

POLICY & INTERNET

Conference 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



北京大学新闻与传播学院
School of Journalism and Communication, Peking University



We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.



About the event

Presented by
University of Sydney & Peking University

Wednesday 30 September -
Friday 2 October 2026

Chau Chak Wing Museum
The Nelson Meers Foundation Auditorium
The University of Sydney
Camperdown NSW 2050



WITH THANKS TO OUR 2026 PARTNERS



北京大学新闻与传播学院
School of Journalism and Communication, Peking University



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY
—
China Studies
Centre



**POLICY
STUDIES
ORGANIZATION**

The international association for decision makers

Keynote speakers



Professor Gang Chen serves as the dean of the School of Journalism and Communication and director of the Creative Communication Management Research Center at Peking University. He mainly engages in digital development, digital marketing communication and advertising research. Professor Chen holds a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts (Major in Aesthetics), and Doctor of Philosophy (Major in Aesthetics) degrees, all earned from the Department of Philosophy at Peking University. As one of the representatives in the development of China's advertising industry, he proposes the original theoretical systems such as "Developmental Advertising Studies" and "Creative Communication Management", which are the important theories and works in the relevant fields with wide influence. His honors and awards include being selected as a Distinguished Young Scholar in the New Century by the Ministry of Education of PRC and one of Peking University's Top Ten Outstanding Teachers



Professor David B. Nieborg is a Professor of Media Studies at the University of Toronto. He held fellowships with the Jackman Humanities Institute and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. His previous affiliations include MIT, the Queensland University of Technology, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Utrecht University, and the University of Amsterdam. David published on the game industry, app and platform economics, and game journalism in academic outlets such as *New Media & Society*, *Social Media + Society*, *Internet Policy Review*, and *Platforms & Society*. He is the co-author of *Platforms and Cultural Production* (Polity, 2021), which is translated in Italian and Chinese, and *Mainstreaming and Game Journalism* (MIT Press, 2023).

9:00 AM

OPENING

Welcome

Editor-in-Chief Joanne E. Gray
University of Sydney

Keynote

Professor Gang Chen
Peking University

9:45 AM

**PAPER PRESENTATIONS 1:
SHIFTING PERCEPTIONS OF
ONLINE SAFETY**

**Nation-States, Civil Society and
Social Media Regulation: Why
There Was So Much Global
Interest in Australia's Social
Media Age Restrictions for
Under-16s**

Terry Flew
University of Sydney

**Social Media Age Restrictions:
More Safety or More Risk?**

Patricia Larasgita
University of Sydney

**Lagging or Leading? How
Aotearoa New Zealand
Compares in Addressing
Online Harms**

Claire Henry
Flinders University
Michael S. Daubs
University of Otago

**Towards a Safety by Design
Framework for Online Harm
Prevention**

Hannah Klose
eiris
Nakshathra Suresh
Monash University

10:45 AM

MORNING TEA BREAK

11:00 AM

PANEL 1:

**Internet Policy for Better
Childhoods? A Research Panel
by the ARC Centre of Excellence
for the Digital Child**

Katrin Langton
Chris Zomer
Julian Sefton-Green
Andy Zhao
Melissa De La Cruz
Jian Xu
Ines Vitorino Sampaio
Deakin University
Robbie Fordyce
Monash University
Rebecca Ng
University of Wollongong

12:00 PM

LUNCH

12:30 PM

PANEL 2:

**The Global Intelligence Divide —
Mapping Institutional Power,
Media Discourse, and the New
Power Hierarchy from Global
South Perspectives**

Mei Li, Xuanzi Xu
University of Sydney
Yupei Zhao
Zhejiang University
Mohammad Sahid Ullah
University of Chittagong
Twediana Budi Hapsari
*Universitas Muhammadiyah
Yogyakarta*
Levi Obonyo
Daystar University
Vanamamalai Ratnamala, Ajin S.S.
Mizoram University

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

1:30 PM

**PAPER PRESENTATIONS 2:
DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY**

**Sovereignty Through Control,
Security and Resilience:
Rethinking Digital Sovereignty
Beyond Data Localisation**

Fei Wu; Lewis Mills
*Microsoft Australia and New
Zealand*

**Negotiating Digital Sovereignty
in Practice: Engineers, the State,
and Internet Governance in
Russia**

Ekaterina Tokareva
RMIT University

**Operationalising Digital
Sovereignty in the Global South:
The Governance Gap and
Strategic Autonomy in East Africa**

Di Wu
Communication University of China

**Comparative Study of Web3
Policies in China, US, EU and
India under the Four-
Dimensional Technological
Sovereignty Framework**

Jinghong Xu; Yahao Liu
Beijing Normal University

**Measuring Digital Sovereignty
Across the G20 Countries**

Maria Gisele Silva
*Federal University of
Pernambuco, Brazil*

**When Maps Become Data: The
Politics of High-Precision Map
Transfers and Data Sovereignty
in South Korea**

Jeeyun (Sophia) Baik
University of San Diego

**Platform Power and Content
Moderation in Global Digital
Marketplaces**

Adriana Mutu; Luminița Pătraș
*ESIC Business & Marketing
School*

3:45 PM

**PANEL 3: Digital Culture and
Governance: from China to
Globe**

Fran Martin
University of Melbourne
Gerard Goggin
Western Sydney University
Chunmeizi Su
University of Sydney
Xu Jing; Ou Mengxue; Liu Jinhe
Peking University

2:30 PM

AFTERNOON TEA BREAK

2:45 PM

**PAPER PRESENTATIONS 2:
DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY (CONT.)**

**Constructing Authority in the
Digital Domain: The EU's Turn to
Digital Sovereignty**

Karla Estephany Alvarado Romero
Heidelberg University, Germany

4:45 PM

**INTRODUCING: ASIA PACIFIC
DIGITAL SOCIETIES RESEARCH
IMPACT NETWORK**

6:30 PM

CONFERENCE DINNER

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

9:00 AM

● **OPENING KEYNOTE DAY 2**

Professor David B. Nieborg
University of Toronto



Regulating the Ghost: Frontier AI, Anthropomorphism, and Divergent Sovereignty Regimes

Teodor Mitew
University of Sydney

9:30 AM

● **PANEL 4:
AI and Education — Prompt Engineering, Inclusive Governance, and AI Integration in Media Education**

Sibo Chen
Toronto Metropolitan University
Elaine Khoo
University of Toronto Scarborough
Flora Zhang
University of Sydney



Enhancing AI Fact-Checking Response Quality Through User Dialogue: An AI Auditing Approach

Jiarui Li
Guangxi University
Nova Mengxia Huang
Jinan University

10:30 AM

● **MORNING TEA BREAK**

10:45 AM

● **PAPER PRESENTATIONS 3: GOVERNING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

The Consent Market: Data Privacy Law and the Commodification of User Consent

Rohan Grover
American University



Process-Oriented Content Regulation on Generative AI Platforms in China

Shuhuan Zhou
Communication University of China

Understanding the Darker Sides of GenAI – Policy and the Underspheres

Milica Stilinovic; Jonathon Hutchinson; Francesco Bailo
University of Sydney

Human and Agent Identity as Digital Infrastructure: Rethinking Trust and Sovereignty in the Age of AI

Yiwei Cecilia Chen
Communication University of China

12:45 PM

● **LUNCH**

Performing Trust: Symbolic Policies in Regulating Generative AI in the U.S.

Wenjia Tang; Timothy Koskie
University of Sydney

AI-Voice Cloning and Voice Identification Evidence in Australia

Suvradip Maitra
Australian National University
Samuel Hartridge
University of Queensland



DAY 2

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2026

1:15 PM

**PANEL 5:
Disability & Digital Governance
Beyond AI**

Gerard Goggin
Western Sydney University
Victor Zhuang
*Nanyang Technological
University*
Natasha Layton
Monash University
Katie Ellis
Curtin University
Wenqi Tan
University of Sydney



**Situating India in the Evolving
Geopolitics of Data and Digital
Technologies**

Aakansha Natani
IIIT Hyderabad, India

**Cross-Border Platform Power
and Legal Fragmentation: The
Impact of Algorithmic
Accountability on Political Trust**

Xiaoxu Wang
University of Groningen

**Digital Governance Affordances:
Introducing a Sociotechnical
Vocabulary for the Effects of
Adopting Digital Technology in
Governance Interactions**

Oliver Bream McIntosh
Brussels School of Governance

**Whose Freedom of Speech?
Norm Localisation in Social
Media Governance in Indonesia**

Treviliana E. Putri
*University of Groningen /
Universitas Gadjah Mada*

**The Roles of Myanmar Diaspora,
the National Unity Government
(NUG) and Local Youth
Communities in Online Fundraising
for Revolution in Myanmar**

Jeremy Htet
Chiang Mai University, Thailand

**The Operationalization of
Ecosystem Governance: A
Study Based on Content
Labeling Practices in China**

Shuining Wang
Peking University
Yuhan Liu
*University of Electronic Science
and Technology of China*

2:15 PM

**PAPER PRESENTATIONS 4: DIGITAL
POLITICS, GEOPOLITICS, POLICY AND
POWER**

**From Information Disorder to
Information Integrity: Towards a
Coherent Information Policy**

Michael Davis
UTS Centre for Media Transition

**Shadow AI as Governance
Diagnostic: Epistemic
Infrastructures and the Limits of
Prohibition in Public
Administration**

Luis Lozano Paredes
University of Technology Sydney

**Aestheticized Surveillance:
Spotify Wrapped, Social Harm,
and the Limitations of Digital
Platform Governance**

Aris Setyawan
Sanata Dharma University
Cynthia Ayu Windani
Independent



3:00 PM

AFTERNOON TEA BREAK

3:15 PM

**PAPER PRESENTATIONS 4: DIGITAL
POLITICS, GEOPOLITICS, POLICY AND
POWER (CONT.)**

**Consumer Preferences and the Future
of Platform Regulation in Australia**
Samuel Kininmonth; Gareth Downing
ACCAN

DAY 2

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2026

9:00 AM



**PAPER PRESENTATIONS 5:
PLATFORMS AND THEIR IMPACTS**

**Policy Discourses of Online
Pornography: Age Verification
Laws, Porn Panics, and Public
Perception Gaps**

Fernanda Veiverberg
University of Southern Mississippi

**Algorithmic Content Moderation
and Digital Due Process:
Platform Transparency,
Accountability, and
Enforcement**

Chien-Chih (Jesse) Lu
National Chengchi University

**Anonymity as the Illusion of
Privacy: Mapping Data Flows,
Consent and Safety in Flo's
Anonymous Mode**

Cate Gvon
UCLA

**Not Safe for Health? Internet
Content Moderation and
Regulation and Sexual and
Reproductive Health
Communication**

Daniel Reeder
NAPWA Australia
Kath Albury
Swinburne University

**Burying the Evidence? Platform
Regulation on Political
Advertising in Brazil and Their
Implications for Transparency**

Bruno Mattos; Debora Salles;
Rose Marie Santini
*Federal University of Rio de
Janeiro*

**Empathy and Human Judgement
in Government Interactions with
Algorithms**

Assel Mussagulova
University of Sydney



10:30 AM

10:45 AM

11:45 AM

MORNING TEA BREAK

PANEL 6:

**AI, communication studies and
education**

Xuanzi Xu
Mei Li
University of Sydney

Jun Xiao
Chen Luo
Tian Xie
Wuhan University

**PAPER PRESENTATIONS 5: PLATFORMS
AND THEIR IMPACTS (CONT.)**

**Your Data, Their Power:
Corporate Sovereignty in a
Networked World**

Ryan Payne
University of Canberra
Thomas Aarheim
*European Institute of Policy
Research and Human Rights*

**Negotiating Belonging: Online
Discrimination and Minority
Identity in Singapore**

Nandhini Bala Krishnan
*Nanyang Technological
University*

**Risks to Rights? A Critical
Evaluation of the EU AI Act's
'Risk-based Approach' to AI
Regulation**

Veve Fry
Australian National University

DAY 3

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2026

● **Same Misconduct, Different Punishments: Differentiated Governance of Influencers' Ethical Transgressions by Chinese Short-Video Platforms as Digital Bureaucrats**

Shoukui Cui; Haohan Yuan
Universiti Malaya

Beyond the Gig: Grey-Zone Platform Labour and Governance Silence in Vietnam and China

Nguyen Lien Nga Hoang
Beijing Normal University

Mapping Violence Perceptions through YouTube Comments: A New Approach to Real-Time Violence Monitoring

Ashani Amarasinghe; Sascha Nanlohy; Thomas Morgan; David Hammond; Yashdeep Dahiya; Francesco Bailo
University of Sydney; Institute for Economics & Peace; Monash University

● **CONFERENCE CONCLUDES**

DAY 3

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY