

The link for meeting-up will be posted on the [design baithak](#) page on Friday.

We read/listen to –A rape in cyberspace

(TW: rape, profanity, obfuscation)

(a thick description narrative of early internet behaviour and how relevant the discussions are to present-day behaviour and research)

We listen to An Xiao Mina as she describes the curious affordances of the internet that connect cute cats, memes and dissident movements

And so we move from *moderation and rape* in the early internet to *censorship and dissidence* in the present

A rape in cyberspace:

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Trying 64.81.190.250...
Connected to lambda.moo.mud.org.
Escape character is '^]'.
*****
* Welcome to LambdaMOO! *
*****

Running Version 1.8.3+47 of LambdaMOO

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  direct participants before quoting any material collected here.

For assistance either now or later, type `help'.
The lag is low; there are 51 connected.
co guest

Guests at LambdaMOO are warned that they are accountable for
their actions here. In particular, Guests are warned that any
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Listen: [a rape in cyberspace](#)

Or Read: <http://www.juliandibbell.com/articles/a-rape-in-cyberspace/>

Cute cat theories and dissidence

Watch: [Databite No. 117: An Xiao Mina](#)

“...the [grass mud horse](#) holds a special place in Chinese activists’ hearts. Indeed, upon hearing the Chinese name for the grass mud horse, a fluent speaker would almost immediately know what is going on: the grass mud horse and the land it dwells in are profane puns. As Mandarin is a tonal language with limited phonemes, puns are commonplace, especially puns that change meaning through tones. Cǎonǐmǎ written with one set of characters and tones means “grass mud horse.” But cǎonǐmā written with slightly different characters and pronounced with slightly different tones is the more familiar colloquial phrase roughly translated as “fuck your mother.” And Ma’le Gebi—the Gobi Desert—sounds remarkably like another Chinese phrase meaning “your mother’s cunt.””

Mina, An Xiao. 2019. **Memes to Movements: How the World’s Most Viral Media Is Changing Social Protest and Power.** Boston: Beacon Press .

“...Internet tools designed to let ordinary consumers publish non-political content are often useful for activists because they are difficult for governments to censor without censoring innocuous content; because censorship of inoffensive content can alert non-activist users to government censorship; and because activism using consumer tools can tap the “latent capacity” of non-activist users to create and disseminate activist content.”

Zuckerman, Ethan. 2015. “**Cute Cats to the Rescue? Participatory Media and Political Expression.**” Edited by Danielle Allen and Jennifer S. Light. From Voice to Influence: Understanding Citizenship in the Digital Age (University of Chicago Press).

There is more to rabbit-hole [here](#).