

# Threads of Troubles and Trajectories in “Asian” Communication and Media Studies

The vast and vibrant terrain of communication and media studies in “Asia” requires continuous introspection and interrogation. “Asia” in this issue is a term that spectacles and troubles our affiliations and actions as people who share cultural and historical links in geographical and geopolitical spaces. This issue contributes to Asian scholarship that pushes on with the probe to (re)define the nature and character of our own communication and media studies. As such, the articles in this collection offer a conversation with scholars in and out of Asia to sit down, discuss, and demystify our communication philosophies and traditions and their implications to our epistemological and cultural premises.

This issue features ten submissions that interrogate the trajectories of the geographies of “Asian” communication. The collection features articles on communicative practices in “Japan” using the Filipino lenses of Kevin Michael de Guzman and Razel Andrea Navalta. De Guzman interrogates the “Asian” perceptions of bromance in a Japanese anime, while Navalta digs deep into how digital spaces foster belongingness and solidarity among Filipina migrants in Japan.

It also puts the spotlight on Thailand and Indonesia through four scholarly articles. Nattawaj Kijratanakoson analyzes how international media’s content navigates through the Thai BL dramas- a rising global phenomenon that reshapes the world’s perception of LGBTQ+ representation. Satrya Wibawa examines how Indonesian melodrama defines the nation’s family

and children. Andika Hendra Mustaqim, Ibnu Hamad, and Karim Suryadi pondered the connection between digital fetishism, journalism, and digital media practice among Indonesian millennial journalists before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Abdelrahman Ali, Nurprapti Wahyu Widyastuti, and Deddy Mulyana explained the persistent role of television stations in Indonesia's national elections, particularly on political awareness and voter education.

The issue also has three articles that feature journalism and teledrama in India. V. Vijay Kumar and Anurag Sahu looked into the country's quality and direction of data journalism curriculum. Amarendra Kumar Dash and Rashmi Ranjan Behera critically analyze the Indian teledrama series to show the potential of its use of dialogism for the values of plurality and peace. Noor-ul-Ain Shahid, Muhammad Ashfaq, and Jaaria Zubair's content analyzed Pakistani news media's framing of the armed conflict between India and Pakistan, signifying the role of journalistic priorities that affect an issue's national and international prominence.

Finally, the issue features Hojung Kim and their work on how Hong Kong grapples with its collective memory as the dominant narrative of mainland China erases the pro-democracy uprising in 2014. The work looks into and dissects the "archive drive" as a desperate attempt to safeguard the memories of Hong Kong's struggle before it vanishes entirely.

I thank the scholars who contributed their work to this issue. Your work further contributes to the ever-evolving notions of communication and media studies in "Asia."

I also thank the reviewers for their suggestions and recommendations. Your devotion to ensuring the quality of the articles is a source of inspiration.

Likewise, we are in awe of the art and the philosophy of Jose Santos P. Ardivilla, who has been able to translate the meanings and values of the collection into an art form. Thank you, Chong.



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