



INTRODUCING THE CENTER ON DIGITAL CULTURE AND SOCIETY

A New Research Center at the Annenberg School

Directed by **Guobin Yang**, the new Center on Digital Culture and Society at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication supports critical, interdisciplinary scholarship and dialogue on all aspects of digital culture, technology, and society.

The Center on Digital Culture and Society aims to:

- Create collaborative spaces for discussion and debate among academics, citizens, and activists
- Develop critical approaches to the study of digital culture, technology, data, and society
- Help train new generations of digital researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and beyond
- Build global networks of researchers
- Explore and foster new visions of digital futures
- Advocate for socially just design, production, and use of digital technologies

In its inaugural year, CDCS will host a fall workshop series and a spring launch symposium while supporting research on technology, culture, and society. We hope you will join us, connect with us, and collaborate with us as we work to build a new hub for digital media studies.



[Read More About the Launch of CDCS](#)

To stay up to date on CDCS news and events, follow us on [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [mailing list](#).

CDCS 2019-2020 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

The Center on Digital Culture and Society has appointed three Annenberg alumni as its inaugural Postdoctoral Research Fellows for 2019-2020. Their research reflects our emphasis on critical, interdisciplinary digital media studies scholarship that advances social justice projects. Please join us in welcoming **Rosemary Clark-Parsons**, **Jasmine Erdener**, and **Elisabetta Ferrari** into their new roles in the Annenberg community!



Rosemary Clark-Parsons received her PhD from the Annenberg School in 2019. In addition to working on her book manuscript as a CDCS fellow, she will also serve as the Center's Associate Director. Clark-Parsons is a researcher, teacher, and activist whose work addresses the relationship between technology and gender justice projects. Her research agenda centers on questions of how digital platforms and their users are reconfiguring the face and reach of contemporary feminist social movements in the United States. Her book project, *Doing it Ourselves: The Networked Practices of Feminist Media Activism*, is based on her dissertation project, which won ICA's Activism, Communication, and Social Justice Interest Group's Outstanding Dissertation Award, and focuses on feminists' turn toward the digital. At the same time that emerging media platforms enable activists to quickly reach wide audiences at little or no expense, digitally networked movements face online harassment, commercial cooptation, and activist burnout. Drawing on interviews and ethnographic fieldwork, Clark-Parsons demonstrates how activists are taking up networked media to pursue a do-it-ourselves-style feminism, building movements and communities from the ground up, all while juggling the affordances and limitations of their media tools. She is currently teaching an advanced undergraduate seminar inspired by her book project at Saint Joseph's University, in which students collaborate with community partners to design and launch feminist media campaigns. Prior to CDCS, Clark-Parsons helped found the [Media Activism Research Collective](#) at Penn. A lifelong resident of the area, Clark-Parsons lives in West Philly with her partner, Ryan, and their 10-month-old daughter, Robyn. You can follow her on Twitter [@rcpphd](#).

Jasmine Norkunas Erdener recently defended her dissertation, titled *Excavating Radical Futures: Puppets, Robots, and the Fight for Technology*, at the Annenberg School. She specializes in gender and identity, technology and digital media, and social movement activism, and she conducted ethnographic research at Bread and Puppet Theater. She completed a BA in Plan II from the University of Texas at Austin, and received her Master's degree in Modern Humanities and French Literature from the Université Jean Moulin Lyon III in Lyon, France. At Penn, in addition to CDCS, she has worked with the [Media Activism Research Collective](#) and the [Collective for Advancing Multimodal Research Arts](#). She is teaching an undergraduate seminar on Visual Culture and Communication at Annenberg, as well as a course on ethnographic methodologies called the Art of Listening for the School of Social Policy and Practice at Penn. She has also worked as the audio editor and producer for a number of podcasts, including Annenberg's [3620 Podcast](#), the [Center for High Impact Philanthropy](#), the [Data Refuge and Remediations podcast](#), and Annenberg's [Center for Media at Risk](#). Erdener Tweets [@jasappleseed](#).

Elisabetta Ferrari's research addresses the social and political implications of digital technologies, with an emphasis on activism, social movements, and social justice. In general, her work explores how the ways in which people use and think about digital technologies play a role in their struggles for social justice. Her dissertation, titled *The Technological Imaginaries of Social Movements: The Discursive Dimension of Communication Technology and the Fight for Social Justice*, examined how contemporary leftist activist groups in Italy, Hungary and the United States constructed their own "technological imaginaries" to appropriate, negotiate or challenge Silicon Valley's dominant techno-optimist ideas. Her project highlighted the political and contested nature of the ideas we hold about technology, and their connection to social change. A drawing-based research method that she developed for her dissertation, the visual focus group, seeks to facilitate conversations about the politics of technology; Ferrari aims to employ this method to encourage civil society actors to imagine better digital technologies. Ferrari received her PhD from the Annenberg School in 2019. She also holds a B.A. in International Studies from the University of Bologna (Italy) and an M.A. in Political Science, with a specialization in Political Communication, from Central European University (Budapest, Hungary). You can follow Ferrari on Twitter [@betty_ferrari](#).

FALL 2019 EVENTS

Tuesday, September 17

Art Exhibit Opening

Meme Tactics: How Artists Innovate Media to Make Underheard Voices Go Viral

Annenberg School, Room 500

5:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Cosponsored with the [Center for Media at Risk](#)

Monday, October 14

CDCS Workshop: Meredith Broussard, NYU

Artificial Intelligence and Our Future World

Annenberg School, Room 500

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Cosponsored with [Control Societies](#)

Tuesday, October 22

CDCS Workshop: Johan Farkas, Malmö University

Disguised Propaganda on Social Media: Post-Truth, Fake News, and Democracy

Annenberg School, Room 300

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm



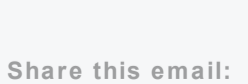
[Annenberg School for Communication](#)
3620 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

[cdcs@asc.upenn.edu](#)

Director: [Guobin Yang](#)

Associate Director: [Rosemary Clark-Parsons](#)

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