

CALL FOR CHAPTERS

Private chat to public sphere:

Mobile media, political participation, and civic activism in Asia

Edited by **Ran Wei, Ph.D., University of South Carolina**
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With increasing personal freedom and faster mobile technologies centered around the smartphone, more and more individuals have the capacity to participate, create and disseminate information, shaping a new public sphere of participatory citizenship or democracies for Asia. As the smartphone gets smarter, communal networks take shape and interact, giving rise to grassroots movements that capture national and even global attention. With more than 2.5 billion users, Asia leads the world in mobile phone population. The increasing saturation of Asian societies by mobile phones with their participatory capacity call for a special volume to explore the mobile phone's efficacy as a tool for citizen engagement and participation in civic and political affairs, especially in the search for solutions to widespread social problems such as food safety, pollution, government corruption, terrorism, and sectarian violence, and public health risks.

This volume in the Springer series, "Mobile Communication in Asia," explores how personalized content and the inherent networked nature of the mobile phone lead to positive network effects for public good and fostering social progress. Considering the vast cultural diversity of Asian societies that are shaped by different levels of political, social, economic and religious development, the volume will focus on nuanced investigation and in-depth analysis of the mobile phone and political communication in particular Asian societies, from which it will draw broad themes from local cases and synthesize enduring concepts of global significance. Research is only now catching up with advanced mobile technology, and this book provides the most significant and up-to-date studies on the topic.

We welcome research by emerging Asia-focused or Asian-based scholars whose work has not previously been published in English.

Chapter proposals are needed for topics in the volume including but not limited to:

- Empirical studies that examine uses of the mobile phone (calling, voicemail, SMS/texting, mobile social media, mobile blogs, mobile Weibo, mobile webchat) to access and share information about public affairs, mobile crises, community events, and the like.
- How social media transforms at the individual level and at the structural level, leading to mobilization and civic engagement.
- The bridge between Asian news consumption and political participation (e.g. voting).
- Creative use of mobile media for consuming news as well

as increasing autonomy.

- The growth of a networked publics among young people through mobile social media.
- Explorations and theorizing about the technical aspects of mobile media in virtual social movements, from network apps to contents of posts.
- Implications of mobile media in Asia for citizenship, national identity, social capital, solidarity and empowerment.
- Research that assesses the effectiveness and outcomes of social movements organized or facilitated by the mobile phone.
- Enhancement through social media of collective action in both scope and integration into daily life.
- Mobile media campaigns in specific movements, such as students' rights and climate change.
- The implications of the Asian experience for world politics.
- Mobile campaigns to confront social problems such as food safety, pollution, corruption, and social injustice.
- Enhancing information and services for public health initiatives.

Please submit proposals up to 800 words, and a brief (300-word) author bio in an e-mail attachment by **15 June, 2015**, to wei2@sc.edu. Authors of accepted proposals will be notified by **15 July, 2015**, and invited to submit a full paper by **1 October, 2015**. Manuscripts should be no more than 9,000 words, including notes and references, and conform to APA style. All chapters will be subjected to anonymous peer review following submission.

The volume editor: Ran Wei is the Gonzales Brothers Professor of Journalism at University of South Carolina, and current Editor-in-Chief of Mass Communication and Society. He earned a B.A. in English Literature and International Journalism from Shanghai International Studies University (China), a M.A. in Journalism Studies at the University of Wales (U.K.), and a Ph.D. in Mass Communication at Indiana University. His research focuses on new media, the processes and effects of media messages in various contexts (political, social, promotional, health and risk) that involve a wide range of media channels and devices (traditional and emerging). He is a pioneering scholar in mobile communication research, with his mobile phone studies being widely cited. He serves on the inaugural board of Mobile Media & Communication, and was a guest editor of Media Asia.