

# ICT4Good/Asia Workshop

Date : Wednesday, 17 November 2021

Time : 10 AM - 5.30 PM (Singapore Time/Zoom)

(Lunch Break: 12.30 PM - 3 PM)

## Convenor



**Weiyu Zhang**

Associate Professor,  
NUS Communications  
& New Media

## Keynote Panel



**Ben Leong**

Associate Professor,  
NUS Computing



**Pablo Aragón**

Research Scientist,  
Wikimedia Foundation



**Simon Perrault**

Assistant Professor,  
SUTD

## Research Panel



**Jia Ying Neoh**

Lecturer,  
University of Sydney



**Lim Tai Wei**

Senior Research Fellow,  
NUS East Asian Institute



**Dongtao Qi**

Research Fellow,  
NUS East Asian Institute



**Gionnieve Lim**

Doctoral Candidate,  
SUTD

## Practitioner Panel



**Lim Eyung**

Director,  
Digital Design &  
Development,  
GovTech



**Hong Phuc Dang**

Founder,  
FOSSASIA



**Nashin Mahtani**

Founder,  
Yayasan Peta Bencana  
(Disaster Map Foundation)



**Dong Xie**

Secretary General,  
NGO20.cn

# ICT4GOOD/ASIA WORKSHOP

17 November 2021

## 17 NOVEMBER 2021 (Wednesday) – Singapore Time

### 10:00 – 10:10 WELCOME SPEECH

[Weiyu Zhang](#) | Associate Professor, National University of Singapore

### 10:10 – 11:00 KEYNOTE SPEECH 1

*Moderator:* **An Introduction to Centre for Computing for Social Good & Philanthropy**  
*Simon Perrault* [Ben Leong](#) | Associate Professor, National University of Singapore

### 11:00 – 12:30 RESEARCHER PANEL

*Moderator:* **Rethinking Civic Education in the Digital Era: A Singapore Case**  
*Weiyu Zhang* [Jia Ying Neoh](#) | Lecturer, University of Sydney

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**Civic Tech in Japan and Community Use (A Snapshot)**  
[Lim Tai Wei](#) | Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore

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**Development of Civic Technology in Taiwan: From Society-Driven to Government-and-Society-Driven?**  
[Dongtao Qi](#) | Research Fellow, National University of Singapore

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**A Review of Research on Civic Technology: Definitions, Theories, History and Insights**  
[Gionnieve Lim](#) | Doctoral Candidate, Singapore University of Technology and Design

### 12:30 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

### 15:00 – 16:00 KEYNOTE SPEECH 2

*Moderator:* **Decidim: Technopolitical Networks for Participatory Democracy**  
*Weiyu Zhang* [Pablo Aragón](#) | Research Scientist, Wikimedia Foundation

### 16:00 – 17:30 PRACTITIONER PANEL

*Moderator:* [Eyung Lim](#) | Director, Digital Design & Development, GovTech  
*Weiyu Zhang*

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[Hong Phuc Dang](#) | Founder, FOSSASIA

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[Nashin Mahtani](#) | Director, Yayaysan Peta Bencana

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[Dong Xie](#) | Secretary General, NGO20.cn

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## An Introduction to Centre for Computing for Social Good & Philanthropy

**Ben Leong**

(National University of Singapore)

[benleong@comp.nus.edu.sg](mailto:benleong@comp.nus.edu.sg)

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr. Ben Leong is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Director of the Centre for Computing for Social Good & Philanthropy. He is concurrently Chief Data Officer and Director, AI Centre for Educational Technologies at AI.SG, Singapore's national AI Programme. From July 2014 to Jun 2019, he served as the Director, Experimental Systems and Technology Laboratory at the Ministry of Education. Dr. Leong was a recipient of many teaching awards at both the Faculty and University level, including the NUS Outstanding Educator Award in 2015. Dr. Leong's research interests are broadly in the areas of computer networking and distributed systems.

### MODERATOR



Dr Simon Perrault is currently an Assistant Professor at SUTD (Singapore) since January 2019. He was also a visiting professor at KAIST (Korea) in 2018 and an Assistant Professor at Yale-NUS college (Singapore) between 2015 and 2018. He received his PhD in Computer Science in Telecom ParisTech (France). He defended his PhD in April 2013, and joined the National University of Singapore (NUS) in December 2013 as a post-doctoral researcher. Dr Perrault's research interest is in the area of Human Computer Interaction, and more specifically mobile/wearable computing and civic tech.

## Rethinking Civic Education in the Digital Era: A Singapore Case

**Jia Ying Neoh**  
(University of Sydney)

[jiaying.neoh@sydney.edu.au](mailto:jiaying.neoh@sydney.edu.au)

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### ABSTRACT

This study clarifies the evolving notion of civic education resulted from technological advancement in the context of Singapore. We investigate Singaporean youth's views on civic education by contrasting the roles of schools, families and friends, and social media in shaping their understanding. Through focus groups, we found that there are contentions on the definitions, approaches, and meanings of civic education. We conclude that in view of the inevitable diversity digital technologies tend to present, youths' civic learning might be limited by the pressure and confusion coming along with the exposure to diverse views, the tendency to retreat from formal politics, and the lack of effective school intervention into the social media space.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



**Dr. Jia Ying Neoh** is a Lecturer at the Sydney School of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney. Her key research interest is in citizenship education. In particular, she is interested in understanding the citizenship curricula of schools, focusing on the preparatory processes of citizenship. Having taught in primary schools in both Australia and Singapore, across diverse contexts and in different leadership roles, Ying has developed a keen interest in understanding the sociology of education. She is very interested in understanding the influences of education, including the social, economic and political factors that shape the curricula and pedagogies of teachers. Her current research interest is in multicultural citizenship and digital citizenship.

## Civic Tech in Japan and Community Use (A Snapshot)

**Lim Tai Wei**

(National University of Singapore)

[eailimt@nus.edu.sg](mailto:eailimt@nus.edu.sg)

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### ABSTRACT

This presentation is a snapshot of selected examples of civic tech NPOs (Non-Profit Organizations) working on local community-building and problem-solving for Japan's citizenry in urban cities through the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology), especially civic technologies. This writing uses interpretive work to analyse secondary resources drawn from the mass media, academic articles, non-profit organizations' (NPOs) writings and other relevant materials. Due to the state of emergency triggered by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the author relies and analyses secondary sources on this subject matter. The writing focuses on the civic tech sector's dissemination of useful information to members of the public. It is also a study of public dissemination of information through the initiatives of civic tech activists. The writing adopts a multi-disciplinary lens, drawing from the disciplines of area studies (Japanese Studies specifically) and contemporary historical lens.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



**Dr Lim Tai Wei** is a Senior Research Fellow adjunct at the National University of Singapore (NUS) East Asian Institute (EAI). He takes an area studies approach to look at Japanese studies topics through a multidisciplinary lens. He is also a historian of modern and contemporary Japan, focusing on post-1868 modern Japanese history as well as post-Heisei contemporary Japanese issues.

**Development of Civic Technology in Taiwan:  
From Society-driven to Government-and-Society-driven?**

**Dongtao Qi**

(National University of Singapore)

[eaiqd@nus.edu.sg](mailto:eaiqd@nus.edu.sg)

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**ABSTRACT**

This study tries to better understand the civic technology development in Taiwan with a mainstream social movement theory, the political process theory (PPT). Respective evolution of the Taiwanese government's open-government project and the main civic technology community g0v, especially their interactions and changing relations over time, are studied from the perspectives of contextual opportunity, organizational mobilization and cultural framing proposed by the PPT. The study shows that the model of the civic technology development in Taiwan seems to have started an uneasy transition from society-driven to co-driven by both the government and society. Policy and theoretical implications are discussed too.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER**



**Dongtao Qi** is Research Fellow at the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore. He received his PhD in Sociology from Stanford University and conducts research in the field of political sociology, especially on state-society relations and nationalism in Taiwan and mainland China. His papers have been published by international peer-reviewed journals, such as *China Quarterly*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *China: An International Journal*, *Issues & Studies*. Sponsored by the China-US Scholars Program, he is doing research on US-China confrontation over Taiwan and the South China Sea at the 21st Century China Center, University of California at San Diego from September 2021 to May 2022, as a Visiting Scholar.

## A Review of Research on Civic Technology: Definitions, Theories, History and Insights

**Gionnieve Lim**

(Singapore University of Technology and Design)

[gionnievelim@gmail.com](mailto:gionnievelim@gmail.com)

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### ABSTRACT

There has been an emergence of initiatives that take advantage of information and communication technologies to serve civic purposes, collectively referred to as civic technologies (Civic Tech). This phenomenon has been met with a rising interest in academia, where Civic Tech has become an interdisciplinary field spanning across various disciplines such as social science, political science, and computer science. In this paper, we present a review of 112 papers from the ACM Digital Library with a focus on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Human-Computer Interaction, the key fields supporting the building of Civic Tech. Through this review, we aim to discuss the concepts, theories and history of civic tech research and provide insights on the technological tools, social processes and participation mechanisms involved. Our work seeks to direct future civic tech efforts to the phase of “by the citizens”.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



**Gionnieve Lim** is a PhD candidate at the Singapore University of Technology and Design. Her research area is on the intersection of human-computer interaction with civic tech and misinformation. Her research focuses on the use of interface interventions such as labels, warnings, and visualisations on communication platforms to address misinformation. Her recent work investigates user interactions with various nudge interfaces and visualisations in the context of fact-checking, seeking to understand how they are perceived by users and what considerations should be made to improve their design.

## Decidim: Technopolitical Networks for Participatory Democracy

**Pablo Aragón**

(Wikimedia Foundation)

[elaragon@gmail.com](mailto:elaragon@gmail.com)

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### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



**Pablo Aragón** is a research scientist at the Wikimedia Foundation, where he focuses on content integrity and resilience to disinformation in Wikipedia and other free knowledge projects. He is interested in computational social science and social computing through interdisciplinary and participatory approaches to characterize and facilitate participation, deliberation and collaboration in online platforms. Pablo is also an adjunct professor at Universitat Pompeu Fabra and ELISAVA Barcelona School of Design and Engineering. He actively contributes to projects at the intersection of data, technology and democracy, and serves as a board member of Decidim, the free open source platform for participatory democracy.

### CONVERNOR OF WORKSHOP/MODERATOR



**Dr Weiyu Zhang** is Associate Professor at the Department of Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore. Her research focuses on civic engagement and Information and Communication Technologies, with an emphasis on Asia. She is Director of the Civic Tech Lab ([www.civictechlab.org](http://www.civictechlab.org)), and has led on multi-nation projects on youth engagement, online deliberation, and civic tech in Asia. Her current interest is to develop and examine civic tech applications to facilitate citizen deliberation in science topics such as climate change, gene-editing, and artificial intelligence. She can be contacted at [weiyu.zhang@nus.edu.sg](mailto:weiyu.zhang@nus.edu.sg)

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**PRACTITIONER PANEL | 16:00 – 17:30**

**Eyung Lim**

(Director, Digital Design & Development,  
GovTech)

[lim\\_eyung@tech.gov.sg](mailto:lim_eyung@tech.gov.sg)

**Nashin Mahtani**

(Director, Yayasan Peta Bencana)

[nashin@petabencana.id](mailto:nashin@petabencana.id)

**Hong Phuc Dang**

(Founder, FOSSASIA)

[hp@fossasia.org](mailto:hp@fossasia.org)

**Dong Xie**

(Secretary-General, NGO20.cn)

[endy@ustc.edu.cn](mailto:endy@ustc.edu.cn)

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**ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**



**Eyung Lim** is a Director for the Digital Design & Development team at the Government Digital Services (GDS) division in GovTech. One of his key roles is to understand the issues faced by other government agencies and propose how the various functional and cross-functional teams of GDS can come together to help. Eyung enjoys the process of empathising with users and ideating with stakeholders to create digital services that impact and add value to society. Bringing together the expertise of various IT and engineering professionals to benefit the lives of citizens is what he finds most satisfying about his job.



**Hong Phuc Dang** is the founder of [FOSSASIA](https://fossasia.org), an organization that strives to improve people's lives through sharing open technologies and sustainable production. She serves as the vice chair of the Open Source Committee, IEEE, a board member of the Open Source Business Alliance Europe. With over a decade of open source expertise, she supports companies in their technology transition to open source and innersource development models. Her recent efforts focused on bringing open source hardware into production at scale.



**Nashin Mahtani** is currently the director of Yayasan Peta Bencana (Disaster Map Foundation), a South-East Asian based non-profit organization developing software infrastructures for community-led disaster co-management. She co-led the expansion of the life-saving platform—PetaBencana.id—from a real-time flood mapping platform serving 50 million people in Indonesia to a multi-hazard mapping platform serving over 350 million people in South East Asia. In 2021 she was recognized by Forbes Asia 30 Under 30 for her contributions to the region's social issues. Nashin was also one of five global semi-finalists for the prestigious Global Citizen Prize: Cisco Youth Leadership Award in 2019, listed as a Southeast Asian Women Leader by YSEALI in 2020, and recognized as a Women Innovator by the Information Society Innovation Fund in 2018.



**Dr Dong Xie** is currently Secretary General of NGO20.cn, a Shen Zhen registered non-profit organization co-founded by University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) and MIT's New Media Action Lab in 2009. NGO2.0 is the pioneer in promoting ICT4Good in China. As a national organization that supports Chinese NGOs through information and communication technologies, NGO2.0 built a NGO dataset, drafted a digital map, developed 2.0 tools, provided training to more than 3000 NGOers, and ran hackathons. Dr Xie is Associate Professor teaching at the Department of Technological Communication, USTC.