

## Abstract PhD project: Nan Haifen

### **The Internet as a Public Sphere for the Chinese Diasporas in Germany**

Various studies have pointed out that, despite strict state-censorship, the Internet has been used to foster Chinese civil society, which is linked in numerous ways with the global community of Chinese diasporas around the world. However, only few studies focus on the Internet use of Chinese diasporas, and they rarely looked at the Internet as a public sphere for Chinese diasporas, and, in particular, in a global context.

My research attempts to explore the Internet as a public sphere for Chinese diasporas living in Germany in the context of globalization and transnational migration. The aim is to offer empirical evidence as well as to theoretically rethink Internet-based public spheres of ethnic minorities in a global context. Three research questions are essential to the study: (1) what does the studied public sphere look like? (2) how does it function, in particular, to what extent does it influence civil society in China and foster rational discourses in the Chinese diaspora community in Germany? (3) what implications can be derived from this case study with respect to an alternative model of public sphere in the context of new media and globalization?