

COLLOQUIUM BY KENNETH ROGERSON

HOW "SOCIAL" ARE SOCIAL MEDIA? LIVES ON- AND OFF- LINE IN CHINA AND THE US

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, 12 OCT 2016

VENUE: AB 1079

How "Social" are Social Media? Lives On- and Off- Line in China and the US

Speaker: Kenneth Rogerson, Associate Professor, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University.

ABSTRACT:

Social media apps: we love them. We stay connect to friends and family, we discover the world, we shop, we pay, we get transportation, we find the latest, greatest music, and we decide what to do on the weekends. Most of us cannot imagine a life without some type of social media connection. But, how much does this type of online interaction make us think differently? Act differently? Avoid people? Connect to others? Put us in a bubble? Search for new information that is different from what we believe? When we are online, are we missing something that we might be otherwise doing? Scholarly research on the phenomenon of "the impact of social media on society" is decidedly mixed. There is both good and bad, both beautiful and ugly, both nice (talking to you, emoji-happy people) and mean, both happy and sad. We don't talk about social media enough in a critical, thoughtful way. Maybe we can begin to do so on October 13.

BIO:

Kenneth Rogerson is an associate professor of the practice in Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. He is the director of the Policy Journalism and Media Studies Certificate program. He received his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina and currently teaches and researches on technology policy, news media and international communications.