

# International Conference on Misinformation and Fake News

**6 February 2021**

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

\*This conference will take place via Zoom



## THEMES

**Susceptibility to  
Misinformation  
and  
Fake News**

**Politics of  
Misinformation**

**How Fake is  
Fake?**

**Misinformation  
in  
China, Taiwan,  
and Hong Kong**

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## INTRODUCTION OF ORGANISERS

### **The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong**

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) is a non-profit private liberal-arts-oriented university with five Schools (Business, Communication, Decision Sciences, Humanities and Social Science, and Translation and Foreign Languages) and around 5,800 full-time students. Adopting the unique “Liberal + Professional” education model, HSUHK is a residential institution which puts quality teaching and students’ all-round development as its highest priorities.

Aspiring to be a leading private university in the region, HSUHK features a primary focus on undergraduate education, top-quality faculty members, award-winning green campus facilities, innovative degree programmes, unique residential college system combining living and learning, interactive small class teaching, very close student-teacher relationship, RGC-funded impactful research, and excellent student development/support services. The University aims to nurture young talents with critical thinking, innovative minds, human caring, moral values and social responsibilities.

### **Centre for Greater China Studies, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong**

Centre for Greater China Studies (CGCS) aims to enhance interdisciplinary research that highlights the rise of China and its impact on the rest of the world. The CGCS has two major objectives. First, it serves as a research platform to formulate and promote Greater China studies at HSUHK. Its second objective is to facilitate academic exchange and cooperation between local and international scholars.

The CGCS will focus on four key areas:

- To facilitate research on the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area Development.
- To encourage research on interactions between China and the rest of the world and accompanying problems that may occur.
- To promote digital research methods and apply related knowledge to the field of Greater China studies.
- To set up a “Greater China Network” website which would be used to engage in various types of academic activities and online publication.

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### **School of Communication, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong**

The School of Communication offers two bachelor’s degree programmes and one master’s degree programme, namely the Bachelor of Journalism and Communication (Honours), the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Convergent Media and Communication Technology and the Master of Arts in Strategic Communication to meet the growing demand for professionals in Business Journalism and Corporate Communication. The curricula of these programmes are carefully designed such that not only students are provided with classroom-based education and training in specialised communication areas but they also benefit from a lot of experiential learning through opportunities such as internships, industrial projects and sharing by experienced and visionary practising professionals. It is expected at the time when students graduate from the programmes, they will already get ready to accept challenges in the real world of work.

Coupled with a team of professional and scholarly faculty members, the School of Communication has invested heavily in state-of-the-art facilities to give students plenty of hands-on experience. These facilities include the SCOM TV Studio, the TV Lab, the Radio Broadcasting Studio, the Radio Broadcast Training Centre, the Multimedia Training Centre, the Non-linear Editing Room and the Media and Communication Lab. Our aim is to provide students with knowledge and skills and as well the abilities to be creative, to think critically, to pursue life-long learning and to develop an international outlook so that they will become competent and responsible professionals and leaders in the communication industry in future.

## PROGRAMME RUNDOWN

Date: 6 February 2021 (Saturday)

Time: 8:45 - 16:30

8:45 - 9:00	<p><b><u>Welcome Speech</u></b> Professor Paul LEE Chairman of Conference Organizing Committee, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p> <p><b><u>Opening Remarks</u></b> Professor Simon HO President, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p>
<p><b>Panel 1: Susceptibility to Misinformation and Fake News</b> <i>Panel Chair: Dr. Shiru WANG (The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong)</i></p>	
9:00 - 9:20	<p><b><u>Conflict among Experts, and Scientific Studies, as a Barrier to Remediating Misinformation</u></b> Professor Derek J. KOEHLER Department of Psychology, University of Waterloo</p>
9:20 - 9:40	<p><b><u>Censored Contagion: How Information on the Coronavirus is Managed on Chinese Social Media</u></b> Mr. Masashi CRETE-NISHIHATA, Ms. Lotus RUAN Citizen Lab, University of Toronto</p>
9:40 - 10:00	<p><b><u>Collective Emotional Susceptibility of Fake News in Social Movement</u></b> Dr. Muk Yan WONG Department of Social Science, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p>
10:00 - 10:15	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
10:15 - 10:35	<b>~Break~</b>

### Panel 2: Politics of Misinformation

*Panel Chair: Dr. Celine SONG (Hong Kong Baptist University)*

10:35 - 10:55	<p><b><u>Triumphalism and Inconvenient Truth: National Self-Image in a Rising Power</u></b> Dr. Haifeng HUANG Department of Political Science, The University of California, Merced</p>
10:55 - 11:15	<p><b><u>When Viruses and Misinformation Spread: the Singapore Context</u></b> Dr. Edson C TANDOC Jr. Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University</p>
11:15 - 11:35	<p><b><u>Regime Type, Internet Exposure and Perception of Government Misinformation in Asian Countries</u></b> Dr. Shiru WANG Department of Social Science, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong</p>
11:35 - 11:50	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
11:50 - 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>

### Panel 3: How Fake is Fake?

Panel Chair: Dr. Edson C TANDOC Jr. (Nanyang Technological University)

14:00 - 14:20	<b><u>The Semantics of Fake News</u></b> <b><u>How NLP and AI may Help us Identify Misinformation</u></b> Dr. Charles LAM Department of English, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
14:20 - 14:40	<b><u>Is Fake News just Propaganda?</u></b> Dr. M R.X. DENTITH Beijing Normal University (Zhuhai Campus)
14:40 - 15:00	<b><u>What Messages are Likely to be Shared? A Study on the Dissemination of Unverified Information in Social Media</u></b> Professor Paul LEE, Dr. Keith CHEUNG, Dr. Clio WU School of Communication, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
15:00 - 15:15	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
15:15 - 15:35	<b>~Break~</b>

### Panel 4: Misinformation in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

Panel Chair: Dr. M R.X. DENTITH (Beijing Normal University)

15:35 - 15:55	<b><u>Regulating Misinformation: Lessons from the “China Model”</u></b> Dr. Celine SONG Department of Journalism, Hong Kong Baptist University
15:55 - 16:15	<b><u>The Limits of Law: The Legislation Against Misinformation in Greater China</u></b> Dr. Sammy HU School of Communication, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
16:15 - 16:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
16:30	<b><u>Closing</u></b> Professor Lang KAO Director, Centre for Greater China Studies, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

Note: All the time shown on the schedule are Hong Kong Time (HKT).

**Panel 1:**

***Susceptibility to  
Misinformation and Fake News***



### **Professor Derek J. KOEHLER**

Derek Koehler is Professor of Psychology at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Prof. Koehler studies how people make judgments and decisions, with an emphasis on the use of intuitive (or “heuristic”) mental processes in the assessment of uncertainty. His research investigates how people draw inferences, make plans, generate predictions, and pursue goals under conditions of uncertainty, which he studies from the vantage of both psychological and economic models of decision making. He holds a Ph.D. in psychology from Stanford University.

### **Conflict among Experts, and Scientific Studies, as a Barrier to Remediating Misinformation**

#### **Abstract**

As members of the public, we rely on experts and scientific research to guide us through the overwhelming amount of information and opinion now available to us online, to help us distinguish fact from fiction. But experts, and scientific study results, do not always agree with one another. This talk begins with a brief review of research on perception of expert consensus, and on the consequences of perceived expert consensus for personal beliefs. Two lines of research are then discussed in more detail. The first investigates “false balance”: providing comments from experts on either side of an issue can lead to the perception of a lack of expert consensus even when the overwhelming majority of experts agree with one another on the issue. This effect is shown to hold across several studies even when the entire distribution of expert opinion is available to participants. The second line of research explores people’s perceptions of scientific progress in response to findings from scientific studies that conflict with one another. The majority of participants believe that we do not know more, and are not closer to the truth, as the result of two new studies when the second study fails to replicate the first. Taken together, these findings identify barriers to reliance on experts, and scientific research, as a remedy for susceptibility to misinformation and fake news.



### **Mr. Masashi CRETE-NISHIHATA**

Masashi Crete-Nishihata is Associate Director of the Citizen Lab at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto. His research focuses on the human rights impacts of information controls such as surveillance and censorship. Recent work and collaborations include studies on social media censorship in China, investigations of digital espionage targeting civil society, and analyses of how journalists perceive and practice digital security.

### **Ms. Lotus RUAN**

Lotus Ruan is a senior researcher at The Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Her research focuses on the roles of government and private actors in shaping internet governance agendas and digital rights. Her writing has appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *The Atlantic*, *ChinaFile*, and *Tech in Asia*.

### **Censored Contagion:**

**How Information on the Coronavirus is Managed on Chinese Social Media  
(Authors: Masashi CRETE-NISHIHATA, Lotus RUAN,  
Caroline WESLEY & Jeffrey KNOCKEL)**

#### **Abstract**

In the last week of December 2019, Dr. Li Wenliang and other medical professionals in Wuhan, China took to online chat groups to warn of a then unknown pathogen burning through their hospital wards. As the doctors tried to raise the alarm about the rapid spread of the disease, information on the epidemic was being censored on Chinese social media.

In this paper we present findings from documenting censorship of COVID-19 related content on two platforms, YY (a Chinese live streaming platform) and WeChat (the most popular chat application in China). Our findings show that censorship on YY started at early stages of the outbreak on December 31 2019, a day after the late Dr Li and others attempted to warn the public of the outbreak in Wuhan. On WeChat we conducted systematic tests of COVID related content on the platform throughout the pandemic. We found a broad range of censored content including: criticism of the Chinese government, references to whistle blowers like Dr. Li, diplomatic relations between China and other states, the WHO and other intergovernmental organisations, conspiracy theories on the origin of the virus, and general health information. Our findings provide a unique view into efforts to shape the narrative around COVID-19 and the mechanisms of information control in China.



### **Dr. Muk Yan WONG**

Dr. Wong Muk Yan is an Associate Professor at the Department of Social Science, The Hang Seng of Hong Kong. He received his BA and MPhil (Philosophy) from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and his PhD (Philosophy) from the University of Cincinnati in the USA. His major research areas include Philosophy of Emotion, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science, and Philosophy of Evolutionary Biology. His articles have appeared in *The International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophical Psychology* and *the Philosophical Studies*.

### **Collective Emotional Susceptibility of Fake News in Social Movement**

#### **Abstract**

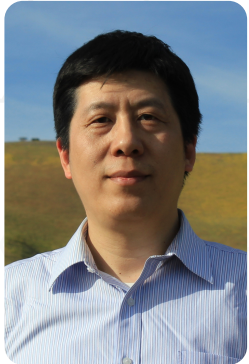
Fake news is not new. Politicians and capitalists have been using propaganda to manipulate the population's belief and desire since the birth of these careers. The long-term success of such industries is founded not only on the ever-improving technique of media in creating and spreading fake news, but also on human psychological vulnerability to fake news deeply seeded in our origin by evolution. While the biases and weaknesses of human cognitive mechanism has long been the primary concern of psychologists, and the study of the emotional susceptibility of individuals to fake news has received more and more attention lately, the study of how emotions affect the spreading of fake news in a group, community, or a society has been unfortunately overlooked. In this paper, I use social movement as an example to illustrate such collective emotional susceptibility. I argue that the shared anger of the members, and the reciprocal pride and shame among members, make them more likely to accept and spread fake news affirming the legitimacy of their collective identity, and less likely to conduct fact-checks on the fake news that contradicts it.





Panel 2:

*Politics of Misinformation*



### **Dr. Haifeng HUANG**

Haifeng Huang is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Merced, and in 2018-19, a Campbell National Fellow and the Susan Louise Dyer Peace Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. His research focuses on information flow and opinion formation in authoritarian settings, including misinformation, media freedom, and propaganda, often with inspirations drawn from China. He has also studied topics related to electoral competition, reform, and social transition. His research has been published in the *American Political Science Review*, the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Politics*, the *Journal of Politics*, the *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, and *Political Science Research and Methods*, among other journals.

### **Triumphalism and Inconvenient Truth: National Self-Image in a Rising Power**

#### **Abstract**

Citizens may have more positive perceptions of their country's image and standing in the world than the actual situations. In an authoritarian rising power with pervasive government propaganda and limits on the free flow of negative information, this may result in bravado and triumphalism. But there have been no systematic research about this phenomenon, or whether correcting misperceptions about a country's global images affects political attitudes. In this study I show with survey experimental evidence that the Chinese public overwhelmingly overestimate the extent to which China has a positive global image. In addition, younger people and those with better life circumstances overestimate China's global popularity more, while education and exposure to foreign information reduces overestimation. Perceptions of China's global image is strongly associated with evaluations of China, its governing system, and its prospect of success in the world. Critically, correcting misinformation about China's global image reduces people's positive evaluation of China in these regards. These findings have rich implications for our understanding of the effects of international (mis)information, the process of public opinion formation, and informational sources of international conflicts.



### **Dr. Edson C TANDOC Jr.**

Edson C. Tandoc Jr. (Ph.D., University of Missouri) is an Associate Professor at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information and Director of the Centre for Information Integrity and the Internet (IN-cube) at Nanyang Technological University Singapore. His studies have focused on the impact of journalistic roles, new technologies, and audience feedback on the news gatekeeping process. He has also looked at how readers make sense of critical incidents in journalism and take part in reconsidering journalistic norms; and how changing news consumption patterns facilitate the spread of fake news.

### **When Viruses and Misinformation Spread: the Singapore Context**

#### **Abstract**

Increased uncertainty over the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with stay-at-home policies implemented in many cities around the world, has increased the media consumption of many people. This has also increased exposure to unreliable information. Indeed, this pandemic has exposed many of our vulnerabilities, and one of these is our susceptibility to spreading and believing in problematic information. Fighting misinformation is particularly important in a crucial time like this, when people need accurate information to act responsibly and protect not just themselves but also everyone else in the community. This is why it is important to keep an eye not only on the public's information behaviour, but also on the quality of information flowing through various channels. In this presentation, we share about the findings we have about information behaviour in Singapore during the COVID-19 pandemic and how users navigate an information environment contaminated by fake news.



### **Dr. Shiru WANG**

Dr. Shiru Wang is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Science, the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include social media, political engagement, nationalism and national identity, corruption, and China and Hong Kong politics. Her works appear in the *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Social Indicators Research*, and the *Journal of Comparative Politics*. Her book *Cyberdualism in China: The Political Implications of Internet Exposure of Educated Youth* was published by Routledge in 2017. Currently she is working on the Hong Kong identity and media framing.

### **Regime Type, Internet Exposure and Perception of Government Misinformation in Asian Countries (Authors: Shiru WANG & Yu-tzung CHANG)**

#### **Abstract**

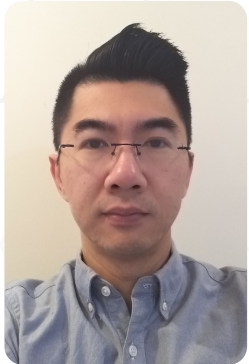
Comparatively speaking, authoritarian governments are more capable and motivated to control the flow of information to maintain legitimacy and stability than their democratic counterparts (Enikolopov, Makarin and Petrova, 2018; Han, 2018; King, et al., 2013; Little, 2016; Lohmann, 1994). But democratic governments sometimes also have leeway and incentive to control the release of important information to the public. However the Internet grants an alternative source of information challenging the credibility of official messages in both regimes. This paper will focus on the public perception of government's information integrity. To be specific, government's information disintegrity in this study is measured by government intentional omission of information from the public view.

Drawing upon the data from East Asian democracies and Southeast Asian illiberal democracies and autocracies from the fifth wave of Asian Barometer Survey data, this comparative study particularly explores the extent to which institutional and individual level factors shape one's perception of government's information integrity. Institutional dimension is mainly indicated by regime type; individual level dimension is primarily measured by Internet exposure in different kinds. Although the flow of information is much freer in a democratic regime than an authoritarian one, the public perception may not reflect this reality because the pluralistic information regime in the democracy and the controlled information regime in the authoritarian regime may moderate (of course differently) one's judgement about possibility of government's information integrity. Individual Internet exposure is associated with the accessibility to alternative information to official messages and therefore affects one's perception of the quality of government's information communication.



**Panel 3:**

***How Fake is Fake?***



### **Dr. LAM Tsz Kwan, Charles**

Charles Lam is Assistant Professor in the Department of English at the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong. He received his PhD in Linguistics from Purdue University, USA. His research interests include the syntax, semantics and their interface in empirical approaches, such as experiments and corpus methods.

### **The Semantics of Fake News**

#### **How NLP and AI may help us identify misinformation**

##### **Abstract**

Semanticists have been interested in the interpretation of a class of adjectives known as “privative adjectives”, which includes expressions like fake, pseudo and former. This study presents an analysis of privative adjectives as modification of membership. A privative adjective modifies the membership of any noun in relation to its own type. For example, a *fake gun* is typically construed as not a gun, and *pseudo-science* is not part of science proper, despite the superficial resemblance to prototypical guns or scientific studies. In an analogical manner, *fake news* or *misinformation* are not interpreted as real news or information, despite their resemblance to accurate news and information. In other words, this analysis of privative adjectives helps us understand what constitutes notions like *fake news* and *misinformation*.

A challenge of fake news in the real world is that they are difficult to detect, because of the lack of formal difference from regular news and the intention to deceive the readers. This study therefore investigates real world examples of fake news and their properties in semantics and pragmatics to provide a framework to identify the common types of fake news, such as political propaganda and health information. Examples in the Sinophone context are highlighted to facilitate a comparison between fake news in Sinophone and Anglophone worlds. In a broader sense, the present study illustrates one of the more practical applications of theoretical semantics and pragmatics. A challenge of fake news in the real world is that they are difficult to detect, because of the lack of formal difference from regular news and the intention to deceive the readers. This study therefore investigates real world examples of fake news and their properties in semantics and pragmatics to provide a framework to identify the common types of fake news, such as political propaganda and health information. Examples in the Sinophone context are highlighted to facilitate a comparison between fake news in Sinophone and Anglophone worlds. In a broader sense, the present study illustrates one of the more practical applications of theoretical semantics and pragmatics.



### **Dr. M R. X. DENTITH**

A skilled public speaker, M R. X. Dentith received their PhD in Philosophy from the University of Auckland. They are the author of the first single-author book-length treatment of conspiracy theory in Philosophy, *The Philosophy of Conspiracy Theories* (Palgrave Macmillan 2014), and the editor of *Taking Conspiracy Theories Seriously* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2018). They have worked in Bucharest, Romania on research projects concerning how we might investigate conspiracy theories, fake news, and how we should understand secrecy generally. They are now an Associate Professor at Beijing Normal University.

### **Is Fake News just Propaganda?**

#### **Abstract**

Fake news is a problem, at least according to contemporary public discourse. However, whilst some philosophers have been interested in talking about what is and is not 'fake news,' and thus what makes fake news a problem in such discourse, some have taken it that the problem of fake news is the fact we are even talking about fake news.

Looking at the work of Joshua Habgood-Cootes and David Coady, who have separately argued that the term 'fake news' acts as a case of undermining propaganda, I will argue against them. I argue there is great utility in not just talking about fake news, but if we avoid talk of it just because sometimes people use it to dismiss debate, then this plays into the very fears about talk of fake news that Habgood-Cootes and Coady are worried about.

Keywords: epistemology; fake news; intentions; propaganda; reliability; social epistemology; slurs; trust



### **Professor LEE Siu Nam, Paul**

Professor Paul S.N. Lee is professor at the School of Communication, the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong. He received his PhD in Communication from the University of Michigan. His research interests include International & Intercultural Communication, New Media, Telecommunications Policy, Political Communication, and Media Analysis.

Before joining the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, he had taught at the School of Journalism and Communication, The Chinese University of Hong Kong for about three decades. He served as School Director (1998-2005) and Dean of Social Science (2005-2014) in the period. Professor Lee has published more than 100 papers and book chapters, in addition to 14 authored and edited books. His works are published at major international venues including Journal of Communication, Telematics and Informatics, Telecommunication Policy, Media, Culture & Society, and Asian Journal of Communication. Professor Lee was the founding editor of the Chinese Journal of Communication published by Routledge since 2007, which is a SSCI journal.



### **Dr. CHEUNG Kwok Wai, Keith**

Kwok-Wai Cheung (M'10) received the BEng, M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from City University of Hong Kong in 1990, 1994 and 2001, all in Electronic Engineering. He worked in Hong Kong Telecom as an engineer from 1990 to 1995. He was a research assistant at the Department of Electronic Engineering, City University of Hong Kong, from 1996 to 2002. He was an Assistant Professor at Chu Hai College of Higher Education, Hong Kong from 2002 to 2016. He has been with the School of Communication, the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong as an Associate Professor since 2016. Dr. Cheung's research interests are in the areas of image processing, machine learning and social computing.





### **Dr. WU Jing, Clio**

Dr. Wu Jing received the Ph.D. degree in Journalism from Fudan University. In Mainland China, she served as a Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor at the Department of Communication, South China Normal University. Since 2013, she has been an Assistant Professor at the School of Communication, the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong. Dr. Wu's research interests are in the areas of journalism studies, communication ethics, digital media, and media education.

### **What Messages are Likely to be Shared?**

**A Study on the Dissemination of Unverified Information in Social Media  
(Authors: Professor LEE Siu Nam, Paul, Dr. CHEUNG Kwok Wai, Keith  
& Dr. WU Jing, Clio)**

#### **Abstract**

This study examines the factors that influence the sharing of unverified information, with a focus on the message types, trust in news media, habit of fact-check, use of social media, and partisanship. A web-based survey was conducted to test ten hypotheses. Results show that “sharing of unverified information” is related to messages which contain “important knowledge”, “dramatic novelty”, “educational value”, “similar views”, and “contents used to attack people holding different views”. The sharing of unverified information is not related to entertainment content, trust in news media, habit of fact-check, and time spent on television and newspaper, but is positively related to the time spent on social media. A discriminant analysis found that “messages of dramatic novelty” is the best predictor for sharing unverified information, followed by “messages used to attack people holding different views” and “time spent on social media”.

Keywords: misinformation sharing, fake news, unverified information, social media, message types

**Panel 4:**

***Misinformation in China,  
Taiwan, and Hong Kong***



### **Dr. Celine Yunya SONG**

Yunya Song is an Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism and Director of AI and Media Research Lab at Hong Kong Baptist University. Her research on journalism and media politics has appeared in, among other journals, *International Journal of Press/Politics*, *International Communication Gazette*, *Journalism Studies*, and *Public Relations Review*. She is the coeditor of *The Evolving Landscape of Media and Communication in Hong Kong* (City University of Hong Kong Press, 2018).



### **Dr. Yuanhang LU**

Yuanhang Lu is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Communication, Hong Kong Baptist University. His research interests include online social networks, crisis communication, and political communication.

## **Regulating Misinformation: Lessons from the “China Model”** (Authors: Yunya SONG & Yuanhang LU)

### **Abstract**

An unprecedented challenge facing both the individual and society in the social media era is the dissonance between the access to massive amounts of information and the ability to cope with a cacophony of true and false information. Whether referred to as rumors, disinformation, misinformation, “post-truths,” or simply “fake news,” the inaccurate or false information has been proliferating on the web along with the fundamental changes in how information is disseminated and consumed. Chinese authorities have undertaken a series of measures and campaigns to clean up online rumors and false information with Chinese tech companies moving in sync to regulate the content in a variety of online platforms. Despite China’s iron-handed approach to dealing with online misinformation that is unparalleled in a democratic country, online falsehoods still run rampant. Combining document analysis with in-depth interviews, this article provides a taxonomy of anti-misinformation approaches in the context of mainland China, and adopts a netizen-centered perspective to investigate their experience and perception of anti-misinformation actions on the part of the government and industry. We argue that online falsehoods spread not simply because of the social media and its surrounding technologies that facilitate the dissemination. This study evaluates the effectiveness of the measures adopted to tackle online misinformation, and goes further to examine underlying causes for the spread of online misinformation: the increasing politicization and commercialization of information, a decline of public trust in institutions, and the growing eagerness of self-expression in a changing Chinese society.



### **Dr. HU Hsin Li, Sammy**

Sammy is a graduate of the Law School of Shih Hsin University and worked at the Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research in Taipei. He completed his LLM in International and Comparative Law at Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2004. He earned another LLM from the University of Hong Kong and his PhD in Economic Law from Peking University afterwards. In 2008, Sammy spent a year as a research fellow at Chicago-Kent doing comparative research related to his PhD thesis in foreign investment and anti-monopoly supervision. Prior to joining the School of Communication of Hang Seng University, Sammy taught at the Faculty of Business of Chu Hai College in Hong Kong. He researches the Competition Law and Media Law.

### **The Limits of Law: The Legislation Against Misinformation in Greater China**

#### **Abstract**

Germany introduced The Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG).in 2017 For large-scale internet platform operators, they are required to take responsibility for the specific types of speech on the platform and take the responsibility of quick review and processing. Otherwise, the government will impose a huge fine. France also passed two anti-fake news laws in 2018 to rein in false information during election campaigns following allegations of Russian meddling in the 2017 presidential vote, the wave of legislation against fake news was launched around different jurisdictions.

This article attempts to analyze the recent development of Cyber Security Law and Criminal Law which against spread rumors in PR China, as well as the Taiwan government's legislative explorations aimed at combating fake news. In Hong Kong, the outdated Defamation Ordinance and the recent interpretation of "Access to Computer with Criminal or Dishonest Intent" by the Court of Final Appeal brought challenges to the bottom line of freedom of speech. The article based on comparative research as mentioned above to approach the limits of legislative instrument on misinformation in cyberspace of Greater China.

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