

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Miao Lu 路森

Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University
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Professional Appointments

2022-	Assistant Professor, Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University
2023-2025	Associate Programme Director, Master of Arts in Arts and Cultural Heritage Management (Concentration in Cultural Management and Digital Future), Lingnan University
2020-2022	Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Journalism and Communication, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Education

2020	Ph.D. in Communication, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2016	M.A. in International Journalism, Communication University of China
2013	Bachelor of Arts (major), Central China Normal University
2013	Bachelor of Economics (minor), Wuhan University

Publications

- Monograph

Lu, M. (2025). *The Transsion Approach: Translating Chinese Mobile Technology in Africa*. University of Illinois Press (Geopolitics of Information Series).

- Articles in Referred Journals

Lu, M. (2025). Connecting the last mile in Africa: A volumetric analysis of internet balloons and rural base stations. *Media, Culture & Society*, 1-21.

Lu, M. & Xie, Z. (2025). Gaming the mobility regimes during COVID-19: Border-making and crossing between China and Africa. *Information, Communication & Society*, 1-20.

Wei, R., Lo, V.H., Zhang, X., **Lu, M.**, & Qiu, J. L. (2024). Examining the impact of digital information environments, information processing, and presumed influence on behavioral responses to COVID-19 misinformation in Asia. *New Media & Society*, 1-24.

Lu, M. (2024). Mobile phone repair in Ghana: Comparing three approaches. *New Media & Society*, 26(4), 2092-2109.

Lu, M. (2024). Under the socialist gaze: Solidarity, soft power, and China's representation of Africa in two eras. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 59(6), 1804-1821.

Lu, M., & Qiu, J. L. (2023). Transfer or translation? Rethinking traveling technologies from the Global South. *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, 48(2), 272-294.

Lu, M., Lo, V.H., & Wei, R. (2023). Countering COVID-19 misinformation: An influence of presumed influence study in Hong Kong. *Communication and Society*, 65, 191–217. [In Chinese]

Lu, M. & Qiu, J. L. (2022). Empowerment or warfare? Dark skin, AI camera, and Transsion's patent narratives. *Information, Communication & Society* (AoIR special issue: Independence), 25(6), 768-784.

Lu, M. (2022). From “working class culture” to “public culture”: Changing national memories of the Workers' Cultural Palace (1949-2015). *Communication & Society*, 60, 157-183. [In Chinese]

Lu, M. (2021). Translating a Chinese approach? Rural distribution and marketing in Ghana's phone industry. *Media, Culture & Society*, 43(2), 309-325.

Lu, M. (2021). Designed for the bottom of the pyramid: A case study of a Chinese phone brand in Africa. *Chinese Journal of Communication*, 14(1), 24-39.

Lu, M. & Fan, H. (2018). I sang, therefore I am! Uses and gratifications of self-mocking memes and the effects on psychological well-being. *International Journal of Cyber Behavior, Psychology and Learning (IJCBLP)*, 8(2), 35-50.

- Commentary

Chen, K.H., **Lu, M.**, & Qiu, J. L. (2022). Back to Bandung for the future: The never-ending project of deimperialization. *Communication Theory*, 32(2), 281-288.

- Book Chapter

Lo, V.H., Zhang, X., & **Lu, M** (2024). Consequences of exposure to misinformation. In W. RAN (Eds.): *Miscommunicating the COVID-19 pandemic: An Asian perspective* (pp. 89-110). Routledge.

Lu, M. (2022). Technology translations between China and Ghana: The case of low-end phone design. In R. Hoyng & G. P. Chong (Eds.), *Critiquing communication innovation: New media in a multipolar world* (pp.172-205). Michigan State University Press.

- Book Review

Lu, M. (2024). Book Review: The labor of reinvention: Entrepreneurship in the new Chinese digital economy, By Lin Zhang, Columbia University Press, 2023, US \$30 (paperback), 312 pp. *Chinese Journal of Communication*, 1-3. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17544750.2024.2348914>

Research Grants

Commoning the circular economy: A study of repair practices in the Greater Bay Area. **Direct Grant**, LU Research Committee. Lingnan University. PI. Jan 2025-Dec 2026. HKD 100,000.

Platform commons as an alternative future? A comparative study of Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan. **Lam Woo Research Fund**, Lingnan University. PI. May 2024 – Apr 2026. HK\$497,908.

Competing for Africa's Digital Infrastructure: Cables, Base Stations, and Chinese Telecom Companies in Ghana. **Early Career Scheme**. Research Grants Council (HKSAR). PI. Sep 2023 – Aug 2026. HK\$548,365.

Competing for Africa's Digital Infrastructure: Cables, Base Stations, and Chinese Telecom Companies in Ghana. **Faculty Research Grant**. LU Research Committee. PI. June 2023 – May 2025. HK\$49,940.

Research Seed Fund, Lingnan University, August 2022–February 2024. PI. HK\$40,000.

Conference Presentations

Lu, M. & Avle, S. (2025). *Data center for the tropics: Heat, Chinese tech, and thermopolitics in West Africa*. 4S, September 3-7, Seattle, the USA.

Tang, H.M. & **Lu, M.** (2025). *Repairing the Hong Kong society: Community projects as a way of commoning*. The 2025 Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Conference, July 23-25, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand.

Lu, M. (2025). *Infrastructuring the last mile: Chinese tech, rural base station, and the densification of mobile network in Ghana*. Africa-Asia, A New Axis of Knowledge Conference-Festival 3, June 11-14, Dakar, Senegal.

Zheng, W. & **Lu, M.** (2025). *Last mile infrastructures in Afro-Asia: Human, logistics system and environment*. Africa-Asia, A New Axis of Knowledge Conference-Festival 3, June 11-14, Dakar, Senegal.

Lu, M. (2024). *Connecting the last mile in Africa: A volumetric analysis of internet balloons and rural base stations*. EASST-4S 2024 Amsterdam Conference, July 16-19, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Qiu, J.L. & **Lu, M.** (2024). *Optimizing smartphone cameras for digital inclusiveness: From Africa to Southeast Asia*. The 74th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, June 20-24, Gold Coast, Australia.

Lu, M. (2024). *Connecting the last mile in Africa: Balloons, drones, and rural base stations*. The 74th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, June 20-24, Gold Coast, Australia.

路淼 (2024)。《連接非洲的最後一公里：氣球、無人機與農村基站》。物質性反思再出發：第五屆媒介物質性論壇。華南理工大學。4月19-21日。廣州，中國。

Lu, M. & Pun, N. (2024) *Platform commons as an alternative future? A comparative study of Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan*. The Commons Workshop. Jeju, South Korea.

Qiu, J.L., Lu, M., & Gregg, M. (2023). *Servicing phones in the Global South: The case of CarlCare*. The 20th Annual Chinese Internet Research Conference (CIRC), July 12-14, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Xie, Z. & Lu, M. (2023). *The making of “bodily infrastructure”: Exploring the body-technology nexus and cross-border traveling during COVID-19*. The 73rd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, May 23-31, Toronto, Canada.

Lu, M. & Xie, Z. (2022). *Unstable body, fragile mobility: Digital media, Covid-19 and biometric borders between China and Africa*. The International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) Annual Conference 2022, July 11-15, Beijing.

Lu, M. & Wang, G.Y. (2022). *Africa as the new battlefield of smartphone wars: A comparative study of Transsion and Xiaomi*. The 72nd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, May 26-30, Paris, France.

Lo, V.H., Wei, R., Lu, M., Zhang, G., & Qiu, J.L. (2022). *A comparative study of the impact of digital media environments, information processing, and presumed influence on behavioral responses to COVID-19 misinformation in Asia*. The 72nd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference, May 26-30, Paris, France.

Lu, M. & Lo, V.H. (2022). *Examining media exposure and the influence of presumed influence on Hong Kong citizens’ behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic*. The 2022 Greater China Visiting Scholar Program: COVID-19 Pandemic and Media, January 20-21, Hong Kong.

Lu, M. & Qiu, J. L. (2021). *Algorithmic empowerment or imperialist warfare? Dark skin, AI camera, and a Chinese company’s patent strategy*. The 22nd Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR), October 13-16, Virtual conference.

Lu, M. (2021). *Rethinking “development” in the China-Africa context: A genealogy and a new conceptualization*. The International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) Conference 2021, July 11-15, Virtual conference.

Qiu, J. L., **Lu, M.**, & Wang, Z. (2021). *Repair the business of repair*. The Cost of Convenience: Technology and the Environment Workshop, Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy, University of Cambridge, July 17, Virtual workshop.

Lu, M. (2021). *An ethnographic study of repair in Ghana's phone industry: Comparing three approaches*. The 71st Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, May 27-31, Virtual conference.

Lu, M. (2021). "Oburoni" or "Sister Beijing"? *Fieldwork reflections from China and Ghana*. "Revisiting Networked China" Conference, Moody College of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin, April 3 & 10, Virtual conference.

Lu, M. (2020). *Transfer or translation? Rethinking traveling technologies from the Global South*. The 70th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, May 21-25, Virtual conference. (ICA Fee Waiver)

Lu, M. (2020). "Below the Line": *A Chinese phone company's rural marketing in Ghana*. @frica: Digital Media Conference, February 27-28, Houston, USA.

Lu, M. (2019). *Designed for the bottom of the pyramid: Examining a Chinese phone company in Africa*. The 17th Annual Chinese Internet Research Conference (CIRC), June 28, Singapore. (Top Student Paper Award)

Lu, M. (2019). *The politics of big battery: Marketing a Chinese phone brand to rural Africa*. The 69th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, May 24-28, Washington DC, USA.

Lu, M. (2019). *Designing phones for the poor: An ethnographic study of a Chinese phone company*. The 68th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, May 24-28, Washington DC, USA.

Lu, M. (2018). *Representing Africa in China: Comparing the Maoist and Post-Maoist eras*. The 67th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, May 24-28, Prague, Czech Republic.

Lu, M., & Fan, Hua. (2017). *Self-mockery as an alternative social strategy: Gratifications-sought, need for humor, narcissism, and self-mocking meme usage*. The 100th Annual Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Conference, August 9-12, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Talks, Roundtable, and Keynote Speech

July 2025	"Engineering Nature: Digital infrastructure, big tech, and rural connectivity in Africa." Keynote speech for the IAMCR pre-conference "Digital Economy, Communication and Rural Development Retrospect, Reflection and Praxis". Singapore.
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May 2024	<i>“The CAP Roundtable on 30 Years of the Chinese Internet and Beyond.”</i> The 74th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference. Gold Coast, Australia.
Mar 2023	<i>“Global China meets Digital Africa: Technology translation as a framework.”</i> Faculty Research Seminar, Lingnan U, Hong Kong
Apr 2022	<i>“Deep ploughing: A mobile phone company’s technology translation between China and Ghana.”</i> Invited talk. Peking University, Beijing, China

Awards & Scholarship

2023	Research & Knowledge Transfer Fund Award 2023, Lingnan U (HKD20,000)
2022	Best Dissertation Award (runner-up), ICA Global Comm and Social Change Division
2020	ICA conference fee waiver, Division of Philosophy, Theory and Critique (USD145)
2019	Global Scholarship Programme for Research Excellence 2019-20, CUHK (HKD15,000)
2019	Doctoral Dissertation Grant, CUHK (HKD10,000)
2019	Top Student Paper Award, The 17 th Chinese Internet Research Conference (SGD400)
2016-20	Postgraduate Studentship, CUHK
2014	Youth Scholarship for China-Denmark Joint Documentary Project
2014	Top Student Paper Award, The 1 st Postgraduate Student Forum in Guangdong

Teaching Experience

- Course Instructor

Lingnan University

CUS2410 Digital Technology and Creative Commons (Spring 2024 & Spring 2025)

CUS522 Everyday Culture of the Web (Spring 2024 & Spring 2025)

CUS524 Dissertation (Spring 2024)

CUS4001 Capstone Project (Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, & Fall 2025)

CLE9026 Everyday Culture of the Web (Fall 2022 & Fall 2023)

CUS3310 Media, Culture and Society (Spring 2023, Fall 2023 & Fall 2024)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

COMM1120 Development of Mass Communication (Fall 2021 & Spring 2022)

- Teaching Assistant

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

COMM2150 Communication Theories (Fall 2017)

COMM3100 Critical Communication Theories (Spring 2018)

- Guest Lecture

- Nov 2024 *“When Global China meets Digital Africa: The case of Transsion.”*
Department of Media and Communication, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
- Nov 2020 *“Innovations from the Global South”*. Guest lecture for MA course
“CCT420H5F Information Technology and Globalization”, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.
- Oct 2020 *“Designed for the bottom of the pyramid: The case of Transsion”*. Guest lecture for MA course “NM4213 Digital Economies”, National University of Singapore, Singapore.
- Oct 2019 *“Grassroots innovation from China”*. Guest lecture for MA course “COMM5960 Issues of ICTs in China”, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

- Supervision

- Sep 2024- Tang Hei Man (MPhil), Lingnan U

Service

Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan U

2024-2026	Member, Undergraduate Admission Committee
2024-2026	Member, Staff-Student Consultation Committee
2023-2026	Member, Research Postgraduate Admission Committee
2023-2025	Member, Programme and Curriculum Committee, Master of Arts in Arts and Cultural Heritage Management
2023-2024	Convenor, Research Postgraduate Seminars & Internal Research Seminars
2022-now	Member, Programme and Curriculum Committee, Master of Cultural Studies

Leadership Team Member Africa-China Research Network in Hong Kong and Macau

Journal Reviewer Information, Communication and Society
Chinese Journal of Communication
Global Communication and Media
Journal of Asian and African Studies
Journal of Contemporary Ethnography

Conference and Panel Organization

Apr 2023 Discussant for the Public Talk *“Problematizing learning: on the labor process and knowledge extractivism in making data*

	<i>workers for AI in China</i> ” by Julie Yujie Chen (University of Toronto), Lingnan U, Hong Kong
May 2022	Panel Organizer and Co-Chair for the panel “ <i>Infrastructure, innovation and telecommunications: Evidence from the South(s)</i> ”. The 72nd ICA Annual Conference, Paris, France.
May 2022	Panelist for the Blue Sky Workshop “ <i>Digital ethnography: Methods for networked worlds</i> ”. The 72nd ICA Annual Conference, Paris, France.
July 2021	Discussant for the panel “ <i>Technologies, networks and infrastructures</i> ”. The International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) Conference 2021, Virtual conference.
Jan 2021	Organizing Assistant. “The 14th Greater China Visiting Scholar Workshop: Digital Media as Data and Method”. CUHK, Hong Kong.
Jan 2020	Organizing Assistant. “The 13rd Greater China Visiting Scholar Workshop: Gender and Media”. CUHK, Hong Kong.
Aug 2016	Organizing Assistant. “The Inaugural CUHK Research Summit and Workshop: Digital Methods and Social Development”, Hong Kong.

Professional Organizations

Member, Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
 Member, CA/AC (Chinese in Africa, Africans in China) Research Network
 Member, International Communication Association (ICA)
 Member, The Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)
 Member, The International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)