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Tentative dissertation title:
**Policing Philippine Cyberspace: Analyzing New Techniques of
Government in the Digital Age**

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Abstract: Drawing on Michel Foucault's governmentality, the proposed dissertation will study the intersection of governmental technologies (i.e., algorithmic gatekeeping, algorithmic policing, and cyber policing), software designs (mainly social media platforms), and social behavior (mentalities and rationalities). More precisely, the dissertation will analyze the role of Big Data, social network designs, user interaction, and user behavior in the transformation of governmentality in the Philippines. At the same time, it will examine the ramifications of the said transformation in today's society. Various governmental technologies employed on different social networks will also be examined, as well as the contents generated and circulated in these environments. An understanding of the mentality and culture of its subject (Filipino social media users) is critical as it will serve as the guiding thread in analyzing contemporary forms of power, which produces new modes of subjectification (and also resistance). The proposed dissertation will also observe activities, interaction, and behavior of social network users. Also, since the proposed dissertation will focus on the Philippine cyberspace under Rodrigo Duterte, an analysis of the operation of governmentality will have to be an analysis of Duterte's "populist" style of political communication. The study will flesh out the causal mechanisms that make Duterte's "populist propaganda" (Vatsov, 2018a, 2018b) thrive in and beyond digital environments.

摘要: 本論文提案將借用 **Michel Foucault** 的治理術概念，研究治理技術（例如算法甄別，算法監視和網絡管制），軟件設計（主要是社交媒體平台）和社會行為（心理和理性）之間的交匯。更準確地說，我將分析大數據、社交網絡設計、用戶交互以及用戶行為在菲律賓政府治理術轉型中的作用。同時，我將檢視所謂的轉型在當代社會的後果，即，在不同社交網絡上採用的各種治理技術及其中生成和傳播的內容。本文還將觀察社交網絡用戶

的活動，交互和行為。對主體（菲律賓社交媒體用戶）的思想和文化的理解至關重要，因為它將成為分析權力的當代形式的線索。此種權力造就了主體化（以及抵抗）的新模式。此外，由於本論文提案將集中討論 Rodrigo Duterte 統治下的菲律賓網絡空間，因此，有關治理術運作的分析也必須考慮 Duterte 的「民粹主義」政治傳播風格。這項研究或有助益於理解 Duterte 的「民粹主義宣傳」（Vatsov, 2018a, 2018b）在數碼環境內外盛行的因果機制。