

**Third International Asian Stardom, Celebrity and Fandom Conference**  
The Technologies of Asian Stardom, Celebrity and Fandom  
University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC)  
23–25 October 2026

**FAQs**

**1. General Information (陈弯弯)**

- **What is the conference about?**

The conference examines celebrity culture, stardom, fandom, media industries, digital platforms, AI, virtual influencers, livestreaming, creator economies, and popular culture across Asia and the Asian diaspora.

- **Who is the conference for?**

Tenured and casual academics, postgraduate students, industry professionals, media practitioners, journalists, filmmakers, content creators, independent scholars, and creative practitioners.

- **When and where is the conference taking place?**

We are delighted to host the Asian Stardom Conference from 23 to 25 October 2026 at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China, located in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, China.

**Address:**

199 TaiKang East Road University Park, Ningbo China 315100 Tel: +86(0)574 8818 0000

**地址:**

中国宁波泰康东路 199 邮编:315100 电话:+86(0)574 8818 0000 传真:+86(0)574 8818 0188 www.nottingham.edu.cn

- **What is the format of the conference?**

The conference will include keynote presentations, paper panels, roundtables, networking sessions, and social activities.

- **How do I register for the conference and make payment?**

To complete your conference registration and payment, please fill out the registration form available here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ab4tPc2WVk>

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- **Who are the organisers and partners?**

The **Third International Asian Stardom, Celebrity and Fandom Conference** is organised by the **School of International Communications, University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC)** in collaboration with **RMIT University, Australia**, and **Deakin University, Australia**.

The conference is convened by:

- **Professor Sean Redmond**, RMIT University, Australia
- **Associate Professor Jian Xu**, Deakin University, Australia
- **Associate Professor Vikrant Kishore**, University of Nottingham Ningbo China

The conference brings together an international network of scholars working across celebrity studies, fandom studies, media and communication, screen cultures, digital media, popular culture, and Asian studies. Through this collaboration, the conference aims to create a platform for scholarly exchange, interdisciplinary dialogue, and international research partnerships examining contemporary developments in Asian stardom, celebrity culture, and fandom.

## 2. Registration and Participation (陈弯弯)

- **The conference offers three registration categories to support participation from scholars at different career stages.**

### Eligibility for Discounted Registration

Early Career Academics and Researchers (ECA/R) registration is available to scholars who are within five years of completing their doctoral degree or who are in the early stages of their academic or research careers. This category is intended to support emerging researchers, postdoctoral fellows, lecturers, assistant professors, and other colleagues who are establishing their research profile and academic trajectory.

Student Registration is available to currently enrolled undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students. Participants registering under this category may be asked to provide proof of enrolment.

• <b>Category</b>	• <b>Registration Fee</b>
• General Registration	• RMB 1,000
• Early Career Academics and Researchers (ECA/R)	• RMB 700
• Students (Undergraduate, Master's and PhD)	• RMB 500

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- **What is included in the registration?**

Your registration fee includes:

- Full access to all conference sessions (keynote speeches, paper presentations, and panel discussions)
- Conference materials and programme booklet
- Coffee breaks and lunches during the conference days
- Opening night welcome reception
- Please note that accommodation, travel expenses, and dinners are not included in the registration fee.

- **Can I attend without presenting a paper?**

- Yes, absolutely! You are very welcome to attend the conference as a non-presenting participant.
- Whether you are a student, researcher, practitioner, or simply interested in the study of Asian stardom, celebrity, and fandom, you can register and join all the sessions, keynote talks, and discussions. Many attendees come to learn, network, and exchange ideas without giving a presentation.
- A participation sign-up form will be available on the webpage in the first week of October to register as a participant.

- **Will certificates of participation/presentation be provided?**

Yes. All registered participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Presenters will receive a Certificate of Presentation. Certificates will be issued digitally after the conference and can be used for academic or professional records.

### 3. Publication Opportunities (陶弘怡)

- **Will the conference publish proceedings?**

No, the conference will not publish formal proceedings with official ISSN or DOI identifiers. This conference is designed to prioritize extended scholarly outputs rather than traditional formal proceedings. Unlike conferences that produce archived, peer-reviewed formal proceedings with permanent identifiers, this event focuses on fostering substantive, expanded scholarly work.

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- **What publication opportunities are available after the conference?**

Following the conference, participants will have the opportunity to develop their papers for publication in an edited volume to be published in the series *Asian Celebrity and Fandom Studies* with Bloomsbury Academic Press (details of the series can be found here: <https://www.bloomsbury.com/au/series/asian-celebrity-and-fandom-studies/>). There may also be the opportunity to publish your papers in a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal that aligns with the conference's core themes. Further details concerning submission guidelines, timelines, and editorial processes will be announced shortly after the conference concludes.

#### 4. Travel and Transportation (陶弘怡)

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#### Nearest Airports

- Ningbo Lishe International Airport (Primary – 25–30 minutes to UNNC)
- Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport (2–2.5 hours)
- Shanghai Pudong International Airport (3–4 hours)
- Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport (2.5–3 hours, closer to high-speed rail)

#### 5. How to Travel to UNNC (陶弘怡)

#### Estimated travel times and approximate costs

- Taxi (recommended from Ningbo airport) 【20-30min/30-50rmb】
- Metro + taxi combination 【Metro Line 2 from Ningbo Lishe Airport to Liyuan South Road Station (丽园南路) ->Transfer to Line 8 and head towards Xuefu Road Station (学府路) ->Exit at B and take a short taxi ride to the university. ~45-60min/15-25rmb】
- High-speed train (from Hangzhou/Shanghai to Ningbo Railway Station)  
【Hangzhou->Ningbo Railway: ~46-60min/64-85rmb; Shanghai->Ningbo Railway: ~1h36m-2h10m/151-172rmb】

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### 6. Accommodation (王禹婷)

#### On-Campus Option

- LA Hotel Ningbo (approximate – 320 RMB – 500RMB per night)
  - Located within UNNC campus
  - Special discounted rates for conference participants
  - Booking instructions

#### Nearby Hotels (Suggested List)

- Hilton, Yinzhou,
- Pan Pacific Ningbo
- Shangri-La Ningbo
- Novotel Ningbo East
- InterContinental Ningbo
- Park Hyatt Ningbo Resort and Spa

You may check hotel booking platforms such as Trip.com or Booking.com. The University is located in Yinzhou district, so if you prefer accommodation close to campus, please search using “Yinzhou.”

### 7. Visa and Invitation Letters (王禹婷)

- **Do I need a visa to attend the conference in China?**  
Visa requirements vary depending on your nationality and current residence status. Participants are advised to check the latest visa regulations with their nearest Chinese embassy or consulate before making travel arrangements.
- **Can the organisers provide an invitation letter?**  
Yes. The conference organisers can provide a formal invitation letter upon request to support your visa application.
- **What documents are required for visa support?**  
Visa requirements may differ across countries. Participants should consult their nearest Chinese embassy or consulate for the most accurate and up-to-date list of required documents.
- **What is the processing timeline for visa applications?**  
Processing times vary by location and visa type. It is recommended that participants apply well in advance and confirm timelines directly with their nearest Chinese embassy or consulate.

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### 8. Programme and Schedule (王禹婷)

- **When will the full programme be released?**  
The full programme of the Conference will be available on 1st September 2026
- **What types of sessions will be included?**  
keynotes, individual presentations, creative work showcase
- **Will there be networking events or social activities?**  
Yes, the conference will offer/suggest activities that will focus on networking and experiencing local events.

### 9. Technical Requirements (for Presenters) (尹威为)

- **Presentation format (PowerPoint, video, etc.)**

The conference accepts paper presentations, panels or roundtables.

- **Time limits for presentations**

Paper presentations are allocated 20 minutes each, followed by 15-20 minutes for Q&A at the end of each panel (depending on the number of presentations in the panel).

- **Equipment available at the venue**

The venue provides standard AV equipment for presentations.

### 10. Food and Facilities (尹威为)

- **Will meals be provided?**

Yes, registration includes lunches, snacks, and coffee breaks during the conference days. A welcome reception on the 23rd October is included for the conference registered participants.

- **Are there vegetarian/halal options?**

Vegetarian options are available. There is a Halal certified Canteen in the campus.

- **Nearby restaurants and cafés**

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The UNNC campus has multiple cafeterias and coffee shops, including Pizza Hut, McDonalds, Arabica, KFC, Starbucks, O2, various Chinese restaurants, and university canteens. The surrounding Yinzhou district offers various dining options.

### 11. Local Information (孟繁蕊)

- **What is Ningbo known for?**  
Ningbo is one of China's oldest port cities, with a history of more than 7,000 years, strong maritime traditions, museums, heritage sites, and a thriving modern economy.
- **Is Ningbo safe?**  
Ningbo is generally regarded as a safe and welcoming city for international visitors.
- **What language is spoken?**  
Mandarin Chinese is the primary language. English is widely used on the UNNC campus.
- **What weather should I expect in October?**  
Temperatures are typically between 12°C and 25°C. Light layers and a jacket for evenings are recommended.
- **What currency is used?**  
Chinese Yuan (RMB/CNY).
- **Can I use Alipay or WeChat Pay?**  
Yes. China is largely a cashless society, and most shops, restaurants, taxis, convenience stores, and attractions use **Alipay (支付宝)** and **WeChat Pay (微信支付)** as their primary payment methods. International visitors can now link Visa, Mastercard, and several other international bank cards directly to these apps before or after arrival in China.

**To make your visit easier, we strongly recommend downloading the following applications before travelling:**

- **Alipay (支付宝)** – for payments, public transport, taxis, and local services
- **WeChat (微信)** – for communication, networking, and mobile payments
- **Baidu Maps (百度地图)** or **Amap/Gaode Maps (高德地图)** – for navigation and local transport information
- **Trip.com (携程国际版)** – for booking hotels, high-speed rail tickets, and domestic travel
- **Baidu Translate (百度翻译)** or **Microsoft Translator** – for language assistance

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- While cash remains accepted in most locations, many smaller businesses, cafés, convenience stores, and local restaurants may prefer mobile payments. International credit cards are generally accepted at major hotels, airports, and larger shopping centres.

- **Important Information for International Visitors**

Several international websites and applications have limited or restricted access in mainland China, including:

- Google Search
- Gmail
- Google Maps
- YouTube
- Facebook
- Instagram
- WhatsApp
- X (formerly Twitter)

Participants who rely on these services for communication or work should make appropriate arrangements before travelling.

We also recommend saving important information, including your hotel address, conference venue details, flight information, and emergency contacts on your phone before arrival. Having key addresses available in both English and Chinese can be particularly useful when using taxis or public transport.

- **Will Wi-Fi be available?**

Yes. Complimentary Wi-Fi will be available throughout the University of Nottingham Ningbo China campus and conference venues. Most hotels, cafés, restaurants, and public spaces in Ningbo also provide internet access.

- **Can I use international mobile phones in China?**

Yes. Most international mobile phones will work in China if international roaming has been activated by your provider. Alternatively, visitors may purchase a local SIM card or eSIM package before arrival or at major airports and mobile service providers. This is often the most cost-effective option for longer stays.

- **Language considerations**

The official language of the conference is English.

On the UNNC campus, most staff and students speak English. For off-campus travel, it is helpful to have your destination address written in Chinese characters or use translation apps like Baidu Translate or Apple Translate.

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- **Local Attractions**

**What can I visit while in Ningbo?**

Tianyige Museum, Ningbo Museum, Dongqian Lake, Old Bund, Moon Lake, and nearby heritage sites are popular attractions.

**Can I visit Shanghai or Hangzhou?**

Both cities are connected to Ningbo by high-speed rail and can be visited as day trips or extended stays.

- **Emergency contacts**

Police: 110

Fire Department: 119

Ambulance: 120

UNNC Campus Security (24h): +86 (0) 574 8818 0000 (Ext. 8110)

## 12. Contact Information (孟繁蕊)

**Conference Email**

[asianstardom@nottingham.edu.cn](mailto:asianstardom@nottingham.edu.cn)

**Venue Address**

University of Nottingham Ningbo China, 199 Taikang East Road, Yinzhou District, Ningbo, Zhejiang, China 315100

**地址:中国宁波泰康东路 199 邮编:315100 电话:+86(0)574 8818 0000 传**

**真:+86(0)574 8818 0188 [www.nottingham.edu.cn](http://www.nottingham.edu.cn)**

- **Website link**

Visit the official conference webpage:

<https://live-china-uon.cloud.contensis.com/en/humanities-and-social-sciences/schools-and-department/international-communications/research/events/asian-stardom-celebrity-and-fandom-conference.aspx>

## Suggested Article Submission Guidelines (Post-Conference Publication)

At this stage, submission of a full article is not compulsory for conference participation. However, contributors are encouraged to prepare their work with potential publication in mind. A formal Call for Chapters for the edited volume will be circulated after the conference, following collective discussions on scope and direction.

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The following guidelines are intended to support participants in developing their conference presentations into publishable articles:

**Word Limit**

Suggested length: **6,000–7,000 words** (including references). This is indicative and may be refined in the formal call.

**Abstract**

Please prepare an abstract of **150–200 words**, clearly outlining the focus, approach, and central argument of the paper.

**Keywords**

Include **4–6 keywords** reflecting the key themes of the work. Ensure that the keywords do not appear in the title or abstract.

**Style and Writing**

Submissions should adopt a clear academic style, with a strong and focused argument. Authors must move beyond descriptive accounts and engage critically with relevant scholarship and empirical or textual material related to the field of Asian stardom, celebrity and fandom.

**Formatting**

- Times New Roman, 12-point font
- 1.5 line spacing
- Standard margins
- Clear section headings (maximum three levels)
- Figures, images, or tables should be properly labelled and sourced

**Referencing Style**

The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th ed.

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