amount of information as well as the amount of disinformation and misinformation, moreover, misinformation can spread faster than information. In this process, ICT access and use gap have become more evident, which can make older adult, who are already disadvantaged in terms of ICT, more disadvantaged. Lack of digital capital of older adults underlines inequalities in all fields, from everyday life necessities to searching for information on health issues, etc. In order to find solutions to these problems, first of all, it is necessary to reveal how older adults access information, how they evaluate information, and what problems they encounter. This study concerned to respond to this requirement, through a field survey conducted in Turkey aims to offer a unique contribution.

Keywords: older adults, media use, digital inequality

¹ This research received financial backing as project number 120K613 by TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey). Title of the project is "Information Seeking and Information Evaluation of Older Adults in the Covid19 Process". The authors thank TÜBİTAK for funding support.

Paper Abstracts

Panel 4: Radicalization and Polarization

Discourse on Muslim radicalization in news stories and fear of terrorism among readers: does ideology still play a role?

Stefan MERTENS, David de CONINCK, & Leen d'HAENENS ¹

Hallin and Mancini (2004) pointed out that historically, the press in Europe has been influenced by political parallelism, but around 2004 they observed that European newspapers tend to become homogenized content-wise. Recent debates about ideological polarization have moved in another direction, suggesting that readers might become entrapped in so-called “filter bubbles” (Pariser, 2011), reading nothing but information confirming their own opinions. In light of this twofold development, we evaluate a content sample of two ideologically opposed newspapers in Flanders, i.e. “De Morgen” and “Het Laatste Nieuws”. The former is a broadsheet and left-leaning newspaper, while the latter is a more tabloid oriented and right-leaning newspaper. If ideological differences in the contemporary news landscape still occur one would expect these to be present in the news stories.

A salient issue that provokes much ideological discussion nowadays is the representation of ethnic minorities. A key topic in this discourse is the representation of so-called “radicalization” of youngsters from ethnic minorities, i.e. youngsters with a Muslim background from Western backgrounds who are going to fight in Syria. Earlier research (Berbers, Joris, Boesman, d’Haenens, Koeman & van Gorp, 2016) inspires the hypothesis that left-wing and broadsheet newspapers tend to represent radicalizing youngsters more often as victims of certain contexts at home and internationally, while right-wing and tabloid newspapers tend to show the representation of terrorism more often as a crime.

In this paper we further test the hypothesis based on information from earlier content analyses, by means of a corpus analytic approach using the tool “Sketch Engine”. A large corpus integrates all the newspaper articles from 2016 to 2019 on radicalization that appeared in two Flemish newspapers: “DeMorgen” and “Het Laatste Nieuws” (660,287 words). The results prove that distinctive vocabularies between both newspapers do exist. Words such as “terror”, “attacks” and “terrorists”, pointing directly to criminal offenses occur more often in the right-wing newspaper. Other words referring to contextual phenomena, such as “Islam”, “Salafism” and “migration background” occur more often in the left-leaning newspaper. These results indicate lasting differences between both newspapers, suggesting the existence of different ideological spheres at the supply and content side of the media.

A further hypothesis emerging from these results is the possibility that these differences at the supply and content side of the news media resonate with the readers. “Fear of terrorism” was measured in an online survey (N=1,500) with a scale integrating six items investigating the extent to which respondents believe that they or their friends will become victims of a terrorist crime. Although the results cannot answer questions about causality, readers of “De Morgen” and “Het Laatste Nieuws” clearly hold different attitudes regarding fear on terrorism, whereby readers of the newspaper using more crime-oriented vocabulary show a larger fear of terrorism. These findings suggest that ideologically different news media discourses continue to exist and are captured by audiences, despite the rhetoric on homogenization.

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Paper Abstracts

Panel 4: Radicalization and Polarization

Authoritarian Regime's Propaganda Strategies in Economic News: Sino-US Trade War as a Quasi-experiment

Greg Chih-Hsin SHEEN, Wei-Hao HUANG, Hsuan-Yu LIN & Titus C.CHEN ¹

Does China's official media, controlled by the Chinese government, utilize different propaganda strategies in reporting economic news? If any, what are these strategies and what is the logic explaining the occasion of using different propaganda strategies? The Sino-US trade war, which has undermined China's economic performance, is a natural shock to the Chinese economy, providing a great opportunity for scholars to explore China's official media's patterns of releasing or reporting the news of China's economic performance. Conventional wisdom has suggested that maintaining a rigorous economy or at least letting people believe that the economy is great, consolidates the Chinese Communist Party's ruling legitimacy. Intuitively, if the US-China economic conflict hurts China's economic performance, the Chinese official media may decide to report less about the poor economic performance after the onset of the trade war. However, our empirical finding suggests a different story: during the onset of the trade war, Renmin Ribao's Wechat version and printed version did not report less economic news.

While the number of economic news did not change, we find that the "composition" of economic news has changed in the Wechat Renmin Ribao but not in the printed version. We argue that a factor, the audience type, explains the differences. There are two main types of audiences in China: political elites and the public. Political elites are those who enjoy the power and benefit derived from the ruling of the Chinese Communist Party, and the public does not directly enjoy these privileges and is sensitive to China's economic performance. If the Chinese economic performance is into a downturn, the Chinese government has incentives to "adjust" the way to report economic news in the media which targets the public to mitigate some extents of potential pressure from the public. As the printed Renmin Ribao targets political elites and the Wechat Renmin Ribao targets the Chinese public, the Wechat Renmin Ribao may have higher motivations to adjust how it frames the report on the poor Chinese economic performance caused by the trade war.

Methodologically, we used an innovative method to analyze, as well as to identify, the Chinese government's propaganda strategies in reporting economic news. Instead of following the conventional approach using keywords or a single news source, we introduce content analysis to compare economic news coverage in Renmin Ribao's hard copy with its Wechat version.

This study has two contributions: (1) it advances our understanding of the role of Renmin Ribao in China's domestic propaganda. (2) methodologically, instead of merely using word frequency to find economic news, this research uses new methods to test the degree of ambiguity and issue linkage to identify more comprehensive economic news articles in Renmin Ribao before and after the onset of the trade war. By treating the trade war as a natural shock to the Chinese economy, this research unveils China's propaganda strategies of economic news and provides a first consequential evaluation resulting from the trade war on China's domestic politics and regime stability.

Keywords: Propaganda; China; Media; Authoritarian

¹ Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Paper Abstracts

Panel 4: Radicalization and Polarization

Is Taiwanese Politics in the Grip of Populism? Examining Five Parties' Facebook Communication during the 2020 Taiwanese National Election

Jiun-Chi LIN¹

While increasing numbers of Taiwanese politicians and media have debated the resurgence of populism, so far only few studies made an attempt to explain how populism is affecting Taiwanese politics. The research attention has shifted from the question 'what' populism is to 'how' populism is used, but existing studies have not yet depicted an overview of how populist rhetoric is applied in campaign communication of different political parties. Moreover, based on the claim that the rise of populism relates to the use of social media, we have not seen any study focusing on Taiwanese parties' social media communication. By selecting the five Taiwanese parties—Kuomintang (KMT), Democratic Progress Party (DPP), New Power Party (NPP), Taiwan Statebuilding Party (TSP), and Taiwan People's Party (TPP)—that have obtained parliamentary seats, this study is interested in the question whether parties adopted populist rhetoric on their Facebook communication during the 2020 national election period. By adopting a communication-centered perspective (Stanyer, Salgado & Strömbäck, 2017), populist communication is treated as a set of rhetorical characteristics—people-centrism, restoring sovereignty, anti-establishment, and exclusion—and stylistic devices—negativity, emotionality, sociability, and leadership. Method-wise, content analysis and multiple correspondence analysis (MCA) are applied. MCA analysis detects two main dimensions: the first dimension includes 'denying elite's sovereignty', 'anti-political elite', a 'patriotic style', and a 'crisis rhetorical style'. The second dimension refers to 'praising people's achievement' and to 'demand people's sovereignty'. Both dimensions explain 30% of the observations in the dataset (N=3,315). We highlight the following preliminary findings: First, compared to the other four political parties, the nationalist TSP notably uses an 'us-versus-them' strategy. Adopting a patriotic, polarising and crisis rhetorical style, the TSP emphasises the united feelings of 'the people'. It also attempts to discredit the legitimacy of its political rivals by attacking political elites (particularly KMT) and the China. On the contrary, DPP's discursive strategies are opposed to TSP. Second, the centrist TPP displays its closeness to 'the people' through a friendlier style. It means that the connection of the party and 'the people' is built by describing behaviours of candidates and the party. Third, NPP and KMT relatively do not display closeness to the people and praise people's achievement. Basically, these findings prove that populism played a role in the latest national election campaign, and illustrate an extensive use of populist communication at the party level. However, differences among the political parties' discourses merit further examination.

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Paper Abstracts

Panel 5: Social Media and Netizens

Local Government Identity:

The Link between Emotives and Actorship through Social Media

Christopher GREEN¹

Local Government has always played second fiddle to National Government. This is true in the case of electoral turnout as well as funding opportunities. This study is designed to empirically confirm how local Taiwanese governments are responding to the institutional environment in the expression of local identity through social media. This expression of local identity will be analyzed empirically by analyzing the account name of Facebook, a social media that can express identity directly without using the organization's resources, such as the organization's finances and manpower. As a result of the analysis, it has been found that local governments do not use only simple local names in addressing accounts in an effort to express their local identity as actors but also express the identity of the region and to analyze whether the region was deduced directly or indirectly. If local governments express local identities and are therefore defined as relatively simple actors or self-giving local governments, these attempts will have emerged in smaller and smaller local governments which use the main characteristic of any local government. The results directly show that the hyper-organization phenomenon in which an organization acts with a variety of roles and expectations as the actors' local identity is revealed. Above all, the fact that local governments in which this study attempts to distinguish as small cities and districts wherefore showing the need for local government hyper-organizational structures and the push away from central-organizational structures in the distribution of local identity. The local government's use of social media, in this case Facebook, should be analyzed further to indicate connection with the local populace as well as each organization's distinct identity. This can be accomplished by looking at key terms used in purveying this information and identity to the public in a social media sphere that everyone can access.

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Paper Abstracts

Panel 5: Social Media and Netizens

Facebook is the Internet in Myanmar: Promises and Practices of Growth in Two Myanmar Media Industries

Zin Mar MYINT¹ & D. Bondy Valdovinos KAYE¹

Facebook is the internet in Myanmar. The internet and mobile communication have seen globally unprecedented proliferation following the liberalization of the media/ICT sector in 2013 and the election of a democratic government for the first time in decades in 2015. The price of a mobile internet-ready sim card dropped from over \$2500 in 2000 to less than \$1.50 in 2014 and cheaply produced smartphones because widely available and affordable. Facebook as a platform had matured considerably by 2013, which was one year after its initial public offering on the US stock market. The platform quickly became the dominant social media platform to take hold in Myanmar. Gradually, members of society from different geographic, socioeconomic, age, gender, and ethnic groups have become members of a unified e-society via the social networking platform.

Facebook has been heavily criticized in Myanmar for its role in exacerbating violent conflict, the spread of disinformation and hate speech, as well as the lack of content moderation by Burmese-speaking moderators. Simultaneously, the platform has become an invaluable tool to many young professionals who understand its logic and have adapted its uses to suit them. This study considers the noteworthy solutions and practices that have emerged in Myanmar media industries via the social networking capabilities of Facebook.

Data were collected from over sixty in-depth interviews with practitioners in the Myanmar music industry (n=30) and Myanmar journalism industry (n=20). The platform has created numerous opportunities for music and media practitioners in terms of accessibility, speed, and professionalization. There are also a number of lingering issues that have been exacerbated by Facebook's expansive growth and novel concerns raised in these two focal media industries that should be addressed in future research; however, this study highlights the potentials and successes of e-society building in a country where Facebook is the internet.

¹ Queensland University of Technology

Paper Abstracts

Panel 5: Social Media and Netizens

Online Donation to fight COVID-19 as Connective Action in Indonesia and Vietnam

Tonny Dian Effendi¹ and Nong Thi Xuan¹

There has been an increase in online donation activities undertaken by the public since the outbreak of COVID-19 broke out. Individuals and groups from different backgrounds make donations through various institutions, both government, and non-governmental organizations. The internet has three critical roles in online donations: spreading information, connecting individuals, and being a means to make online donations. This study discusses how the internet facilitated donation movements to help deal with the Covid-19 outbreak in Indonesia and Vietnam. It is a qualitative approach with secondary data collection to observe patterns of online donation activities in Indonesia and Vietnam. We use the connective action concept to explain the role of the internet in informing, connecting, and simultaneously being a means of online donation activities from individuals who come from various backgrounds. Our main argument in this study is that the internet, including social media like Facebook and others, shapes and facilitates the emergence of online donations, which are part of connective action when individuals are connected emotionally and encourage their empathy, and solidarity across identities. However, in contrast to connective action that sees real or material action, the donation action to fight COVID-19 shows how individuals are connected online and act online as well. Therefore, conceptually this online donation enriches the concept of connective action because the internet is a facilitator as well as a place for the action to take place.

Keywords: COVID-19, online donations, internet, social media, connective action, Indonesia, Vietnam

¹ Institute of Political Science, National Sun Yat-Sen University, Taiwan

Paper Abstracts

Panel 6: Internet and Politics

A Moderated Model of the Relationship between Online Community Social Support and Conformity

Chien-Po LIAO & Cho-Wa LAW

The development of the “Internet” has changed the patterns of life of many people around the world. Nowadays, we do not use the Internet simply as a tool. Instead, it has become a crucial part of many people’s living. In earlier studies, it was suggested that the use of the Internet reduced users’ social interaction and support (Silverman, 1999). Issues such as technology apathy were based largely on such an idea. On the other hand, the popularity of social media use and the diverse development of the online community have created another “social network”.

Online social interactions have already created another new social support system. The online community relationships provide different psychological support and interaction opportunities to people with similar interests. Through such a system, people would derive social satisfaction (McKenna and Bargh, 2000; Bumgarner, B.A., 2007). It also motivates users to continue to use digital tools and participate in the online community (Damodaran, L., Olphert, C. W., & Sandhu, J., 2014). In the process of userinteraction, it also creates online collective behavior.

This study will focus on the impact of participation in the online communities on individual users; in particular, whether there will be a tendency to engage in conforming behavior, especially after the users got psychological support. Most previous studies in the online communities discussed the trend of opinion on selected issues, with a little subtle exploration of the impact on individual users. We shall further compare gender perspectives to identify possible differences between genders at different levels of social support and explore whether gender plays a role in moderating social support and conformity.

Paper Abstracts

Panel 6: Internet and Politics

The correlations of social media, social movement and political identity recognition: the Taiwan Communication Survey in 2015

Lai Yat Ming, Jeremiah

With the rapid growth of social media, the world has transited to become more reliable to the advanced technological device, even the presentation of self of an individual. This paper aims to examine a) the effect of social media on pushing people joining the political movement; b) the effect of these kinds of political movements motivated by social media on shaping identities in Taiwan. For completing those tasks, this article is to apply Goffman's dramaturgical approach, a sociological theory claiming people would separate the performance and exhibition based on the necessary of audience in order to construct their identity recognition. The study would utilize the survey with 2,002 successful cases released from Taiwan Communication Survey in 2015 by setting a model for examination. The findings show there is a significant influence from social media affecting the method of Taiwan people exhibiting their political thoughts and encouraging them to take part into political events. However, there is no clear evidence that the frequency of political participation would affect the tendency of ethnic identity in Taiwan.

Keywords: The Presentation of Self, Goffman's dramaturgical approach, Social Media, Social movement, Ethnic Identity, Quantitative Research, Taiwan Communication Survey

Paper Abstracts

Panel 6: Internet and Politics

Protesters on Trial: Examining Factors Influencing Court Decisions in Social Protest Litigation in Taiwan

Alex Min-Mei LIN¹ & Chung-Li WU²

An active and engaged citizenry is often considered the hallmark of a healthy democracy. High levels of political and civic participation increase the likelihood that the voices of ordinary citizens will be heard and taken into account by decision-makers. In addition to voting in regularly held elections, attending campaign events, or donating money to political/social organizations, another way through which citizens engage civically to create social change is participating in organized public protests. Most commonly, people join marches and demonstrations either to make demands on the government, or to speak out against laws or policies with which they vehemently disagree. In Taiwan, the rights of the people to freely express themselves and to peaceably assemble are constitutionally guaranteed, much like in other democracies elsewhere in the world. Yet with the recent rise in the number of mass protests and social movements on the island—some of which have turned violent or even unlawful—how public authorities (e.g., the courts and law enforcement agencies) manage and control these public protests have also come under close scrutiny. In this study, we investigate the judicial behavior of Taiwanese courts by analyzing all the lawsuits that had been brought against protesters and/or organizers of mass demonstrations for violating laws such as the Assembly and Parade Act (jihui youxing fa) and the Social Order Maintenance Act (shehui zhixu weihe fa), or for committing criminal offenses such as insulting a public officer and obstructing justice. By collecting court decisions data from all three tiers of Taiwan's judiciary (district courts, high courts, and the Supreme Court) between 2000 and 2018, this study examines various sociopolitical factors that may have an influence on court verdicts, and determines whether or not the litigation outcomes may be politically biased. Empirical results of the study will shed additional light on the current state of contentious politics in democratic Taiwan, and provide us with a better picture of the interactions among political forces, social movements, and judicial institutions.

Keywords: judicial politics, social movements, social protests, freedom of assembly, Taiwan, courts

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Dinner

Day 1 at 6:30pm: Banquet Hall, 2nd Floor, Ambassador Hotel



Transportation to the Ambassador Hotel place:

- (1) Participants can go by themselves
- (2) Hotel guests can use the hotel pick-up service (only once a day)
- (3) The pick-up service provided by the conference committee

Day 2 at 6:30 pm: Sizihwan Beach Club Seaview Chinese Restaurant

Day 3 at 6:30 pm: Sizihwan Beach Club Seaview Chinese Restaurant

The Sizihwan Beach Club Seaview Chinese restaurant in Sunset Beach Hotel is in front of the International Research Building

City Tour Information

Kaohsiung Cultural Cruise

Day 2: Sept, 8.

Schedule: check in 10:00; cruising: 10:30-11:30

Meeting point: Kaohsiung Port Warehouse No.2 cultural cruise reception
(near the carousel)

Information link for Cruise Tour:

<http://culturalcruise.khcc.gov.tw/ENG/home01.aspx?ID=1>



Kaohsiung I-Ride: VR experiencing

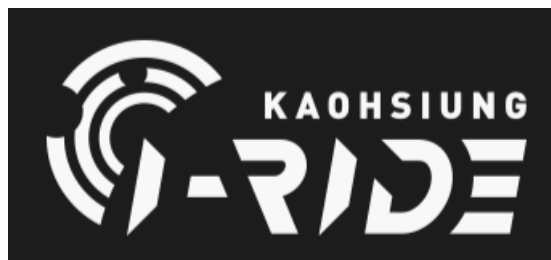
Day 3: Sept, 9.

Schedule: check in 9:30 am; VR Experience: 10:00-11:00 am

Meeting point: No.9, Fuxing 4th Rd., Qianzhen Dist., Kaohsiung City 806
(Inside the Brogent Group's R&D center), Kaohsiung Software Park)

Information link for IRide:

<http://www.irideexperiencecenter.com/en-US>



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