

ICT4Good/Asia Workshop

Date : Wednesday, 17 November 2021

Time : 10 AM - 5.30 PM (Singapore Time/Zoom)

(Lunch Break: 12.30 PM - 3 PM)

Convenor



Weiyu Zhang

Associate Professor,
NUS Communications
& New Media

Keynote Panel



Ben Leong

Associate Professor,
NUS Computing



Pablo Aragón

Research Scientist,
Wikimedia Foundation



Simon Perrault

Assistant Professor,
SUTD

Research Panel



Jia Ying Neoh

Lecturer,
University of Sydney



Lim Tai Wei

Senior Research Fellow,
NUS East Asian Institute



Dongtao Qi

Research Fellow,
NUS East Asian Institute



Gionnieve Lim

Doctoral Candidate,
SUTD

Practitioner Panel



Gaurav Keerthi

Co-founder,
BetterSG



Hong Phuc Dang

Founder,
FOSSASIA



Nashin Mahtani

Founder,
Yayasan Peta Bencana
(Disaster Map Foundation)



Dong Xie

Secretary General,
NGO20.cn

ICT4GOOD/ASIA WORKSHOP

17 November 2021

17 NOVEMBER 2021 (Wednesday) – Singapore Time

10:00 – 10:10 WELCOME SPEECH

[Weiyu Zhang](#) | Associate Professor, National University of Singapore

10:10 – 11:00 KEYNOTE SPEECH 1

Moderator: **An Introduction to Centre for Computing for Social Good & Philanthropy**
Simon Perrault [Ben Leong](#) | Associate Professor, National University of Singapore

11:00 – 12:30 RESEARCHER PANEL

Moderator: **Rethinking Civic Education in the Digital Era: A Singapore Case**
Weiyu Zhang [Jia Ying Neoh](#) | Lecturer, University of Sydney

Civic Tech in Japan and Community Use (A Snapshot)
[Lim Tai Wei](#) | Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore

Development of Civic Technology in Taiwan: From Society-Driven to Government-and-Society-Driven?
[Dongtao Qi](#) | Research Fellow, National University of Singapore

A Review of Research on Civic Technology: Definitions, Theories, History and Insights
[Gionnieve Lim](#) | Doctoral Candidate, Singapore University of Technology and Design

12:30 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

15:00 – 16:00 KEYNOTE SPEECH 2

Moderator: **Decidim: Technopolitical Networks for Participatory Democracy**
Weiyu Zhang [Pablo Aragón](#) | Research Scientist, Wikimedia Foundation

16:00 – 17:30 PRACTITIONER PANEL

Moderator: [Gaurav Keerthi \(TBC\)](#) | Co-Founder, Better.sg
Weiyu Zhang

[Hong Phuc Dang](#) | Founder, FOSSASIA

[Nashin Mahtani](#) | Director, Yayaysan Peta Bencana

[Dong Xie](#) | Secretary General, NGO20.cn

An Introduction to Centre for Computing for Social Good & Philanthropy

Ben Leong

(National University of Singapore)

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ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr. Ben Leong is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Director of the Centre for Computing for Social Good & Philanthropy. He is concurrently Chief Data Officer and Director, AI Centre for Educational Technologies at AI.SG, Singapore's national AI Programme. From July 2014 to Jun 2019, he served as the Director, Experimental Systems and Technology Laboratory at the Ministry of Education. Dr. Leong was a recipient of many teaching awards at both the Faculty and University level, including the NUS Outstanding Educator Award in 2015. Dr. Leong's research interests are broadly in the areas of computer networking and distributed systems.

MODERATOR



Dr Simon Perrault is currently an Assistant Professor at SUTD (Singapore) since January 2019. He was also a visiting professor at KAIST (Korea) in 2018 and an Assistant Professor at Yale-NUS college (Singapore) between 2015 and 2018. He received his PhD in Computer Science in Telecom ParisTech (France). He defended his PhD in April 2013, and joined the National University of Singapore (NUS) in December 2013 as a post-doctoral researcher. Dr Perrault's research interest is in the area of Human Computer Interaction, and more specifically mobile/wearable computing and civic tech.

Rethinking Civic Education in the Digital Era: A Singapore Case

Jia Ying Neoh
(University of Sydney)

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ABSTRACT

This study clarifies the evolving notion of civic education resulted from technological advancement in the context of Singapore. We investigate Singaporean youth's views on civic education by contrasting the roles of schools, families and friends, and social media in shaping their understanding. Through focus groups, we found that there are contentions on the definitions, approaches, and meanings of civic education. We conclude that in view of the inevitable diversity digital technologies tend to present, youths' civic learning might be limited by the pressure and confusion coming along with the exposure to diverse views, the tendency to retreat from formal politics, and the lack of effective school intervention into the social media space.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr. Jia Ying Neoh is a Lecturer at the Sydney School of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney. Her key research interest is in citizenship education. In particular, she is interested in understanding the citizenship curricula of schools, focusing on the preparatory processes of citizenship. Having taught in primary schools in both Australia and Singapore, across diverse contexts and in different leadership roles, Ying has developed a keen interest in understanding the sociology of education. She is very interested in understanding the influences of education, including the social, economic and political factors that shape the curricula and pedagogies of teachers. Her current research interest is in multicultural citizenship and digital citizenship.

Civic Tech in Japan and Community Use (A Snapshot)

Lim Tai Wei

(National University of Singapore)

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ABSTRACT

This presentation is a snapshot of selected examples of civic tech NPOs (Non-Profit Organizations) working on local community-building and problem-solving for Japan's citizenry in urban cities through the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology), especially civic technologies. This writing uses interpretive work to analyse secondary resources drawn from the mass media, academic articles, non-profit organizations' (NPOs) writings and other relevant materials. Due to the state of emergency triggered by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the author relies and analyses secondary sources on this subject matter. The writing focuses on the civic tech sector's dissemination of useful information to members of the public. It is also a study of public dissemination of information through the initiatives of civic tech activists. The writing adopts a multi-disciplinary lens, drawing from the disciplines of area studies (Japanese Studies specifically) and contemporary historical lens.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr Lim Tai Wei is a Senior Research Fellow adjunct at the National University of Singapore (NUS) East Asian Institute (EAI). He takes an area studies approach to look at Japanese studies topics through a multidisciplinary lens. He is also a historian of modern and contemporary Japan, focusing on post-1868 modern Japanese history as well as post-Heisei contemporary Japanese issues.

**Development of Civic Technology in Taiwan:
From Society-driven to Government-and-Society-driven?**

Dongtao Qi

(National University of Singapore)

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ABSTRACT

This study tries to better understand the civic technology development in Taiwan with a mainstream social movement theory, the political process theory (PPT). Respective evolution of the Taiwanese government's open-government project and the main civic technology community g0v, especially their interactions and changing relations over time, are studied from the perspectives of contextual opportunity, organizational mobilization and cultural framing proposed by the PPT. The study shows that the model of the civic technology development in Taiwan seems to have started an uneasy transition from society-driven to co-driven by both the government and society. Policy and theoretical implications are discussed too.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dongtao Qi is Research Fellow at the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore. He received his PhD in Sociology from Stanford University and conducts research in the field of political sociology, especially on state-society relations and nationalism in Taiwan and mainland China. His papers have been published by international peer-reviewed journals, such as *China Quarterly*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *China: An International Journal*, *Issues & Studies*. Sponsored by the China-US Scholars Program, he is doing research on US-China confrontation over Taiwan and the South China Sea at the 21st Century China Center, University of California at San Diego from September 2021 to May 2022, as a Visiting Scholar.

A Review of Research on Civic Technology: Definitions, Theories, History and Insights

Gionnieve Lim

(Singapore University of Technology and Design)

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ABSTRACT

There has been an emergence of initiatives that take advantage of information and communication technologies to serve civic purposes, collectively referred to as civic technologies (Civic Tech). This phenomenon has been met with a rising interest in academia, where Civic Tech has become an interdisciplinary field spanning across various disciplines such as social science, political science, and computer science. In this paper, we present a review of 112 papers from the ACM Digital Library with a focus on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Human-Computer Interaction, the key fields supporting the building of Civic Tech. Through this review, we aim to discuss the concepts, theories and history of civic tech research and provide insights on the technological tools, social processes and participation mechanisms involved. Our work seeks to direct future civic tech efforts to the phase of “by the citizens”.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Gionnieve Lim is a PhD candidate at the Singapore University of Technology and Design. Her research area is on the intersection of human-computer interaction with civic tech and misinformation. Her research focuses on the use of interface interventions such as labels, warnings, and visualisations on communication platforms to address misinformation. Her recent work investigates user interactions with various nudge interfaces and visualisations in the context of fact-checking, seeking to understand how they are perceived by users and what considerations should be made to improve their design.

Decidim: Technopolitical Networks for Participatory Democracy

Pablo Aragón

(Wikimedia Foundation)

elaragon@gmail.com

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Pablo Aragón is a research scientist at the Wikimedia Foundation, where he focuses on content integrity and resilience to disinformation in Wikipedia and other free knowledge projects. He is interested in computational social science and social computing through interdisciplinary and participatory approaches to characterize and facilitate participation, deliberation and collaboration in online platforms. Pablo is also an adjunct professor at Universitat Pompeu Fabra and ELISAVA Barcelona School of Design and Engineering. He actively contributes to projects at the intersection of data, technology and democracy, and serves as a board member of Decidim, the free open source platform for participatory democracy.

CONVERNOR OF WORKSHOP/MODERATOR



Dr Weiyu Zhang is Associate Professor at the Department of Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore. Her research focuses on civic engagement and Information and Communication Technologies, with an emphasis on Asia. She is Director of the Civic Tech Lab (www.civictechlab.org), and has led on multi-nation projects on youth engagement, online deliberation, and civic tech in Asia. Her current interest is to develop and examine civic tech applications to facilitate citizen deliberation in science topics such as climate change, gene-editing, and artificial intelligence. She can be contacted at weiyu.zhang@nus.edu.sg

PRACTITIONER PANEL | 16:00 – 17:30

Gaurav Keerthi (TBC)
(Co-Founder, Better.sg)
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Nashin Mahtani
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Hong Phuc Dang
(Founder, FOSSASIA)
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Dong Xie
(Secretary-General, NGO20.cn)
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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Gaurav Keerthi is a senior military officer and public servant. In the military, he was a helicopter pilot and flew rescue missions during the 2004 Asian Tsunami and headed air defence. He was also the first Chief Innovation Officer of the Air Force. In the public service, he currently drives the engineering and ecosystem development for cybersecurity nationally. Gaurav was a volunteer with SINDA and OnePeople.sg, and was the President of the Debate Association (Singapore). As a hobby coder, he has founded and built numerous digital non-profit tools, and now co-leads the national "TechForGood" movement under better.sg.



Hong Phuc Dang is the founder of [FOSSASIA](https://fossasia.org), an organization that strives to improve people's lives through sharing open technologies and sustainable production. She serves as the vice chair of the Open Source Committee, IEEE, a board member of the Open Source Business Alliance Europe. With over a decade of open source expertise, she supports companies in their technology transition to open source and innersource development models. Her recent efforts focused on bringing open source hardware into production at scale.



Nashin Mahtani is currently the director of Yayasan Peta Bencana (Disaster Map Foundation), a South-East Asian based non-profit organization developing software infrastructures for community-led disaster co-management. She co-led the expansion of the life-saving platform—PetaBencana.id—from a real-time flood mapping platform serving 50 million people in Indonesia to a multi-hazard mapping platform serving over 350 million people in South East Asia. In 2021 she was recognized by Forbes Asia 30 Under 30 for her contributions to the region's social issues. Nashin was also one of five global semi-finalists for the prestigious Global Citizen Prize: Cisco Youth Leadership Award in 2019, listed as a Southeast Asian Women Leader by YSEALI in 2020, and recognized as a Women Innovator by the Information Society Innovation Fund in 2018.



Dr Dong Xie is currently Secretary General of NGO20.cn, a Shen Zhen registered non-profit organization co-founded by University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) and MIT's New Media Action Lab in 2009. NGO2.0 is the pioneer in promoting ICT4Good in China. As a national organization that supports Chinese NGOs through information and communication technologies, NGO2.0 built a NGO dataset, drafted a digital map, developed 2.0 tools, provided training to more than 3000 NGOers, and ran hackathons. Dr Xie is Associate Professor teaching at the Department of Technological Communication, USTC.