

Social Media Research Masterclass

Social media may be conceptualised as a tool for investigation, a space, an object of study, or a set of practices. This poses both opportunities and challenges for emerging researchers when designing and embarking on ethical and productive research across a range of disciplines. It challenges how we think about who our participants are, what their media practices are, and how we conceptualise our research spaces and the boundaries of our fields and disciplines.

Exploring these issues, this HDR student masterclass will consider:

- The theoretical and methodological issues related to social media as a research tool, space, object of study, and set of practices;
- Fieldwork experience from experienced and emerging career researchers using social media in their research and writing;
- Practical and theoretical ethical considerations that arise when working with social media in research; and
- How these insights may be applied to your own research projects, including an opportunity to review your research development with the support of experienced researchers

Please RSVP by May 19th to confirm attendance and for catering purposes.

WHO:

John Postill, Marsha Berry and Crystal Abidin

WHEN:

Tuesday May 26th, 9:30am - 1pm (arrive at 9am)

WHERE:

RMIT City Campus (Room TBC)

RSVP:

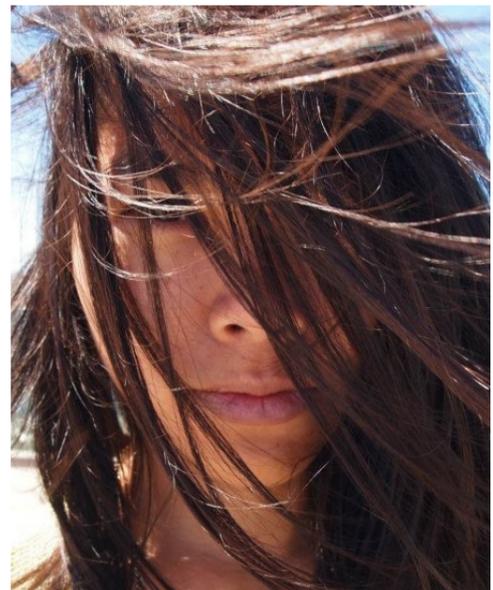
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Marsha Berry is an artist, ethnographer and a senior lecturer in the School of Media and Communication, RMIT University. She has been researching relationships between narrative, place and mobile media for the past decade and has numerous publications in international journals. She is co-editor of *Mobile Media Making in an Age of Smartphones* (2014, with Max Schleser). Marsha's current research investigates the complex entanglements of geo-located participatory narratives including poetic expressions for mobile and location based media. As a part of this project, she runs a website that pins poetry to place <http://poetry4u.org>.



John Postill is Vice-Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow at RMIT University, Melbourne, and Digital Anthropology Fellow at University College London (UCL). His publications include *Localizing the Internet* (2011), *Media and Nation Building* (2006) and the co-edited volume *Theorising Media and Practice* (2010, with Birgit Bräuchler). Currently he is conducting anthropological research on digital activism and political change in Indonesia, Spain and globally. He is also writing a book on the new protest movements and the co-edited volume *Theorising Media and Change* (with Elisenda Ardèvol and Sirpa Tenhunen).



Crystal Abidin is a 4th year PhD Candidate 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 Centre (MMTC) at Jönköping University, Sweden. She is currently a Visiting Researcher at the Digital Ethnography Research Centre (DERC) at RMIT. While Crystal primarily researches Internet culture, her academic interests include gender & sexuality, social media and 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