What's IN-cubating?

January - March 2023

IN-cube celebrated its second anniversary earlier this year, with a simple lunch meeting in January that brought our committee and student members together in-person for the first time, and with an in-person symposium in February that brought together our academic, industry, and policy partners to discuss the persistent problem of fake news. During the symposium, we showcased a computer game that we developed together with our students that seeks to increase public awareness of the fake news problem, which is part of our efforts to translate our academic work into practical interventions for our community.

We are very grateful to all our friends, colleagues, and partners for your support in the past two years and we're excited for more meaningful projects and partnerships in the next years to come. In this issue of our newsletter, we share with you what we have been busy with in the last quarter. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Assoc Prof Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
Director, IN-cube

IN-cube Anniversary Preconference

To kickstart our second anniversary celebration, IN-cube held a preconference and annual planning event on 12 January. WKWSCI Chair Prof. May O. Lwin joined our celebration and encouraged our committee and student members to expand our work on investigating internet use beyond Singapore. The meeting also gave us the opportunity to connect with one another, discuss possible collaborations, and set new goals and objectives for 2023.

IN-cube Research Fellow, Dr. Goh Zhang Hao, also presented about our achievements in the centre so far, as well as led a discussion on how we can improve our current questionnaire for our semi-annual panel survey to track internet use in Singapore.

IN-cube Anniversary Symposium

Some 80 participants from our academic, industry, and government partners joined us in IN-cube's second anniversary symposium. Titled *Defining, Determining, and Dealing with Deliberate Online Falsehoods in Singapore*, the symposium was held on 9 February at Park Royal Hotel Beach Road. Prof. Eun-Ju Lee from Seoul National University, the President-Elect of the International Communication Association (ICA), gave the keynote address, where she also shared results from her projects examining the impact of fact-checks. IN-cube's faculty and student researchers also shared about our studies that examined fake news, fact-checking, and media literacy in Singapore. The symposium is the culmination of a three-year project funded by Singapore's Social Science Research Council.

Fake News Detective Game

During the symposium, we also shared about a computer game that we developed to help players better understand the problem of fake news. This online game was designed by three NTU students—Liew Zi Peng, Lau Zhen Jie, and Lee Chia Zhe—under the supervision of IN-cube Director, Assoc Prof Edson C. Tandoc Jr. The game is also part of the SSRC-funded project, titled Defining, Determining, and Dealing with Deliberate Online Falsehoods in Singapore. The game is targeted at secondary school students. Prior to opening the game to the public, we conducted experiments that found the game to be effective in teaching players about the threat of fake news and in increasing discernment on what is fake and what is real online.
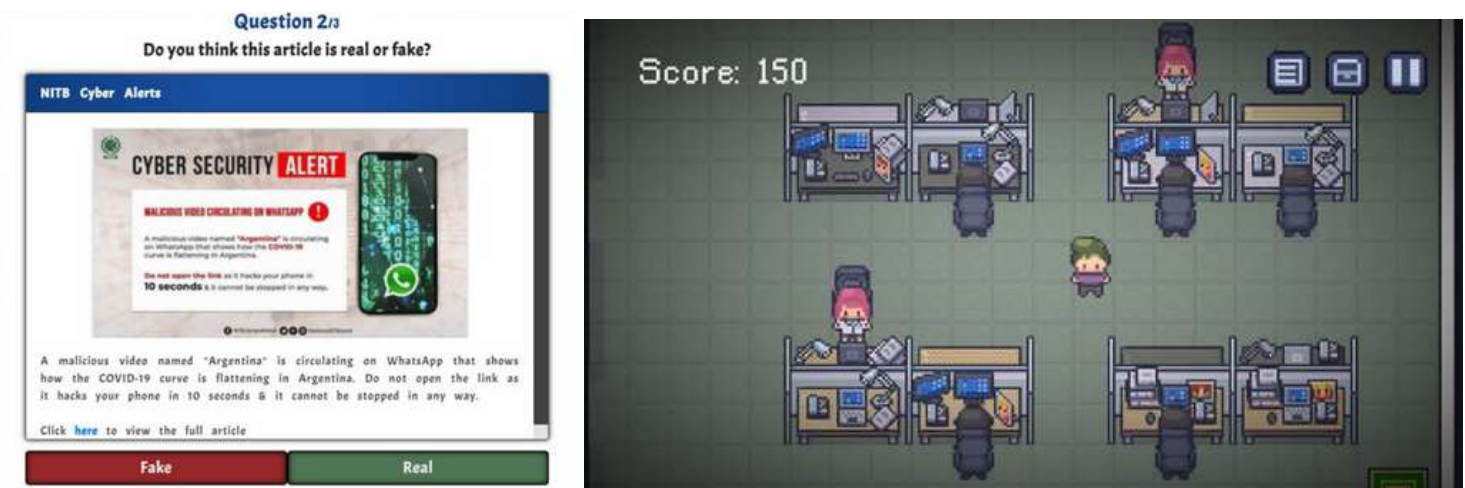
Fake News Detective aims to raise awareness about the problem of fake news as well as encourage players to be more discerning of information they encounter online. Designed as an escape room game, where the player explores a location, solves puzzles, and searches for clues, Fake News Detective combines exciting game elements and real-life examples of fake news and fact-checks.

The game also helps players understand the phenomenon of fake news, such as the reasons individuals make fake news and strategies fake news creators exploit to deceive others. The game introduces players to various steps that they can take to combat fake news, such as lateral thinking, cross-checking with reputable sources, and the National Library Board's S.U.R.E. methodology. You can try the game at fakenewsdetective.com

IN-cube's Annual Report

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY SINGAPORE | Centre for Information Integrity and the Internet — Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information

IN-REVIEW 2022

IN summary: IN-cube in 2022

22 journal publications
22 academic conference presentations
12 news commentaries and interviews
8 new labs launched
5 webinars
4 new committee members
1 in-person symposium

We have published our annual report for 2022, where we report about our achievements last year. The report is available at our website: ntu.edu.sg/incube

Launch of New Labs
We launched eight new research labs, or what we call as research incubators, last year. These will help to expand IN-cube's research scope, enabling us to better examine specific aspects of internet use in Singapore.

Academic Publications
In 2022, IN-cube's faculty and student members published 22 academic articles and presented 22 research papers at international academic conferences.

IN the News
IN-cube's research findings have been extensively cited in several news outlets as part of our public engagement efforts, such as in articles by Channel News Asia, Straits Times, and more.

Webinars
IN-cube's webinars featured scholars across NTU as well as our international partners who presented on a multitude of topics, including communication technologies, misinformation, and internet use.

Presentations and Collaborations
IN-cube researchers were invited to run a workshop in Kuala Lumpur on how infectious disease experts and doctors can maximise digital tools to detect and debunk medical misinformation.

ICA 2023 Conference Papers

73RD ANNUAL ICA CONFERENCE
Reclaiming Authenticity in Communication

25-29 MAY 2023
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

IN-cube researchers will be presenting several papers at the International Communication Association (ICA) Conference to be held in Toronto, Canada in May this year. Below are some of the research projects that we will be sharing about.

Toxic femvertising? Unpack the complexity of the gender issue in the East Asia context (Tingting Yang, Chen Lou)

Exploring student perceptions of peers and instructors using augmented reality face filters in educational videoconference contexts (Benjamin (Benjy) J. Li, Hui Min Lee)

Addressing the Twin Problem of Technology and Data Absenteeism in the Use of Wearable Gloves and Virtual Exercise Games to Improve Exercise Adherence Among Elderly and Stroke Patients: A Usability Study (Edmund W. Lee, Warrick W. Tan, Tan P. Pham, Ariffin Kawaja, Yin-Leng Theng)

Mining Instagram News: A Metadata Analysis of Global News Publishing and User Engagement Patterns (Julian M. Maitra, Lydia Cheng, Matthew Chew, Patric Raemy)

Attraction beyond dimensions: Parasocial relationships and how human-chatbot relationships carry over across virtual worlds (Sherlyn Lee, Jeremy R. Sng, Andrew Z. Yee)

Striving for excellence is striving for diversity: Reflections from Digital Journalism (Kristy Hess, Magdalena Saldana, Edson C. Tandoc, Oscar Westlund)

Examining the roles of news attention and information processing on knowledge and vaccine hesitancy: An Extended Cognitive Mediation Model During COVID-19 Pandemic in the U.S. and China (Yixi Wang, Huanyu Bao, Edmund W. Lee)

Trust in government or togetherness? Examining the privacy calculus in Covid-19 contact tracing app use in Singapore. (Hyunjin Kang, Jeong Kyu Lee, Edmund W. Lee, Cindy Toh)

Understanding public perceptions and intentions to adopt traditional versus emerging investment platforms: the effect of message framing and regulatory focus theory on the technology acceptance model (Edmund W. Lee, Vera S. Lim, Clement J. Ng)

Extended Abstract: Explicating the Roles of Self-disclosure and Task Objectivity in Trust and Relationship Development with Embodied Conversational Agents (Xuan Wang, Hsueh-Hua Chen, Chen Lou)

Examining Health Apps and Wearables Adoption and Impact on Physical and Mental Health Across U.S., China., and Singapore Through the Lens of Data Absenteeism and Technology Chauvinism (Edmund W. Lee, Huanyu Bao, Yi Jie Wong, Yongda S. Wu, Kelvin Wang, K Viswanath)

Is Reading Non-fiction Not Useful at All? Fiction Reading, Non-fiction Reading, and Adolescents' Prosocial Behavior (Pengya Ai, Heng Zhang)

Examining the Multi-Dimensional Para-Social Relationship Between Viewers and Streamers and Its Influence on Consumption in E-Commerce Live Streaming (Chen Rui, Xuan Zhou, Chen Lou, Ye MengTing, Chen JianJun)

Investigating the effect of AR face filters and self-view during videoconferencing on users' affect and videoconference fatigue (Benjamin (Benjy) J. Li, Hui Min Lee)

Personal health technologies in seniors' daily lives: A whole-of-community approach to understand the role of basic psychological needs in technology adoption (Andrew Z. Yee, Bernice Kwok, Janelle S. Ng, Karupppasamy Subburaj, Simon Perrault, Kwan Hui Lim, Jeremy R. Sng, Karryl K. Sagun)

A False Sense of Reality: Effects of Augmented Reality (AR) Filters on Communication Willingness (Xinyi Liu, Diqiao Liang, Gladys Tong-Laurence, ShengJun Lin, Hyunjin Kang)

Empowering the religious minority: Examining the mobilizing role of social media for online political participation in India (Saifuddin Ahmed, Muhammad Masood, Yifei Wang)

The Role of Quality of Support and Impact of a Game-Based Health Application on Children's Fruits and Vegetables Consumption Intentions (May O. Lwin, Ysa M. Cayabyab, Allison Seet, Peter J. Schulz)

The Influence of Meal Contexts on the Acceptance of and Willingness to Pay for Alternative Proteins (May O. Lwin, Ysa M. Cayabyab, Shelly Malik, Jaishree Teresa)

Personal Attitudes or Systemic Determinants? Role of Social Media News Use, Sexism, and Structural Gender Inequality in Influencing Belief in Misinformation Targeting Women (Saifuddin Ahmed, Muhammad Masood, Adeline Bee Wei Ting)

Understanding the Effects of News-Finds-Me Perception on Health Knowledge and Information Seeking During Public Health Crises (Yumin Lin, Minyi Chen, Si Yu Lee, Sue Hyon Yi, Yingting Chen, Edson C. Tandoc, Zhang Hao Goh, Charles Salmon)

Social Media Influencers: Uncovering their relation and content strategies, and psychological downsides of being famous (Chen Lou, Xuan Zhou)

ICA 2023 Conference Papers

Not your property! Physicians' perspectives to Internet-informed patients: a systematic review (Qianfeng Lu, Peter J. Schulz, May O. Lwin)

Two Sides of a Coin: Understanding Social Media Use and Its Relationships to Life Satisfaction and Online Perceived Discrimination (Mengxuan Cai, Saifuddin Ahmed, Gabrielle C. Ibasco, Arul Chib)

Less Than Human: Outgroup Dehumanization Inhibits Positive Effects of Intergroup Contact (Ryna Yeoh, Nuri Kim)

Technostressors, Strains, and Coping: How Employees Handle Videoconferencing in a COVID-19 World (Shruti Malviya)

[Work in progress] Of Viruses and Politics: Constructing COVID-19 and Vaccination as a Political Issue on Telegram (Langcheng Zhang, Xingyu Chen, Edson C. Tandoc)

The Effects of Patient Knowledge and Attitudes towards Requesting Unnecessary Antibiotics: Towards Better Communication of Responsible Drug Prescriptions (Yumin Lin, May O. Lwin, Shanshan Yang, Anita Sheldenkar)

Better to be safe than to talk face-to-face? The impact of direct and vicarious experiences on COVID-19 interaction apprehension (Edson C. Tandoc, Hui Min Lee, Wei Jie Dominic Koek, Zhang Hao Goh)

Escalating Exposure to Engagement —Why do Audiences Engage with the News? (Matthew Chew)

Assessing consumer rationality during a pandemic: Panic buying behaviours and its association with online social media discourse (May O. Lwin, Shanshan Yang, Anita Sheldenkar, Xinghao Yang, Bu Sung Lee)

Hong Kong Baptist U Students Visit IN-cube

In January 2023, IN-cube had the opportunity to host graduate students from Hong Kong Baptist University with their supervisor and IN-cube collaborator Asst. Prof. Jolie Shi.

IN-cube Assistant Director, Asst. Prof. Edmund Lee, and Research Fellow, Dr. Goh Zhang Hao, met with the students and shared about IN-cube's research.

The students had a fruitful session, touring WKWSCI, listening to the details about the latest developments at IN-cube, as well as the health-tech projects led by Asst. Prof. Lee. IN-cube hopes to foster more collaborations with more overseas universities this new year.

About IN-cube

IN-cube stands for Centre for Information Integrity and the Internet, a new research centre at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University Singapore. It aims to contribute to promoting information integrity in online spaces, especially in an era of misinformation and disinformation, through timely, rigorous, and relevant research that links academics, policymakers, industry players, and the public. Learn more about IN-cube by visiting our website: ntu.edu.sg/incube