



# ITS WEBINAR

## Lesser evil? Public opinion on regulating fake news in Japan, South Korea, and Thailand

**OCTOBER 21, 2021**

**21:00-22:00 TOKYO, SEOUL**

**19:00-20:00 BANGKOK**

**14:00-15:00 CEST, 08:00-09:00 EDT**

Is using regulation to fight fake news a lesser or a greater evil? This webinar explores this question from a social science perspective by examining and comparing public opinion on regulating fake news in three Asian countries of different social and political backgrounds.

Register for free at:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/lesser-evil-public-opinion-on-regulating-fake-news-in-asia-registration-170039688285>



**JSICR** The Japan Society of Information and Communication Research



### PROGRAM:

**Presentation  
+  
Panel discussion  
+  
Q&A**

### SPEAKER:

**Dr. John W. CHENG**  
Tsuda University

### PANELISTS:

**Dr. Seongcheol KIM**  
Korea University

**Dr. Tavida KAMOLVEJ**  
Thammasat University

### MODERATOR:

**Dr. Hitoshi MITOMO**  
Waseda University

**INTERNATIONAL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
SOCIETY (ITS)**

**ACADEMIC HOST:  
INSTITUTE OF ASIA-PACIFIC  
STUDIES  
INSTITUTE FOR DIGITAL SOCIETY  
WASEDA UNIVERSITY**

**JAPAN SOCIETY OF  
INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATION RESEARCH**



## ITS Webinar on Lesser evil? Public opinion on regulating fake news in Japan, South Korea, and Thailand

**Academic host:**

Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies and Institute for Digital Society, Waseda University  
Japan Society of Information and Communication Research

**Length:** 60 minutes

**Date:** 21 October 2021, 9p.m. JST

**Structure:** Single speaker presentation (20 min.) followed by a short panel discussion (30 min.) and Q&A (10 min.)

**Speaker:** Dr. John W. Cheng

Assistant professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts, Tsuda University, Japan

**Abstract of presentation:**

There is little doubt that fake news (misinformation and disinformation on the Internet) has become a global problem. Yet, whether we should regulate the creation and access of false information online is still being debated. While advocates contend that regulation is an effective way to deter individuals from spreading falsehoods, critics argue that regulating fake news will create a chilling effect in society. Is using regulation to fight fake news a lesser or a greater evil?

In this presentation, we will explore this question from a social science perspective by examining and comparing public opinion on regulating fake news in three Asian countries of different social and political backgrounds. First is Japan, a democratic country and is one of the few in the region that the government is taking a non-regulatory approach towards fake news. Second is South Korea, also a democratic country, but the government has been calling for new laws to restrict fake news. Third is Thailand, a semi-democratic country, in which strict laws against fake news have already been implemented.

Using data collected from a three-country survey, we will find out whether people in these countries support the regulation of fake news, the underlying factors behind their opinion, and whether there are common patterns between the three countries. We will also discuss the pros and cons of the regulatory approach and other non-regulatory means to fight fake news. The findings will be of interest to both supporters and opponents of fake news regulation, and to people who want to find out more about the battle against fake news.



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## About participants:

### Speaker:

**Dr. John W. Cheng** is an assistant professor at the Department of English, College of Liberal Arts at Tsuda University. His research interest is on the social impact of ICT and new media. His current research project focuses on COVID-19 conspiracy theories and health literacy. He has published papers in journals such as Telecommunications Policy and Telematics and Informatics. He is a member of ITS, IEEE, IET, and JSICR.

### Panelists:

**Dr. Seongcheol Kim** is a professor at the School of Media and Communication, Korea University. He received his BBA and MBA from Seoul National University in Korea and an MA in Telecommunication and Ph.D. in Mass Media from Michigan State University in the U.S. Since 1989, Dr. Kim has worked for not only academia but also business and government. He is the former president of the Korean Association for Information Society (KAIS) and Korea Media Management Association (KMMA), and the former director of Korea University Library.

**Dr. Tavid Kamolvej** is Dean of the School of Political Science, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand. She obtained her Ph.D. in Public Administration & Public Policy, at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, USA. She is currently serving as a National Board of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Thailand, and used to serve as a Disaster Management Advisor to the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) in Hawaii and various United Nations agencies. Other areas of expertise served are Policy and Strategic Analyst for Bangkok Metropolitan Authority, Open Government and Participation Subcommittee for the Office of the Public Sector Development Commission, and Policy Innovation Assessor to the National Innovation Agency, Thailand.

### Moderator:

**Dr. Hitoshi Mitomo** is a professor of Digital Economy and Society at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS), Waseda University, Japan. He has been serving as a vice chair of the International Telecommunications Society (ITS), President of the Japan Society of Information and Communication Research (JSICR), and Director of the Institute for Digital Society at Waseda University. While serving as a member of the Telecommunications Council of Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, he has been involved in various aspects of ICT policy development.