

Ng Wi En (she/her)

Master of Arts

Communication Studies, Critical Technology Studies, and Gender Studies

ngwien@u.nus.edu

Website: ngwien.com

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

National University of Singapore

Master of Arts

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

Forthcoming

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

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

Under Review

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

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.

Ng, W. E. Flushed margins: Decoding toilet cultures and social disparities in Singapore.

Ng, W. E. Here, there, nowhere, and everywhere: Understanding presence through embodied disembodiment in virtual worlds.

Ng, W. E. Pixelated Pride: Performative engagement and the neoliberal commodification of queerness in the Metaverse.

Ng, W. E. The missing link: Gender and political agency in the quest for inclusive digital futures in the Metaverse.

Ng, W. E. When Decentralization fails: Addressing virtual rape in the Metaverse and building accountability frameworks.

Ng, W. E. & Rosario, A. L. C. Cultural Reflections and Gendered Inflections: The Southeast Asian Heroes of Mobile Legends Bang Bang.

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.

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.

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

Presentations

ICA 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

IAMCR 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 Conference 2025

Side of the Times: How New Dating App Categories Influence Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Men's Identities in Singapore Co-Author

NUS FASS Brown Bag Seminar Series 2025

Digital Intimacies of Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Men (GBQ) in Singapore Co-Author

IAMCR 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; 2024

<u>National University of Singapore, FASS Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster</u> Cultural reflections and gendered inflections: The Southeast Asian heroes of Mobile Legends Bang Bang.	First Author
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“When everything goes online, it’s never really gone”: Understanding Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV) in Singapore.	Co-Author
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<u>Graduate Research Conference;</u>	2023
<u>National University of Singapore, Department of Communications and New Media</u>	
Virtual Threads, Real Expressions: Exploring Gender Identity through Fashion in Decentraland.	Solo Author

<u>Graduate Research Symposium on Gender and Sexuality;</u>	
<u>National University of Singapore, FASS Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster</u>	
Flushed Margins: Decoding Toilet Cultures and Social Disparities in Singapore	2023, Solo Author
Fashioning an identity: Wearing Virtual Fashion in Decentraland.	2022, Solo Author

Conferences Organised	
<u>gCON2023</u>	2023,
Media, Borders, and Transformations: Rethinking the Role of Media in Shaping Societies and Cultures.	Publicity Director

Panels Moderated	
<u>gCON2023</u>	
Panel Topic: The Role of Smart Technologies in Our Everyday Lives	

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	
<u>National University of Singapore, Department of Communications and New Media</u>	
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
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<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
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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

Co-organiser, Gender Studies Reading Group	2023 - 2024
Co-organised and managed a gender studies reading group for 7 graduate students from the Department of Communications and New Media.	
Editor, Post Script Issue 01	2020 - 2021
<u>National University of Singapore, Political Science Society</u>	

REFERENCES

Asst. Prof. Michelle H. S. Ho, National University of Singapore (MA thesis advisor)
 Email: michelle.ho@nus.edu.sg

Asst. 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