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Appendix 1: Interview questionnaire

General questions

Q1: How long have you been living in China?

Q2: What do you do in China?

Q3: How long have you been using WeChat?

Q4: Please describe how you use WeChat for digital communication while in China. In what aspects of personal and professional life do you use it for?

Q5: Have you connected your WeChat to your non-Chinese social media accounts? Why or why not?

Q6: Do you use other apps to communicate personally or professionally while in China? How are they different from WeChat?

Q7: In general, what observations do you have about other Filipinos communicating in WeChat groups or to you personally?

Q8: Please describe your idea or understanding of the following:

8A: Censorship

8B: Surveillance

On your experiences of surveillance and censorship

Q9: Have you directly or indirectly experienced surveillance and censorship on your WeChat account?

9A: If yes, please specify those instances.

9B: Please give specific issues or challenges that you have faced because of those instances.

9C: Did you ever tell anyone of this experience? What was their reaction like?

9D: If no, who?

Q10: How have these phenomena influenced your choice of words, language, or topics when communicating on WeChat? Can you specify or discuss such changes?

Q11: Have these changes affected the way you use apps other than WeChat to communicate with your network within and outside of China?

Q12: When you are outside of China, please describe your experience of communication using WeChat and other platforms. Are there any significant differences? What are your feelings or experiences like?

On the experiences of contacts/networks

Q13: Do you know any contact who has received notifications on WeChat restricting their messages or posts? What did they do or how did they react from that?

Q14: Were you still able to infer the intended meaning of censored WeChat posts?

Q15: Did you ever think of or try reposting (their) censored content on other platforms?

15A: If yes, what happened?

15B: If no, what was your reason?

General reflections

Q16: Who do you think are responsible or behind surveillance and censorship on WeChat?

16A: What do you think their roles or motivations are in censoring or surveilling WeChat?

Q17: As a WeChat user, what role do you think you play in the phenomena of surveillance and censorship on the app?

17A: How long do you think this role will remain?

Q18: How has your personal understanding of surveillance and censorship changed over the time you have used WeChat while living in China?

Q19: What new things about surveillance and censorship did you learn from using WeChat?

Q20: How different are surveillance and censorship in China compared to the Philippines?

Q21: What advice would you give to Filipino migrants in China so they can address the impact of these phenomena on their digital communication especially on WeChat?

Q22: Do you have anything else to share about your experience of these phenomena that we haven't covered?

Appendix 2: Operationalizing RQs, theory, and interview questions

Table 1: Guide for operationalizing research questions and theory through interview questionnaire

Theory component(s)	Addressing which RQ?	Operationalization
T1: Martin et al. (2009)		<i>Based on the approved research tool</i>
T2: Zhu & Fu (2021)		
T1: Resistance relationships go beyond the surveilled and the surveyor, i.e., there are other resisters including: - International actors - Surveillance authorities - Surveillance artefact - Commercial actors	RQ1: How do migrant Filipinos in China understand their experience of digital surveillance and censorship on WeChat?	<p><u>Under the “General questions” interview section</u></p> <p>Q4: Please describe how you use WeChat for digital communication while in China. In what aspects of personal and professional life do you use it for?</p> <p>Q5: Have you connected your WeChat to your non-Chinese social media accounts? Why or why not?</p> <p>Q6: Do you use other apps to communicate personally or professionally while in China? How are they different from WeChat?</p> <p>Q7: In general, what observations do you have about other Filipinos communicating in WeChat groups or to you personally?</p> <p>Q8: Please describe your idea or understanding of the following: Q8A: Censorship Q8B: Surveillance</p> <p><u>Under the “General reflections” interview section</u></p> <p>Q16: Who do you think are responsible or behind surveillance and censorship on WeChat? Q16A: What do you think their roles or motivations are in censoring or surveilling WeChat?</p> <p>Q17: As a WeChat user, what role do you think you play in the phenomena of surveillance and censorship on the app? Q17A: How long do you think this role will remain?</p>
T2: Experiences of censorship: - Primary (direct censorship) - Secondary (seen through networks)	RQ1 RQ2: What issues do they face with digital surveillance and censorship on WeChat?	<p><i>For the primary form</i></p> <p>Q19: What new things about surveillance and censorship did you learn from using WeChat?</p> <p>Q21: What advice would you give to Filipino migrants in China so they can address the impact of these phenomena on their digital communication especially on WeChat?</p> <p><i>For the secondary form</i></p> <p><u>Under the “On the experiences of contacts/networks” interview section</u></p>

		<p>Q13: Do you know any contact who has received notifications on WeChat restricting their messages or posts? What did they do or how did they react from that?</p> <p>Q14: Were you still able to infer the intended meaning of censored WeChat posts?</p> <p>Q15: Did you ever think of or try reposting (their) censored content on other platforms?</p> <p>15A: If yes, what happened?</p> <p>15B: If no, what was your reason?</p>
<p>T2: Exposure to censorship prompts users to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remain silent (chilling effect) - Be inspired to know concealed issues (backfire effect) - Circumvent or evade censorship (minimal effect) 	<p>RQ3: How do the experiences of digital surveillance and censorship on WeChat impact the digital communication behaviors of migrant Filipinos in China?</p> <p>RQ2</p>	<p><u>Under the "On your experiences of surveillance and censorship" interview section</u></p> <p>Q9: Have you directly or indirectly experienced surveillance and censorship on your WeChat account?</p> <p>9A: If yes, please specify those instances.</p> <p>9B: Please give specific issues or challenges that you have faced because of those instances.</p> <p>9C: Did you ever tell anyone of this experience? What was their reaction like?</p> <p>9D: If no, who?</p> <p><u>Under the "General questions" interview section</u></p> <p>Q4-Q7</p> <p>Q10: How have these phenomena influenced your choice of words, language, or topics when communicating on WeChat? Can you specify or discuss such changes?</p> <p>Q11: Have these changes affected the way you use apps other than WeChat to communicate with your network within and outside of China?</p> <p>Q12: When you are outside of China, please describe your experience of communication using WeChat and other platforms. Are there any significant differences? What are your feelings or experiences like?</p>

Appendix 3: Data privacy and research interview consent form

DATA PRIVACY AND RESEARCH INTERVIEW CONSENT FORM

I am **Andy Peñafluerte III**, a freelance journalist and master's in journalism student under the Erasmus Mundus Journalism Programme at Aarhus University (Denmark) and Charles University (Czechia). Before this, I was a journalist and communications specialist based in China. I have freelanced for Al Jazeera Network, covering the Chinese economy during COVID-19, and most recently, for GMA News Online, reporting about the Filipino diaspora in Central Europe.

For my master's research, I am exploring the experience of Filipino migrants of surveillance and censorship on WeChat and how these phenomena affect their digital communication behavior. While I know this topic is quite contentious and risky, especially for Filipinos in China, I hope to uncover communication patterns that will help our compatriots living there (and those who will arrive soon) mitigate the impact of surveillance and censorship on their daily lives. I also hope to expand the academic discussion about these phenomena, considering the prevailing Western perspective on this topic.

What is your role?

As a qualitative phenomenological research, this master's thesis will focus on the experiences of Filipinos in China of surveillance and censorship (i.e., the subject phenomena). Participants will answer questions related to their direct experiences of these phenomena. An interview guide will be used to ensure a relaxed flow of conversation.

To ensure safety, I will voice-record and do the interviews via Messenger or Zoom with a virtual proxy network (VPN) turned on. Our interview language will mostly be Filipino or Taglish, and I will use keywords in place of surveillance and censorship to minimize detection. The interview will last between 40 minutes and 50 minutes. As the topic may be quite risky or touch upon sensitive and, at times, triggering recollections, I encourage the participants to inform me right away so we can keep the interview comfortable and relaxed while respecting your privacy and personal experiences.

This academic interview is voluntary, and the participants will not be compensated. You can opt out of the interview by sending an email.

Consent and privacy

As I stated, the interviews will be recorded to allow me to transcribe and counter-check my notes. The recordings will be destroyed entirely after completing the data analysis.

I will take several pieces of private data (e.g., name, years in China, profession, etc.) accessible only to me and my research supervisor Mgr. Jan Miessler from the Department of Media Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University. As soon as it is finalized, the research will be published in the Charles University research repository from 2025. This means translated interview quotes will be public, although data will be anonymized. Under the European Union General Data Protection Regulation, you have the right to access the recordings and rectify, erase, or restrict the processing of your personal data.

Please let me know if you have questions. I hope to address them as soon as possible.

Consent form

I hereby consent that I have read the information above and allow Andy Peñafluerte III to use my anonymized quotes for his master thesis. (Please sign electronically or download the form, sign it, and scan. Please send via email.)

Signature over printed name

Date