Special Issue Call

**Topic:** Understanding Chinese social media

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Social media networks play a critical role in the social landscape of contemporary China. WeChat, for instance, attracts 963 million active users each month as of 2017 (Statistica, 2017) and is one of the key digital means of communication for the highly mobile, both internally and internationally, Chinese population (e.g. Yu, Huang and Liu 2017; Zhou and Gui 2017; Zhao and Flewitt, in pro). While there is a growing body of applied linguistics research on social media platforms such as Facebook (e.g. Georgalou 2017; Tagg, Seargeant, and Brown 2017) and Twitter (e.g. Page 2012, 2018; Zappavigna 2011, 2018; Dayter 2016), the rich language and multimodal practices on Chinese social media are not well understood. The purpose of this special issue is to showcase state-of-art applied linguistics in particular pragmatics research on Chinese social media (e.g. WeChat, Weibo, QQ, etc) and explore theoretical, methodological and ethical issues in researching Chinese social media. Specifically, it aims to address (but not limited to) the following topics:

- What are the emerging forms of communicative genres and conventions?
- What are the pragmatic features of Chinese social media?
- What are the technological affordances of Chinese social media platforms/applications and how they mediate communicative events?
• How are different forms of social identities constructed and negotiated?
• How is facework, politeness or impoliteness done on Chinese social media?

References


