

SEVENTEENTH
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON THE IMAGE

THE IMAGE AS ADVOCATE:
SHAPING CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
SINGAPORE

1-2 OCTOBER
2026



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

Seventeenth International Conference on The Image

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

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Welcome Letters



New Thinking

New Practices

New Societies

International Independent Interdisciplinary Scholar-led Non-Profit Since
Research Networks Conferences Journals Books Media Lab 1984



Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of Common Ground Research Networks, I welcome you to the Seventeenth International Conference on The Image.

Founded in 2010, The Image Research Network is brought together around a shared interest in the nature and function of image making and images. 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

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and to the Seventeenth International Conference on The Image, held at the School of Art, Design and Media (ADM). My colleagues from the Image Research Network and I are delighted to have you join us for this year's gathering, The Image as Advocate: Shaping Cultural Conversations.

This year's special focus explores how visual media function as agents of cultural dialogue, activism, and change, particularly within complex and pluralistic societies. Images do more than reflect the world; they intervene in it. Whether documenting injustice, amplifying marginalized voices, reframing dominant narratives, or inspiring solidarity, images possess the power to advocate. As technologies evolve and the circulation of images intensifies, so does the need to assess how they shape public consciousness and cultural meaning.

In convening this conference, we invite you to reflect on the possibilities and limits of the image as advocate, and to consider how visual practices operate across linguistic, societal, and cultural thresholds. We hope these two days of dialogue will foster meaningful interdisciplinary exchange and deepen our collective understanding of how images both represent and reshape the cultures from which they emerge.

I want to express my warm appreciation to Associate Professor Lisa Winstanley, Conference Chair and Associate Chair (Research) at the School of Art, Design and Media, NTU, and to the ADM organizing committee for their hospitality and commitment in hosting this event. My gratitude also extends to our plenary speakers and all delegates for sharing their scholarship, creativity, and insight.

On behalf of the Image Research Network, I wish you an engaging and inspiring conference, rich with opportunities for collaboration and reflection.

With best wishes,
School of Art, Design and Media

Dear colleagues and friends,

I warmly welcome you to the 17th International Conference on the Image.

We are confronting a time of many changes and challenges as we face these issues globally. Nevertheless, it can be an invigorating time for the image field, since we believe that the Conference "On the Image" can be a space to reflect, interact, and contribute to the growth of new ideas and perspectives on our reality and context. The image field is a stimulating area in which to work, and we'll certainly continue to meet and bring inspired people together in our conference, to ensure that we remain at the cutting edge.

At this year's conference, we can expect fruitful reflections and discussions on a theme that is, to me, both timely and pressing: The Image as Advocate: Shaping Cultural Conversations. Images have never been neutral; they argue, persuade, bear witness, and construct meaning. In our current moment, marked by the acceleration of artificial intelligence, the proliferation of digital media, and the growing fragility of visual evidence, understanding the image as a form of advocacy becomes a critical inquiry. We will examine this across the five themes that structure our community's work: The Form of the Image, Image Work, The Image in Society, Creative and Cultural Technologies, and Ordinary Practice and Collective Behaviors.

In our current technological reality, these are particularly relevant reflections, not only in our daily lives, but also in the society we inhabit. The question of how images shape cultural conversations, who controls them, who interprets them, and whose stories they tell, is one that cuts across disciplines, geographies, and practices.

Founded in 2010, The Image Research Network brings us together around a shared interest in the nature and function of image-making and images, seeking to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries.

I would like to welcome each one of you to the conference, which takes place at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, on 1-2 October 2026. The theme The Image as Advocate: Shaping Cultural Conversations is, for me as a designer, an area of deep fascination and critical inquiry -- one that invites us to consider not only what images show, but what they do.

I am grateful to all contributors for sharing their work. Thank you for being part of this big family that is the Common Ground Research Network.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Cátia Rijo

Professor in Communication Design

Department of Art and Design

Vice President of Higher School of Education of Lisbon, Lisbon Polytechnic



The Image Research Network

Founded in 2010, **The Image Research Network** is brought together around a shared interest in the nature and function of image making and images. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries.

The Defining Image

We are, uniquely in natural history, the symbolic species. And within our peculiar species history, the development of capacities to create images parallel speaking and precede writing.

Since the beginnings of modernity, however, we have increasingly focused our attention on language as our species-defining characteristic. After half a millennium where the power and prestige of language has held sway, we may be in the cusp of a return of the visual, or at least a multimodality in which image and text are deeply inveigled in each other's meanings. This can in part be attributed to the affordances of the new communications environment. As early as the mid twentieth century, photolithography put image and text conveniently back onto the same page. Then, since the mid 1970s, digitized communications have brought image, text and sound together into the same manufacturing processes and transmission media.

The Image of Transformation: Properties of Consequence

The first is its empirical connection with the world—telling something of the world, reflecting the world. It represents the world. How does it do this? What are its techniques? What are its mediations? What kinds of 'truth' can we have in images?

A second property of consequence — the image has a normative loading. No image can ever solely be a reflection on the world. It is also a perspective on the world, an orientation to the world. This is because it is the incidental outcome of an act of design. It is the product of an act of human agency. An interested image-maker takes available resources for meaning (visual grammars, fabrication techniques and focal points of attention), undertakes an act of designing (the process of image-making), and in so doing re-images the world in a way that it has never quite been seen before. The human agent is central.

To the extent that no two conjunctions of human life experience are ever precisely the same, interests and perspectives in imaging are infinitely varied. In fact, across the dimensions of material conditions (social class, locale, family); corporeal attributes (age, race, sex, sexual orientation, and physical and mental abilities); and symbolic differences (culture, language, gender, affinity and persona) variations in perspective are frequently paramount, the focal purpose or implicit agenda of the imaging agent. For viewers, too, every image is seen through available cultural and technical resources for viewing, seen in a way particular to their interest and perspective. The act of viewing transforms both the image and its world. From a normative perspective then, how do interest, intention, motivation, perspective, subjectivity and identity intertwine themselves in the business of image-making? And what is the role of the viewer in reframing and revisualizing the image?

And a third property of consequence — the image is transformational. Its potentials are utopian. We see (the empirical). We visualize (the normative). We imagine (the utopian). There is a more-than-fortuitous etymological connection between 'image' and 'imagination'. Images can be willed. Images speak not just of the world, but to the world. They can speak to hopes and aspirations. The world reseen is the world transformed. What's in the imagination for now, can become an agenda for practice and politics tomorrow. Imagination is the representation of possibility.

Theme 1: The Form of the Image

Examining the nature and form of the image as a medium of representation

Living Tensions:

- The mass media
- The grammar of the visual
- The image as text
- The image as art
- Image techniques
- The cognitive science of perception
- Visualization
- Technologies and techniques of representation
- Multimodality: image in relation to language, space, gesture and object
- Moving images: cinema, television, video, animation
- Visual arts practices
- Photography
- The moving image
- Aspects of vision: viewpoint, perspective, interest
- Digital capture and manipulation of images
- Archiving the image
- Discovering the image: databases, social media, tagging, folksonomy, taxonomy

Theme 2: Image Work

Investigating image making processes and spaces of image representation

Living Tensions:

- The 'new': digital and social media
- Cinema, traditional and new
- Television, traditional and new
- Image on the internet
- Corporations in the image business
- Selling the image
- The amateur artist or photographer
- Branding, logos and advertising
- Artist or image-maker as professional
- Commercial galleries and art dealers
- Image libraries

Theme 3: The Image in Society

Exploring the social effects of the image

Living Tensions:

- Arts and image communities
- Image galleries and museums
- The image in media and communications
- The image in architecture
- The image in advertising
- The image as commercial artifact
- The image as information
- The image as propaganda
- Images in security and surveillance
- The role of the viewer
- Learning to represent in images
- Images in the service of learning
- Reading and interpreting images
- The past, present and future of the image

Cátia Rijo

Founder, DesignLab4U; Assistant Professor, Education School of Lisbon, Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal **(English)**



Cátia Rijo has a Ph.D. in Design from the Faculty of Architecture of Lisbon, a Master's in Graphic Design, and a Degree in Visual Design, both from IADE. In 2016 she founded DESIGNLAB4U, a professional laboratory that immerses students in pedagogical work, offering the opportunity to collaborate with real projects within community settings to develop culturally and socially enrichment activities. She is currently an Assistant Professor at The Polytechnical Institute of Lisbon, where she coordinates and teaches curricular units related to Design. In addition, she is a member of the coordination team of the Visual Arts and Technologies degrees at the Interdisciplinary Center for Educational Studies of Education and a research member at CIAUD.

Ana Maria Sedeño Valdellós

University of Málaga, Spain **(Spanish)**



Doctor in Audiovisual Communication and Associate Professor in the Department of Audiovisual Communication and Advertising at the University of Málaga (Spain). Her lines of research are related to music in connection with audiovisual media, the music video, and avant-garde audiovisual practices in the contemporary landscape, with a particular emphasis on artistic phenomena such as videomapping, videodance, and scenic visuals. In relation to these topics, she has published several books and research articles. She also works as a visual creator for video art and stage works.

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

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- **Lisa Winstanley**, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

When you join **The Image Research Network** you become part of an international network of scholars, researchers, and practitioners. We are more than a professional organization. Members can 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.

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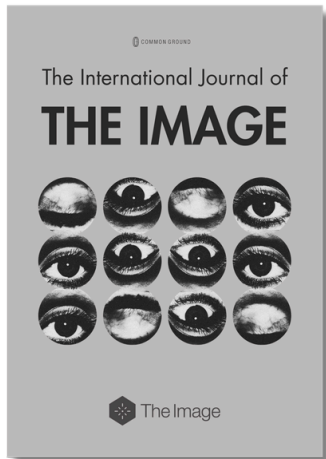
Building Community: all electronic books, and discounts to print copies

- 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 International Journal of the Image



The International Journal of the Image

The International Journal of the Image interrogates the nature of the image and functions of image-making. This cross-disciplinary journal brings together researchers, theoreticians, practitioners, and teachers from areas of interest including: architecture, art, cognitive science, communications, computer science, cultural studies, design, education, film studies, history, linguistics, management, marketing, media studies, museum studies, philosophy, photography, psychology, religious studies, semiotics, and more.

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Current Publication Frequency: Biannually

Indexing

- Art Abstracts (EBSCO)
- Art Full Text (EBSCO)
- Art Index (EBSCO)
- Art Source (EBSCO)
- Arts & Humanities Full Text (ProQuest)
- Psychology (Cabell's)
- The Australian Research Council (ARC)

Articles published in the **International Journal of the Image** are two-way blind peer-reviewed by scholars who are active members of the 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

Cátia Rijo

Founder, DesignLab4U; Assistant Professor, Education School of Lisbon, Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

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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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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:

- 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)

<https://ontheimage.com/journal/publishingethicsguidelines>



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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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for Scholarly
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The Seventeenth International Conference on The Image



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Past Events

- 2010 - University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- 2011 - Kursaal Conference Palace, San Sebastian, Spain
- 2012 - Higher School of Humanities and Journalism, Poznań, Poland
- 2013 - University Center, Chicago, USA
- 2014 – Free University, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 - University of California, Berkeley, USA
- 2016 - Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, UK
- 2017 - Venice International University, San Servolo, Venice, Italy
- 2018 - Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong SAR
- 2019- Manchester School of Art, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK
- 2020 - University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia (Virtual)
- 2021 - Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2022 - The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, USA
- 2023 - University of San Jorge, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2024 - Interamerican Open University, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2025 - Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, France

The Image Research Network is thankful for the contributions and support of the following organizations.



Universidad Abierta Interamericana



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.

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.

Chen Xinyue

Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore



Ke Zhixuan

Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore



Liu QiaoFang

Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore



Peixuan Lyu

Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore



Lili Zhang

Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore



Zhenia Mahdi

Brighton,
United Kingdom



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Philippine Women's
University, Philippines



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University, Singapore



Zhang Jiamin

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Plata, Argentina

**Tammie Leong**

Auckland University of
Technology, New Zealand

**Shuyuan Tian**

University of Cologne,
Germany

**Alisa Zhiliaeva**

Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne,
France

**Gigi Polo**

Parsons, The New School,
United States



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.

MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS



Common Ground Research Networks is not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Illinois, USA, organized and operated pursuant to the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, 805 ILCS 105/101.01, et seq., (the "Act") or the corresponding section of any future Act.

www.cgnetworks.org



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