China and the Internet: Using New Media for Development and Social Change

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Motivation
• Analyze the impacts of new media and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) on social change and development in contemporary China

Project Description
• Publish my book China and the Internet with Rutgers University Press

Context
• Two oversimplified narratives have long dominated news reports and academic studies of China’s Internet: one lauding its potentials to boost commerce, the other bemoaning state control and measures against the forces of political transformations.
• This bifurcation obscures the complexity of the dynamic forces operating on the Chinese Internet and the diversity of Internet-related phenomena.
• My book will help rectify this shortcoming by analyzing, through theoretically informed empirical investigations, the impact of new media on development and social change in contemporary China.

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• Asian Studies Center

China and the Internet analyzes how Chinese activists, NGOs, and government offices have used the Internet to fight rural malnutrition, the digital divide, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other urgent problems affecting millions of people.

Project Deliverables
• The mid-term "exam": Submit the full manuscript to Rutgers University Press
• Final "exams": Publication of the book by end of the 1-year funding period.
• Within 1-2 years after the funding period has ended: Submit the book for book awards in related fields such as media, communication, Asian Studies, and development studies.

Potential Impact
• My book offers a new perspective to examine the Internet and related phenomena in Chinese society.
• My book explores the complex, multidimensional, and dynamic relations between activists, NGOs, and the government in new media interventions in Chinese society.
• My book reveals the role and effects of social media, ICTs, and mass media in promoting development, social change, and social justice.