

ELEVENTH
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**COMMUNICATION
& MEDIA STUDIES**

THE IMAGE AS ADVOCATE:
SHAPING CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
SINGAPORE

1-2 OCTOBER
2026



NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY
SINGAPORE

School of Art, Design
and Media
College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

The Eleventh International Conference on Communication & Media Studies

<https://oncommunicationmedia.com/2026-conference>

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Welcome Letters



New Thinking

New Practices

New Societies

International Independent Interdisciplinary Scholar-led Non-Profit
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Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of Common Ground Research Networks, I welcome you to the Eleventh International Conference on Communication & Media Studies.

Founded in 2015, the Communication & Media Studies Research Network offers an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of the role of the media and communications in society. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries.

This truly international conference brings together a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world. We are proud to provide a platform for exchanging ideas, and presenting research, addressing some of the pressing issues of our time.

Our conference theme, "The Image as Advocate: Shaping Cultural Conversations," reflects our commitment to exploring new frontiers in research and practice. Over the next few days, In-Person or Online, you will have the opportunity to attend keynotes, panel discussions, and other session types led by our Emerging Scholars. We encourage you to take full advantage of these sessions to gain new insights, expand your professional network, and find inspiration for your own work.

We want to thank our keynote speakers Yu Jin Seng, Chen-Hsi Wong, Jackson Tan, Marta Molina Díez, conference chair Lisa Winstanley, presenters, and volunteers whose dedication and hard work have made this conference possible. We also thank our host partner Nanyang Technological University, for their generous support.

We hope you find this conference to be an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience. Your active participation is crucial to the success of this event, and we look forward to the lively discussions and valuable connections that will emerge over the next few days.

Warm regards,

Dr. Phillip Kalantzis Cope
Chief Social Scientist
Common Ground Research Networks



**NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY**
SINGAPORE



Communication & Media
Studies

Dear conference participants

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Eleventh International Conference on Communication & Media Studies, hosted by the School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) and the Centre for Asian Art & Design (CAAD), at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

As Conference Chair, I am delighted to welcome researchers, educators, artists, designers, practitioners, and students from around the world to Singapore, a city where cultural diversity, technological innovation, and creative ambition converge. As one of Asia's leading art and design schools, ADM is committed to interdisciplinary research that connects creative practice with critical inquiry. We are honoured to partner with Common Ground Research Networks in hosting this distinguished international gathering.

This year's special focus, "The Image as Advocate: Shaping Cultural Conversations," invites us to consider the image as an active participant in shaping the world. At a time when visual media is increasingly generated, circulated, and interpreted through digital platforms and artificial intelligence, images have become powerful tools for persuasion, resistance, identity, memory, and social change. This conference provides an important forum in which to critically examine these evolving roles and responsibilities.

Across the conference themes, participants will explore questions that span image-making, visual culture, creative technologies, professional practice, and the societal impact of images. What distinguishes this conference is its genuinely interdisciplinary character, bringing together diverse perspectives. Such dialogue is essential if we are to understand the increasingly complex visual environments that shape contemporary life.

I extend my sincere thanks to Common Ground Research Networks, our keynote speakers, presenters, reviewers, volunteers, and the staff of the School of Art, Design and Media whose dedication has made this conference possible. Most importantly, thank you for contributing your research, creativity, and critical perspectives to our shared community.

I wish you a stimulating, rewarding, and enjoyable conference, and hope you also have the opportunity to experience the rich cultural landscape, creativity, and hospitality that Singapore has to offer.

Warm regards,

Associate Professor Lisa Winstanley
Associate Chair (Research)
School of Art, Design and Media
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



Communication & Media Studies Research Network

Founded in 2015, the **Communication & Media Studies Research Network** offers an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of the role of the media and communications in society. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries. As a Research Network, we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions.

Media, to return to the etymology of the word, are the entities positioned one kind of middle or other. They are middle-objects, conditions or technologies that facilitate human communication, between one and one, one and many, or many or many. Media are agents of cultural "between-ness." They bridge spatial separations, so that people not in each other's immediate physical presence can connect. They bridge time, so ideas, information and cultural representations from another time (a minute ago or a century ago) can be re-heard and re-seen. Media, in other words, material means for the production and distribution of meanings across space and time.

In this definition, media are as old as human writing and drawing. However, the forms of media have changed fundamentally across the long arc of human history. The depth of these changes is such that, from era to era, we are barely the same persons. It is media that have allowed us to change so much—whether that be at different times and in different places for better or worse.

One such transformation, half a millennium ago, was the mechanical reproducibility of human communications—and with it a whole communicational infrastructure of typographic culture (books, libraries, newspapers, schools ...). The twentieth century saw a cascading series of transformations around photographic and audio reproduction and its derivatives (photolithographic printing, radio, sound recording, cinema, television). In the twenty-first century, we find ourselves in the midst of a new series of transformations, centered around the digitization of text, image, sound and data and the global interconnection of these digitized meanings per medium of the internet.

What makes us different, how do our lives change, as a consequence of these new objects and processes of human "between-ness"? This is the key question addressed by the Communication and Media Studies Research Network—at its conference, in its journal, in its book series and in its online interactions. Much of the dialogue in this network is focused within disciplines: sociology, business, education and the disciplines of "media studies" and "communications" themselves. However, in the nature of phenomena so pervasive as media, many of the conversations are interdisciplinary. We also welcome a range of forms of intellectual focus, from empirical expositions to theoretical and conceptual analyses.

Media Cultures

On the cultures of media and the media of culture.

Living Tensions:

- Mass versus niche media
- 'Audience' and practices of participation in media
- Cultural representation and power in media
- Popular culture in the media
- Feminist analyses of media
- (In)equities in access, and digital divide
- Politics of media and media in politics
- Censorship, affront and censoriousness in media
- Bodily presence and embodiment in media
- Multicultural media
- Media identities, from stars to selfies

Media Theory

On the theories of media and communication.

Living Tensions:

- Communications theory
- Telepresence and time-space compressions
- Psychology of media and communications
- The idea of the virtual
- Cybernetics
- Mediation and remediation
- Media discourses: vicarious and participatory
- Ideologies in media, manipulation and propaganda
- Information theory
- Media analytics

Media Technologies and Processes

On the technologies of media and communication.

Living Tensions:

- Mass media and broadcast media: television, radio, newspapers, magazines
- Cinema and documentary
- Typographic media, from print to postscript
- Photography, from film to digital
- Hypermedia and multimedia
- Internet and online media
- Social media
- Informatics: code and data in media



Media Business

On the business of communication media.

Living Tensions:

- Political economy of media
- Media management
- Advertising and marketing
- News media and journalism: changing dimensions of a profession
- Public relations as text and profession
- The changing publishing industry
- Intellectual property, between copyright and commons
- Reputational economies
- Globalization of media

Media Literacies

On the dynamics of globalization and the transformation of the local.

Living Tensions:

- Media education
- Media training and workforce development
- From learning management systems to MOOCs: e-learning environments as educational media
- Self-instructing media and informal learning
- Over-the-shoulder learning

Eric Freedman

Truman State University, United States of America **(English)**



Dr. Eric Freedman is Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Truman State University. He is the author of *Artificial Intelligence and Playable Media* (Routledge, 2023), *The Persistence of Code in Game Engine Culture* (Routledge, 2020) and *Transient Images: Personal Media in Public Frameworks* (Temple University Press, 2011). He serves on the editorial boards of the *International Journal of Creative Media Research* and the *Journal of Communication and Media Studies* and has been an active member of the Advisory Board of the *Communication and Media Studies Research Network*. Dr. Freedman holds a Ph.D. from the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California.

Jesús Miguel Flores Vivar

Profesor Titular, Departamento de Periodismo y Nuevos Medios,
Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, España **(Spanish)**



Jesús Miguel Flores Vivar has more than two decades of experience as a professor, researcher, visitor and lecturer at various universities: UOC, Nebrija and Complutense of Madrid (Spain); Università di Roma, Università degli Studi Firenze, Università di Perugia and Università degli Studi di Siena (Italy); UNESP (Brazil); UPB (Colombia) and UNMSM (Peru), among others. In 2015, he was Invited Professor at the RCC Harvard University. He has led twenty research and innovation projects. He is the author, co-author and editor of more than twenty-five books and a hundred articles in indexed and specialized journals in communication, journalism, internet and technology. He has been Co-founder and Coordinator (2005-08) of the Internet Journalism Observatory and promoter of the ITC Network (Interdisciplinary Research Network on Technology and Communication, Cyberculture and New Audiovisual Genres). He is a member-expert of the Spanish Association for Communication Research (AE-IC).

The **Communication & Media Studies Research Network** is grateful for the foundational contributions, ongoing support, and continued service of our Advisory Board.

- **Nasya Bahfen**, La Trobe University, Australia
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When you join the Communication & Media Studies Research Network you become part of an international network of scholars, researchers, and practitioners. We are more than a professional organization. Members present at our annual conference, publish in our journal, and write for our book imprint. Your membership makes our independent organization possible while giving you access to a large body of knowledge and professional development opportunities.

Annual Conference Access & Discounts

- Discount to the annual conference (or any other Common Ground Research Network Conference)
- Complimentary Online Only Audience Pass for Annual Conference (on request)
- Access to Digital Media for Past Conferences

Publishing Opportunities: get your research published

- Members receive 150,000 CGScholar Credits that can be applied in the Rights Agreement Phase to publish one journal article or upgrade to an Open Access Option
- Dedicated Managing Editor to review book manuscript applications
- Ability to serve as a peer reviewer and to become recognized on the Editorial Board

Access to Content

- A one-year personal electronic subscription journal and book content published by the Research Network
- \$25 annual CGScholar Credit that can be used in the bookstore

Virtual Programming: stay connected throughout the year

- Access to all of the Imagining Futures speaker series, and Meet the Author series content
- Learning Series: we offer educational, insightful, and relevant content on industry trends via online training sessions on book and journal publishing; navigating early career challenges; mentorship programs, and much more
- Partner Series: featured events by our network partners or local hosts

Building Community: all electronic books, and discounts to print copies

- Ability to grow your network via our CGScholar Community social space.
- Quarterly Research Network email newsletter containing news and information about upcoming Events, new publications, and trending topics from the Research Network.

Memberships are included in all Conference Registrations.
Make the most of your Membership!



The Journal of Communication and Media Studies



The Journal of Communication and Media Studies

The Journal of Communication and Media Studies offers an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of the role of the media and communications in society. The journal explores everyday experiences of media cultures, the forms and effects of technologies of media and communications, and the dynamics of media business. It also addresses media literacies, including capacities to “read” and “use” the media, and the role of media as a key component in formal and informal learning. Contributions to the journal range from broad, theoretical conceptualizations of media to detailed empirical examinations and case studies of media practices.

The Journal of Communication and Media Studies is a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal using a two-way anonymous peer review model. Reviewers are active participants of the Communication and Media Studies Research Network or a thematically related Research Network. The publisher, editors, reviewers, and authors all agree upon the following standards of expected ethical behavior, which are based on the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Core Practices.

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Past Publication Frequency: Quarterly (2016-2021)

Current Publication Frequency: Biannually

Indexing

- Psychology (Cabell's)
- Social Science Journals (ProQuest)

Articles published in **The Journal of Communication and Media Studies** are two-way blind peer-reviewed by scholars who are active members of **Communication & Media Studies Research Network**. The publisher, editors, reviewers, and authors all agree upon the standards of expected ethical behavior as based on the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Core Practices. For further information on policies and practices please review our Publishing Ethics Guidelines.

Journal Editor

Eric Freedman

Truman State University, United States of America (**English**)

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Common Ground Research Networks believes firmly in the principles of open and accessible knowledge. For over 30 years we have been at the forefront of developing innovative models for scholarly communication which reflect new knowledge ecologies. Our mission has been to lower the cost of access while sustaining the independence and resilience of our Research Networks. We have a commitment to support the research produced by our members and the livelihoods of our staff and industry within which we work. We offer a variety of options to make your research accessible and make accessibility affordable.

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Price: \$725.00



Editing Services



Common Ground Research Networks in partnership with Editage presents Author Services with the aim of empowering research careers by improving manuscript quality according to global scientific communication standards.

Founded in 2002, Editage is a leading consumer technology business helping researchers improve the speed and impact of their research. Editage has served over 250,000 researchers and doctors across 173 countries and transformed over one million research papers across 1,200 disciplines. Editage is a division of Cactus Communications, a global science communication organization that collaborates with STEM, life sciences, social sciences, and humanities researchers, universities, publishers, and organizations to accelerate research impact.

We take research integrity seriously, following standards and best practices established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). We're also active members of key industry associations: Association of American Publishers, Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, The Society for Scholarly Publishing, and Crossref.

To review our policy on take link below :

- Editorial Processes
- Peer Review
- Authorship, Co-Authorship, and Author Responsibilities
- Research with Humans or Animals
- Statement on Informed Consent
- Libel, Defamation, and Freedom of Expression
- Retractions and Corrections
- Fraudulent Research and Research Misconduct
- Transparency
- Ethical Business Practices (Ownership, Management, Governing Bodies, Access, Copyright and Licensing, Author Fees, Usage Metrics and Reporting, Data Privacy, Direct Marketing, Communication & Advertising, Editorial Team Contact Information)



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Common Ground Research Networks (Not-for-Profit) is proud to be a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Publishers Compact. Launched in collaboration with the International Publishers Association, the compact "features 10 action points that publishers, publishing associations, and others can commit to undertaking in order to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Signatories aspire to develop sustainable practices and act as champions of the SDGs, publishing books and journals that will help inform, develop and inspire action in that direction."

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Eleventh International Conference on Communication & Media Studies



Founded in 2015, the **International Conference on Communication & Media Studies** offers an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of the role of the media and communications in society. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries.

Past Events

- 2016 - University Center Chicago, Chicago, USA
- 2017 - University of British Columbia – Robson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2018 - University of California, Berkeley, USA
- 2019 - University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
- 2020 - University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada (Virtual)
- 2021 - University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada (Virtual)
- 2022 - NUI Galway, Galway, Ireland
- 2023 - Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain
- 2024 - Interamerican Open University, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2025 - Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, France

The Communications and Media Network is thankful for the contributions and support of the following organizations.



Art & Design



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

MANCHESTER
SCHOOL OF ART



Lisa Winstanley

Associate Professor and Associate Chair (Research), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



Lisa Winstanley, Associate Professor and Associate Chair (Research) at Nanyang Technological University's School of Art, Design & Media, has over 20 years of experience in commercial design and a decade as an educator and researcher. Her creative work is internationally recognised with 80+ design awards and exhibitions across 30 countries in renowned venues like Dongdaemun Design Plaza in South Korea and Moscow's State Tretyakov Gallery.

Lisa is the founder of the Design Ethics and Visual Integrity Research Lab, where her scholarly research explores ethical design practices and visual literacy, funded by an MOE Tier 2 grant. She addresses visual plagiarism in art and design and explores interdisciplinary social responsibility. Through her work, Lisa champions visual integrity and social impact in design education and practice.

Yu Jin Seng

Director (Curatorial, Research & Exhibitions) and Senior Curator, National Gallery of Singapore, Singapore



"Reworlding Images: Towards Planetary Futurisms in the Age of A.I."

Yu Jin SENG currently works at the National Gallery Singapore as Director (Curatorial, Research & Exhibitions) and Senior Curator. Before that, he was a Lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts in the MA Asian Art Histories and BA Fine Arts programs, and now lectures at the National University of Singapore's Minor in Art History programme. He obtained his PhD from the University of Melbourne in 2019. Seng's research interests cover regional art histories focusing on Southeast Asian art in relation to studies on diaspora, migration, and cultural transfers. He is currently researching artistic activities and their histories, focusing on the history of exhibitions and artist collectives in Asia.

1 October - 09:30 AM (GMT+08:00) Singapore

Chen-Hsi Wong

Filmmaker and Associate Professor, School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



"Disappearing Landscapes: The Cinematic Image and Vanishing Worlds"

Chen-Hsi Wong is a filmmaker and Associate Professor at the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her first feature film *Innocents* premiered in competition at the Rome International Film Festival and won Best Director - Asian New Talents, at the Shanghai International Film Festival. Her next feature film, *City of Small Blessings*, developed at Torino Film Lab, Cannes l'Atelier, and the Venice Production Bridge, and premiered at the Singapore International Film Festival in 2024. Her short films include *Dev Null*, *Conversations on Sago Lane*, and *Who Loves the Sun*. In addition to major film festivals, her films have also screened at the Director's Guild of America (New York and Los Angeles), Anthology Film Archives, and La Cinémathèque Française, and are held by the Asian Film Archive and Objectifs Centre for Film and Photography in Singapore.

Her practice-led research examines how narrative cinema engages contested national histories, territory, memory and identity. Working between narrative documentary and fiction practice, she approaches filmmaking as a means of expressing direct individual encounters with national agendas and spatial transformations. She is Provost's Chair in Filmmaking at ADM, where she previously served as Acting School Chair (2022–2024). She sits on the advisory committee for the Singapore Film Commission and several national review panels in the arts. She holds an MFA in Film Production from the University of Southern California.

1 October - 05:00 PM (GMT+08:00) Singapore

Jackson Tan

Co-founder and Creative Director, BLACK Design, Singapore



"Image as Identity"

Jackson Tan is a Singaporean designer, artist and curator. He is the creative director of BLACK, a multi-disciplinary creative studio. Founding partner of PHUNK, a contemporary art and design collective. And the creator of ART-ZOO. He has worked with international brands and organisations including Apple, DesignSingapore, National Gallery Singapore, Herman Miller, Shiseido and SunnyHills. He was awarded 'Designer of the Year' in 2007 by the President's Design Award, the highest accolade for designers in Singapore.

2 October - 09:00 AM (GMT+08:00) Singapore

Marta Molina Díez

Professor and Researcher in Journalism, Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Madrid, Spain (Online, in Spanish)



“La crisis de la imagen como evidencia: IA, visualidad y desinformación en el ecosistema mediático”

Marta Molina Díez is a professor and researcher in Journalism at the Francisco de Vitoria University (Madrid, Spain). She holds a PhD in Journalism from the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain), and her academic career focuses on innovation in communication and the study of transformations in the contemporary media ecosystem.

Her research line specializes in immersive journalism, three-dimensional narratives, artificial intelligence applied to journalism, information verification and combating disinformation, as well as the analysis of university education in communication and digital skills.

She has participated in international conferences and European academic cooperation projects related to teaching innovation, media literacy, and the impact of emerging technologies on journalistic practice and the relationship between media and audiences. Her recent research explores the integration of immersive technologies and artificial intelligence tools in journalism teaching and in the evolution of new narrative formats.

Each year a small number of **Emerging Scholar Awards** are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2026 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

Dewi Tan Jin Ying

Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore



Ong Kian Peng

Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore



Pratiksha Ashok

Tilburg University,
Netherlands



Princess

Catherine Pabellano

University of the Philippines Los
Banos, Philippines



Abhisree Bhattacharya

Universiteit van Amsterdam,
Netherlands



Yeowon Jie

Korea University,
South Korea



Aljohn Torreta

University of the Philippines
Visayas, Philippines



Laís Cavalcante

Universidade Federal
Fluminense, Brazil



Onwugamba

Kajetan Ifeanyi

Cross River University of
Technology, Calabar, Nigeria



Kabita Mandal Dhanuk

Association of Chairs, United
Kingdom



Ali Raj

Columbia University,
United States



Tracy Mae Ildefonso

Dublin City University,
Ireland



Essien Oku Essien

Drexel University,
United States



AJ Cordeiro

Toronto Metropolitan
University, Canada



Online Welcome and Training Session

Join other delegates for a pre-conference welcome reception and training session.

We are excited to announce the online conference will be delivered on the CGScholar platform – developed by the Common Ground Media Lab, the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks.

This special event will walk you through the CGScholar Event Mircosite so you have a rich online experience by learning how to comment and participate online. It will also teach delegates how to update their profile and Presenter Pages in order to add digital media: video, sound, other files.

1 OCTOBER 2026 - 23:00 HOURS (SINGAPORE TIME ZONE) / 10:00AM (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME USA)

Online Talking Circle

Talking Circles are a distinctive feature of our in-person conference, and this year we are also taking them online. Talking Circles offer an opportunity to meet other delegates face-to-face, and engage in extended discussion about the issues and concerns they feel are of utmost importance to that segment of the Research Network. Participation is open, encouraged, and supported.

2 OCTOBER 2026 - 23:00 HOURS (SINGAPORE TIME ZONE) / 10:00AM (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME USA)

In-Person Pre-conference Walking and Boat Tour: Singapore River Cruise, Night Garden Rhapsody, Spectra Light Tour

Singapore River Cruise, Night Garden Rhapsody, Spectra Light Tour

From the guide: "Discover Singapore's iconic night attractions on a smooth, well-paced group tour designed for comfort and ease with seamless transfers, and the company of a fun local guide for a truly hassle-free evening.

Meet at Starbucks One Fullerton and we will start with Merlion Park to capture stunning Marina Bay skyline views during golden hour. Continue to Clarke Quay, where riverside walkways and colorful heritage shophouses come alive during sunset. Then, relax on a 30min river boat cruising and gliding past illuminated bridges and the city's striking mix of old and new. Next, visit Gardens by the Bay to experience the Garden Rhapsody light show at Supertree Grove, followed by the Spectra Water and Light Show at Marina Bay Sands. End your evening with an optional drop-off at Lau Pa Sat to enjoy local late-night eats or straight back to your hotel. Perfect if you are seeking a relaxed, seamless way to experience Singapore at night."

Date: September 30, 2026

Time: 5pm (Leaving at 5:30 and ending at 9:30)

Meeting point: Starbucks One Fullerton

1 Fullerton Rd, #01-04 One Fullerton, Singapore 049213

In-Person Conference Dinner: MyX Restaurant

Join other delegates and plenary speakers for the Conference Dinner.

"Wickedly delicious plates made for sharing. A fun take on soulful comfort fare influenced by the sumptuous South. Punchy, joyful and unapologetically playful. Dig in, share plates, eat with your hands — Enjoy!"

Menu

The menu will include shared starters, a main (Meat / Fish or vegetarian, please choose when booking), and dessert. A glass of wine, soft drinks, mineral water are included.

Date: Thursday 1st of October 2026

Time: 7 pm TBC

Location: MyX Restaurant, 44 Jalan Merah Saga, #01-46, Singapore 278116

Cost: US\$90

In-Person Conference Closing Reception

The Seventeenth International Conference on The Image will be hosting a Closing reception at the University.

Date: Friday 2nd of October

Time: After the last session of the day

Location: At the University



Common Ground Research Networks



Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations--of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge--these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect--differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

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www.cgnetworks.org



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The Common Ground Media Lab is the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks. Common Ground Research Networks has been researching knowledge ecologies and building scholarly communication technologies since 1984.

Since 2009, we have had the fortune of being based in the University of Illinois Research Park while building our latest platform – CGScholar. This is a suite of apps based on the theoretical work of world-renowned scholars from the College of Education and Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. CGScholar has been built with the support of funding from the US Department of Education, Illinois Ventures, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The CGScholar platform is being used today by knowledge workers as diverse as: faculty in universities to deliver e-learning experiences; innovative schools wishing to challenge the ways learning and assessment have traditionally worked; and government and non-government organizations connecting local knowledge and experience to wider policy objectives and measurable outcomes. Each of these use cases illustrates the differing of knowledge that CGScholar serves while also opening spaces for new and emerging voices in the world of scholarly communication.

We aim to synthesize these use cases to build a platform that can become a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, one that rigorously democratizes the process of knowledge-making, rewards participants, and offers a secure basis for the sustainable creation and distribution of digital knowledge artifacts.

Our premise has been that media platforms—pre-digital and now also digital—have often not been designed to structure and facilitate a rigorous, democratic, and a sustainable knowledge economy. The Common Ground Media Lab seeks to leverage our own platform – CGScholar – to explore alternatives based on extended dialogue, reflexive feedback, and formal knowledge ontologies. We are developing AI-informed measures of knowledge artifacts, knowledge actors, and digital knowledge communities. We aim to build a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, that rewards participants and sustains knowledge production.

With 27,000 published works and 200,000 users, we have come a long way since our first web app twenty years ago. But we still only see this as the beginning.

As a not-for-profit, we are fundamentally guided by mission: to support the building of better societies and informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online scholarly communication spaces

Supporters & Partners

As they say, “it takes a village.” We are thankful for the generous support of:



And to our Research Network members!

www.cgnetworks.org/medialab



United Nations
Climate Change

**CLIMATE
NEUTRAL NOW**

Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we engage in systemic change that averts climate catastrophe. At Common Ground Research Networks, we are committed to playing our part as an agent of transformation, promoting awareness, and making every attempt to lead by example. Our Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network has been a forum for sharing critical findings and engaging scientific, theoretical, and practical issues that are raised by the realities of climate change. We've been a part of global policy debates as official observers at COP26 in Glasgow. And we are signatories of the United Nations Sustainability Publishers Compact and the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Measuring

In 2022 we start the process of tracking and measuring emissions for all aspects of what we do. The aim is to build a comprehensive picture of our baselines to identify areas where emissions can be reduced and construct a long-term plan of action based on the GHG Emissions Calculation Tool and standard established by the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Reducing

At the same time, we are not waiting to act. Here are some of the "low hanging fruit" initiatives we are moving on immediately: all conference programs from print to electronic-only; removing single-use cups and offering reusable bottles at all our conferences; working closely with all vendors, suppliers, and distributors on how we can work together to reduce waste; offering robust online options as a pathway to minimize travel. And this is only a small sample of what we'll be doing in the short term.

Contributing

As we work towards establishing and setting net-zero targets by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement and United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, and to make further inroads in mitigating our impacts today, we are participating in the United Nations Carbon Offset program. As we see climate change as having broad social, economic, and political consequences, we are investing in the following projects.

- Fiji Nadarivatu Hydropower Project
- DelAgua Public Health Program in Eastern Africa
- Jangi Wind Farm in Gujarat

Long Term Goals

We're committing to long-term science-based net-zero targets for our operations – and we believe we can do this much sooner than 2050. We'll be reporting annually via The Climate Neutral Now reporting mechanism to transparently communicate how we are meeting our commitments to climate action.

www.cgnetworks.org/about/climate-pledge