

Opposing Democracy in the Digital Age

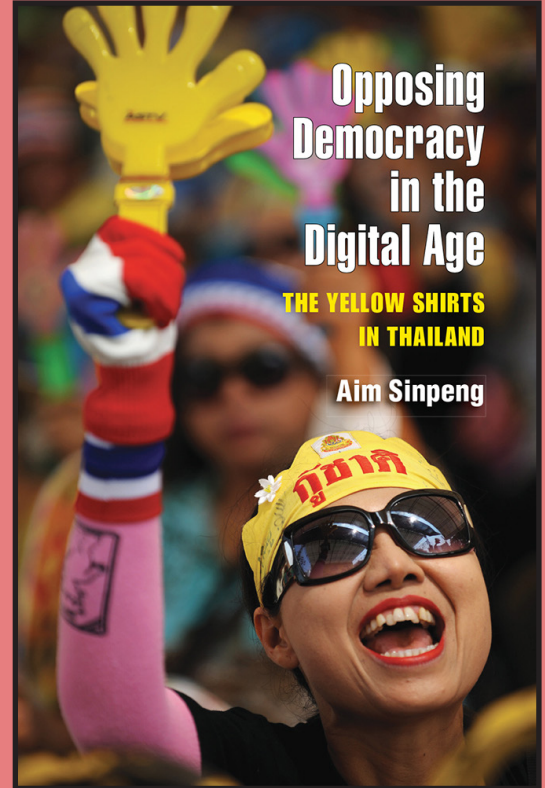
The Yellow Shirts in Thailand

Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies

Opposing Democracy in the Digital Age is about why ordinary people in a democratizing state oppose democracy and how they leverage both traditional and social media to do so. Aim Sinpeng focuses on the people behind popular, large-scale anti-democratic movements that helped bring down democracy in 2006 and 2014 in Thailand. The yellow shirts (PAD—People’s Alliance for Democracy) that are the focus of the book are anti-democratic movements grown out of democratic periods in Thailand, but became the catalyst for the country’s democratic breakdown. Why, when, and how supporters of these movements mobilize offline and online to bring down democracy are some of the key questions that Sinpeng answers. While the book primarily uses a qualitative methodological approach, it also uses several quantitative tools to analyze social media data in the later chapters. This is also one of the few studies in the field of regime transition that focuses on anti-democratic mobilization and takes the role of social media seriously.

Aim Sinpeng is Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the University of Sydney.

“Who killed Thailand’s democracy? In this exceptionally well-researched book, Aim Sinpeng explains how a mass movement of the country’s middle class came to subvert Thailand’s electoral institutions and enabled democratic breakdown. Sinpeng takes the reader inside the social media ecosystem where digital tools are empowering anti-democratic voices. *Opposing Democracy in the Digital Age* provides a powerful account of how democracies die in the digital age, and offers unsettling lessons for scholars and activists around the globe.”
—Jeremy Menchik, Boston University



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