ECON 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR SERIES

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LINGNAN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

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Rationally Inattentive Echo Chambers

30 November 2026 (Mon)
11:00–12:30

WYL314, 3/F, Dorothy Y. L. Wong Building, Lingnan University



Dr. Lin HU

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BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Lin HU is a Senior Lecturer in Finance (Assistant Professor equivalent) in the Research School of Finance, Actuarial Studies and Statistics at the Australian National University. She received her PhD in Economics from Arizona State University and was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis before joining ANU. Her research spans the economics of information, financial technology, political economy, and household finance. She studies how information and technology shape what people learn and how they make financial and political decisions. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, Games and Economic Behavior*, and *Information Systems Research*.

ABSTRACT

Rationally inattentive players allocate limited attention capacities to biased primary sources and to other players as secondary sources to acquire information about an uncertain state. The resulting Poisson attention network stochastically transmits information from primary sources to a recipient either directly or indirectly through other players. We give conditions for the rise of echo-chamber equilibria in which players restrict attention to their own-biased primary source and same-type peers. We characterize the peer attention networks within echo chambers and analyze their comparative statics. Our results explain why modern information environments foster echo-chamber formation, how small differences in attention capacities can magnify into large disparities in allocations, and why regulatory interventions such as altering user visibility on social media or mandating exposure to opposing views may entail unintended consequences.

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