

Organizer: **Ip, Iam Chong**, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Transformation of Activism in a New Media Environment

The emerging of new media technologies has empowered individuals in renovating their online identity, forming social network that transgresses existing social structure, engaging in information and culture production and reproduction. New media has indeed opened up spaces for and transformed grassroots and social activism. However, whenever a new media tool has emerged, mainstream commentaries usually analyze the phenomena from the perspective of technophilia or technomania, without contextualizing the techno-communicative action into a specific socio-political environment. The so-called Twitter revolution in describing the netizens' report of the Iran election is a most recent example. Instead of taking a technologically deterministic approach, this panel seeks to theorize the techno-political practice by addressing the following questions:

- How social actors negotiate their space via new media technology?
- What are the factors that transforms communication activities into "activism"?
- How the interaction between social actors and new media technologies has transform the very definition of "social activism"? And what is the social and political implication of such re-definition?