

Ng Wi En (she/her)

Master of Arts

Communication Studies, Critical Technology Studies, and Gender Studies

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Website: ngwien.com

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

National University of Singapore

Master of Arts, Highest Distinction

2022 - 2025

Communications and New Media

GPA 5/5

Thesis Topic: "Virtual worlds are a safe space for people to explore their gender identities as well": Exploring how virtual fashion shapes gender in Decentraland.

Advisors:

Asst. Prof. Michelle H. S. Ho

Dr Rimi Khan

National University of Singapore

Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons), Highest Distinction

2018 - 2022

Major: Communications and New Media

GPA 4.57/5

Minor: Psychology

Thesis Topic: "No such thing as fake news back then": Understanding how the elderly in Singapore navigate the digital information landscape.

Advisor:

Dr Shobha Avadhani

PUBLICATIONS

Invited

Self, P. R., Ho, M. H. S., & **Ng, W. E.** Methodologies in digital intimacies: Sensing LGBTQ+ dating app desires in Singapore. In *Routledge companion to LGBTQ+ media*. Routledge.

Revise and Resubmit

Ho, M. H. S., **Ng, W. E.**, Rosario, A. L. C., Lee, J., Wadhwa, B., Choy, O., & Tandoc, E. C. Jr. When everything goes online, it's never really gone: Understanding technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV) in Singapore. *Journal of Gender Studies*.

Ng, W. E., & Ho, M. H. S. Has women's equality gone too far?: Theorizing gender-based violence in Singapore. In *Routledge companion to gender, violence and popular culture*. Routledge.

In Preparation

Ng, W. E., & Avadhani, S. "No such thing as fake news back then": Understanding how older adults in Singapore navigate the digital information landscape. For submission to *Information, Communication & Society*

Ng, W. E. Flushed margins: Decoding toilet cultures and social disparities in Singapore. For submission to *cultural geographies*

Ng, W. E. Here, there, nowhere, and everywhere: Understanding presence through embodied disembodiment in virtual worlds. For submission to *Journal of Posthuman Studies*

Ng, W. E. Pixelated Pride: Performative engagement and the neoliberal commodification of queerness in the Metaverse. For submission to *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*

Ng, W. E. When Decentralisation fails: Gender, violence, and political agency in the quest for inclusive digital futures in the Metaverse. For submission to *Gender, Technology and Development*

Ng, W. E. & Rosario, A. L. C. Cultural reflections and gendered inflections: The Southeast Asian heroes of Mobile Legends Bang Bang. For submission to *Gender and Language*

Non-referred

Ng, W. E., & Yeong, E. (2023). "Identity crisis is our identity": Cultural cringe and the search for a Singaporean identity through nationalism. *Advance*.
<https://doi.org/10.31124/advance.24144369.v>

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Assistant: Queer Men in Singapore October 2024
A Research Study on Digital Intimacies, Sexual Behaviors & Mpox Perceptions – Present
National University of Singapore, Department of Communications and New Media

Principal Investigator: Asst. Prof. Michelle Ho

Part of an interdisciplinary team conducting research on the perceptions, understandings, and lived experience of gay, bisexual, or queer men in Singapore. Conducted and transcribed interviews, as well as handled administrative work related to the study. Wrote papers and presented study findings at international conferences.

Study Website: tinyurl.com/queermeninsg

Research Assistant: Interventions in Young Singaporeans' Experiences and Understandings of Sexual Violence October 2023
– Present
National University of Singapore, Department of Communications and New Media

Principal Investigator: Dr Shobha Avadhani

Explored young Singaporeans' experiences and understandings of gender and sexual violence through a case study of NUS students. Conducted literature review and did data analysis on over 500 student papers.

Research Assistant: Campus Sexual Misconduct in a Digital Age (CASMIDA) May 2023
– Present
National University of Singapore, Department of Communications and New Media

Principal Investigator: Asst. Prof. Michelle Ho

Investigated technology-facilitated sexual violence in campus settings. Conducted and transcribed interviews; managed six quantitative surveys; and handled qualitative and quantitative data cleaning, preparation and analysis. Assisted with updating of IRB forms and all other administrative duties related to the study. Wrote papers and presented study findings at an international conference.

Study website: casmida.com

Student Researcher: Work and Savings Behaviours of Lower-Income Families in Singapore Apr 2022
– June 2022

Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Principal Investigator: Dr Mathew Mathews

Studied the work and savings behaviours of families living in three to four-room housing flats, aiming to propose policies to enhance long-term financial stability. Conducted door-to-door participant recruitment for the study.

Student Researcher: Politics of Fatness in Media Cultures

National University of Singapore, Department of Communications and New Media

Jan 2021
– May 2021

Principal Investigator: Dr Shobha Avadhani

Examined how fatness is constructed as a discourse across multiple media artefacts and platforms, from government health campaigns to social media activism. Conducted systematic literature review and assisted the Principal Investigator in developing the research framework.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Social Justice Fellowship, University of Manchester and Access Academia	2024
Department Conference Travel Grant	2024
NUS Research Scholarship	2022 – 2024
Annie Tan (Mrs Wan Boo Sow) Medal and Prize	2022

CONFERENCES

International Communication Association Conference (Denver, Colorado, United States)	2025
Pixelated Pride: Performative engagement and the neoliberal commodification of queerness in the Metaverse.	First Author
Dating App Desires: How Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Men in Singapore Navigate Intimacy in a Digital Age.	Co-Author
International Association for Media and Communication Research Conference (Singapore)	2025
Male Grievances on Reddit: Theorizing Gender-Based Violence in Singapore	First Author
Queer Side of Things: Digital Intimacies and Dating App Desires Among Men in Singapore	Co-Author
Men & Masculinities in Transition (Stockholm, Sweden)	2025
Side of the Times: How New Dating App Categories Influence Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Men's Identities in Singapore	Co-Author
National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Brown Bag Seminar Series (Singapore)	2025
Digital Intimacies of Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Men (GBQ) in Singapore	Co-Author
International Association for Media and Communication Research Conference (Christchurch, New Zealand)	2024
"It's freeing, guys have a lot of expectations on their shoulders": Creating feminist realities through the wearing of virtual fashion in Decentraland.	Solo Author
"When everything goes online, it's never really gone": Understanding Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) in Singapore.	Co-Author
"No such thing as fake news back then": Understanding how older adults in Singapore navigate the digital information landscape.	First Author
Research Workshop on Gender, Youth and Media in Asia; National University of Singapore, FASS Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster (Singapore)	2024
Cultural reflections and gendered inflections: The Southeast Asian heroes of Mobile Legends Bang Bang.	First Author
"When everything goes online, it's never really gone": Understanding Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) in Singapore.	Co-Author
Graduate Research Conference; National University of Singapore, Department of Communications and New Media (Singapore)	2023
Virtual Threads, Real Expressions: Exploring Gender Identity through Fashion in Decentraland.	Solo Author

Graduate Research Symposium on Gender and Sexuality; National University of Singapore, FASS Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster (Singapore)

Flushed Margins: Decoding Toilet Cultures and Social Disparities in Singapore	2023
	Solo Author
Fashioning an identity: Wearing Virtual Fashion in Decentraland.	2022
	Solo Author

RESEARCH SKILLS

Qualitative Research (Proficient), Quantitative Research (Intermediate)
Data analysis using research Software: MAXQDA, SPSS, R

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Communication and Media studies, Critical Technology studies, Gender studies, Cultural studies, Qualitative Research Methods, Feminist Methodologies

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

National University of Singapore, Department of Communications and New Media

NM2207 Computational Media Literacy	Jan 2023 –
Student feedback: 4.3/5	May 2023
NM1101E Communications, New Media and Society	Aug 2022 –
Student feedback: 4.1/5	Nov 2022

WORKSHOPS AND MASTERCLASSES

<u>17th Annual Feminist Theory Workshop</u> . Hosted by the department of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, Duke University.	2024
<u>Digital Authorship in the Age of Misinformation</u> . Masterclass with A/P Nishant Shah of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Hosted by the Department of Communications and New Media, National University of Singapore.	2023

CERTIFICATES AND ELIGIBILITIES

<u>AWARE Singapore</u> : Sexual Assault First Responder Training	2023
<u>CITI Program</u> : Social & Behavioural Research (Basic) Certificate	2023
<u>The Open University</u> : Humanities Research in the Digital Age	2023
<u>United Nations</u> : Gender Equality and Human Rights in Climate Action and Renewable Energy, Pathways 1 and 2	2023
<u>United Nations</u> : Specialised Module on Children and Climate Change	2023
<u>CITI Program</u> : Responsible Conduct of Research (Basic) Certificate	2022
<u>The Safe Zone Project (SZP)</u> : Self-Guided Foundational Safe Zone Training	2022

SERVICE

Panel Moderation, International Association for Media and Communication Research Conference (Singapore)	2025
Moderated a post-conference panel on <i>Methods, Approaches, and Challenges of Researching AI and Labour in Creative Media Ecologies from Global Perspectives</i>	
Co-organiser and Publicity director, gCON2023 (National University of Singapore)	2023
Co-organised the department graduate student conference, coordinated publicity, and put out the call for papers. Secured funding for the event.	

Conference theme: *Media, Borders, and Transformations: Rethinking the Role of Media in Shaping Societies and Cultures.*

Panel Moderator: *The Role of Smart Technologies in Our Everyday Lives*

Co-organisier, Gender Studies Reading Group (National University of Singapore) 2023 - 2024

Co-organised and managed a gender studies reading group for 7 graduate students from the Department of Communications and New Media.

Editor and contributor, Post Script Issue 01 (Semesterly student publication, National University of Singapore, Political Science Society) 2020 - 2021

Peer-reviewed submissions and contributed an article to the issue.

REFERENCES

Asst. Prof. Michelle H. S. Ho, National University of Singapore (MA thesis advisor)

Email: michelle.ho@nus.edu.sg

Assoc. Prof. Renyi Hong, National University of Singapore

Email: renyihong@nus.edu.sg

Dr Shobha Avadhani, National University of Singapore (BSS thesis advisor)

Email: shobha@nus.edu.sg