

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

**15th Chinese Internet Research Conference
“Divergence and Convergence in China’s Internets”**

第十五届中国互联网研究年会
「中国互联网的分歧与融合」

Texas A&M University School of Law
美国德克萨斯 A&M 大学法学院
1515 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102, U.S.A.

Monday-Tuesday, June 5-6, 2017
law.tamu.edu/circ15 | #CIRC15

Conference Description

Chinese Internet Research Conference (CIRC) has established a reputation for featuring cutting-edge and top-quality research related to the development, growth and impact of information and communications technologies in China and the Chinese-speaking world. Launched in May 2003, the event has featured multidisciplinary presentations from communications scholars, policy analysts, industry leaders, journalists and legal practitioners from around the world.

The year 2017 marks the 15th anniversary of CIRC, which has seen the internet population in China explode from about 50 million to over 700 million. This year’s conference will be held in Fort Worth, Texas on Monday-Tuesday, June 5-6, 2017. The event will be jointly organized by the School of Law and the Department of Communication at Texas A&M University.

Other institutional co-sponsors include the School of Journalism and Communication at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the School of Journalism and Communication at Peking University, the Department of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the School of Journalism at Fudan University and the Center for Law and Intellectual Property at Texas A&M University School of Law.

Conference Theme

With the rise of indigenous technologies, platforms and tech companies, as well as the world’s largest user base for both traditional and mobile internets, China has an indisputable impact on the technological landscape of the future. To help commemorate the 15th anniversary of CIRC, the organizing committee invites papers that contribute to the theme of “Divergence and Convergence in China’s Internets.”

In addition to papers focusing on this particular theme, the organizing committee welcomes papers that provide insight into the development, use and impact of the internets in China and the Chinese-speaking world. These papers could examine the economic, political, cultural or social dimensions of the internets in Greater China and the Chinese diaspora. They could also explore the interpersonal, intercultural, organizational or global aspects of internet use as well as its theoretical, empirical or policy implications. CIRC has a longstanding tradition of examining not only how the internet affects China, but also how China affects the internet.

Possible topics include:

- models of internet governance;
- surveillance and counter-surveillance;
- content regulation and digital copyright issues;
- issues related to digital inequality along class, gender, age and rural-urban lines;
- regional practices and media globalization;
- the global impact of Chinese internet firms and technologies;
- online communities and marginalized identities;
- cultural production related to the internet and social media;
- the usage, development and impact of online games and other entertainment;
- approaches to big data analysis in the Chinese context; and
- web metrics, network analysis and other research methodologies.

Conference Location

Texas A&M University School of Law is located in downtown Fort Worth, just 30 minutes from the Dallas–Fort Worth International Airport (DFW). The second largest airport in the United States, DFW has direct flights to over 200 locations around the world and is a hub for American Airlines. The Dallas Love Field Airport (DAL), about 40 minutes from the Law School, is a hub for Southwest Airlines.

Next door to the Law School is Sheraton Fort Worth Downtown Hotel, at which we have reserved a block of discounted hotel rooms. Other downtown Fort Worth hotel options include Omni Fort Worth Hotel, Hilton Fort Worth (formerly the historic Hotel Texas), several Marriott properties (including Courtyard Fort Worth/Blackstone) and the Ashton Hotel.

All downtown hotels are within short walking distance of the Law School. So, there is no need for a rental car or other transportation between the Law School and the hotel.

For those driving to the conference venue, free parking will be available in the Law School parking lots.

Conference Information

There is no registration fee for this conference. Texas A&M University will provide meals at the event. Each participant will be responsible for his or her own travel expenses, including transportation, accommodation and other incidental costs. Some graduate student presenters may receive limited travel subsidies (details provided below).

While many conference presenters and attendees are native or fluent in both Mandarin Chinese and English, all conference presentations will be in English. Simultaneous translation will not be provided.

Conference information and the first set of acceptance notices will be released by March 15, 2017. Thereafter, acceptance notices will only be released as space becomes available.

If you have any further questions related to potential paper or panel topics or conference logistics, please contact a member of the local organizing committee, including Randy Kluver 柯兰迪 (rkluver@tamu.edu) and Cara Wallis 华愷真 (cwallis@tamu.edu) of the Department of Communication and Peter Yu 余家明 (peter_yu@msn.com) of the School of Law.

Submission of Proposals

The deadline for submission is February 15, 2017. Please submit abstracts of proposed papers or panels of no more than 500 words in English online at law.tamu.edu/circ15 (preferable) or by email to Ms. Denise Devine at ddevine@law.tamu.edu (with the subject line of "CIRC Submission").

To facilitate the blind review process, the proposal should include a separate cover sheet with the paper title and the author's information and omit any personally identifying information from the body of the proposal.

Graduate Student Paper Competition

Since 2005, CIRC has featured a competition for outstanding papers by graduate students. Winning papers will be selected by the CIRC Steering Committee, which consists of HU Yong 胡泳 (Peking U), Randy KLUVER 柯兰迪 (Texas A&M), Min JIANG 蒋敏 (UNC Charlotte), Jack QIU 邱林川 (CUHK), Peter YU 余家明 (Texas A&M) and ZHOU Baohua 周葆华 (Fudan U).

Eligibility for the competition is limited to papers that do not include any faculty co-authors and that feature at least one participant of this conference. The maximum word count for each paper is 10,000 words (inclusive of the abstract, keywords, image captions, references and appendices, where relevant).

To enter this competition, please submit full English papers by May 1, 2017 online at law.tamu.edu/circ15 (preferable) or by email to Ms. Denise Devine at ddevine@law.tamu.edu (with the subject line of "CIRC Student Paper Competition").

To facilitate judging, please provide a separate cover sheet with the paper title and the author's information and omit any personally identifying information from both the abstract and the full paper.

Graduate Student Travel Stipends

To help train the next generation of internet researchers and to help defray the travel costs incurred by graduate student presenters, the Confucius Institute at Texas A&M University has kindly agreed to provide a limited number of travel stipends on an as-needed basis. While most stipends will be allocated to cover only accommodation costs, on rare occasions stipends will also be awarded to cover airfare or other transportation costs.

To apply for graduate student travel stipends, please submit a request documenting your travel needs by March 31, 2017 to Ms. Amanda Johnson at azj@tamu.edu (with the subject line of "CIRC Travel Stipend Application").