

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hah Foong Lian was formerly a journalist with an English daily in Malaysia from 1994 to 2009. During her fifteen-year stint in the news industry she has written and pursued articles covering a wide range of social and political issues. During this span she also covered four Malaysian national elections and several by-elections. The last national election that she covered as a reporter in Perak in 2008 spurred a strong interest in learning more about the role and function of political blogs and the online media in the country. She became curious about the much-touted democratic appeals of the online platform when she noticed the stark contrast in the coverage of issues and news angles between the mainstream news media and the political blogs. In 2009 she took a break from the industry to pursue a PhD in Media and Communication at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. Her research topic was *New Media and Old Politics: The Role of Blogging in the 2008 Malaysian General Election*. When the country was gearing up for the 2013 election she updated her research with data and interviews for a further examination on the use of the online media. After completing her doctoral thesis in 2012 she taught Journalism and other media-related subjects at Monash University Malaysia in Sunway from 2013 to 2014. She currently teaches Journalism and Media Studies at Curtin University Sarawak in Miri.