

**PHD Defence: “Comment Space”**  
**By Geoffrey Glass**

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Our dear colleague, Geoffrey Glass, will defend his PHD dissertation on Wednesday, November 18th, 2015 at Harbour Centre, Room 1520 (10:00 am- 1:00 pm). Here is the abstract of his dissertation “Comment Space”:

**Abstract**

Reader comments are an online communication format defined by their marginality relative to a primary news or blog article. To investigate their distinctive technical features and social dynamics, I studied large-scale discussions in response to articles about two stories: the death of Aaron Swartz, and the outing of Edward Snowden as the NSA leaker. Using frame analysis and drawing on Hannah Arendt’s theories of judgment and public action, I describe how these comments by ordinary people give meaning to political action and define a space of political legitimacy.