



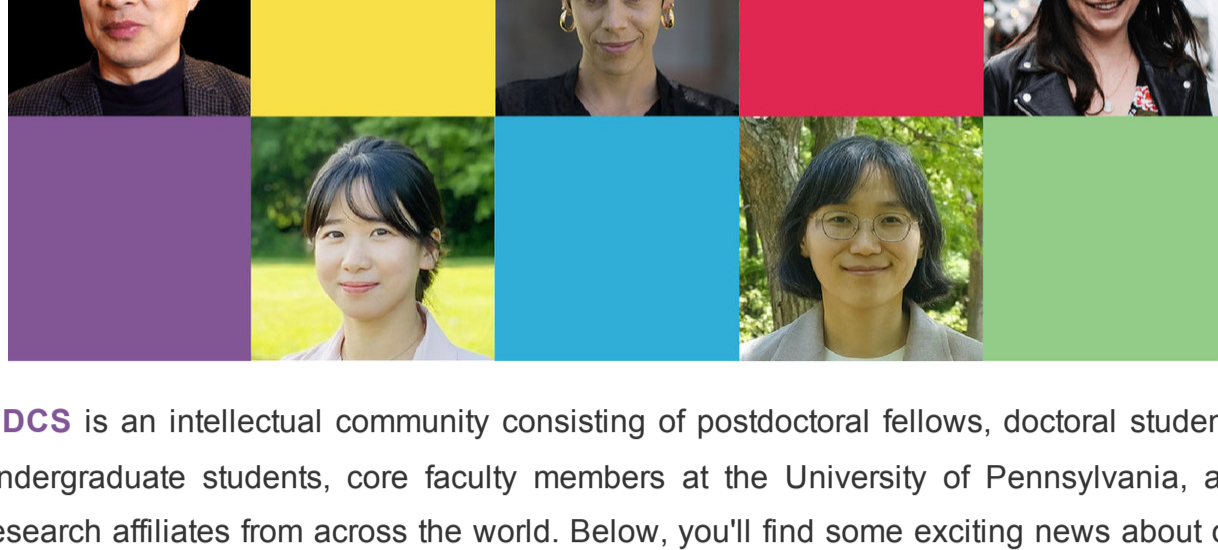
Reimagining our common future through critical scholarship and dialogue on digital culture, technology, and society.

The Center on Digital Culture and Society at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication is pleased to announce the launch of our newsletter - the CDCS information hub.

This month, you'll discover an introduction to our community, information about our latest publications, and news on awards, media appearances, special talks and more.

This newsletter is 920 words, or a 7 minute read.

WHO WE ARE



CDCS is an intellectual community consisting of postdoctoral fellows, doctoral students, undergraduate students, core faculty members at the University of Pennsylvania, and research affiliates from across the world. Below, you'll find some exciting news about our latest work.

PUBLICATIONS

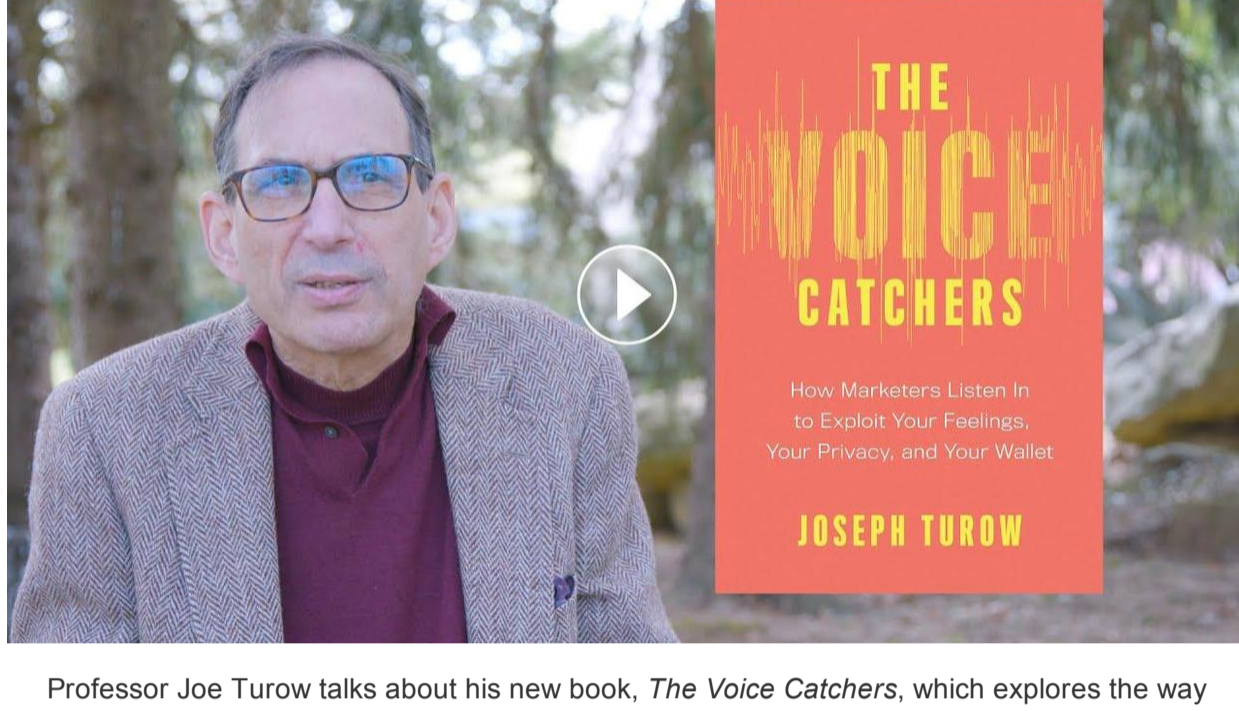
Our community's recent publications connect across three broad themes: censorship, activism, and global communication and comparative digital culture.

Censorship

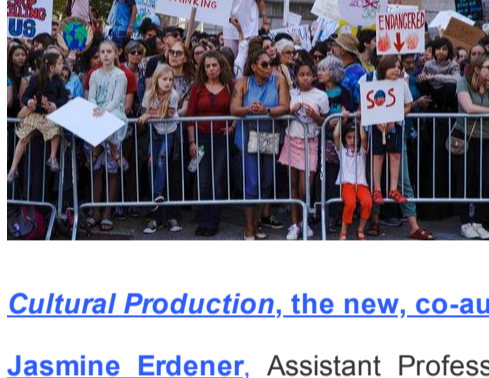
Jun Liu, Associate Professor at the University of Copenhagen, examines how China's unprecedented measures to mobilize its diverse surveillance apparatus played a key part in the country's successful containment of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. [Read the co-authored article](#). Liu also shows how multimedia content received heavier censorship and deletion than plain text content on Chinese social media during the 2014 Hong Kong Umbrella Revolution. [Learn more in the co-authored article](#).



Joe Turow, Professor at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, releases a new book titled *The Voice Catchers*. The book charts an emerging digital-marketing surveillance regime Turow calls the 'voice intelligence industry'.



Professor Joe Turow talks about his new book, *The Voice Catchers*, which explores the way marketers use your tone and expression to profile you.



Activism & Technology

Brooke Duffy, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at Cornell University, explores how widespread uptake of digital platforms – from YouTube and Instagram to Twitch and TikTok – is reconfiguring cultural production in profound, complex, and highly uneven ways. [Find out more about *Platforms and Cultural Production*, the new, co-authored book here](#).

Jasmine Erdener, Assistant Professor at Koç University, contrasts competing visions of the cyborg as depicted by the US State Department and an artist collective. She proposes the concept of 'calculated illegibility' to explain emergent differences in vision and purpose. [Read the new article here](#).

Melissa Aronczyk, Associate Professor of Media Studies in the School of Communication & Information at Rutgers University, releases a new co-authored book, *A Strategic Nature: Public Relations and the Politics of American Environmentalism*. Aronczyk offers an as-yet untold account of the promotional agents who have influenced public perception of the environment since the beginning of the twentieth century, and provides new insights on sustainability communication and lessons on how to deal with climate change misinformation and denial.

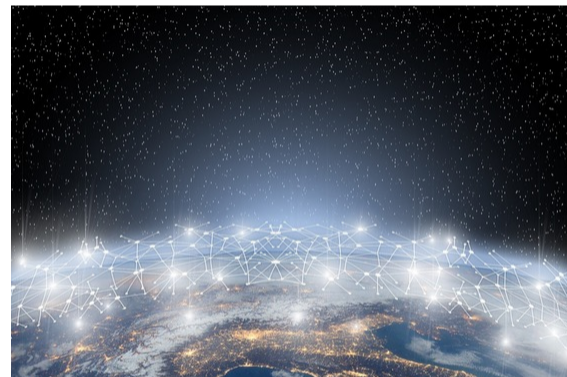
Benjamin Shestakofsky, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, outlines a research agenda for a sociology of artificial intelligence. [Read the co-authored article here](#).

Jun Liu explores activists' decisions on what technologies to use during political activism. Using a relational framework, [the co-authored article](#) helps disclose specific dynamics of affordances behind repertoire selection and constraint.

Julia Ticona, Assistant Professor of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, writes [a piece in the American Sociological Association's Footnotes](#) about how digital privilege – or lack thereof – affects different types of workers.

Global Communication and Comparative Digital Culture

Jun Liu investigates the relationships between social connectedness and communication patterns from seven countries across the globe. Using survey data Liu examines the complexity of multimodal connectedness, that is, the diversity and the frequency of multiple communication modes and media through which people maintain their connections with different social relations. [Read the co-authored article here](#).



Liu also publishes a co-authored article on comparative communication studies within and beyond Great China. [Access this publication here](#).

EVENTS & AWARDS



Redeem All: How Digital Life is Changing Evangelical Culture

Corrina Laughlin, Instructor of Communication Studies at Loyola Marymount University, authors the new book *Redeem All: How digital life is changing evangelical culture* (University of California Press, 2021).

The book explores how evangelicals who are invested in imagining, using, hacking, the adopting, and sometimes innovating new media technologies for religious purposes.

January 31, 2022, 1:30-2:30pm EST. Look out for a forthcoming link to register for the book talk.

Communications and Media Annual Lecture 2021

Professor **Joe Turow** will give the **Communications and Media Annual Lecture**, and talk about the findings from his new book, *The Voice Catchers*, at the London College of Communication's School of Media.



November 17, 2021, 1-3pm EST. [Register for the online talk here](#).

Benjamin Shestakofsky, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, was selected as the recipient of the 2021 Star-Nelkin Paper Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology for his co-authored article "[Making Platforms Work: Relationship Labor and the Management of Publics](#)."

Digital Etymology: "Surfing the Internet"

The term 'surfing the internet' emerged amongst the early metaphors for using the internet; it was an attempt to personify the activity by comparing it to more familiar places and physical actions. While 'surfing the internet' was popularized in 1992 by librarian **Jean Armour Polly** (one of the first US librarians to offer computer and internet access to the public), the term was first published several months earlier, in a comic book titled 'Captain Internet and CERF boy'. [Discover archives of the comic book series here](#).



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

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



The Center on Digital Culture and Society
Annenberg School for Communication
3901 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
cdcs@asc.upenn.edu
Director: [Guobin Yang](#)

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