



William H. Dutton is the Quello Professor of Media and Information Policy in the Department of Media and Information, College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University, where he is Director of the Quello Center. Prior to this appointment, Bill was Professor of Internet Studies at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, where he was the Founding Director of the OII and a Fellow of Balliol College. Bill received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his role as Founding Director of the OII. He is also the recipient of the International Communication Association's (ICA) first Fred Williams' award for contributions to the study of communication and technology, the William F. Ogburn Lifetime Achievement Award from the Communication and Information Technologies Section of the American Sociological Association in 2014, and was named an ICA Fellow in 2015. Bill is presently a co-principal investigator in the UK FCO supported Global Cyber Security Capacity Project, among others. His most recent books include *The Oxford Handbook of Internet Studies* (OUP 2013), four edited volumes on Politics and the Internet (Routledge 2014), and a reader entitled *Society and the Internet*, with Mark Graham (OUP 2014). He is working on a book on his concept of the Fifth Estate.

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Public Lecture

Keystones of Knowledge Societies in the Digital Era

Date and Time 15 October 2015 (Thursday)
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Venue Room 1022
Communication and Visual Arts Building
Baptist University Road Campus

The social and economic potential of a global Internet — one that bridges the world — is widely recognized. The potential for using the Internet to reconfigure access to information and knowledge, and also reshape freedom of expression, privacy, and ethical norms and behaviour, has been a theme in academic research, but also has been recognized by the Member States of UNESCO, who were broadly consulted in the development of a recent report, entitled 'Keystones to Foster Inclusive Knowledge Societies'.* Professor Dutton, who helped UNESCO draft this report, will provide a brief overview of the major themes and challenges of this report as a means to open a discussion of how the Internet might bridge the four corners of the world in ways that enable access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy, and respect for the diversity of ethical concerns in local and global communities.

*The UNESCO report is available online at:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/internetstudy/>

Seminar

The Fifth Estate Net Delusion or Democratic Potential

Date and Time 16 October 2015 (Friday)
12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
Venue Room 1022
Communication and Visual Arts Building
Baptist University Road Campus

Arguably, liberal democratic societies are seeing the emergence of a 'Fifth Estate' that is being enabled by the Internet. This new organizational form is comparable to, but potentially more powerful than, the Fourth Estate, which developed as a significant force in an earlier period with an independent press and other mass media. While the significance of the press and the Internet to democratic governance is questioned in all societies, there is particular skepticism of their relevance outside the most liberal democratic regimes, which have a relatively free press and more pluralistic political systems, such as in North America and West Europe. Nevertheless, there have been vivid examples of where networked individuals have appeared to assert greater communicative power in the politics of governance, the media and everyday life, even in non-liberal democratic regimes, such as Hong Kong, and in some cases, China. This potential points to the need for more systematic empirical research in a wider variety of economic and political settings worldwide, particularly in states in which the Internet might offer a potential for more pluralistic governance and greater accountability of government controlled media. This seminar will focus on the concept of the Fifth Estate, its relationship to perspectives on the Internet and democracy, and its relevance to East Asia.