

ICA 2023 Preconference

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT: A CRITICAL HISTORY

Thursday, May 25
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Huron in Sheraton Centre Toronto
Hotel, Toronto, Canada

Co-Sponsored by the Center for Advanced Research in
Global Communication (CARGC) and the Institute for
Advanced Study in the Global South (#IAS_NUQ)



Northwestern | QATAR

Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South

ICA 2023 Preconference

Media and Communication Studies in a Global Context: A Critical History

Organizers: Aswin Punathambekar, University of Pennsylvania, USA; Usha Raman, University of Hyderabad, India; Emily Keightley, Loughborough University, UK; Simone Natale, University of Turin, Italy; Clovis Bergère, Northwestern University in Qatar; Marwan Kraidy, Northwestern University in Qatar; Jing Wang, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

Media and Communication studies is now a global endeavour. Even as the field continues to expand in the West, universities across Asia, Africa, and Latin America have launched or expanded their programs in this subject over the past two decades. This expansion has coincided with a vital debate about decolonizing media and communication studies, spurred in part by student movements (#RhodesMustFall, for instance) and a recognition of colonial legacies and racial inequalities that continue to shape knowledge production in the field. Though discussions about what the call to decolonize means are unfolding in various regional and national contexts, concrete steps on how to accomplish this important goal remain challenging to articulate. This preconference is premised on the assumption that we need to account for and grapple with the way our 'field' – media, communication, and cultural studies in various avatars – is constituted in different parts of the world before we can meaningfully take steps to 'globalize', 'de-westernize', and 'decolonize' scholarship and pedagogy.

Division Affiliations: Communication History Division, Global Communication and Social Change Division

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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Program

9:00 – 9:15 am	Registration
9:15 – 9:30 am	Introductions and Context Setting
9:45 – 11:30 am	Roundtable 1: Histories, Methods, Experiences

Participants will trace the emergence of global perspectives on media and communications in relation to developments in specific national and regional contexts. This includes the emergence and transformation in methodological approaches, particularly as they have developed in tension with dominant paradigms, but also as new archives of situated knowledges emerge. Participants will also reflect on the ways in which national and regional experiences destabilize Anglophone, western-centric approaches to media and communications research, revealing their analytical limits and explanatory partiality. How do the epistemologies of the global south demand new ways of thinking ‘globally’ in the field in order to properly bring to bear currently marginalized experiences in understandings of contemporary media cultures?

Ding Yuanzhe

Tsinghua University, China

CUHK as ‘Bridgehead’ in Communication Studies’

Institutionalization of Mainland China: Analysis on Visits and Formation of Research Communities (1982-1997)

Sarah El-Shaarawi

The American University in Cairo, Egypt

(Re)claiming the Narrative through Climate Communication and Education: Reflections from Egypt

Sean Phelan and Syed Irfan Ashraf

Massey University, New Zealand and University of Peshawar, Pakistan

Rethinking the Notion of Universality in Media and Communication Studies

Ali Raj

Columbia University, USA

*Urdu's Modernist Moment: Towards a History of Communication in South Asia***Sulafa Zidani**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

How Do We Do Critical Global Communication and Media Studies? Challenges and Opportunities of Non-Comparative and Cross-Cultural Research

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Lunch break

12:30 – 2:15 pm

Roundtable 2: Doing Dewesternisation: Theories and Concepts

This roundtable focuses on the potentialities and limits of existing conceptual and theoretical frames for 'doing' dewesternisation in media and communications research. Closely connected to discussions which focus on the insertion of experience into dominant media and communications paradigms, this roundtable will consider the tensions and frictions produced in the encounters between western media theory and scholars' experiences in and from the global south.

Fabienne Darling-Wolf

Temple University, USA

*The South in the North and the North in the South: Deploying Intersectionality as a Critical Social Theory of Global Power Dynamics***Elfriede Fürsich**

University of Pittsburgh, USA

*On the (Im)possibilities of Global Research in Media and Communication Studies: Six Obstacles and One Solution***Murat Akser**

Ulster University, Northern Ireland

In Search of Shifting Paradigms: Turkish Communication Studies in Transition

Ali Karimi

University of Calgary, Canada

Ephemeral Publics: An Experiment in Influencing Muslim Public Opinion in WWI

Jesús Arroyave

Universidad del Norte, Colombia

Communication in the Americas: Exploring Other Perspectives from the South

2:45 – 4:30 pm

Roundtable 3: Troubling the Digital

In this roundtable discussion, we focus on the specificities of digital infrastructures, platforms, cultures in varied national and regional contexts. The discussion will explicitly consider how approaches to and theorizations of digital culture are troubled by their instantiations outside of the global north and the new ways of thinking that are needed to account for the digital in an inter-regional fashion.

Dal Yong Jin

Simon Fraser University, Canada

Locating the Datafication of the Everyday in Africa
The Rise of East Asian Digital Platforms: Perspectives from the Global South

Omar Al-Ghazzi

London School of Economics, UK

The Lebanese Collapse: Arrested Futurity in Everyday Media

Anis Rahman

University of Washington, USA

South Asia as Contested Terrain for Cultural Imperialism

Douglas-Wade Brunton

University of West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Digital Creolité - A Theory for the Digi-Colonial Present

Angela Xiao Wu

New York University, USA

Central Kitchen, E-government, and the Politics of “Platforms” in China


4:30 – 5:00 pm

Concluding Remarks and Planning for ICA 2024

The Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication produces and promotes scholarly research on global communication and public life. Our work brings together “area studies” knowledge with theory and methodology in the humanities and social sciences to understand how local, lived experiences of people and communities are profoundly shaped by global media, cultural, and political-economic forces. This synthesis of deep regional expertise and interdisciplinary inquiry stimulates critical conversations about entrenched and emerging communicative structures, practices, flows, and struggles.

We explore new ways of understanding and explaining the world, including public scholarship, algorithmic culture, the arts, multi-modal scholarship, and digital archives. With a core commitment to the development of early career scholars worldwide, CARGC hosts postdoctoral, doctoral, undergraduate, and faculty fellows who collaborate in research groups, author CARGC Press publications, and organize talks, lectures, symposia, conferences, and summer institutes.

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The Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South at Northwestern University in Qatar (#IAS_NUQ)

produces and promotes evidence-based storytelling focused on the histories, cultures, societies, and media of the Global South. Our inclusive vision of globality recognizes the diversities and inequalities that shape the societies we inhabit and study. We harness traditions from the liberal arts, media, communication, and journalism to forge multi-disciplinary and multi-modal approaches to knowledge that is locally relevant and globally resonant. This synthesis of deep expertise, interdisciplinary inquiry, and creative mediamaking stimulates critical conversations about enduring questions and emerging challenges that confront the Global South and its enmeshments in global structures and flows of people, goods, words, images, and ideas. Our core commitments are to amplify NU-Q faculty and student scholarship and mediamaking, to boost undergraduate research, mentor our students who plan to pursue advanced graduate degrees, and forge pathways to the professoriate locally and globally. To these ends, #IAS_NUQ hosts fellows (student, postdoctoral, faculty) who work on individual projects and collaborate in local and global research groups, produce multi-lingual and multi-modal #IAS_NUQ_Press publications and creative media, and organizes lectures, screenings, workshops, and conferences.



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