



I ILLINOIS

Institute of Communications Research

COLLEGE OF MEDIA

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PROF. KEVIN WISE | DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES FOR ICR

INCOMING ICR STUDENTS



Mengqing (Maggie) Zhang

Mengqing (Maggie) Zhang holds a B.A. in Journalism degree from Tsinghua University and an M.Phil in Communication degree from the Chinese University of

Hong Kong. Her research interests are computational political communication, with particular focuses on networked communication process and media effect.



Youngin Kang

Youngin Kang attained her master's degree in Gender, Media and Culture at Goldsmiths, University of London in 2018. As a new ICR student, she wants to examine the inextricable relations between individual subjectivities in producing, distributing, and appropriating 'culture(s)' within various socio-

political processes, which construct a discursive mega-text, with which we cognitively, materially, and affectively engage in our everyday lives. Her research interests focus primarily on the unique characteristics of contemporary South Korean popular culture, which are hybrid, albeit, distinctively Korean.



Rik Ray

Rik's major areas of interest lie in examining the architecture of social media platforms and internet policy deliberation. His interdisciplinary approach uses a combination of quantitative and computational methods, drawing on insights from media studies, computer science, and science and technology studies. His current projects look at the role of social

media platform choice on news engagement and public opinion, and the commenting behavior of YouTube users.



Shiyue (Jennifer) Zhang

Jennifer's research focuses on brand, health, and science communication. Her master thesis explored how outdoor recreational brands develop their social media branding communities on Instagram utilizing content analysis methods. She has ongoing projects in using social media for strategic communication in the

context of health and scientific topics.

**Yan (Anna) Liu**

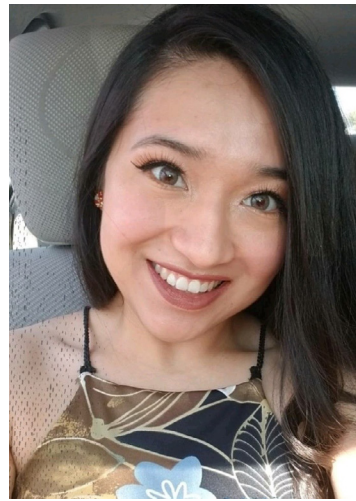
Yan (Anna) Liu's research interest lies in exploring consumer's cognitive, attitudinal and behavioral responses to brand messages on social media from the socio-psychological perspective. Specifically, she is interested in the influence of relational factors in the process, such as online network, consumer's relationship with message source, etc. Before joining ICR, she has been working as a professional marketing researcher in Ipsos for about 4 years.

**Sakshi Bhalla**

Sakshi Bhalla graduated with honours in Journalism from Lady Shri Ram College (University of Delhi), and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Linguistics from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her research interests include construction of news narratives, propaganda and misinformation, and political communication.

**Tingyu Chen**

Tingyu Chen received her bachelor's degree in journalism and her master's degree in communication at Renmin University of China. With critical-cultural approaches to media study, she situates her research interests at the intersection of media industry practices, cultural studies and media criticism. Her recent research focuses on realist media (mainly realist film and documentary) and the culture of production and consumption in contemporary China. She is also an amateur of pictorial arts outside the academic field.

**Ariana Cano**

Ariana Cano is an adjunct faculty for the Communication departments at California State University of San Bernardino (CSUSB), San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC), Chaffey College, and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She graduated from CSUSB with an MA in Communication Studies (2018) and was awarded as the Outstanding Graduate Student and Outstanding Graduate Teaching Associate in her department. Ariana's research presentations analyze how Indigenous, Chicana and/or Latina (particularly womxn) self-presentations on social media sites challenge mainstream media stereotypical tropes.

**Stephanie Perez**

Stephanie Perez studies the representation of ethnic and racialized women and families in television, the limits of network television, and the capabilities of online and alternative television platforms. She is interested in women's friendships, alternative families, and deconstructions of nuclear families in television series, and how these intersect with race and ethnicity in the current political moment. Originally from Los Angeles, she grew up on sitcoms and cartoons, and enjoys road trips, ice cream, and the occasional crime drama.