



**Masterclass with Dr Deirdre McKay**  
***Digital and Social Media in Migration***  
***Studies***

21 April 2017

La Trobe University Melbourne Australia

# Masterclass Details

- VENUE:** Viz Lab, Research Commons, Level 2, Borchardt Library, Bundoora Campus
- TIME:** 12.00pm – 5.00pm (lunch and afternoon tea provided)
- DATE:** Friday 21 April 2017
- CONVENORS:** Dr Monika Winarnita [m.winarnita@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:m.winarnita@latrobe.edu.au) and Alex Lloyd [alexclloyd@uvic.ca](mailto:alexclloyd@uvic.ca)
- PRESENTER:** Dr Deirdre McKay, Keele University, UK

## About Dr McKay



Dr Deirdre McKay is a Senior Lecturer in Social Geography and Environmental Politics at Keele University, UK. As a Research Fellow Dr McKay has presented her work at La Trobe University's Philippines Australia Studies Centre. Dr McKay does fieldwork in the global South and also with migrant communities from developing areas who have moved into the world's global cities. Much of her work has been conducted with people who originate in indigenous villages in the northern Philippines. Her latest [book](#) is: 'An

Archipelago of Care Filipino Migrants and Global Networks' (2016) Indiana University Press. For more on Dr McKay's work you can listen to her interview podcast:

<https://soundcloud.com/listener1984/phone-home-a-welfare-investment-by-refugees>

## Overview

Ten early career researchers, graduate, and postgraduate students have been accepted to attend this masterclass to explore current digital and social media research in migration studies led by Dr Deirdre McKay from the University of Keele, UK.

Participants will present a short five (5) minute description of their current research for feedback from Dr McKay who will also facilitate an interactive discussion about the topic.

Two articles on the topic have also been given to participants to read prior to the event in order to facilitate discussions.

- Madianou, M. and Miller, D. (2012) 'Polymedia: Towards a new theory of digital media in interpersonal communication', *International Journal of Cultural Studies* 16(2): 169–187.  
<http://ics.sagepub.com/content/16/2/169.abstract>
- McKay, D. (2010) 'On the Face of Facebook: Historical Images and Personhood in Filipino Social Networking', *History and Anthropology*, 21(4): 479-498.  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02757206.2010.522311>

# Program

**Lunch** **12.00pm - 1.00pm**

**Masterclass Session 1** **1.00pm - 2.30pm**

1. Tu Thanh Tran, PhD student - School of Education, La Trobe University

Whilst a review of the literature has suggested a wide range of communicative resources that an individual can access and deploy in communication, the majority of the research has foregrounded those features that relate to language as part of a larger set of resources. What is underexplored in this literature is how the various features of different individuals' communicative repertoires interplay with each other in complex, dynamic, and adaptive ways during actual communication. It is this gap that I would like to explore in my study in order to contribute to the understanding of the intertwining of different individually- and socially-based communicative resources as they are deployed in verbal and non-verbal communicative practices. In order to achieve that research aim, I plan to conduct an investigation into the communicative practices of members of Vietnamese international students' families. Specifically, my study will explore how children and parents in Vietnamese international students' families communicate with each other verbally and nonverbally around their dinnertime. As I want to capture both verbal and nonverbal communicative practices of different family members so that I can explore the interplay between the communicative repertoires, video recording will be used as one of the data collection methods.

2. Trang Hoang, PhD student - School of Education, Deakin University

I am a PhD student in Deakin, School of Education. For my PhD research, I am part of an ARC-funded research team that investigates the transnational connectedness of international secondary school students in Australia. I have been focusing on the transnationalism lens of migration studies in order to apply into my research, given that I will be following the students over the three year period, from year 10 to year 12, and literature so far has suggested several features in migrants (ethnic ties, transnational care) could be relevant to this particular population that I am studying about. A major part of transnational connectedness is how these youngsters forge new relationships as well as maintain current ones, using digital and social media platforms. This is also a new area that I have not been familiar with, and therefore, believe that the insights gained from the Master Class will fill the gap in my knowledge.

3. Xinyu (Andy) Zhao, PhD student, Deakin University.

This research examines the intersection of everyday social media practices and experiences of social exclusion and inclusion in Australia. Specifically, it interrogates how the Chinese international students in Australia perceive and respond to their experiences of social marginalisation through the use of social media in their daily lives. Recent scholarship on the social implications of emerging information and communications technologies (ICT) problematises the often over-optimistic conclusions that foresee a future of inclusivity through access to technology; instead, these work argue for a focus on the varied ways people use these new technologies and the contingent impacts the diversified approaches exert. This research, therefore, attends to the complex ways Chinese international students fit social media into their everyday lives in Australia and the concomitant impacts on their experiences and negotiations of social exclusion and inclusion in different aspects of life.

4. David Adjarthey, PhD student – Anthropology, La Trobe University

My research explores the cultural impacts of forced resettlement on villagers that were resettled during the building of hydroelectric dam in north-western Ghana. The research focuses on using the camera as a research tool in documenting the lived experiences of the dam-affected persons, including how they are rebuilding their traditions five years after resettlement. The outcome of the thesis is expected to be accompanied by a documentary video that would have the people reflecting on their current life-ways in relation to their old experiences. As a community-based research, the video would give the affected persons the opportunity to voice their sentiments and feelings as resettled persons, and this would have implications for future dam projects in Ghana and elsewhere. David Adjarthey is currently a PhD student in Anthropology at La Trobe University. David earned both his BA and Master degrees in Archaeology from the University of Ghana. As part of his master's research, conducted in the Bui Dam project area of Ghana, he produced an ethnographic video about the daily lives of two villages that were earmarked for resettlement. His PhD research, which is a follow up to the above research, investigates the cultural impacts of forced resettlement on these resettled villagers through a community-based filmmaking.

5. Maren Wickwire, MA student - Visual Media Anthropology, Freie University Berlin, Germany (*via zoom video conferencing*)

For MA in Visual Media Anthropology at the Freie University Berlin I'm examining following phenomenon: within the wider framework of cyclical migration and transnational family ties, my research project examines how live-in domestic workers from the Philippines join the reproductive labor force on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, to fulfill their financial and emotional obligations towards their children and family back home. At the same time the women are building strong local networks and relationships using social media networks and organizing in public spaces such as churches, community centers, sports arenas and public transportation in their everyday lives. I'm interested in which way women are utilizing the different networks and how they perceive the digital vs the physical encounters in regards to actively sharing in the collective struggle they face as main nurturers for their families as well as issues within the specific employment sector and migration model the Republic of Cyprus applies.

**Afternoon tea** **2.30pm - 3.00pm**

**Masterclass Session 2** **3.00pm - 4.30pm**

6. Dr Stevanus Wisnu Wijaya, Lecturer School of Applied Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Universitas Prasetiya Mulya, Indonesia

Dr Stevanus Wisnu Wijaya is interested in investigating the social phenomenon occurring as an impact of the widespread adoption of social technologies by the migrant community. For example, he has researched Indonesian migrant domestic workers' empowerment through social media since 2010, funded by Strategic National Competitive Grants from Directorate General of Higher Education at 2010. Following this, he was awarded a PhD scholarship to continue his research at the School of Information Systems, Queensland University of Technology, Australia in 2011 and then graduated in 2016. Drawing from a virtual ethnographic approach, his PhD research is aimed to develop a theoretical-based model of migrant domestic workers' empowerment in online communities.

7. Adriana Rahajeng Mintarsih, M.Si, Lecturer - English Study Program, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Indonesia

Adriana Rahajeng got both her Bachelor's Degree in English Literature and Master's Degree in Gender Studies from University of Indonesia. There she has been teaching in English Studies Program, Faculty of Humanities, since 2009. Besides teaching, she has participated in some programs and community projects, which provide free English lessons for disadvantaged children.

8. Dr Lily Yulianti Farid, Research assistant - Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne

Dr Lily Yulianti Farid completed her MA (2003) and PhD (2015) in gender studies at the University of Melbourne, Australia. She received an Australia Development Scholarship and Australia Leadership Award to pursue her postgraduate studies. Lily is a journalist, writer and the director of Makassar International Writers Festival and has published collections of short stories, including Makkunrai (2008), Maiasaura (2008), Family Room (2011), Ayahku Bulan Engkau Matahari (2012). She also translated Anita Roddick's *Business as Unusual* (2013) and *Linking People: Connections and Encounters Between Australian and Indonesians* (2017). She is now working as a research assistant at the Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne. Her research interests are: gender, media, politics and Australia-Indonesia relationships in culture, arts and literature.

9. Anh Nguyen, PhD candidate, The University of Melbourne

Anh Nguyen was a Vietnamese child refugee raised in Carrollton, Texas. She graduated with a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity and Bachelors of Arts in English Literature from Bryn Mawr College. In 2002, she had a postgraduate fellowship from Harvard to conduct research interviews about the acculturation of Vietnamese in Australia. She then worked with Harvard School of Public Health on AIDS research and treatment in Nigeria, and became a bilingual legal aid advocate for Vietnamese immigrants in Boston. She currently works as Executive Assistant to the CEO of Native Title Services Victoria and is pursuing her PhD on the oral history of Vietnamese Australian child refugees in Australia.

10. Alex Lloyd, Master student - Anthropology, University of Victoria, Canada

*Overseas Students and Sexuality: An Indonesian Case Study.* Transnational Indonesian women represent a significant subset of the Islamic community on Australian university campuses where sexual identities and LGBTQ politics are openly explored and contested. Through the use of ethnographic methodology, my research explores the impact of transnationalism on women's sexual subjectivities, considering the complex interactions of both foreign and familiar sociopolitical contexts on sense of self. Social media and digital communications represent a significant space for maintaining relationships and connections, especially in the context of transnational mobility. In seeking to understand the subjectivities of Indonesian women studying in Australia, my study will focus on how women use social media to maintain and establish relationships, social networks, and identity. My research will highlight the scope of lived experiences and challenges that women studying abroad face while navigating sexual subjectivities and personhood and how they employ digital media in these processes.

#### **Masterclass wrap up 4.30pm - 5.00pm**

Final discussion and questions by masterclass participants for Dr McKay

Other observers/attendees: Associate Professor Leslie Butt and Dr Monika Winarnita