

**Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands**  
**CSC PhD 2015 Project Description**

<b>School/Department:</b>	Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication Media and Communication
<b>Project Title:</b>	Digital vigilantism in China: Mapping the terrain and assessing societal impacts
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>Digital media enable citizens to persecute fellow citizens. This project examines digital vigilantism (DV; also known in China as the Human flesh search engine), both as an online practice and as a grounded social problem. DV is a process where citizens are collectively offended by other citizen activity, and respond through coordinated retaliation on digital media, including mobile devices and social media platforms. The offending acts range from mild breaches of social protocol to terrorist acts and participation in riots. The vigilantism includes a 'naming and shaming' visibility where users publish the targeted individual's personal details on a public site, resulting in harassment, death threats, and other harms.</p> <p>DV is an interdisciplinary concern that requires both conceptual and empirical advancement. Drawing on my previous research on digital media culture, surveillance and crime, the proposed research considers the cultural factors surrounding DV, in contradistinction to offline vigilantism. It also considers the social impact on the various actors involved, as well as how this complicates conventional policing and state power. The proposed research will build on a theoretical framework that will advance the frontier of knowledge of DV in relation to contemporary media and communication studies. The candidate will produce a content and discourse analysis of news media as well as other important sources of public discourse on the matter. This will be followed by in-depth semi-structured interviews with an array of relevant social actors in China. This includes participants in DV campaigns, targets of DV, police and policymakers. These theoretical and empirical findings will advance a conceptually rigorous and grounded understanding of the motivations and practices that surround digital vigilantism.</p>
<b>Requirements of candidate:</b>	<p>Master degree: Yes</p> <p>Background: The candidate is expected to have experience with qualitative research methods, including in-depth semi-structured interviews and discourse analysis. The candidate is also expected to have research experience in the field of digital media, activism and social movements.</p> <p>IELTS Grade: 7.0 (<i>minimal 6.0 per component</i>)  or  TOEFL: 100 (<i>minimal 20 per component</i>)</p>

<b>Supervisor information:</b>	<p>Dr. Daniel Trottier (copromotor) trottier@eshcc.eur.nl <a href="http://www.eshcc.eur.nl/english/personal/trottier_daniel/">http://www.eshcc.eur.nl/english/personal/trottier_daniel/</a></p> <p><b>Monographs and Edited Collections</b> Trottier, Daniel and Christian Fuchs (eds.). 2014. <i>Social Media, Politics and the State: Protests, Revolutions, Riots, Crime and Policing in the Age of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube</i>. New York: Routledge (in press) Trottier, Daniel. 2013. <i>Identity problems in the Facebook Era</i>. New York: Routledge Trottier, Daniel. 2012. <i>Social Media as Surveillance: Rethinking Visibility in a Converging World</i>. Farnham: Ashgate Reviewed in <i>First Monday</i>, <i>Journal of Mass Media Ethics</i>, <i>Canadian Journal of Communication</i>, <i>Tecnoscienza</i>, <i>Sociological Research Online</i>, <i>Cultural Sociology</i>, <i>Contemporary Sociology</i>, <i>Surveillance &amp; Society</i>, <i>kommunikation @ gesellschaft</i>, <i>European Journal of Communication</i> Awarded Surveillance Studies Network 2013 book prize</p> <p><b>Peer-Reviewed Articles</b> Trottier, Daniel. 2014. An overview of police-led and crowdsourced investigations on social media. <i>Journal of Law, Information and Science</i> 23 (1) Fuchs, Christian, and Daniel Trottier. 2014. Towards a Theoretical Model of Social Media Surveillance in Contemporary Society. <i>Communications: The European Journal of Communication Research</i> (in press) Trottier, Daniel. 2013. Crowdsourcing CCTV Surveillance on the Internet. <i>Information, Communication &amp; Society</i> 17 (5): 609-626 Trottier, Daniel. 2013. The Business of Conversations: Market Social Media Surveillance and Visibility. <i>First Monday</i> 18 (2). <a href="http://www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3930/3413">http://www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3930/3413</a> Trottier, Daniel, and Schneider, Christopher (equal contributors listed alphabetically). 2013. Social Media and the 2011 Vancouver Riot. <i>Studies in Symbolic Interaction</i> 40: 335-362 Haggerty, Kevin, and Daniel Trottier. 2013. Surveillance and/of Nature: Monitoring Beyond the Human. <i>Society and Animals</i> (January). DOI: 10.1163/15685306-12341304 Trottier, Daniel. 2012. Interpersonal Surveillance on Social Media. <i>Canadian Journal of Communication</i> 37 (2): 319-332</p>

	<p>Trottier, Daniel. 2012. Policing Social Media. <i>Canadian Review of Sociology</i> 49 (4): 411-425</p> <p>Trottier, Daniel and Schneider, Christopher (equal contributors listed alphabetically). 2012. The 2011 Vancouver Riot and the Role of Facebook in Crowd-Sourced Policing. <i>BC Studies: The British Columbian Quarterly</i> 175 (Autumn): 57-72</p> <p>Trottier, Daniel. 2011. A Research Agenda for Social Media Surveillance. <i>Fast Capitalism</i> 8 (1). <a href="http://www.uta.edu/huma/agger/fastcapitalism/8_1/trottier8_1.html">http://www.uta.edu/huma/agger/fastcapitalism/8_1/trottier8_1.html</a></p> <p>Reprinted as "Facebook: Friend or Foe" in <i>Seeing Ourselves: 4th Canadian Edition</i>. Edited by John J. Macionis, Nijole V. Benokraitis and Peter Urmetzer. Toronto: Pearson Press (2013)</p> <p>Trottier, Daniel. 2011. Mutual Transparency or Mundane Transgressions? Institutional Creeping on Facebook. <i>Surveillance &amp; Society</i> 9 (1/2): 17-30</p> <p>Trottier, Daniel. 2014. Big Data Ambivalence: Visions and Risks in Practice. <i>Big Data? Qualitative Approaches to Digital Research</i>, edited by Martin Hand and Sam Hillyard. Emerald Publishers (in press)</p> <p><b>Peer-Reviewed Articles Under Review</b></p> <p>Trottier, Daniel. 2014. Coming to Terms with Social Media Monitoring: Uptake and Early Assessment. <i>Crime, Media, Culture</i></p> <p>Trottier, Daniel. 2014. Social media intelligence, law enforcement, and OSINT: visions, constraints and critiques. <i>The European Journal of Cultural Studies</i> special issue on Data Mining / Analytics, edited by Mark Andrejevic, Alison Hearn, and Helen Kennedy</p> <p>Trottier, Daniel. 2014. Socio-technical (in)security: police adoption of social media monitoring. <i>Security Dialogue</i> special issue on Questioning Security Devices: Performativity, Resistance &amp; Politics, edited by Anthony Amicelle, Claudia Aradau, and Julien Jeandesboz</p> <p>Fuchs, Christian and Trottier, Daniel. 2014. How do computer and data experts think about Internet surveillance in the age of Edward Snowden. <i>Ethics &amp; Information Technology</i></p> <p><b>Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters</b></p> <p>Trottier, Daniel, and Christian Fuchs. 2014. Theorising Social Media, Politics and the State: An Introduction. In <i>Social Media, Politics and the State: Protests, Revolutions, Riots, Crime and Policing in the Age of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube</i>. Edited by Daniel Trottier and Christian Fuchs. New York: Routledge (in press)</p> <p>Trottier, Daniel. 2014. Vigilantism and Power-Users: Police and User-led Investigations on Social Media. In <i>Social Media, Politics and the State: Protests, Revolutions, Riots, Crime and Policing in the Age of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube</i>. Edited by Daniel Trottier and Christian Fuchs. New</p>
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	<p>York: Routledge (in press)</p> <p>Trottier, Daniel. 2014. Caring for the virtual self on social media: Managing visibility on Facebook. In <i>Digitizing Identities</i>. Edited by Irma van der Ploeg and Jason Pridmore. London: Routledge</p> <p>Pridmore, Jason, and Daniel Trottier. 2014. Extending the audience: Social media marketing, technologies and the construction of markets. In <i>The Audience Commodity in a Digital Age: Revisiting a Critical Theory of Commercial Media</i>. Edited by Vincent Manzerolle and Lee McGuigan. New York: Peter Lang</p> <p>Steeves, Valerie, David Lyon and Daniel Trottier. 2014. From Them to us – Surveillance as Participation. In <i>Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada</i>. Edited by Colin J. Bennett, Kevin D. Haggerty, David Lyon and Valerie Steeves. Edmonton: Athabasca University Press</p> <p>Fuchs, Christian, and Daniel Trottier. 2013. The Internet as Surveilled Workplace and Factory. In <i>European Data Protection: Coming of Age</i>. Edited by Serge Gutwirth, Ronald Leenes, Paul De Hert, and Yves Pouillet, 33-58. Dordrecht: Springer</p> <p>Trottier, Daniel, and David Lyon. 2011. Key Features of a Social Media Surveillance. In <i>The Internet and Surveillance: The Challenge of Web 2.0 and Social Media</i>. Edited by Christian Fuchs, Kees Boersma, Anders Albrechtslund and Marisol Sandoval, 89-105. New York: Routledge</p> <p><b>Student Thesis Supervision</b></p> <p>(MA) Bai, Minghan. Thesis Title: “Exploring the Dynamics of Rumors on Social Media in the Chinese Context”, MA Media and Communication, Uppsala University. Completed Autumn 2012</p> <p>(MA) Xue, Weiwei. Thesis Title: “Sina Weibo and Social Emergencies in China”, MA Media and Communication, Uppsala University. Completed Autumn 2012</p> <p>(BA) Cook, Sophie. BA Radio Production. University of Westminster. Anticipated completion Spring 2014</p> <p>(BA) Fung, Jade. BA Journalism. University of Westminster. Anticipated completion Spring 2014</p> <p>(BA) Hastie, Eliot. BA Journalism. University of Westminster. Anticipated completion Spring 2014</p> <p>(BA) Juracka, Milan. BA Public Relations. University of Westminster. Anticipated completion Spring 2014</p> <p>(BA) Ranson, Stephanie. BA Radio Production. University of Westminster. Anticipated completion Spring 2014</p> <p>(BA) Nunes, Ricardo. BA Journalism. University of Westminster. Anticipated completion Spring 2014</p>
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