DIEN NGUYEN AN LUONG

Ph.D. Candidate in Communication and Media, University of Michigan
Visiting Fellow, Media, Technology and Society Programme, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
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RESEARCH AREAS

Policy communication; communication policy; digital governance; platform-state relations; media autonomy; online repression and surveillance; Southeast Asia.

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI **2023-Present**
Ph.D. in Communication and Media, expected 2027
Dissertation: *Digital Fear Governance: How Perceived Risk Shapes Journalists' Self-Censorship in Southeast Asia*
Dissertation defense anticipated early 2027
Committee: Josh Pasek (Chair), Yanna Krupnikov, Brian Weeks, and Dan Slater

Columbia University, Graduate School of Journalism, New York, NY **2015-2016**
M.S. in Journalism

University of Education, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam **2004-2007**
B.A. in English

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute **Singapore**
Visiting Fellow, Media, Technology and Society Programme — Sept. 2024-Present
Associate Fellow, Media, Technology and Society Programme — Aug. 2023-Aug. 2024
Visiting Fellow, Media, Technology and Society Programme — Aug. 2020-July 2023

University of Michigan, Department of Communication and Media **Ann Arbor, MI**
Instructor of Record — Spring 2026
Graduate Student Instructor — Aug. 2024-Present

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill **Chapel Hill, NC**
Graduate Affiliate, Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life — Aug. 2023-Present

PUBLICATIONS

Publication titles are hyperlinked.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Dien Nguyen An Luong and Hong Tien Vu. 2025. "Framing Under Fire: Navigating Environmental Activism on Social Media Amid Digital Repression." Social Media + Society 11(3).

Book Chapters

Dien Luong. 2026. "Internet Control and Democracy in Vietnam: From Deterrence to Dilution." In The State and Digital Governance in Southeast Asia: Internet Control and Democracy. Routledge.

Dien Nguyen An Luong and Hong Tien Vu. 2022. "The US Media on the Vietnam War and Beyond: In the Name of Objectivity." In Journalism and Foreign Policy: How the US and UK Media Cover Official Enemies. Routledge.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2020. "Social Media's Challenge to State Information Controls in Vietnam." In From Grassroots Activism to Disinformation: Social Media in Southeast Asia. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Policy Reports

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2026. *Perceived High Costs and Low Benefits in Dissent: How Vietnam Contains Its Digital Youth (2011-25)*. Policy report, Trends in Southeast Asia 7/2026. Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.

Janjira Sombatpoonsiri and **Dien Nguyen An Luong**. 2022. *Justifying Digital Repression via "Fighting Fake News": A Study of Four Southeast Asian Autocracies*. Policy report, Trends in Southeast Asia 11/2022. Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2022. *A Study of Vietnam's Control over Online Anti-State Content*. Policy report, Trends in Southeast Asia 5/2022. Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2021. *The Growing Salience of Online Vietnamese Nationalism*. Policy report, Trends in Southeast Asia 11/2021. Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.

Policy Briefs and Research Essays

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2026. "Transactional Pragmatism: How Vietnam Turns Trump 2.0 Volatility into Legitimacy." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective 27/2026. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Nguyen Khac Giang and **Dien Nguyen An Luong**. 2026. "Discipline by Design: Vietnam's Blacklisting Regime and Its Implications for Digital Governance." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective 4/2026. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Dien Nguyen An Luong and Nguyen Khac Giang. 2025. "Elite Competition and Narrative Inconsistency in Vietnam's Propaganda Apparatus." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective 58/2025. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Dien Luong. 2025. "Digital double standards? Meta, censorship, and the EU's role in Southeast Asia." Policy brief. European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre.

Dien Nguyen An Luong and Nguyen Khac Giang. 2024. "Understanding the Rise and Rise of Online Nationalism in Vietnam." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective 103/2024. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2023. "Flexing Censorship Muscles and Leveraging Public Sentiments: How The Vietnamese State Scrambles to Sanitise Its Image Online." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective 60/2023. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2022. "How the party-state retains controls over Vietnam's blossoming media landscape." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective 79/2022. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Hoang Thi Ha and **Dien Nguyen An Luong**. 2022. "The Russia-Ukraine war: unpacking online pro-Russia narratives in Vietnam." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2021. "Restoring public trust in Vietnam's pandemic response: A bumpy road ahead." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective 151/2021. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2021. "Comparing Vietnamese Responses to Chinese and American Public Diplomacy Efforts on Social Media." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective 109/2021. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2021. "How the Vietnamese state uses cyber troops to shape online discourse." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective 22/2021. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2020. "How Hanoi is leveraging Anti-China sentiments online." Policy brief, ISEAS Perspective 115/2020. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Manuscripts Under Review

Dien Nguyen An Luong, Hechen Ding and Hong Tien Vu. 2026. "We're Leading the Transition": How Oil Companies Use Climate-Delay Discourses to Frame Their Responsibility on Social Media. Manuscript submitted to Climatic Change.

Works in Progress

Dien Nguyen An Luong. "When Fear Outruns Enforcement: Perceived Vulnerability and Vicarious Risk among Southeast Asian Journalists." Quantitative dissertation article in preparation.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. "From Warning to Restraint: Newsroom Signals, Organizational Support, and Journalistic Self-Censorship." Dissertation article in preparation.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. "Regime-Compatible Media Modernization." Post-dissertation comparative project in development.

Selected Public Scholarship

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2025. "Are Vietnam's Attempts at Putting a Positive Spin on Social Media a Wrong Move?" South China Morning Post.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2025. "Vietnam's anti-drug police are speaking Gen Z, and it's working." South China Morning Post.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2025. "From 'Chubby Bear' to censorship, Vietnam's approach to TikTok reveals double standards." South China Morning Post.

Dien Nguyen An Luong. 2023. "Meta cozies up to Vietnam, censorship demands and all." Coda.

Dien Luong. 2022. "It's Time for South Korea to Acknowledge Its Atrocities in Vietnam." Foreign Policy.

Dien Luong. 2022. "Internet blocks won't solve Southeast Asia's fake-news problem." Nikkei Asia.

Dien Luong. 2022. "Data localization is the wrong fight for Big Tech in Vietnam." Nikkei Asia.

Dien Luong. 2017. "Vietnam Wants to Control Social Media? Too Late." New York Times.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

Robert J. Donia Graduate Student Fellowship, Donia Human Rights Center, University of Michigan	2025
Gupta Values Scholarship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan	2024-2026
Early Career Scholars Seed Funding, Northeastern University / Carnegie Corporation of New York	2025
COMPASS Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania / U.S. Agency for Global Media	2024
Nonresident Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School	2021-2022
Fulbright Scholarship, U.S. Department of State	2014-2016

INVITED TALKS

"Why Youth Mobilize Elsewhere but Not at Scale in Vietnam: A Southeast Asia Comparison." University of Washington, Seattle, April 21, 2026. Sponsored by the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, the Center for Southeast Asia and Its Diaspora, and the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

"Containment by Design: Calibrated Coercion, Dampened Efficacy, and the Absence of Youth Mobilization in Vietnam (2011-2025)." 14th EuroSEAS Conference, Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain, September 1-3, 2026.

"Fear Without Borders: How Transnational Repression Produces Diaspora Self-Censorship." Confronting Transnational Repression: Building Knowledge and Solidarities Across Communities, Civil Society, and Academia, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland, July 2-3, 2026.

"Framing Under Fire: Navigating Environmental Activism on Social Media Amid Digital Repression." International Communication Association, Denver, June 2025; IPSA World Congress of Political Science, Seoul, July 2025; International Association for Media and Communication Research, Singapore, July 2025.

"State-Sponsored Mobile App Surveillance, 2014-2024: Motivations, Methods, and Privacy Implications in the Post-Snowden Era." Decrypting Digital Authoritarianism Conference, European University Institute, Florence, Italy, October 2024.

"Flexing Censorship Muscles and Leveraging Public Sentiments: How the Vietnamese State Scrambles to Sanitise Its Image Online." European Association for Southeast Asian Studies Conference, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, July 2024.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan, Department of Communication and Media **Ann Arbor, MI**

- **Instructor of Record:** Views on the News (COMM 261), Spring 2026
- **Graduate Student Instructor:** AI Literacy (COMM 349), Fall 2025
- **Graduate Student Instructor:** The Media: Past and Present (COMM 101), Winter 2025
- **Graduate Student Instructor:** Views on the News (COMM 261), Fall 2024

JOURNALISM AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Managing Editor, Zing News **Mar. 2018-May 2020**

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Led editing and long-form coverage of corruption, environmental governance, freedom of expression, and social inequality.

Managing Editor, VnExpress International **July 2016-Dec. 2017**

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Directed editorial operations and long-form coverage of regional politics, governance, corruption, environmental issues, and civil liberties.

Deputy Managing Editor, Thanh Nien News **Aug. 2007-July 2015**

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Reported, edited, and supervised coverage of the legacies of the Vietnam War, corruption, public health, education, policing, environmental issues, and LGBTQ rights.

RESEARCH METHODS AND LANGUAGES

Research methods: Mixed-methods research; survey design and analysis; semi-structured interviews; qualitative and quantitative content analysis; comparative case studies; social media and digital-trace analysis.
Languages: Vietnamese (native); English (fluent).