Media, Technology and Social Change

Our lives are increasingly entwined with technologies that mediate our relationships with other people, our entertainment, our understanding of news and the world, and our education and health systems. Even as globalization brings the world more closely together in certain ways, it pulls us apart in other ways. Many media scholars are examining these environments, technologies and international dynamics in order to improve understanding and to harness the tremendous abilities of new media systems to improve economic and social conditions.

This area of study emphasizes sound methodological preparation as well as supervised research experience. It incorporates (1) formal participation on at least one research project and also (2) a sponsored summer internship with a project or agency using communication systems or exploring communication policy or social change in some way. The internship may involve such activities as working with an advocacy group in Washington D.C., interning with a digital skills building project in a local neighborhood, or assisting with an Internet building project in Africa.

The core faculty in this program teach in areas of globalization, entrepreneurship, creative industries, digital inclusion, media policy, media literacy, media advocacy, technology and interactivity, and media systems and issues in regions such as Latin America, China, India, Europe and the Middle East, among other subjects. We share a core interest in how media systems affect our lives and how we can work together to improve social conditions and build critical skills.

Students in this program can expect to participate in international conferences such as AoIR, ICA, IAMCR, and to work in groups and to become acquainted with the thought leaders in their field.

Faculty include: Wenhong Chen, Laura Stein, Joe Straubhaar, Sharon Strover, Craig Watkins, Karin Wilkins, and Kathleen Tyner