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# Talk

MAY 2015

## Public coupling: Imageries of domestic intimacy among Influencers on social media

In Singapore, young couples who wish to apply for the heavily subsidized public housing, which accommodates over 80% of the national population, have to meet tight stipulations as regulated by the government. At the same time, predominantly female Influencers in the 'lifestyle' genre have increasingly been cast as role models among young people, given the extent of their influence over cohorts of Internet users on various social media platforms since 2005. This presentation draws together these two phenomena to investigate the emerging hyper-publicity of domestic intimacy between young couples as negotiated on social media. It investigates some of the early discourse and imageries staged, circulated, and contested in the life course of a romantic relationship including homemaking in third spaces, the materiality of love tokens, and the spectacle of dating milestones.

**WHO:**

Crystal Abidin

**WHEN:**

Wednesday May 13th, 11:30am - 1pm

**WHERE:**

Pavilion 4, Level 10, Building 100 (Design Hub) - cnr of  
Swanston and Victoria Streets, RMIT City Campus

**RSVP:**

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**Crystal Abidin** is pursuing a PhD in Anthropology & Sociology, and Communication & Media Studies at the University of Western Australia, Perth, and was most recently a Visiting Doctoral Fellow at the Media Management and Transformation Center (MMTC) at Jönköping University, Sweden. While Crystal primarily researches Internet culture, her academic interests include gender & sexuality performance and identity, social media commerce, youth uses, and mixed race studies. She has most recently published on disorder and intimacy with technological devices, and the commercial appropriation of Instagram. Crystal can be contacted at [wishcrys.com](http://wishcrys.com).