



Artificial Intelligence, Communication, and Social Transformation

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September 4-5, 2026

XJTLU

Suzhou, China

[Last updated: Sept 1, 2026]

Organised by the Department of Media and Communication,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Organising Committee: Michael Prieler, Xianwen Kuang, Xiaoling Zhang, Dharma Adhikari, Gejun Huang, Hui Miao, David Kurt Herold



Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University
西交利物浦大学

XJTLU

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
西浦人文社科学院

XJTLU

MEDIA AND
COMMUNICATION

Day 1 – Friday, September 4

OPENING		
Time	Main Room (IAG08)	
08:30 to 09:00	Registration	
09:00 to 09:30	Welcome speeches and group photo	Chair: Prof Michael Prieler (XJTLU) Prof Zhoulin Ruan (Vice-President of Academic Affairs, XJTLU) Dr Xianwen Kuang (Department of Media and Communication, XJTLU)
09:30 to 10:15	Keynote Speech 1	Multimodal AI: Opportunities and Challenges for Communication and Media Studies Prof Kay O'Halloran (University of Liverpool)
10:15 to 11:00	Keynote Speech 2	AI and the Paradigmatic Change of Communication Research Prof Dianlin Huang (Communication University of China)
11:00 to 11:30	Tea Break	

PARALLEL PANELS 1-3			
Time	Panel 1 – Room B (IA103)	Panel 2 – Room C (IA121)	Panel 3 – Room D (IA111)
11:30 to 13:00	Panel 1: AI, Digital Heritage, and Traditional Culture Chair: Xiaoling Zhang	Panel 2: AI Companionship, Intimacy, and Emotional Well-Being Chair: Michael Prieler	Panel 3: Reimagining Journalism in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Misinformation, Automation, and Public Trust Chair: Xianwen Kuang
	1. Bridging Cultures through Human-AI Co-creation: A "Playground Learning" Web Platform for Chinese Poetic Imagery Chenbing Lin (New York University Shanghai)	1. AI by My Side: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Virtual Agent Companionship for Emotional, Psychological, and Social Outcomes Yu Zhang (City University of Hong Kong)	1. AI Deepfakes and the Politics of Deception: A Three-M Framework for Analyzing Political Short Videos (ONLINE 📺) Rui Duan (Communication University of China); Kun He (Tilburg University, Netherlands); Jun Liu (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
	2. The Symbolic Cocoon and Perceptual Alienation: Simulacra of Traditional Art in the Age of AI Algorithms Xuan Tan (Guangzhou Xinhua University)	2. Seeking the AI Confidant: The Domestication of AI-Mediated Self-Care among Chinese Youth Xiaoxi Zhu (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University) and Hao Wu (Central China Normal University)	2. Imagining Automated Journalism: AI Anchor Hype and the Construction of News Futures in China Yiming Chen (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)
	3. Research on the Deviations in the Reconstruction and Representation of Local Scenarios in Qinghai under Generative Media Yu Li (Qinghai Normal University) and Jun Zhi Zhang (Qinghai Radio and Television Station)	3. Emotional Support or Emotional Surrender? How AI-Mediated Communication Reshapes Interpersonal Relationships Chunyan Huang (University of Macao)	3. Fact-Checking with AI: Effects of Interaction Mode and Prior Beliefs on Misinformation Acceptance Kuangjian Wu (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University); Xianwen Kuang (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)
	4. When Classics Come Alive on Screen: Textual Creation, Narrative Reconstruction, and Evolving Spectatorship in AI-Generated Art Videos Shuyuan Jin (Nanjing University)	4. The Pre-Sending Intermediary Layer and Authenticity Negotiation: Mechanisms of Generative AI Intervention in High-Stakes Intimate Communication (ONLINE 📺) Jing Wen (Huazhong University of Science and Technology) and Weining Huang (Huazhong University of Science and Technology)	4. AI, Dis-/Misinformation, and the Future of Journalism Xianwen Kuang (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)
		5. When AI Becomes Part of the Self: AI-Mediated Identity Reconstruction in Depression Na Liu (Zhejiang A&F University) and Qingshuang Chen (Zhejiang A&F University)	
13:00 to 14:00	Lunch @ Gangyu Chinese Restaurant (IA building)		

PARALLEL PANELS 4-6			
Time	Panel 4 – Room B (IA103)	Panel 5 – Room C (IA121)	Panel 6 – Room D (IA111)
14:00 to 15:30	Panel 4: Reconceptualizing AI through Philosophical and Critical Perspectives Chair: <i>Tingting Hu</i> 1. Techno-alchemy of Emergent Rhetorical Lexicons <i>Iannis Bardakos (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University) and Damien Tomaselli (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University)</i> 2. Can AI Communicate? A Systems-Theoretical Provocation <i>Markus Georg Thomas Heidingsfelder (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University)</i>	Panel 5: Algorithmic Affect, Parasocial Intimacy, and Social Anxiety Chair: <i>Michael Prieler</i> 1. AI Celebrity as Idol or Lover: Authenticity, Emotional Ownership, and Romantic Companionship in BimoBimo <i>Xuanxuan Tan (Soochow University), Zongyi Zhang (Soochow University), Jiayi Wang (Soochow University), and Zhenzhen Su (Soochow University)</i> 2. From Fiction to Familiarity: How AI Companion Is Reshaping Parasocial Relationships in Digital Gaming <i>Ji Hua (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)</i>	Panel 6: AI as News Intermediary: Agenda Dynamics, Strategic Narratives, and Cross-Cultural Gatekeeping Chair: <i>Zixiu Liu</i> 1. Agenda Refraction: How an AI Chatbot Reshapes the News Agenda between State and Social Media in China <i>Yue Jiang (RMIT University, Australia); Shu Li (Deakin University, Australia)</i> 2. AI-Generated Strategic Narratives and International Audience Reception: Chinese State Media's AI-Driven Global Communication after DeepSeek <i>Yiwen Yang (Shanghai Shuimu Luoyi Technology Co., Ltd. (Talent Rising))</i>
	3. From 人工智能 to 人工夫: Learning from the Shifu and the Arts in the Age of AI <i>S. Alex Ruthmann (New York University Shanghai)</i>	3. “You Look Like a Goddess”: Emotional Support and Aesthetic Authority in AI-Guided Fashion Videos (ONLINE 🗣️) <i>Xiaoxue Wang (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)</i>	3. Decoding Cross-Cultural Narratives: Localized LLMs, Journalistic Practices, and the Future of Brand Risk Governance <i>Junyi Shangguan (Macau University of Science and Technology); Zhenyu Dang (Macau University of Science and Technology); Lezhou Lin (Macau University of Science and Technology); Ge Zhan (Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Longsou GAI Technology R&D Centre)</i>
	4. Synthetic Creative Labour and the Aesthetics of Alienation: A Marxist Framework for AI-Mediated Cultural Production (ONLINE 🗣️) <i>Wilson Gomes Caldeira (University of Saint Joseph, Macao) and José Manuel Simões (University of Saint Joseph, Macao)</i>	4. The Influence of Female Virtual Influencers' Constructed Perfect Images on Female Consumers' Appearance and Workplace Anxiety <i>Jieru Mai (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies) and Fei Qiao (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies)</i>	4. AI Gatekeeping and Technographic Power: Longitudinal and Cross-National Evidence from Large Language Models <i>Jun Luo (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen); Jiazhong Xie (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen); Xinqing Li (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)</i>
	5. Remapping AI Topography Through AI Artivism <i>Jung Choi (Duke Kunshan University)</i>	5. From Embodied Tutoring to Algorithmic Auditing: Emotional Labor Transformation and Paradoxical Agency of Motherhood under Generative AI <i>Tianqi Zheng (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)</i>	
		6. Escaping the Algorithmic Cage: How Algorithmic Recommendation Shapes Social Anxiety among Youth (ONLINE 🗣️) <i>Yuheng Zhang (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)</i>	
15:30 to 16:00	Tea Break		

PARALLEL PANELS 7-9			
Time	Panel 7 – Room B (IA103)	Panel 8 – Room C (IA121)	Panel 9 – Room D (IA111)
16:00 to 17:30	Panel 7: Cross-Cultural Communication and AI Dynamics Chair: <i>Zixiu Liu</i> 1. Shattering the Cultural Mirror: How Western and Chinese LLMs Negotiate the “Tangping” Phenomenon <i>Tongyang Shen (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)</i> 2. From Translation Tool to Emotional Infrastructure: Generative AI Companions and Cross-Cultural Belonging among Chinese International Students (ONLINE 🗣️) <i>Haoyang He (The University of Hong Kong)</i> 3. Translingual, Decentralized, and Task-Driven: Generative AI Platform Switching among Chinese Students in the UK and US <i>Siwei Xu (Renmin University)</i>	Panel 8: AI and the Transition of Education: Students, Teachers, Pedagogy, and Technology Chair: <i>Qingning Wang</i> 1. Deconstructing the “Score-Only” Paradigm: Toward a Data-Driven Ecological Model for Inclusive Educational Futures <i>Shuhan Yang (Yunnan Normal University), Rui Zeng (Yunnan Normal University Affiliated Primary School), and Chang Yu (Yunnan Normal University Affiliated Primary School)</i> 2. AI as a Bridge for Cross-Cultural Communication: Reflections Based on International Students' Competition Experiences <i>Ye Tao (Yunnan Normal University)</i> 3. AI-Augmented Design Creativity: Transforming Pedagogy in Art Education through Student Work Analytics <i>Che Guo (Yunnan Normal University)</i>	Panel 9: Generative AI, Fan Cultures, and Creative Identity Chair: <i>Hui Miao</i> 1. Generative AI in Transformative Fan Creation: Practical Logics and Ethical Dilemmas <i>Jiaying Zhang (Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications) and Shuyuan Jiang (Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications)</i> 2. Prove It with Your Hands: Performative Proof and the Politics of Authenticity in AI-Era Fan Art Communities <i>Haojing Zhu (Wenzhou-Kean University)</i> 3. When Desire Becomes Generatable: AI-Enabled Mo Culture and Female Subjectivity in Contemporary China (ONLINE 🗣️) <i>Yuyang Guo (Shenzhen University)</i>

Time	Panel 7 – Room B (IA103)	Panel 8 – Room C (IA121)	Panel 9 – Room D (IA111)
16:00 to 17:30	4. Algorithmic Gatekeeping in the Global South: Epistemic Bias and Representational Justice in Large Language Models (ONLINE 📺) <i>Dalia Aly (Beijing Normal University) and Jinghong Xu (Beijing Normal University)</i>	4. Exploring the Role of AI in Supporting and Sustaining Student Teachers' Mental Health and Well-Being <i>Weilin Yan (University of Birmingham)</i>	4. Chinese-branding in the Age of AI: Renegotiating Cultural Identity in Contemporary Chinese Animation <i>Yunhe Wei (Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London)</i>
	5. Green AI, Communication and Forest Governance in China–Brazil Cooperation (ONLINE 📺) <i>Lucia Novaes (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro-Renmin University of China)</i>	5. AI and the Digital Divide in Media Higher Education <i>Qingning Wang (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)</i>	
	6. Authenticity and Standardization in AI-Assisted City Storytelling: A Multimodal Study of Ningbo's Overseas Tourism Communication (ONLINE 📺) <i>Fangyuan Wang (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University)</i>		
17:30 to 18:20	Optional campus tour / networking		
18:30	Conference dinner @ Chinese Restaurant 苏南雅宴, 1st floor of XJTLU Conference Center		

Day 2 – Saturday, September 5

Time	
08:30 to 09:00	Registration / arrival coffee

PARALLEL PANELS 10-12			
Time	Panel 10 – Room B (IA103)	Panel 11 – Room C (IA121)	Panel 12 – Room D (IA111)
09:00 to 10:30	Panel 10: AI in Creative Industries: Literature, Audio, and Music Production Chair: <i>Marco Pellitteri</i>	Panel 11: Human-Guided AI Pedagogy: Coding, Creativity, and Language Learning Chair: <i>Dharma Adhikari</i>	Panel 12: Invisible Labor, Workplace Discipline, and AI Governance Chair: <i>Michael High</i>
	1. Reconfiguring Platform Cultural Production under Generative AI: The Creative Practices of Chinese Online Literature Writers <i>Cong Peng (University of New South Wales, Australia)</i>	1. From Syntax to Context: What Questions Reach Humans After AI? Evidence from Six Years of an Introductory Programming Course <i>Jiang Long (Duke Kunshan University)</i>	1. Behind Artificial Intelligence: Invisible Data Annotation Labour and Human-Capital Dilemmas in China <i>Zican Jin (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University) and Wenyl Huang (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University)</i>
	2. AI-augmented Writing in Chinese Online Fiction: Platform Shaping and Author Negotiation <i>Qidong Yun (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University), He He (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University) and Liu Xuhuan (Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University)</i>	2. What Works and What Breaks: Teaching AI-Assisted Coding to Non-Technical Students <i>Nicole C. Wang (New York University Shanghai)</i>	2. Rewriting Evidence: Epistemic Uncertainty and Platform Metric Dependence among Media-Trained Interns in China <i>Yu Gu (Hubei University) and Yixuan Shen (Hubei University)</i>
	3. Cyborg Directors: Authenticity Work and Synthetic Aesthetics in AI Music Production (ONLINE 📺) <i>Yuanhong Sun (Jilin University), Yunyi Hu (Renmin University of China); Xuerui Cai (Jilin University); Xinyu Li (Central South University); Mengxin Liu (Fujian Normal University)</i>	3. Human-Guided AI in Foreign Language Writing Classes: An Action Research Study (ONLINE 📺) <i>Monica Bezzegato (Beijing Foreign Studies University)</i>	3. One-Dimensional AI: Technological Rationality, Digital Labor Alienation, and the AI Alignment Tax in China's Corporate AI Transformation <i>Ziwen Qi (Haier Model Institute)</i>
		4. From Lived Experience to Playable Systems: AI-Assisted Game Design as a Pedagogical Method <i>Xingchen Zhang (New York University Shanghai)</i>	
10:30 to 11:00	Tea Break		
		5. Ethical Resistance to Teaching and Learning Practices in Creative Arts Education: An Exploratory Study of Human-AI Co-Creativity in Student Projects <i>Sunny Sui-kwong Lam (Hong Kong Metropolitan University)</i>	

PARALLEL PANELS 13-14		
Time	Panel 13 – Room B (IA103)	Panel 14 – Room C (IA121)
11:00 to 12:30	Panel 13: Human-AI Interaction: Companionship, Trust, and Well-Being Chair: <i>Marco Pellitteri</i>	Panel 14: AI Governance, Literacy, and Infrastructure Chair: <i>Gejun Huang</i>
	1. Prompting the Oracle: Procedural Trust Formation in AI Divination <i>Erika Ningxin Wang (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen)</i>	1. Creative AI Ecosystem for Children and Youth: Toward Inclusive Governance and Regulation in Asia <i>Dean Deeprom Devahastin (KidWise Studios)</i>
	2. Moving Home with 4o: Digital Place-Making in Human-AI Companionship <i>Zhiming Liu (University of Macau) and Yan Tan (Soochow University)</i>	2. From Trust to Scepticism: Critical AI Literacy as an Epistemic Response to AI Hallucinations <i>Lukasz Nowacki (WSB University) and Agata Ewa Wrochna (Wenzhou-Kean University)</i>
	3. Companion or Distraction? The Double-Edged Effects of AI-Driven Companion NPCs in Serious Games (ONLINE 📺) <i>Pingping Jia (City University of Hong Kong) and Xiao Xiao (Beijing Institute of Technology)</i>	3. Rewiring Personal Fact-Checking in Generative-AI Environments: Trust Tensions, Verification Costs, and Epistemic Anxiety <i>Anyu Liu (Communication University of China)</i>

Time	Panel 13 – Room B (IA103)	Panel 14 – Room C (IA121)
	4. Digital Innovation for Early-Age Mental Health Support: The Transformative Role of interactive AI-powered Technology within Indonesia's Educational Institutions <i>Janice Karina (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)</i>	4. Shaping Collective Memory in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: A Comparative Analysis of AI-Generated Disaster Images on Chinese and U.S. Platforms <i>Yan Yi (East China Normal University) and Sixun Chen (East China Normal University)</i>
	5. User-Chatbot Interaction on Social Media: A Qualitative Study of Comment Robert on Weibo (ONLINE 📺) <i>Qiqi Li (Hong Kong Baptist University) and Yan Xu (Hong Kong Baptist University)</i>	5. Embodied Data, Privacy Protection, and Public Trust: A Study of AI-Enabled Public Communication in Urban Media Spaces (ONLINE 📺) <i>Fu Zhang (Kookmin University)</i>

12:30 to 13:30 Lunch @ Gangyu Chinese Restaurant (IA building)

PARALLEL PANELS 15-16		
Time	Panel 15 – Room B (IA103)	Panel 16 – Room C (IA121)
	Panel 15: AI for and as Resistance Chair: <i>David Herold</i>	Panel 16: Playing in the AI Era Chair: <i>Gejun Huang</i>
13:30 to 15:00	1. AI-Assisted Parody and Everyday Resistance in Digital China <i>Chi Zhang (University of Warwick) and Ming Zhang (Wenzhou University of Technology)</i>	1. Does Generative AI Recast the Glory of Classical Narratology? A Study of Video Game Narrative in the AI Context <i>Cheng Zhang (City University of Macau)</i>
	2. Nostalgia as Pharmakon: An Epistemological Resistance to Artificial Intelligence's Dismantling of Human Memory and Temporal Experience <i>Hanqing Chen (National Taiwan Normal University)</i>	2. Charting the Ambivalence of Creative Uncertainty and AI Transformation in the Chinese Game Industry <i>Gejun Huang (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)</i>
	3. "Distill Me If You Dare": Resisting AI-Driven Job Replacement among Chinese Knowledge Workers <i>Xing Wang (Wenzhou University of Technology)</i>	3. From Generation to Decision: The Capability Boundaries of AI in Game Production Teaching <i>Shuo Xiong (Huazhong University of Science and Technology)</i>
		4. Paradigm Shifts and "T-Shaped" Talent Cultivation in MFA Game Design Education under the AI Wave <i>Xiaofeng Zhu (Beijing Normal University)</i>
15:00 to 15:10	Break	5. From "Silent Reading" to "AI Chatting": Rethinking the Literacy Regime through the Lens of Media History <i>Yahuai Lu (Yangtze University)</i>

CLOSING			
Time	Event	Room	
15:10 to 16:20	Roundtable Discussion	Room B (IA103)	Where Is AI Taking Us? Communication and Social Transformation in the Years Ahead Chair: Prof Xiaoling Zhang. Participants: Prof Kay O'Halloran (<i>University of Liverpool</i>); Dr David Herold (<i>XJTLU</i>); Prof S. Alex Ruthmann (<i>New York University Shanghai</i>); Prof Bin Zou (<i>XJTLU</i>); Prof Dianlin Huang (<i>Communication University of China</i>)
16:20 to 16:30	Closing Remarks	Room B (IA103)	Dr Luk Van Mensel (Associate Dean for Research, HSS, XJTLU); Prof Michael Prieler (Conference Chair)

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