ICA 2020 Pre-conference

Digital Cultures of South Asia: Inequalities, Infrastructures, Informatization

Virtual Pre-conference Program
(Posted 05/11/2020 & subject to change)

Thursday, May 21, 2020 (7:30 AM to 7 PM USA EST/11:30 AM to 11:00 PM GMT)

Organizers
Radhika Parameswaran (Indiana University), Sangeet Kumar (Denison University), Kalyani Chadha (University of Maryland), Adrian Athique (University of Queensland) and Pradip Thomas (University of Queensland).

Conference Coordinator: Roshni Susana Verghese (Independent Scholar)

Virtual Conference Assistant: Pallavi Rao (PhD Candidate, Indiana University)

ICA Division Affiliations
South Asia Communication Association (SACA), Global Communication & Social Change, Popular Communication, Intercultural Communication, and Ethnicity & Race in Communication.

Description
ICA’s 2020 Digital Cultures of South Asia virtual pre-conference—with over 25 presenters from five different countries—brings together established and emerging scholars whose innovative work investigates key dimensions of a vibrant digital culture in the South Asian region. As the first ICA pre-conference to spotlight digital media research in South Asia, this day long event seeks to address the yawning gap in the field of digital media and cultural studies on a crucially important region in the global south that is predicted to shape the future of the global Internet. Keeping this goal in mind, our program offers a curated collection of cutting-edge research contributions that touch on a range of salient topics, from creator culture, digital media economies and policies, electoral politics, fake news and misinformation to the gender, caste and class inequalities that continue to structure digital...
divides. By creating an inclusive and interdisciplinary tent that brings together stakeholders of all hues (scholars, practitioners and media activists), we expect our day-long virtual event to provide a launchpad for future conversations that push the boundaries of research on the digital dimensions of South Asian life.

Conference Schedule: Hosted from U.S.A

Thursday, May 21, 2020 (7:30 AM to 7 PM USA-EST/11:30 AM to 11:00 PM GMT)

- Times below are in USA-EST (GMT - 4Hrs). *Regional times zones also provided*
- Please check this website - https://savvytime.com/- to confirm and check your time zones.

7:30 AM– 7:40 AM  Introductions/Radhika Parameswaran

7:40 AM – 8:30 AM  Keynote Talk/Introduction by Sangeet Kumar

*1:40 PM - 2:30 PM CEST*

Sahana Udupa, Shadow Politics: Front Stage and the Veneer of Volunteerism, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany (Live)

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM  Continue Q&A/Break

Panel I (India & Hong Kong Group I: 4 panelists/Chair Kalyani Chadha)

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM USA EST, Digital Divides & Cultures of Contention and Consumption

*6:15 PM -7:30 PM (IST) / 8:45 PM - 10 PM HKT*

Aasim Khan & Sarayu Natarajan. “XR in Millennial India: Analysis of Environmental Activism and Digital Media in Metropolitan India.” Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Delhi), India. (Recorded Video & Live Participation)

Naznin Sultana. “Mobilization through Online Platforms: Formation of Remonstration Communities against Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 in Bengal.” University of Hyderabad, India. (Live)
Jasdeep Kaur Chandi & Kulveen Trehan. “Emerging Online K-pop Fan Culture in India: An Exploratory Study of Fandom of South Korean Boy Band BTS.” Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, India. (Recorded Video & Live Participation)

Muhammad Masood. “Does the Digital Divide Affect the Knowledge Gap? A Tale of Two Valleys in Western Pakistan.” City University, Hong Kong. (Recorded Video & Live Participation)

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM Break

Panel II (India Group II: 4 panelists/Chair Radhika Parameswaran)

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM USA EST, Digital Dynamics of Journalism, Pandemics, and Self-Branding

*7:45 PM – 9:00 PM IST


Aditi Surie, “The Role of the Platform Economy in the Response to the Covid-19 Lockdown in Indian cities.” Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Delhi, India. (Live)


Krishanu Bhargav. “The Image of the Leader: The Online Politics of Selfies and Memes.” Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India. (Recorded Video & Live Participation)

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM Break (Lunch)

Panel III (USA Group I: 5 panelists/Chair Sangeet Kumar)

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM USA EST, Gender, Caste and Language Inequalities in the Digital Ecosystem

*Same time as above, USA EST

Pallavi Rao. “From Critics to Creators: Anti-caste Social Media Communities and English-language News.” Indiana University (Bloomington), U.S.A. (Live)


Emily Edwards, Oladoyin Olubukola Abiona, Sarah Ellen Ford, Olayombo Tejumade Raji-Oyelade, Radhika Gajjala, & Riddhima Sharma. “Shaheen Bagh: Making Sense of (Re)emerging “Subaltern” Feminist Political Subjectivities in Hashtag Publics (Through a Mess of Computational Humanities Data Analyses).” Bowling Green State University, U.S.A. (Recorded Video & Live Participation)

Mallika Khanna. ““Desiness” in the Digital Age: Investigating Social Media as a Site for South Asian Diaspora Interpellation.” Indiana University (Bloomington), U.S.A. (Live)

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM Break

Panel IV (USA Group II: 5 panelists/Chair Kalyani Chadha)

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM USA EST, Conceptual Architectures, Political Activism, and Digital Empowerment

*Same time as above, USA EST


Dhiraj Murthy. “TikTok: An Activist Space for Young Indians?” The University of Texas (Austin), U.S.A. (Live)


Bharat Suri. “Engineering the ‘Quality’ of Education in India.” University of California (Berkeley), U.S.A. (Recorded Video & Live Participation)

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM Break

Panel V (Australia & New Zealand Group I: 4 panelists/Chair Radhika Parameswaran)

4:00 PM – 5:15 PM USA EST, Postcolonial Resistance, Social Change, and Entrepreneurial Culture

*May 22nd 6:00 AM – 7:15 AM AEST / 8AM - 9:15 NZST--Next day for Australia & New Zealand group


Bunty Avieson. “The Wiki/Bhutan project: Reclaiming Knowledge and Orality in the Digital Age.” University of Sydney, Australia. (Live)

Pradip Sarkar. “Digital Cultures in Indian Independent Music: An Examination of Socio-Technical Assemblages surrounding DIY Music Producers.” Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (RMIT), Australia. (Live)


5:15 – 5:30 PM Break

Panel VI (Only Australia Group II: 5 panelists/Chair Sangeet Kumar)

5:30 – 7:00 PM USA EST, Electoral Politics, State Regulation, and Collective Media Making
**May 22nd 7:30 AM – 9 AM AEST**–Next day for Australia group

Usha Rodrigues and Michael Niemann. “2019 Indian General Election and Social Media: Is Indian Journalism Facing its Greatest Challenge?” Deakin University, Australia. (Live)

Bondy Valdovinos Kaye & Smith Mehta. “Tightening the Grip: Shifting Governance of India’s Online Entertainment Content Space.” Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia. (Recorded Video & Live Participation)

Shweta Kishore. “Making Media, Creating Place: Digital Media Technologies, Representation and Practice at the Indian Media Collective ChalChitra Abhiyan.” Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (RMIT), Australia. (Live)


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