Chih-Hui Lai

Office Address:
School of Communication
The University of Akron
105c Kolbe Hall
Akron, OH 44325-1003
Office: 330-972-5189
Fax: 330-972-8045
Email: chihhui@uakron.edu; imchihhui@gmail.com

EDUCATION

PhD, Communication and Information, May 2012
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
Dissertation title: *Living History with the Internet: Probing the Sustainability of Mixed-Mode Groups through an Ecological and Evolutionary Lens*
Dissertation Committee: James Katz (chair), Marya Doerfel, Jennifer Gibbs, Barry Wellman

Master of Arts, Telecommunication, Information Studies and Media, May 2005
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Bachelor of Arts, Foreign Languages and Literatures, June1999
National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor
School of Communication, The University of Akron August 2012
Teaching Assistant/Graduate Assistant
School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University August 2006-May 2012

RESEARCH

Research Interests:
With the prevalent use of various information and communication technologies (ICTs), people often engage in communication and coordination through multiple communication modalities. To address these growing patterns of mixed-mode relationships and organizing, my research focuses on investigating how individuals, groups and organizations use ICTs to communicate and coordinate across different media modalities, and how relationships evolve or emerge through these processes. I also analyze social implications of online and mobile applications and examine how a social network perspective can be salient in understanding the use of these applications and how that may dovetail with the pursuit of communication among users.

Awards and Grants:
Outstanding Continuing Doctoral Student, 2010, conferred by the PhD Program in the School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University.

Lai, C. -H. (2009). The Award of Faculty Resource Development Grants, New Brunswick Summer & Special Projects, Rutgers University, $2,500 funded.

Lai, C. -H. (2009). The Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy grant, $4,840 (not funded).

Lai, C. -H. (2008). SIRCA 2008 Programme grant, $32,510 (not funded).

Referred Publications:

Lai, C. -H., & Katz, J. E. (2012). Are we evolved to live with mobiles? An evolutionary view of mobile communication. *Periodica Polytechnica Social and Management Sciences, 20*(1), 45-54.

Lai, C. -H. (2011). A multifaceted perspective on blogs and society: Examples of blogospheres in Southeast and East Asia. *Journal of International Communication, 17*(1), 51-72.

Gibbs, J. L., Ellison, N. B., & **Lai, C. -H**. (2011). First comes love, then comes Google: An investigation of uncertainty reduction strategies and self-disclosure in online dating. *Communication Research, 38*(1), 70-100.

Doerfel, M. L., **Lai, C. -H**., & Chewning, L. V. (2010). The evolutionary role of interorganizational communication: Modeling social capital in disaster contexts. *Human Communication Research, 36,* 125-162.

Naaman, M., Boase, J., & **Lai, C. -H**. (2010, February). Is it all about me? User content in social awareness streams. In *Proceedings of the 20the ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work.*

Katz, J. E. & **Lai, C. -H.** (2009). News blogging in a cross-cultural context: A report on the struggle for voice. *Knowledge, Technology & Policy, 22*(2), 95-107.

Lai, C. -H. (2009). Book review of Net Work: A Practical Guide to Creating and Sustaining Networks at Work and in the World by Patti Anklam. *Business Communication Quarterly, 72*(2), 249-252.

Lai, C. -H. (2007, March). Understanding the design of mobile social networking: The example of EzMoBo in Taiwan. *M/C Journal, 10*(1). Retrieved March19, 2007 from http://journal.media-culture.org.au/0703/08-lai.php

Manuscripts under Review:

Lai, C.-H. (under review). *Here comes everybody: Understanding the evolution of bona fide mixed-mode groups.*

Lai, C. -H. (under review). *Unpacking the impacts of bona fide mixed-mode groups: An example of Meetup groups.*

Lai, C. -H. (under review). *Shall we bowl together? An investigation of the evolution of mixed-mode voluntary associations.*

Doerfel, M. L., Chewning, L.V., & **Lai, C.-H.** (under review). *Enduring network structures of support in post-disaster interorganizational communication.*

Chewning, L. V., **Lai, C. -H**., & Doerfel, M. L. (revised and resubmitted, under review). *Organizational resilience following disaster: A longitudinal view of ICT use to rebuild communication structures.*

Book Chapters:

Lai, C. -H. (2011). Mobile political campaigns: The nexus of mass content and private consumption. In J. E. Katz (Ed.), *Mobile communication: Dimensions of social policy* (pp. 247-258). Piscataway, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

Lai, C. -H. (2008). Young adult's use of mobile phones and online social networking: The role of social networks. In K. Nyiri (Ed.), *Communications in the 21st century* (pp.167-174). Budapest: Passagen Verlag.

Referred Conference Papers and Presentations:

Lai, C. -H. (2012, May). *Unpacking the impacts of mixed-mode groups through an ecological and evolutionary view.* Paper presented at the 62nd annual conference of International Communication Association, Phoenix, Arizona.

Lai, C. -H. (2011, November). *An investigation of Internet-established voluntary associations: The ecology and evolutionary processes revealed.* Paper presented at the 97th annual conference of National Communication Association, New Orleans.

Lai, C. -H. (2011, May). *An evolutionary view of the sustainability of Internet-established voluntary associations*. Paper presented at the 61st annual conference of International Communication Association, Boston.
*Paper awarded "Top Three Student Papers" by the Organizational Communication Division of ICA.

Chewning, L. V., **Lai, C. -H**., & Doerfel, M. L. (2010, November). *Organizational resilience following disaster: A longitudinal view of ICT use to rebuild communication structures.* Paper presented at the 96th annual conference of National Communication Association, San Francisco.

Doerfel, M. L., Chewning, L. V., & **Lai, C. -H.** (2010, July). *Interorganizational network dynamics after disaster: Evacuation, reconnection, rebuilding, and re-engaging*. Paper presented at the annual meetings of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, Riva del Garda, Italy.

Lai, C. -H. (2010, June). *A multifaceted perspective on blogs and society: Case studies of blogospheres in Southeast and East Asia.* Paper presented at the 60th annual conference of International Communication Association, Singapore.

Lai, C. -H., & Katz, J. E. (2010, June). *Are we evolved to live with mobiles? An evolutionary view of mobile communication*. Paper presented at the mobile preconference of the 60th annual conference of International Communication Association, Singapore.

Lai, C. -H., Boase, J., & Naaman, M. (2010, June). *Is it really all about me? Social awareness streams on Twitter.* Paper presented at the 60th annual conference of International Communication Association, Singapore.

Doerfel, M. L., **Lai, C. -H**., Chewning, L. V., & Keeler, T. L. (2009, November). *Spending social capital to rebuild interorganizational networks after disaster.* Paper presented at the 95th annual conference of National Communication Association, Chicago, USA.
*Paper awarded "Top Four Papers in Organizational Communication" by the Organizational Communication Division of NCA.

Gibbs, J. L., **Lai, C. -H.,** & Ellison, N. B. (2009, May). *An investigation of communication privacy management and self-disclosure in online dating.* Paper presented at the 59th annual conference of International Communication Association, Chicago, USA.

Lai, C. -H. & Katz, J. E. (2008, September). *A multi-stakeholder investigation of ethical and usage issues of mobile social networking.* Paper presented at the conference of Towards a Philosophy of Telecommunications Convergence, Budapest, Hungary.

Doerfel, M. L., **Lai, C. -H.,** Kolling, A. J., Keeler, T. L., & Barbu, D. (2008, May). *The communication structure of recovery: Post Katrina New Orleans interorganizational networks.* Paper presented at the 58th annual conference of International Communication Association, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
*Paper awarded "Top Three Papers in Organizational Communication" by the Organizational Communication Division of ICA.

Gibbs, J. L., Ellison, N. B., & **Lai, C. -H.** (2007, October). *Identity management in online dating profiles: Negotiating privacy and security concerns.* Paper presented at the Internet Research 8: The Association of Internet Researchers Conference, Vancouver, Canada.

Lai, C. -H. (2007, September). *Young adult's use of mobile phones and social networking websites: The role of friends.* Paper presented at the conference of Towards a Philosophy of Telecommunications Convergence, Budapest, Hungary.

Lai, C. -H. (2007, May). *Sociotechnical capital accrues to the younger generation: Use of mobile phones, IM and online social networking sites*. Paper presented at the mobile preconference of the 57th annual conference of International Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.

Doerfel, M. L., Vasilyeva, A., Greenfeld, M., & **Lai, C. -H.** (2007, May).*Reconnecting and rebuilding organizations and their social networks following disaster.* Poster session presented at the annual meetings of the International Network for Social Network Analysis (Sunbelt Meeting), Corfu, Greece.

Bauer, J. B., Deng, Q., Ji, S.W., & **Lai, C. -H.** (2006, January). *Entrepreneurs, policy-makers, and idealists: Wireless broadband in the United States.* Paper presented at the International Telecommunications Society for the 16th Biennial Conference in Beijing, China.

Work in Progress:

Project on Social Media and Mobile Communication:

-Employing an evolutionary view to revisit mobile and social media research with the aim of providing insights into the process of how humans' communicative behaviors enabled through technologies are rooted in the evolutionary traits.

Project on Internet-established Voluntary Associations:

-Examining the current state of voluntary associations and the role of technology through reanalyzing secondary data as well as conducting a survey with a convenience sample.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

@The University of Akron

Communication in Organizations. Undergraduate course. Covers different topics essential to organizational communication, including teamwork, decision-making, organizational culture and climate, socialization of employees, the implementation of new technology, and member loyalty and turnover. Text: Miller (2012), August-December 2012.

Group Decision-Making. Undergraduate course. Covers different topics related to group communication, including verbal and nonverbal communication, culture, leadership, managing conflict, group discussions, group roles, group problem solving and decision making, small group as a system, and gives students the opportunity to learn through group settings (i.e. in-class and out of class). Text: Adams & Galanes (2012), August-December 2012.

@Rutgers University

Mediated Communication in Society. Undergraduate course. Covers mediated communication research and applications and incorporates new media technology in various aspects of students' learning processes, including the use of computer and online activity during class time. Text: No required textbook, September-December 2010, January-May 2011, September-December 2011, & January-May, 2012.

Mediated Communication Theory. Undergraduate course. Covers mediated communication theories and incorporates new media technology in various aspects of students' learning processes, including the use of computer and online activity during class time. Text: Bryant & Thompson (2001), July-August 2010.

Communication Theory. Hybrid undergraduate course. Covers communication theories and incorporates new media technology in various aspects of students' learning processes, including half of the class meetings held online and half in face-to-face classroom settings. Text: West & Turner (2009), July-August 2009 & July-August 2010.

Communication Theory. Undergraduate course. Covers communication theories and incorporates new media technology in various aspects of students' learning processes. Text: Miller (2005), May-June 2008.

Courses as the Guest Speaker

Communication Research in Organizations. Master level course. Guest lecture on research of ICTs and their role in communication relationships across media modalities, December 2009.

Communication Theory. Undergraduate course. Guest lecture on new technology and communication, April 2008.

Communication Theory. Undergraduate course. Guest lecture on new technology and communication, December 2007.

Communication Theory. Undergraduate course. Guest lecture on new technology and communication, April 2007.

Course as the Teaching Assistant

Communication Theory. Undergraduate course. School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 2006-2008.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Project Assistance:

Research Associate August 2006-May 2012

Center for Mobile Communication Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

- Research team member, Science Now Science Everywhere (SNSE) project (2006-2009). This project was funded by National Science Foundation (James Katz, co-PI)

in collaboration with Liberty Science Center in New Jersey. Project examines informal science learning through mobile phones, especially by the disadvantaged younger population.

- Planner and participant, Mobile Communication and Social Policy International Conference. The conference was supported by a grant from the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy and held at Rutgers University, October 9-11, 2009 (James Katz, PI). (http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/conferences/mobile)
- Assistant to the grant proposal team-Gruteser, M., Katz, J. E., & Zhang, Y. (2007). *Exploring mobile social computing: Location-based information-sharing platform for the Rutgers community,* submitted to Rutgers Computing Coordination Council (CCC) (not funded). This was an internal seed grant at Rutgers and a collaborative project between the Department of Communication and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering/WINLAB at Rutgers.

Research Assistant 2005 Summer
Quello Center for Telecommunication Management and Law, East Lansing, Michigan.

- Research team member, the WiFi & WiMax Project. Conducted case studies of WiFi and WiMax service providers in the United States and investigated the differentiating operation scenarios and business models. Project included building a comprehensive database consisting of the pricing schemes implemented by the mobile carriers in the United States, and based on which to conduct analysis of specific business models.

Workshops:

LINKS workshop. Participant of the workshop on advanced social network analysis, held at the University of Kentucky, July 2009.

Social Network Analysis. Audited course taught by Dr. Paul McLean, Sociology Department, Rutgers University, September-December 2009.

Net Effects on Big Brother. Panelist, seminar held at the School of Communication and Information as part of the Rutgers year-round events dedicated to the 60 anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights (UDHR), October 2008.

Corporate Work Experience:

VIBO Telecom Inc., Taipei, Taiwan February-July 2006

- International roaming coordinator. Coordinated and managed VIBO's international roaming business with over 100 operating partners across the globe. The detailed tasks involved initiation of business, testing of systems and trouble-shooting.

Power News Group, Taipei, Taiwan 2000-2001

- International news reporter. Edited and translated international news, both in newspaper and TV platforms, and covered in-depth news stories pertaining to phenomena across different cultures and societies.

SERVICE

Service to the Profession:

July 2009-June 2012. Senior Assistant Editor of the journal *Human Communication Research.*

November 2009-May 2012. Assistant unit planner (James Katz, unit planner and chair) of the Communication and Technology Division of International Communication Association.

November 2008. Paper reviewer for the Communication and Technology Division of International Communication Association.

Service to the School:

October 2010. PhD Panelist at the Invitational Master Student Institute (IMSI), Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

January-October 2010. Co-chair of the Planning Committee for Organizational Communication Mini-Conference 2010, October 8-10, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. (http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/conferences/ocmc/)

October 2009. PhD Panelist at the Invitational Master Student Institute (IMSI), Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

April 2009. Judge, Undergraduate Research Symposium. Aresty Center for Undergraduate Research, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

October 2008. PhD Panelist at the Invitational Master Student Institute (IMSI), Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

ASSOCIATION MEMEBERSHIPS

2008-present: National Communication Association.

2007-present: International Communication Association.

2006-present: Center for Mobile Communication Studies.