

NUS CTIC Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE MANAGEMENT

Welcome to the fourth issue of CTIC's newsletter!

The rise of generative AI has been confounding policymakers, practitioners and academics alike in recent years, and still remain very much a challenge. Rapid technological advancements have created new opportunities for businesses and individuals to leverage on these tools, but also opened doors for fraudsters to misuse technologies such as ChatGPT and deepfakes to spread misinformation and commit online crimes.

CTIC has funded various projects encompassing the study of deepfakes and misinformation to develop tools and strategies to empower online users and provide recommendations to policymakers. We are also pleased to announce that we have secured a MOE AcRF Tier 3 Grant to further our research in mitigating the spread of misinformation and our vision towards a more accountable digital world.

We would like to thank everyone for your support. We wish you all the best in the new academic year 2023/2024.

Warm regards,
Mong Li and Audrey

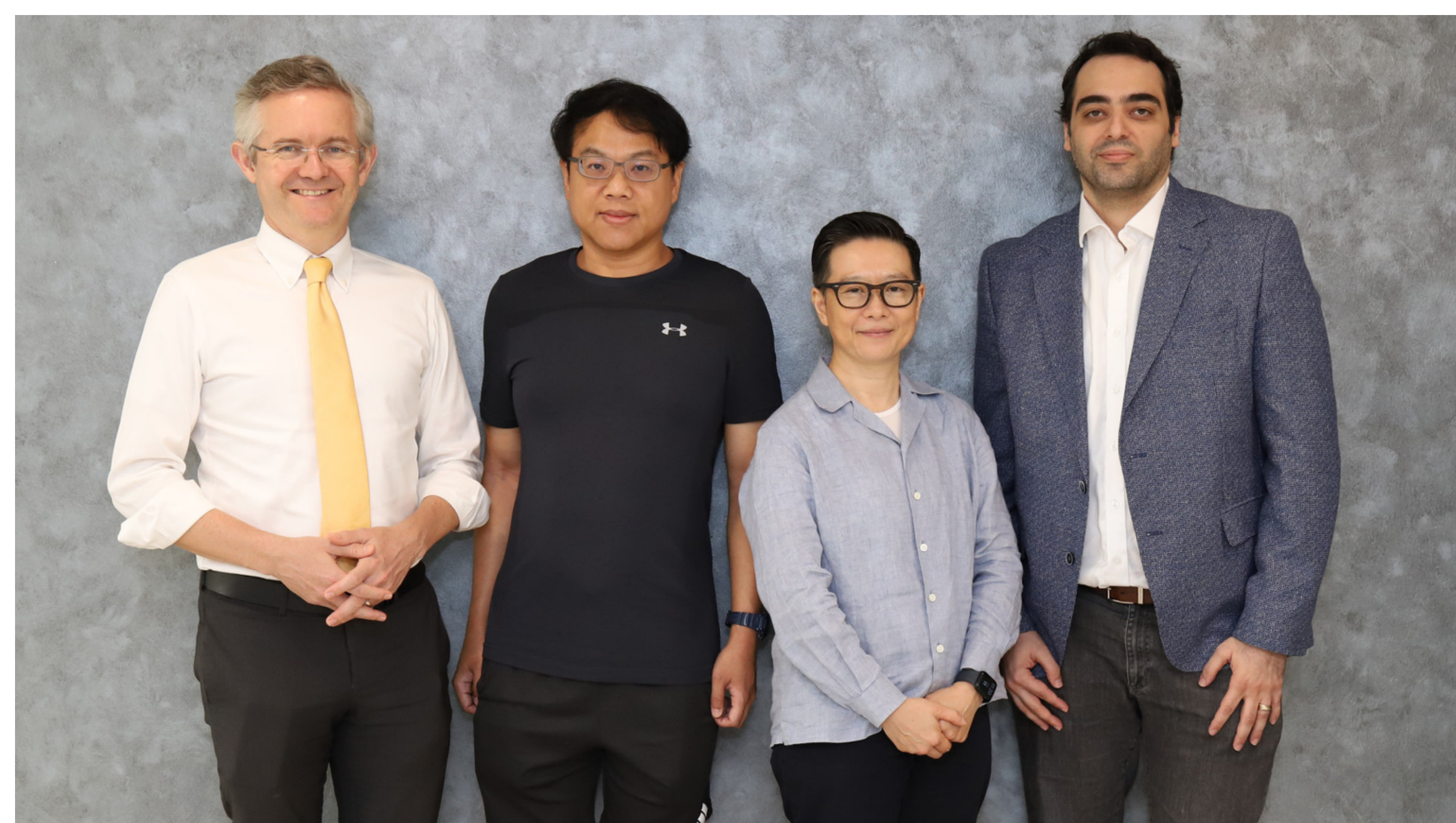
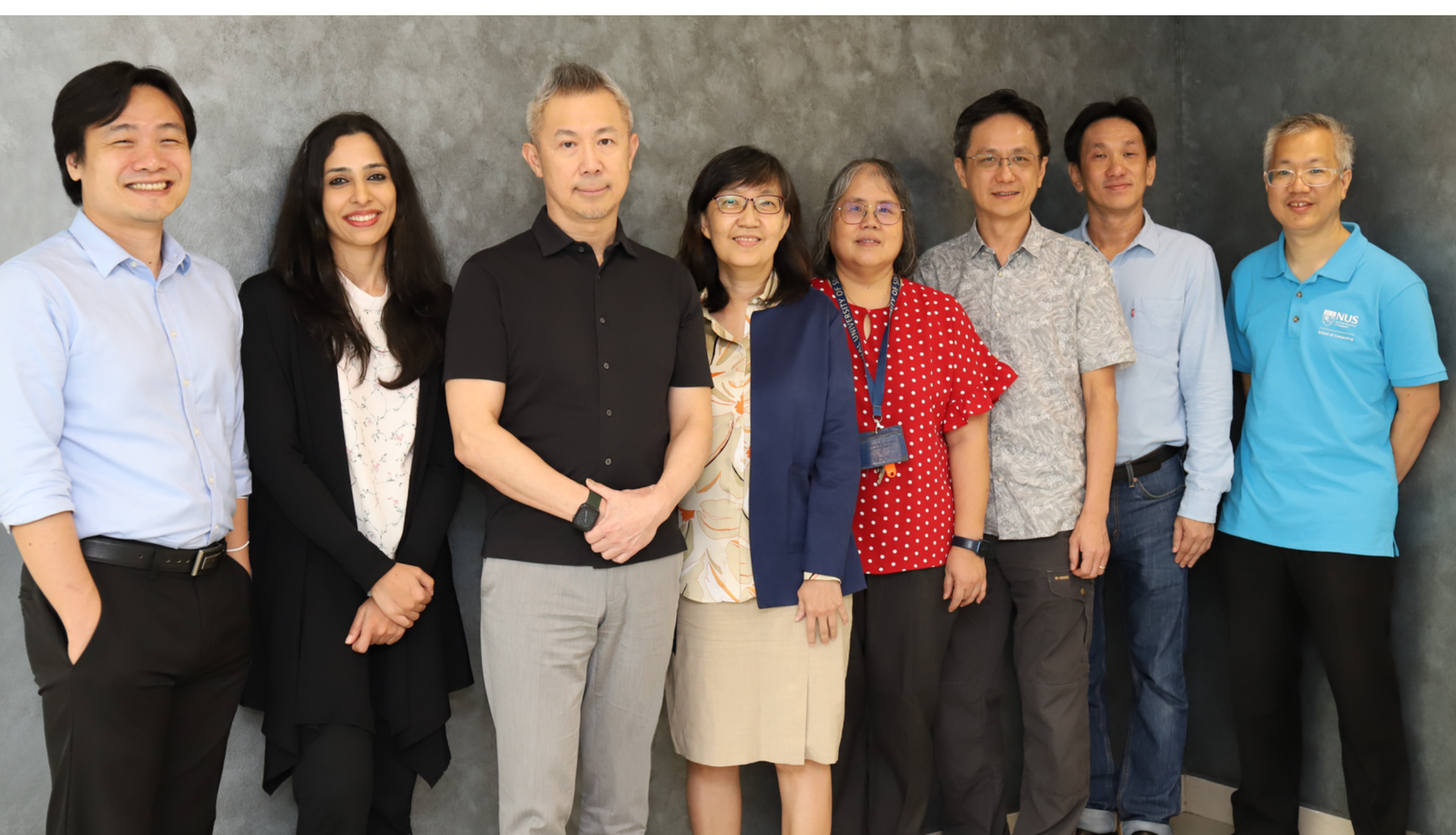


(Left) Prof Lee Mong Li and
(Right) Prof Audrey Yue

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

An interdisciplinary research team led by Distinguished Professor Chen Tsuhan and CTIC Director Professor Lee Mong Li has secured a MOE AcRF Tier 3 grant. Over the next five years, the team will examine the creation, dissemination and consumption of digital information through the lens of consumer behaviour to identify vulnerabilities in the digital information pipeline and develop a set of tools for online citizens to critically evaluate online information.

This strategic research initiative could help boost Singapore's digital literacy and digital information resilience. Read more in [NUS News](#).



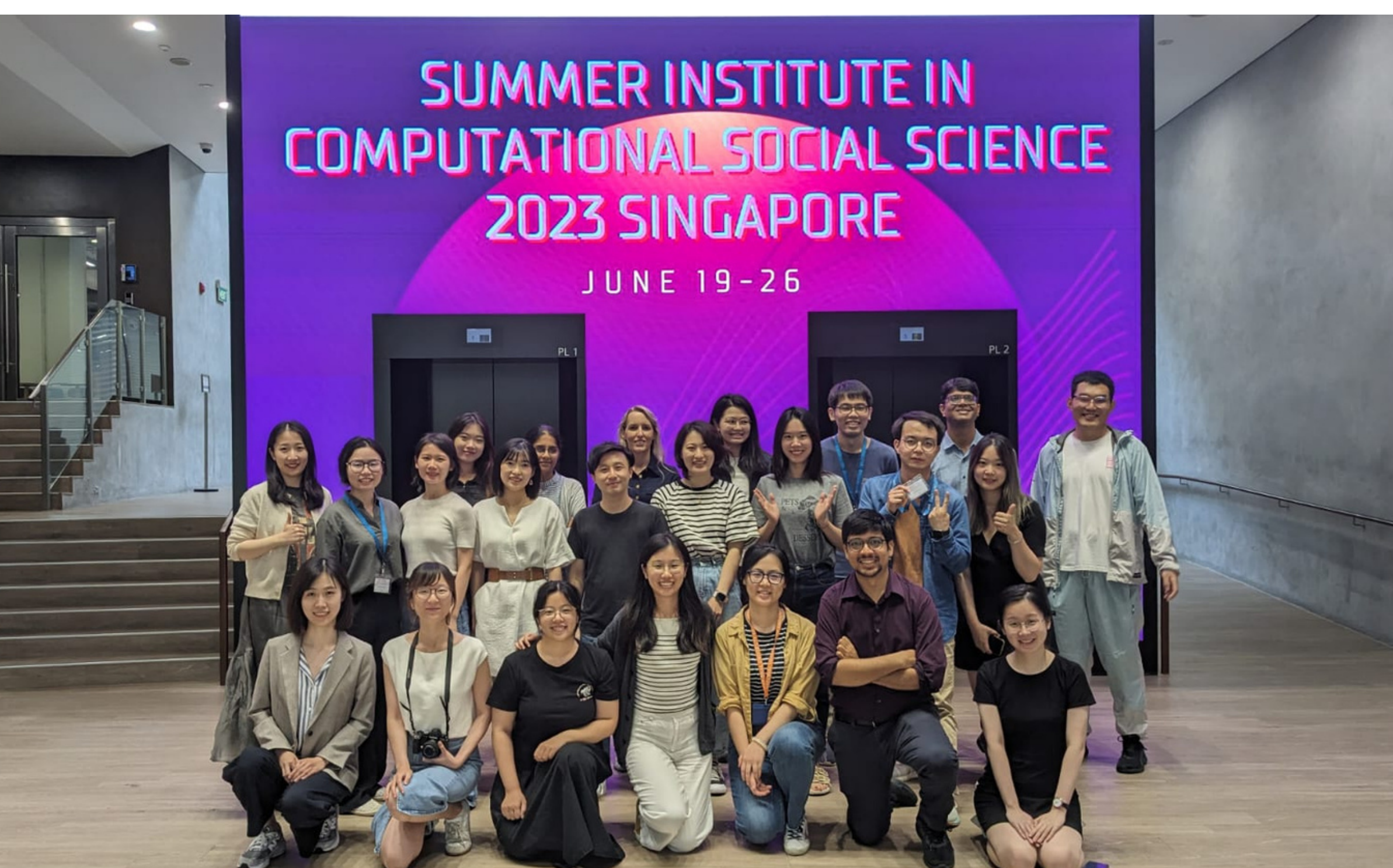
The interdisciplinary team will combine their expertise from technological to social science to curb the spread of misinformation online.

EVENTS FEATURE

CTIC partnered Media Literacy Council, TOUCH Community Services and various government agencies to organise the inaugural **Digital Well-being Symposium** on 25 March 2023. The full-day event brought together thought leaders in the areas of digital well-being, and we had the privilege of hosting an expert panel with representatives from Google, Meta, Bytedance and Twitter. The programme was designed to help youths, parents and social service professionals navigate the online space safely and confidently. Relive the moments in our [event highlights reel](#)!



From research to on-ground engagement, CTIC Deputy Director Professor Audrey Yue (left) and PI Associate Professor Natalie Pang (right) gave a presentation on digital well-being indicators at the symposium.



A gathering of academics from diverse backgrounds with a common interest in computational social science.

The second edition of **Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS)** was back in Singapore from 19 to 26 July with 17 participants and an impressive line-up of 10 invited speakers from around the region! During the one-week intensive programme, participants attended lectures, took part in hands-on workshops and engaged in interdisciplinary group projects to further their research in computational social science.

Special thanks to CTIC PIs Assistant Professor Subhayan Mukerjee, Assistant Professor Renwen Zhang and team for bringing this international initiative to NUS!

CTIC SEMINARS

CTIC regularly organises seminars to encourage the exchange of ideas and expertise on specific subjects, as well as to promote thought leadership in the areas of misinformation and digital well-being. The full list of seminars is available [here](#).



Watch the video recordings of our past seminars below!

Professor Ralph Schroeder from Oxford Internet Institute gave a lecture on **Digital Media and Social Theory: The View from Xi's China and Modi's India**. The Q&A session was moderated by CTIC PI Assistant Professor Tabereh Neyazi.



Assistant Professor Kiran Garimella from Rutgers University gave a talk on the **Spread of Misinformation and Content on Encrypted Platforms**. The discussion was moderated by CTIC PI Assistant Professor Kokil Jaidka.

MEET OUR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Dr Sujatha Das Gollapalli's research focuses on using Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools to identify and combat the spread of misinformation. Her team developed the CheckThaT5 model for identifying checkworthy tweets, which was ranked first in four out of six languages at CLEF 2022-CheckThat! competition. Their claim verification model also ranked third out of over 50 systems on the SciFACT leaderboard!

She hopes to build better models to safeguard the public's consumption of online medical content everywhere! [Read more](#) in an interview with Dr Gollapalli.



Assistant Professor Araz Taeiagh is an engineer at heart. Since young, he was interested in robots, AI, science fiction and all things technology. Now, as a technologist turned public policy professor, he is focused on the governance of emerging technology and the wider implications technology have on the fabric of our society.

In his research, he provides a clear understanding of the stages involved in using APIs to spread disinformation on social media platforms and develops the Pathway of Disinformation Spread Framework which individuals, platforms and government can use to create a healthier online space. [Learn more](#) in an interview with Prof Taeiagh.

Dr Carol Soon and **Dr Chew Han Ei**'s common research interest in digital literacy has led them to co-author a series of four policy working papers. They give a comprehensive review on Singapore's media and technology landscape and provide policy recommendations in the areas of digital inclusion, digital citizenship engagement, digital sovereignty and digital trust. Knowing that their research is being used for policy considerations and making a positive impact in the community are what drive them forward!

Recently, Dr Soon has published an edited volume on Mobile Communication and Online Falsehoods in Asia, of which Dr Chew contributed a chapter. [Read more](#) in an interview with Dr Soon and Dr Chew.



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