

# Mick Vierbergen

– Chinese new media and popular music –

🎓 PhD candidate at Hong Kong Baptist University

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## PROFILE

I am a PhD candidate at the department of Humanities and Creative Writing of the Hong Kong Baptist University and have been a Visiting Postgraduate Student at King's College London as part of the PhD. In my research, I look at intersections of new media, music, and Chinese popular culture. My current research project looks at platformisation and globalisation in Shanghai underground scenes, focussing particularly on indie rock, clubbing, drag, and festivals. The research involved fieldwork in Shanghai and interviews with 45 individual actors in the scenes. Other research interests are gender, materiality, and political economy.

Current conference presentations and future publications based on my PhD research look at the negotiation of online visibility on WeChat in Shanghai's clubbing culture, and self-entrepreneurship in the indie-rock scene. Another recent project focuses on the decentralisation and neoliberalisation of platform governance and fandom in the blockchain-based music streaming app Audius. In my Research MA thesis, I looked at the mediation of power relations and audience responses in social credit systems in China, particularly Alipay's Sesame Credit.

## EDUCATION

**PhD Humanities and Creative Writing** – Hong Kong Baptist University 2021 – 2025

- Dissertation on Shanghai underground cultures: indie rock, clubbing, drag, and festivals
- Electives: Research Methodology Seminar in the Arts and Humanities; Introduction to the Chinese Internet; Media & Comm in Chinese Societies; Media Convergence Theory and Practice; World-Building in Digital Narrative Media (City University)
- Visiting Research Student at King's College London
- Supervised by Dr. Gladys Pak Lei Chong
- Funded by the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

**Research MA Cultural Analysis** – University of Amsterdam 2016 – 2019

- Dissertation: "Sesame Credit's Evaluation of Everyday Life: The Mediation of Power Relations of a Social Credit System in China's Credit Culture" (supervised by Prof. Jeroen de Kloet)
- Research project in Shanghai, China
- Electives: Going Global: Globalisation and the Cultural Imaginary; Gender, Bodies, and the Post-Human; Visualising the Street; Platform Capitalism; New Media Theories

**BA Musicology** – University of Amsterdam 2013 – 2016

- Dissertation: "Mobile Music and Urban Experience: Private Sound Bubble or Urban Information Overlay?" (supervised by dr. Oliver Seibt)
- Exchange with the University of Birmingham

## **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**Co-organiser CSS Conference “Negotiating Diversity, Crisis Equity, and Inclusivity in Times of Crisis”** – Hong Kong Baptist University 2023

Organising a PRG conference for the Creativity, Self and Society (CSS) niche research group of the Faculty of Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University, with fellow PhDs in the department. Tasks included design, promotion, editing, and chairing.

**TA Humanities and Creative Writing** – Hong Kong Baptist University 2021-2022

Assisting Dr. Daisy Tam in course organisation, teaching, and overseeing student presentations. Courses included Introduction to the Humanities and Digital Humanities.

**Editorial Board Member** – Soapbox: Journal for Cultural Analysis 2018

Setting up the peer-reviewed graduate journal and academic platform, editing, managing social media and the newsletter, doing research for a themed Call for Papers, fundraising, and managing design.

**Student Assistant** – University of Amsterdam 2017

Student assistant of Dr. Oliver Seibt at the MA Course ‘Musicology of the Everyday’. Responsibilities included curating module, compiling reading list, and assisting in lectures.

**Student Member Board of Studies** – University of Amsterdam 2016 – 2017

Processing course evaluations of the Research MA Cultural Analysis, meetings with other members on how to improve the course, scheduling, planning events, point of contact for students of the RMA.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES**

**“Online and Offline (Self-)Censorship and Gatekeeping on WeChat in Shanghai’s Underground Clubbing and Drag Scenes”** 2023  
Presentation at Mediations of Music and Power in Online Music Cultures

**“Decentralisation and Neoliberalisation: Artist-Audience Interaction in the Blockchain-2022 Based Music Streaming Platform Audius”** – Presentation at Digital Transactions in Asia IV, Internet Musicking, and Data Power conferences

**“Social Credit in China”** – Lecture at Digital Humanities course Hong Kong Baptist University 2022

**“Music and Youth Culture”** – Lecture at Changing Youth, Changing Times: Concepts, Concerns and Debates course Hong Kong Baptist University 2022

**“Nerves at the Border: How Dividual Data Doubles Affect Individual Bodies”** – Presentation at Computers, Privacy and Data Protection: The Internet of Bodies 2018

**“Mobile Music and Urban Experience”** – Presentation at ASCA conference Unnecessary, Unwanted and Uncalled-for: A Workshop on Uselessness 2017

## GRANTS AND PRISES

**Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme** – Research Grands Council (RGC) 2021 – 2025  
Full 3-year PhD scholarship, supplemented 1 year by the Hong Kong Baptist University.  
Includes teaching assistant duties.

## VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

**Music Journalist** – The Daily Indie 2019 – 2020  
Writing articles about new music for the Dutch music journalism platform The Daily Indie. Publications include an [interview](#) with Brian Jonestown Massacre's frontman Anton Newcombe and a piece about protest music in the Hong Kong indie scene.

**Event Manager** – The Mansion Shanghai, China 2017 & 2018  
Management and production of regular electronic music events, end-responsibility for the club during events, welcoming artists, production of regular electronic music events at The Mansion club, PR (newsletter, social media event promotion). Production of events outside the club, including Yin Yang Music Festival (Beijing, China, 2017) MIDI Festival (Suzhou, China, 2018).

## TESTS AND COURSES

**Mandarin Intensive Course Level 4 and 5** – That's Mandarin Shanghai 2023  
Intensive course of 15 hours per week for 12 weeks, 180 hours in total. The final level reached was That's Mandarin Level 5, equalling to ¼ of HSK 4.




**Mandarin Level 3 Private Lessons** – New Concept Mandarin 2022  
8 week course of 2-3 one-hour private lessons per week, 20 hours in total.

**Mandarin Level 1** – King's College London 2021  
Evening course Mandarin Level 1 at King's College, consisting of three parts with a total of 45 hours.

**TOEFL iBT** 2021 & 2015  
Overall score 108 (out of 120), highest scores:

Reading	28 High	Speaking	28 High
Listening	29 High	Writing	28 High

## SKILLS

-  Microsoft Office
-  Google Suite
-  Business Manager
-  Instagram Business
-  YouTube for Business
-  Vimeo
-  MailChimp

-  Adobe Photoshop
-  Adobe Illustrator
-  Adobe InDesign
-  Logic Pro
-  Final Cut Pro X
-  Wordpress
-  Squarespace

## LANGUAGES

Dutch	Native
English	Excellent
Chinese	Intermediate
French	Intermediate
German	Intermediate