A Computational Turn in Journalism: 
Opportunities and Challenges in a Cross-Disciplinary Field

Date: 18 June 2024
Host: Department of Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore

Theme:
The proliferation of computational methods has broadened the scope of numerous sectors within communication studies, including in journalism, with an increasing number of scholars leveraging these state-of-the-art techniques to engage with pertinent issues in this domain. In parallel, journalism is itself currently experiencing profound shifts in its daily practices, business models, professional norms, content creation, and global societal impact. Much of journalism research now centers on automated, data, and immersive journalism. This preconference aims to initiate substantive discussions among scholars of varied expertise and origins, and facilitate robust interdisciplinary collaborations into the methodological, theoretical, and practical aspects of computational journalism studies.

This conference has five primary objectives:
1. Pushing the boundaries of journalism studies by exploring innovative methodologies and advancing theoretical frameworks.
2. Identifying and demonstrating the transformative power of computational methods on journalism practice, seeking to further understand and articulate the profound shifts in journalistic norms, practices, and frameworks.
3. Nurturing communities among scholars who share an interest in employing computational approaches to either conduct research on journalism or practice journalism.
4. Encouraging meaningful dialogues between scholars with diverse methodological and theoretical backgrounds, hailing from various subdomains such as journalism studies, political communication, communication and technologies, computational methods, and more.
5. Facilitating networking and collaboration opportunities for scholars at various career stages, across diverse areas of expertise and geographical locations, with an emphasis on inclusivity and representation of scholars from the global south.

Format:
This pre-conference will be hosted by the Department of Communications and New Media at the National University of Singapore. While we will provide you with an option to attend virtually, we encourage you to visit Singapore, especially if you are planning to attend ICA in Gold Coast. Singapore serves as a very convenient transit hub, connecting travelers from most parts of the world to Australia. You will have the option to indicate your attendance preference during the submission.
Timeline:
Deadline for abstract submission: 26 January 2024
Acceptance notifications: 1 March 2024
Deadline for registration: 22 March 2024
Preconference: 18 June 2024

Topics may include (but are not restricted to) the following:

1. Automated content analysis: Using AI (including Large Language Models) for analyzing news content, with applications in the domains of misinformation detection, sentiment analysis, topic modeling, computational narrative analysis.
2. AI and Journalism: The impact of generative AI, bots, deepfakes and other digital agents on journalism practice.
3. Analyses of visual and multimodal media: developing computational tools for analyzing visual narratives in news media, including image-as-data and video-as-data paradigms.
5. Network analysis of news spreads: using network science to analyze the spread and influence of news articles on social platforms.
7. Data Journalism: topics related to the analysis, reporting and visualization of data in newswork and their Impacts.
9. Ethical considerations in computational journalism: investigating the ethical Implications of using computational methods (such as AI generated content and deepfakes) in journalism.

Submission:
To submit an application, please fill up the Qualtrics form here (you will need an abstract of 350-500 words) by 26 January 2024. We expect to announce our decisions by 1st March 2024. We strongly encourage applications from early-career researchers and scholars from the Global South, and/or those researching Global South contexts.

For any questions, please send an email to comp.journalism.preconf@gmail.com.

Organizing Committee:
Subhayan Mukerjee, National University of Singapore
Shangyuan Wu, National University of Singapore
Tian Yang, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Yilang Peng, University of Georgia
Sílvia Majó-Vázquez, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Thorsten Quandt, University of Münster