Dr. Neves will pursue a series of speculations about Asian video cultures since the 1990s, paying particular attention to PR China. First, it seeks to situate recent attention to internet and mobile video practices within a longer history that includes sound technologies, live television, amateur and activist media, moving images, and related industrial, infrastructural, and social dynamics. Second, the presentation reflects on key insights drawn from my research into the cultural and geopolitics of video technologies. One such example is “videation,” which describes video’s unique mediations, as well as its overlooked actions, habits, or results. Finally, he turns to contemporary video forms and practices on the internet and social media, tracing a range of issues about short video aesthetics, popular politics, platformization, and global tensions during a moment when our everyday lives and relationships—like this lecture—take place via video infrastructures.

Dr. Joshua Neves is Canada Research Chair and Director of the Global Emergent Media (GEM) Lab at Concordia University (Montreal). His research centers on digital media, cultural and political theory, and problems of development and legitimacy—with a particular focus on China, Asia, and global networks. He is the author of Underglobalization: Beijing’s Media Urbanism and the Chimera of Legitimacy (Duke University Press, 2020), and co-editor of Asian Video Cultures: In the Penumbra of the Global (Duke University Press, 2017). His current book projects include a monograph examining the cultural politics of smartness and a collaborative book on Techno-Pharmacology (Meson/Minnesota Press).