Regulating the Chinese Internet in the Name of Civility

Guobin Yang
Professor of Communications and Sociology, University of Pennsylvania

Tuesday, October 20, 2015
Noon - 1:00 P.M.
King Hall, Room 1301
LUNCH PROVIDED

Censorship in the name of civility or civilization is a common practice in the history of media and speech expression. Why the language of civility has become especially prevalent in Chinese official discourse about the internet in recent years, however, invites scrutiny. After tracing the origins and evolution of this discourse, this talk examines how a set of pedagogies of civility is developed and applied to the management of online speech, what these pedagogies teach and who teaches them, what they attempt to mask, and how they may be subverted.

Guobin Yang is an Associate Professor of Communication and Sociology at the Annenberg School for Communication and Department of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. His research areas cover digital media, political communication, global communication, social movements, cultural sociology, and the sociology of China.