



Evidence of abuse of YouTube for Chinese government propaganda

22 September 2014

Free Tibet has documented the following:

1. **The establishment of bogus personal accounts use to disseminate propaganda favourable to the Chinese government.**
2. **The establishment of multiple bogus personal accounts solely for the purpose of distributing or commenting on content from a single account.**
3. **The posting of repetitive content (in the form of comments) originating from a single source through the establishment of multiple bogus personal accounts.**
4. **The use of copyrighted material, apparently without permission, as profile photographs for the above accounts.**

Free Tibet has identified four bogus personal accounts used specifically to promote China's messaging on Tibet but others may exist. We have identified a larger number of bogus personal accounts used to promote content favourable to the Chinese government on other issues but it is likely that others exist. Please see Appendix for a full list of accounts identified by Free Tibet.

All accounts and urls were accessed between 20 July 2014 and 18 September 2014. Screen grabs of selected accounts and content are available here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/freetibetorg/15283217851/in/set-72157647766431441> and from Free Tibet on request.

1. The establishment of bogus personal accounts use to disseminate propaganda favourable to the Chinese government

- a. Accounts posting or commenting on Tibet-related material

HugoTom:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvxReEGC9CltcvcOnx5e68A/channels>

Peters Ken: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdS64zpfZbwTphNSLrNsJiw>

Lewis Johnson:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBXPrlif_kkI3BX6dOQxr2w

Lewis Davidson:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7H3lvNHp5mcRxJUV6LJRNQ>

Evidence of fake status:

- Hugo Tom, Peters Ken and Lewis Johnson were names given to fake Twitter accounts posting or commenting on Tibet content (now suspended).

- The accounts publish solely Tibet-related material.
- The content and nature of the videos they post are very similar, suggesting the same source.
- The subscribers and commenters for these accounts almost all appear fake (see below).
- The subscribers and commenters of these accounts follow similar, apparently fake, accounts linked to the China/Tibet propaganda, forming a circle of followers. For example, Noyes Jasper <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3kT0mccbsrNfbNusmLwNXw> likes Peter Ken's videos (Tibet content), Peter Ken is subscribed to Noyes, Noyes Jasper likes Review China (see below).

b. Examples of China-related accounts

Alice Vivian: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChD03eocWR_t1qS5bt5lkag
Robyn Wyld: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF5ILZcbfeydbUo163aDjHw>
April Ben: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZuSutaCqoHoy9V0q65k3Q>
Lydia May: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUh1zJmIKtjLrqts0JYafCQ>
Daniel Carter: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkIDzJ89EfiHTtVT-xoed5g>

Evidence of fake status

- A significant number of the accounts (for example, Alice Vivian and Lydia May) also had Twitter accounts exposed as fake and now suspended.
- The accounts which have been evaluated by Free Tibet use fake names and their profile pictures have been sourced from the internet (see Point 4 for copyright material; see appendix for other sources). The other accounts have similar profiles, strongly suggesting the same process.
- The accounts exclusively post pro-China content and nothing else.
- Accounts solely like or subscribe to Review China (see below) and/or the accounts identified above.
- The names mostly follow the same format, being Anglo-Saxon and usually being two first names.
- These accounts have the same or very similar subscribers and commenters, linked to the Tibet/China propaganda, forming a circle of accounts.
- The subscribers and commenters on these accounts almost all appear fake using the criteria identified in this document

2. The establishment of multiple bogus personal accounts solely for the purpose of distributing or commenting on content from a single account.

The China-related accounts identified above only like or comment on videos from the Review China account <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfWVME4-kfluyFJxa8rdZsw>. Review China videos are professionally produced and its content is exclusively positive about China. Almost all activity related to this account is highly suspicious:

- Each video posted by Review China has several thousand views according to the viewing statistic but most show no signs of authentic viewer activity.
- Each video is posted in both Chinese and English and most pairings have nearly identical viewing statistics.

- Those posted in Chinese have almost no viewer activity (no likes/dislikes/comments) despite the viewing statistics.
- The only videos with comments and likes are the videos in English and all by users with apparently Western profiles/accounts.
- Nearly all of the videos which do show viewer activity have 23/24 likes
- Nearly all of the videos which have likes have an almost identical number of comments, all of which are positive, suggesting that each account systematically likes then comments.
- The videos have almost no dislikes, with 500,000 apparent views in total.
- Although the accounts have Western names, their activity relates solely to Tibet/China videos.
- All of the accounts related to Review China make video posts and comments which are favourable to the Chinese government, even though they have Western identities.
- The same comments are made by different accounts and/or single accounts post the same comment on different videos (see Point 3, below)

3. The posting of repetitive content (comments) originating from a single source through the establishment of multiple accounts.

- Individual accounts repeatedly post the same comments on different videos in the circle:

Oliver Nina *“China is a country with 5000 years civilization, and its size decided China will always has a important role in the world. China will rise again, just a matter of time.”* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIRIFOAICFs> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tD9iOayXaFo>
- Identical comments are posted by different accounts:

“I think China is fortunate and lucky to have a very forward-looking leadership”
 Selma Rex: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzsd4d4ZxTo>
 Lewis Hubbard: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWh8a_UWx54
 Solomon Milly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIRIFOAICFs>
- Comments may be both repeated by the same account on different videos and by different accounts in the circle:

“Excellent presentation I have to say”
 Hellen Darcy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWxCVBZ7sjU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tD9iOayXaFo>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIRIFOAICFs>
 Garfield Erica: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XYp232Y5g>

4. The use of copyrighted material, apparently without permission, as profile photographs

- Lydia May <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUh1zJmlKtjLrqts0JYaFcQ> Photograph obtained from professional photographers’ website:

<http://ddkportraits.com/2013/09/time-to-make-your-senior-page-unforgettable/> NB This name and photograph was also used for a Twitter account. When contacted by the *New York Times*, the photographer [confirmed that permission had not been given](#) for use of the image.

- Rebecca Philomena <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTv9pJWBZ3WzUia5y1zllvA>
 Photograph obtained from professional photographers' website
<http://bryantaltizer.blogspot.co.uk/2009/10/senior-portrait-session-hannah.html>
<http://ddkportraits.com/2013/09/time-to-make-your-senior-page-unforgettable/>
- Hugo Tom <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvxReEGC9CltvcvOnx5e68A>
 Photograph of a model <http://www.malemodelsce.net/editorial/felipe-berto-rick-day/>

Please see the Appendix below for more examples.

Appendix: suspicious accounts identified by Free Tibet

Note: Red highlights are likely copyright infringements

1. Andrew Bertie, Twitter suspended
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qq_k5hBsXenhhgDKYc_gA
2. Alice Vivian, Twitter suspended
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChD03eocWR_t1qS5bt5lkag
 Profile image of the account is from a guest blogger of street style blog that was written by a travel blogger.
<http://anonmagazine.com/spotted-european-street-style/> <http://mygreatestescapades.tumblr.com/>
3. Alice Lillian
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSF_TjWUhb1RncFPNj3ddRw/videos
4. Anthony Dutt, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuivhrvp4F8CqPRm6pbALHg/channels>
- 5.
6. April Ben
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZuSutaCqoHoy9V0q65k3Q>
 Profile image of the account is from - Down Syndrome Association in Texas.
<http://dsact.com/2012-holiday-party/>
7. Alisa Rita
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdjhid8SECnQMDdZeNK3y5A>
 Profile image of the account is from a stock image
<http://www.dreamstime.com/photos-images/beautiful-girl-near-yacht.html>

8. Bonnie Casper
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRsNmU09Bez8kfSrhT3LR5Q/videos>
9. Cassie Mandy, Twitter suspended
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5_0g0vc9nWthg8G4svmZ9Q
10. **Carter Daniel**
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcKIDzJ89EjHTtVT-xoed5g>
Profile image of the account is from an animal nutrition products website
<http://tecnologiaagricolahn.com/>
11. **Congreve Neil**, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwAbO6XwvxuzWfhCZcbgBqQ>
Profile image of the account is from UK Anthropology site
<http://ukvisualanthropology.com/blog/>
12. Derek Jamie
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCo66LBQKqCRF9GD5txzJYw>
Profile image of the account of this person
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ramseymohsen/5256985504/in/photostream/>
13. Donna Alina, Twitter suspended)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvV1YH53LWI63PGkxk6olwA>
14. Emily Becky
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_fVn8uKNJLaJGXbrT2waCg
15. Eric Lynn
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt8PL4EU4r0p3tEtSW9MK6Q>
16. Francis Jones
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd31qTlovoLASm8SgV-wPRg>
Profile image of the account from a family travel blog
<http://www.stylehiclub.com/europe/italy/a-road-trip-around-sicily/>
17. Felix James, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwlsoHIxoLUIAkWM4y7Rmg>
18. Gallup Irving, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbmqfjne9PCZp8rB3w7zODQ>
19. Gresham Dunbar
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG74EEvVATEyKa2xLcf2XwQ/feed>
20. **Garfield Erica**, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNG2z04K2N3W583hhcfe4kg>
Profile image of the account from Cranfield University website
<http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/study/studying-at-cranfield/life-at-cranfield/>

21. Hamlet Cook, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOVdlzKtFcWXImFCALjvwOg>

22. Hellen Darcy, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY9fE4weLiQPfaqlKKwuFoQ>
 Profile image of the account from an Agricultural College website
<http://www.vidalquevedo.com/web-dev>
<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/>

23. Irene Randy, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV1WNYJel7uDdqNcX7RnyYw>
 Same as Alice Vivian - profile image of the account is from a guest blogger of street style blog that was written by a travel blogger.
<http://anonmagazine.com/spotted-european-street-style/>
<http://mygreatescapades.tumblr.com/>

24. Jack Martin
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGK-Fjtx0yMBLmntP2QZIIA>

25. Jessica Oy
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjvJF7ufu8ZsrnYBOnvFXQ>

26. Lloyd Henley, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7ZQDunn9sZRrgD0-gpvVVw>
 Profile image of the account from this fashion site
<https://rebelxmindz.wordpress.com/tag/supreme/>
 Sepreme is also the logo of a fashion brand
<http://www.supremenewyork.com/about>

27. Lucia Josh, Twitter suspended
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPoXidSoVjo_45lG9rKomvg

28. Lewis Hubbard, Twitter suspended
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjnVHZWfa_NV1ZYQWdspdBA
 Profile image of the account is of Johnny Dickerson, pastor of FBC Mansfield from an interview on this website.
<http://www.newsfromeurasia.com/2012/embrace-churches-make-first-contact-in-europe/>

29. Lewis Davidson
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7H3lvNHp5mcRxJUV6LJRNQ>

30. Lewis Johnson
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBXPrlif_kkI3BX6dOOxr2w

31. Lydia May, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUh1zJmlKtjLrqtS0JYaFcQ>
[We've contacted the people for this picture for twitter.](#)

32. Micheal Wright

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkAV1xiJrfawJyIHymmvxRA/videos>

Above image from IT site <http://www.slegend.com/>

33. Michael Peter

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuZ2VgNhlUcqTtJMtVThh_Q

Profile image of the account is of actor/ rapper Kane Robinson in Channel 4 drama Toy Boy.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-previews/top-boy-series-two-meet-2192773>

34. Meredith Glen

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChH6v1N7iboM_Xcu7nhsfuA

35. Malthu Snowl, Twitter suspended

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoqSGDahe5UkxFX_dzA6hlw

36. Maggie Liz

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXA6PCcATmidM8scDaLuKtQ>

Profile image of the account is from this photo painting website.

<http://photoartpainting.blogspot.co.uk/p/portrait.html>

37. Nell Raleigh, Twitter suspended

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaHF7uL00Y1wtEAYZAP_97A

38. Nicholas Field

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuqcivM3h00BN9ZEWKhNxxvA>

39. **Noyes Jasper**, Twitter account suspended

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3kT0mccbsrNfbNusmLwNXw>

Profile image of the account is from this blog

http://www.linzersadventure.com/2010_04_01_archive.html

40. Oliver Nina, Twitter suspended

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVz9qEyo4yi3NpWZeyJw8qA/channels>

41. Peters Ken/Ken Peters, Twitter suspended

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdS64zpfZbwTphNSLrNsJiw>

Twitter suspended <https://twitter.com/Kenpeters91>

42. Pauline Oliver

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW3Dko-d-8rfUE-82G6opsw>

Profile image of the account is from Darota Coy artist

43. Philomena Rebecca, Twitter suspended

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTv9pJWBZ3WzUia5y1zllvA/videos>

44. Robin Wyld, Twitter suspended

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF5ILZcbfeydbUo163aDjHw>

45. Robeson Young, Twitter suspended
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD8y5hwMNgrTm2RhgLT_s_w
 46. Selina Laura
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg3qL22MHEuwl6hquAKFmYw>
 47. Selma Rex
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIeamdlkcKcMyu1pPzX6UDw/feed>
Profile image of the account is of Gregg from this website
<http://catalyst.pearson.com/our-team/gregg-alcpt>
 48. Sarah Yvett
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2kDQRmDP-VLFfHeuLtxvXQ/videos>
 49. Solomon Milly
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc9BYFbuA4di7cItceQIbNA>
 50. Stacy Jennifer
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdckXjxx7iaTuN6PTdukK7g>
 51. Hugo Tom/Tom Hugo, Twitter suspended
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvxReEGC9ClcvcOnx5e68A/channels>
 52. Timothy Wendy
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqt_JWwqT7je5viH-y5J9Gw
Stock photo
http://www.123rf.com/stock-photo/drinking_beer.html
 53. Thomas Yule
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_uNp62_b6BEIINL86XR6A/videos
 54. Truman Marcus
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4DjrkVGVSuHOrcDu7w1E-Q>
Stock photo
<http://www.masterfile.com/stock-photography/search/graduation%20throwing%20cap>
 55. Vanessa Eva
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsJ4uV7clXQYHmryh5MWahA>
Profile image of the account is Paris Hilton
<http://celebrity-sneakers.blogspot.co.uk/>
 56. Dole Valtey
<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC34EQXEtL25lvDlvrjokMTg/channels>
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For further information and screen grabs of selected accounts, contact Alistair Currie,
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Free Tibet is a London-based international campaigning organisation, working for the Tibetan people's right to determine their own future, an end to China's occupation and for the fundamental human rights of Tibetans to be respected.

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