

2022 AAS-in-Asia Symposium

**“Cultivating the Humanities and Social Sciences: Addressing the Multiple Marginalities of South and Southeast Asia”**

8-10 December 2022 at UNISERV, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

**Workshop: Digital Rights, Activism and Academic Engagement**

**Organizer:** Richard Fox  
**Presenters:** Dimitar Gueorguiev  
Azra Fanoos  
MD Noor

**Abstract**

Taking participants' experience of digital communications as its point of departure, the aim of this workshop is: (i) to survey key concepts, events and legislation pertaining to Digital Rights, with an emphasis on South and Southeast Asia in relation to the wider world; (ii) to provide case studies exemplifying the issues, questions and challenges that surround Digital Rights; and (iii) to enhance participants' ability to think both critically and strategically about Digital Rights as applied to their work as scholars, activists and citizens. The workshop will begin with a brief exercise reflecting on participants' experience of digital communications and new media technologies. This will be followed by a survey of key issues, events and legislation pertaining to Digital Rights (Gueorguiev), focusing on the meaning, documentation, and measurement of academic censorship and its downstream consequences on knowledge production and education. This will be followed by a pair of case studies addressing digital communication and Gender-based violence (Fanoos), and the use of blockchain technology to provide digital identification and enable social and financial inclusion for Rohingya and other stateless people. The workshop will conclude by returning to reflect on the issues and questions raised by participants in the opening exercise, and engage materials presented by Gueorguiev, Fanoos and Noor. A synopsis of key issues and list of further reading will be provided at the workshop.

**Bios**

**Azra Fanoos** received her doctoral degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, USA, and currently works as an Assistant Professor of Education at the University of Lakki Marwat (ULM), KP, Pakistan. Along with teaching, she is serving as the director of the Teachers & Staff Training Institute, and director of the Women Development Center. Interestingly, she is the only female faculty at ULM.

**Dimitar Gueorguiev** is Associate Professor of Political Science in the Maxwell School of Citizenship Public Affairs and Chinese Studies Director at Syracuse University and a Public Intellectual with the National Committee on US-China Relations. Gueorguiev's newest book, *Retrofitting Leninism* (Oxford, 2021), explores the limits and opportunities of non-democratic participation and digital control in China. Gueorguiev is also co-author of *China's Governance Puzzle* (Cambridge, 2017).

**MD Noor** is a Rohingya and Co-Founder of Rohingya Project a Blockchain based organization to bring social and financial inclusion for stateless people.

**Richard Fox** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada. Richard also holds a professorial appointment (by courtesy) in the Department of Anthropology. His research and teaching address issues of religion, media and performance in South and Southeast Asia, with a special emphasis on Indonesia and the wider Malay region. His most recent book is entitled *More Than Words: Transforming Script, Agency and Collective Life in Bali* (Cornell University Press, 2018).