Call for Papers
Communication, Politics & Culture
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Digital communication technologies + political and cultural change in Asia

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This issue of Communication, Politics & Culture will examine the intersections between digital communication technologies and the practices of economics, politics and culture in Asia.

The transformative impact of communication technologies on cultural traditions, economic development, political practice, social imaginaries, identities and everyday life can be seen at the local, regional and global level. Some of the most intensely networked, digitised and wired societies are in Asia, with profound consequences for cultural, economic and political change. The globally networked distributive potential that digital communication technologies offer may not only empower local users to develop their own practices, but also increase the powers of the state to control and regulate those practices.

This special issue will explore the issue that is being debated and contested within Asian Studies; as a discipline, Asian studies is moving away from studies of modernity, state-centred theoretical approaches and essentialist readings, to focus more on the political and cultural practices of everyday life as Asia gets more interconnected and interdependent regionally and globally. This issue will present a timely and extremely relevant exploration of the intersections between digital communication technologies and the practices of economics, politics and culture in Asia.

We are interested in papers that examine the sites at which digital communication technologies, and the forms of governance they facilitate, meet, and at times collide with, political and cultural practices. Papers that provide a deep reading of the practices being analysed, that are supported by historical evidence and have a clear theoretical approach are encouraged. We are particularly interested in papers that examine the connections between communication, politics and culture vis a vis digital communication technologies. An emphasis on history is welcomed. They could be related, but not limited, to the following questions:
Does the current situation between China and Google indicate the wider politics of digital communication technologies in Asia or are the practical politics and economics of this situation local?

Does the use of twitter during recent political upheavals in Asia represent a significantly decentralised and crowd-sourced form of political communication or another false dawn?

Does the use of e-government portals, minister blogs and other such state initiated digital communication technologies represent a significant reconfiguration of political communication between the state and its citizens?

The mobile phone's role in the political, economic and cultural practices has been well documented; how have the state and its citizenry responded to each other's use of mobile phones?

With the increasing use of the Internet by users for news, information, videos and online shopping, the Internet is having a major impact on traditional media and on consumption practices. How is the media industry reacting to the challenges this presents?

**Timing, length, style**

Please send abstracts of no more than 200 words and a brief bio by 16 August 2010 to chris.hudson@rmit.edu.au or terry.johal@rmit.edu.au

Articles will be due by 1 December 2010. They will be evaluated by the editorial committee and anonymously by external referees. The maximum length is 8,000 words but shorter pieces of 6000 – 7000 words are preferred.

**About the journal**

*Communication, Politics & Culture* is an A-ranked, refereed journal published twice a year through Informit Library by the School of Media and Communication at RMIT University. Established as an interdisciplinary publication in 1963, the journal focuses on connections between communication and politics. It is interested in communication and cultural technologies and practices, their histories, producers, audiences and users, policies and texts. It welcomes articles connecting these areas to legislative or parliamentary politics, to governance of social organizations and the institutions they constitute, or to broader negotiations of power. A particular interest is work developing governmental and genealogical approaches to communication and politics.

More information is available at: http://www.rmit.edu.au/mediacommunication/cpc