



IAMCR
BEIJING 2022



IAMCR

Diaspora and Media Working Group

Abstracts of papers accepted for presentation in the Online Conference Papers of the
International Association for Media and Communication Research¹

IAMCR

beijing2022.iamcr.org
July 2022

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Version: 14/04/22

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Lock-down tales: Access and media consumption among African Diaspora in Norway

Authors

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Mr. Yam Bahadur Katuwal - NLA University College

Abstract

This presentation takes up the discourse on marginalization and 'othering' surrounding media, information and communication flows for/among the African diaspora in Norway during the Covid lockdown of 2020. Building on the Norwegian health directorate's (2020) concerns about the statistically higher number of transmissions among immigrant-groups, the chapter unpacks the dynamics surrounding this group's information access and flows during lock down by exploring: 'public institutional' informational initiatives targeting immigrants at local levels and and experiences of individual immigrants outside the institution. A social justice approach focusing on media representation, inclusion, otherness and trans-nationalism are evoked to analyze data generated qualitatively. While individual experiences were fragmented and diverse, a clear picture epitomizing 'otherness' and disadvantage on the basis of socio-cultural, economic and political marginality emerges with nuances depending on stratification contexts such as age, educational, nationality, religion. Institutional efforts were experienced as necessary but insufficient in fully combating fear, uncertainty and confusion among the diverse groups of Africans. These, mostly top-down interpretations of national directives were thus supplemented with alternative and contra sources and flows of information to feed the diasporic local, national and trans-national informational needs.

Submission ID

98

“Nuestras historias no existen:” Undocuqueer identities and struggle in U.S. Spanish-language media

Authors

Dr. Ayleen Cabas-Mijares - Marquette University

Abstract

News media in the United States plays an oversized role in influencing attitudes toward immigration. By simultaneously undercovering immigrants (Santa Ana, 2002, 2013) and overrepresenting them as criminal, burdensome and incapable of acculturating (Branton & Dunaway, 2009; Chavez, 2008; Kim et al., 2011), American news media tend to construct immigrants as threats. As the controversy over immigration has intensified, the American public and politicians have supported policies that limit access to national belonging and citizenship (Anderson, Gibney & Paoletti, 2011; Kanstroom, 2007).

Although most studies have found that U.S. news media across platforms and political leanings vilify immigrants, immigration coverage is not homogeneous. Almost half of the news stories about unauthorized immigration in the U.S. utilized a human-interest framing, bringing nuance to the immigration discussion (Figenschou & Thorbjørnsrud, 2015). A focus on deportations and virtuous immigrants renders news coverage more sympathetic (Juravich & Williams, 2011; Patler & Gonzalez, 2015; Reich & Mendoza, 2008).

Consequently, more research is needed to explain the factors that shape news coverage of immigration.

This study examines the news discourse in U.S. Spanish-language media about queer undocumented youth, many of whom identify with the undocuqueer movement (Seif, 2014). The focus on Spanish-language media is a response to the relative scarcity of research about these platforms *and* their relevance in shaping immigration narratives and political involvement in the Latinx community. Scholars have found that U.S. Spanish-language media produce a larger volume of coverage about immigration and more positive framings of immigrants (Branton & Dunaway, 2008). Furthermore, exposure to Spanish-language news has been found to create a politicized immigrant identity among Latino immigrants, which results in greater civic engagement (Garcia-Rios & Barreto, 2016).

By examining the coverage of undocumented LGBTQ people, this study interrogates notions of solidarity and intersectional advocacy in Spanish-language media. Through alternative media, art, and advocacy, undocuqueer activists have shaped distinct politics that currently guide the pro-immigration movement (Cisneros & Bracho, 2019; Nicholls, 2013; Seif, 2014). However, queer migrants still constitute “impossible subjects” in mainstream culture (Luibhéid, 2008, p. 171). American news media contributes to this by presenting few and reductive portrayals of undocumented LGBTQ people and activists which erases their political influence (Cabas-Mijares, 2021). This examination of Spanish-language news media coverage of the movement, then, will shed light on how these media contribute to or resist the disparagement and erasure of Undocuqueer identities and activism in the U.S.

I use intersectionality-informed critical discourse analysis to examine Spanish-language news articles about undocumented LGBTQ people and the Undocuqueer movement. Through a keyword search in several news databases, I collected 72 news articles published between January 2000 and January 2020. The initial open coding phase is almost complete revealing patterns that separate Spanish-language coverage from mainstream coverage, namely the construction of the U.S. as an unsafe place for LGBTQ migrants (especially by a relentless focus on the brutality of immigration enforcement), and the recognition of pro-immigration activism as effective in addressing injustice. However, like mainstream media, there is little acknowledgement of Undocuqueer activism in Spanish-language coverage. As the analysis process continues, this study provides opportunities to exploring the (dis)connections between diverse news discourse and histories of colonialism, heterosexism, and racism.

Submission ID

537

The Diaspora of Books: Knowledge, Ideologies, Others

Authors

Ms. Esther Sampson - York University

Abstract

Diaspora is a topic that has been discussed from many angles by innumerable scholars with a focus largely on the diaspora of peoples and sometimes on objects that are associated with a specific group of people, such as those found in museums. However, there is little that considers the identity and representation of a diasporic object that is created to be shared cross-culturally. This paper addresses such topics in relation to translated books, and more specifically, their covers. Book covers of translations are unique in that the covers are regularly designed in the host culture to represent the source text, and through it, the source culture. This relationship leads to the diasporic identity of the translated book being produced by the host culture, potentially leading to the perpetuation of pernicious ideologies in the receiving culture. By bringing together the insights of Stuart Hall, Gérard Genette, Edward Said, Rogers Brubaker, and many others, this paper discusses how representation, identity, ideology, power, and the 'Other' are influenced by the status of a book as diasporic and the importance of this influence on books as bearers of knowledge. This paper argues that the results of current translation processes of foreign books, especially on the cover of a book, maintain ideologies and knowledge systems that negatively impact not only the identity of books as diasporas but everything they are meant to represent. And as books have the responsibility of knowledge dissemination, the misrepresentation and mutation of foreign knowledge through current translation practices only compound issues in representations of the Other.

Submission ID

547

Framing the "new" Ethiopia? Analysis of two Diaspora media

Authors

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Abstract

Following five-year-long widespread protests against government policies, the Ethiopian government underwent a fundamental reform that brought in Dr. Abiy Ahmed, the incumbent Ethiopian leader to power in April 2018. The importance of Diaspora media during the protests could not be discounted since they were banned as the country experienced repeated government social and satellite media shutdowns between 2015-2018 (Human Rights Watch, 2016). The then government understood that satellite broadcasting stations abroad which required no government licensing to air made censorship difficult. During the protests, the news was used strategically by these

Diaspora media both within and abroad to engage in successful grassroots political movements.

A resurgence of the influence of these Diaspora media has been observed with the many positive changes that have been implemented by PM Abiy including the unbanning of satellite television stations in the Diaspora such as Oromo Media Network (OMN) and Ethiopian Satellite Television (ESAT) among other things. However, new sources of contention have been observed in the political discourses since the announcement of the current government to hold the national election in August 2020 that was postponed to June 2021 due Covid-19. As a result, two camps were constituted, wherein the first group champions a unified Ethiopia that disbands ethnic politics called "Ethiopianists" while the second group, called "Federalists" promotes a continuation of ethnic politics of past regime's policy based on language difference. This division is carried, sustained, and fanned by two Diaspora media namely, ESAT and OMN.

Consequently, this study, using the content analysis method, examines the different frames used by ESAT and OMN to promote federalism or unionism in Ethiopia. To do so, it employed a content method to analyze Facebook pages of the organizations over a month starting from January 8, 2020, when the government announced the scheduling of the 2020 Elections.

The study used Semetko and Valkenburg's (2000) five generic frames, namely conflict, economic consequence, human interest, morality, and responsibility to explore the different salient messages used to promote the two political, and at times polarizing, debates. The conflict frame emphasizes the conflict between individuals, groups, institutions, or countries. The human-interest frame brings a human face, an individual's story, or an emotional angle to the presentation of an event, issue, or problem. The economic consequence frame presents an event, problem, or issue in terms of the economic consequences it will have on an individual, group, institution, region, or country. The morality frame interprets an event or issue in the context of religious tenets or moral prescriptions. And finally, the responsibility frame presents an issue or problem in such a way as to attribute responsibility for causing or solving to either the government or to an individual or group (p. 95-96).

The study looked at how often and by which media organization the conflict frame was used to emphasize the conflict between individuals, groups, and political institutions in Ethiopia. It also examined in what instances did the human-interest frame, which brings a human face, an individual's story, or an emotional angle to the presentation of an event or problem, was used to promote these two political camps. Moreover, the economic consequence frame, which presents a problem in terms of the economic consequences it will have on a group, institution in Ethiopia, was used and to what extent. Fourthly, which of the two media used the morality frame, which interprets an event or issue in the context of religious tenets or moral prescriptions, to champion their political stance. And finally, the responsibility frame, which presents an issue or problem in such a way as to attribute

responsibility for causing or solving to either the government or to a group, was given salience in their coverage of events within Ethiopia.

Since a polarized media environment exists in Ethiopia, the protest paradigm does not sufficiently explain the framing of protest news. While Western-type media emphasize pluralism and the ethics of the Fourth Estate (Foys, 2007), and journalists as watchdogs who must report rather than opine, this has not been widespread in Ethiopia (Alexander, 2002)

This study has two purposes. It examines how different sets of media covered the Ethiopian protests to learn whether the protest paradigm model varied according to the ideological leanings of the media organizations. Media polarization is a factor to the ongoing tension in Tigray, the northern regional state of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is in a state of flux evolving into civil war or more democratic country. It is essential to pay attention to Ethiopia's media structures and representation of political issues.

Submission ID

695

Mediatized Migration: Media Ensemble and Media Repertoire of Mainland Chinese Students in Taiwan

Authors

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Abstract

Mainland Chinese students (Lusheng) pursue their high education in Taiwan. On the one hand, mainland Chinese students are significant source of students for Taiwan. (Sun, & Chan, 2021). On the other hand, with the economic and cultural development of the mainland of China, the young generation has a strong demand for higher education. Studying in Taiwan can broaden their horizons, increase their knowledge of Chinese history and help improve cross-strait exchanges and understanding.

It has been more than ten years since mainland Chinese students went to Taiwan to study, and the interaction of young people is considered a vital fruit of cross-strait civil exchange. Ten years ago, new media such as the Internet rose to develop, and ten years later, smartphones and mobile Internet are developing rapidly, social media are penetrating people's lives, and the mediating role of media is getting more and more attention. In an era of "deep mediatization" (Couldry & Hepp, 2018), old and new media are intertwined to present a diverse performance. The unprecedented "proliferation" and "plurality" of media (Madianou & Miller, 2013: 125) has also led to a greater variety of choices for mainland Chinese students.

As a distinct group of sojourners, new information and communication technologies (ICTs) embed in the lives of mainland Chinese students in Taiwan. At the same time, their media exposure, choices, and usage link to larger social contexts, such as the significant differences in ideology, political systems, and cultural values between the mainland of China and Taiwan.

This paper examines mainland Chinese students' media experiences and practices from the perspective of "communication figuration" (Hasebrink & Domeyer, 2017). Different media environments on both sides of the Taiwan Strait construct the "media ensemble" (Hepp & Hasebrink, 2014) of mainland Chinese students group and the more personal "media repertoire" (Hasebrink & Domeyer, 2012). Based on in-depth interviews and participatory observations of 18 mainland Chinese students, the study finds that the interweaving of old and new media provides a variety of choices for mainland Chinese students. However, mainland Chinese students need self-censorship and selectively present themselves to achieve impression management and relationship management due to the cross-strait relationship and political ideology. In this process, they also sort and give affections to different media and choose the state of connection according to their cultural identity. Finally, the communication figuration is full of power relations. It is difficult for the disadvantaged mainland Chinese students to raise their collective voices and fight for their corresponding rights in the public space compared to the mainstream groups in Taiwan, especially when cross-strait relations are cold.

Submission ID

877

Intercultural Adaptation in Mobility : New Media Exposure and Social Capital Construction of Southeast Asian Sojourners in China

Authors

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Abstract

The new media has reshaped the way of human interaction and action. In the context of China's transition from the country of population removal to the country of migration, the new media technology not only redefines the connotation of the sojourners, but also changes their way of living. It provides a new possibility mechanism for the intercultural adaptation and identity dilemma of the sojourners. This study take a new media that combines the characteristics of interpersonal communication and mass communication as a way to re-examine the traditional theory of intercultural adaptation, and integrate social capital theory to construct a composite research framework. Through literature review, social capital is presupposed as a mediator of media exposure and intercultural

adaptation, not only because social capital is embedded in the multi-dimensional network of media, but also because it is an important resource that can be obtained by sojourners through media exposure . This study try to explore the core issue of this research: in the Chinese cultural field, what new possibilities does the new media use provides for the social capital accumulation of Sojourners and the practice of intercultural adaptation,What is the mechanism for its specific operation?

As the Southeast Asian sojourners have an irreplaceable “extended contact effect”in international communication ,This study takes the Southeast Asian sojourners in China as a sample, and uses the “mixed method” of questionnaire survey, semi-structured interview and participatory observation to study the adaptation and media exposure situation of Southeast Asian sojourners in China. The study finds that in the structure dimension of social capital, the new media becomes the entrance for the sojourners to establish and expand social relations in China. At the same time, the social network of the home country that is broken due to the mobility is also maintained through social media; in the relationship facing the sojourners in their weaving The trust formed on the basis of the social relationship network has promoted a wide range of reciprocity; in the cognitive dimension, the shared language, vision and experience shape the cultural identity and belonging of the sojourners; in the action dimension, the sojourners through the online and offline participation has realized self-empowerment. These social capital elements embedded in the intercultural social network constitute an important resource for self-integration of Southeast Asian sojourners and become a key bridge for intercultural adaptation in China.This study finds that media exposure not only has a direct impact on intercultural adaptation, but also indirectly affects intercultural adaptation the social capital created by it. Partial mediating effect of social capital has been confirmed.

Besides, the study also displays that different types of media use have different relevance to intercultural adaptation. Native language media and Chinese media have significant positive correlations with each dimension of intercultural adaptation. The use of English media and intercultural adaptation of sojourners in China No correlation. Based on the research conclusions, the media needs to strengthen the content construction for the sojourners, and the government should cooperate with the social organizations such as multinational corporations and universities to help sojourners create social capital , and the new media literacy of the sojourners themselves should be promoted as well.

KEY WORDS:Social Capital,New Media Exposure,Intercultural Adaptation, Southeast Asian Sojourners

Submission ID

1167

National Identity of Overseas Chinese Students: Returning “Home” from Another “Home”

Authors

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Abstract

The outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020 has great influence globally. Besides the enormous economic loss, the travel ban has alienated countries that used to be closely connected. Many overseas Chinese students were affected by the pandemic, especially by the changes in visa policy and quarantine policy due to it. This study explores the complexity in national identity among overseas Chinese students who returned to China amid Covid-19 pandemic by analyzing their behaviors on social media.

As a modern phenomenon emerged due to certain historical conditions in Europe, national identity is a sense of collectivity and belonging to an “imagined community”. Many factors, including media, education, and language, have a profound impact on national identity. According to Herskovits, national identity can be measured by belief structure, national heritage, ethnocentrism, and cultural homogeneity. Meanwhile, social media can provide overseas Chinese students with a platform for cross-border information and cross-culture communication. Overseas Chinese students use social media as the main source of gaining pandemic-related information since they must update their personal health information via social media platforms (WeChat) according to the request of the Chinese government. The frequency and duration of overseas Chinese students’ social media usage amid Covid-19 pandemic, social media usage regarding the four aspects of national identity above, and how they respond to different topics and comments on social media can reflect the changes in their national identities.

The main research method is the semi-structured interview. All the 12 interviewees are overseas Chinese students who fly back to China amid Covid-19 pandemic. The length of their overseas study is longer than 6 months. All of them have the experience of using social media to gain pandemic-related information and are required to quarantine after their arrival. The interviewees include students back from the U.S., U.K., and Australia, which are the popular destinations for Chinese students to study abroad. The interview material was analyzed by Nvivo 11 for encoding and analyzing.

In general, all the participants spend more time on social media amid Covid-19 pandemic and are more sensitive about the opinions toward overseas Chinese students as a group, especially the controversial comments. Some of them choose to argue against the controversial comments anonymously. Others share their feelings publicly via social media accounts. Also, most of them express a high level of ethnocentrism after their return because of the effective anti-epidemic measures adopted by the Chinese government and

a low level of cultural homogeneity because of the culture shock and identity conflicts they are going through.

Submission ID

1548

Digital journalism, ethnic media, and transcultural potential

Authors

Dr. Sherry Yu - University of Toronto

Ms. Julia Park - University of Toronto

Abstract

Ethnic media are found to serve various roles, from being a venue for news and information about settlement for new immigrants, to a platform for a counter-voice against social injustice and hegemonic narratives in mainstream media for ethnic/racial minorities, among others. Fundamentally, as a community for shared identities, whether that be ethnicity, race, culture, and/or 'home' where migrants are from, ethnic media provide a sense of belonging and a venue for common interests, concerns, and practices. The growth of these spaces, especially on digital platforms, is often attributed to the growth of migration, and more recently, to ever-expanding digital media technologies and "participatory global media culture" (Deuze, 2006) that facilitate the emergence of new forms of practices and narratives. Due to their very nature of addressing the needs of ethnic/racial minorities, however, ethnic media have been discussed largely within the context of ethnic/racial minority communities rather than within broader society. Increasingly, however, there is attention to the "bridging" role of ethnic media that attempt to connect diverse groups not only within their respective communities but also across cultures, identities, and geographies (Siapera, 2016).

This study builds on research on this cross-cultural, inter-cultural aspect of ethnic media. As part of a larger research program that focuses on accessibility of ethnic media for members of broader society and the information infrastructure that enables this accessibility for academic, industry, and public knowledge, this study explores Brantner and Herczeg's notion of "transcultural ethnic media" in the Canadian context. Transcultural ethnic media target both different minority audiences and majority audiences and offer transcultural content via semi or professional journalism. Drawn from the parent study, a case study on selected Canadian media outlets explores ethnic journalism on digital platforms and their transcultural potential. The study examines the text produced by and about these media and explores uniquely individual and collectively common criteria for transcultural ethnic media.

Submission ID

1608

Ethnic Consciousness and Diasporic Sensitivity in Leila Djansi's Works

Authors

Dr. Joyce Osei Owusu - University of Ghana

Prof. Kwamena Kwansah-Aidoo - Ghana Institute of Journalism

Abstract

The Ghanaian-American film director and producer, Leila Djansi, works on the production level in the interstices of cinematic practice and creates representations that cut across nation-states, in particular those of Ghana and the United States. Drawing from Hamid Naficy's (2001) concept of accented cinema that characterises the aesthetic expression of diasporic experiences, and transnational film theory which productively explains the cross-cultural modes of production, this article offers thematic analysis of three of her films: *Ties that Bind* (2011), *And Then There Was You* (2013) and *Like Cotton Twines* (2016). This analysis focuses on the interstitial production contexts of the films and the ways these films depict experiences of women in contemporary Ghanaian and the diasporic societies. While Djansi migrated to the United States to study and make independent films funded by mixed economies, her films thematically reflect her 'double consciousness' of the homeland and host country. Based on the transnational production processes and her films' preoccupation with liminal subjectivities, it is ultimately argued that through these films, Djansi demonstrates a deep sense of ethnic consciousness, particularly from her homeland, Ghana and manifests a diasporic sensitivity often associated with the works of immigrant and diasporic cultural producers.

Submission ID

1657

How Media and Technology Helps Refugees Cope with COVID-19

Authors

Dr. Amira Halperin - University of Nottingham Ningbo China

Abstract

For refugees the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbates the risk severe illness and death during the migration process. Travel bans, closed borders and living conditions in camps all amplify these risks abroad and to refugees in host communities (World Economic Forum, 2020).

The aim of the research is to assess how media and technology might improve this situation. The usage of technology and social media applications is critical for refugees at

all stages of the migration process. This includes pre- and post-migratory settlement (Alencar, 2018, Leung, L, Lamb, C. F., and Emrvs, L., 2010). Technology is, for example, key to refugee access to financial resources at both points (Frey and Gatzweiler 2018). Indeed, mobile phone and internet access are as critical to refugees' safety and security as food, shelter, and water (UNHCR, 2016).

Technology also enables agencies to share information, communicate, and track results more effectively, and thereby also helping refugees (Venon quoted in UNHCR, 2016).

The research focuses on the use of media technology by Syrian refugees abroad who seek safe haven in Canada and who arrived to Canada in the last 7 years. While migration and media studies has focused on media representation of migrants (Leurs and Smets, 2018; Smets and Bozdog, 2018) little is known about how refugees make use of media or how this might have been impacted by Covid-19. Facebook information on the pandemic in local languages might be the difference between life and death for refugees who don't watch the news and can't understand English.

I have interviewed Syrian refugees (50) and directors (3) at two migrant support organizations: MOSAIC (Canada) and the Syrian White Helmets (Syria). The questions for refugees focus on the media sources and phone applications they use(d) to receive information about Covid-19, the language of application, and the support offered by immigrant support organizations. The questions for migration support organizations focus on the organisation's use of the technology, reciprocity and refugees' access to information and humanitarian assistance

Submission ID

1728

Affective Networked Space: Digital Media Affordances and Transnational Connectivity of the Rohingya Diaspora

Authors

Mr. Abdul Aziz - Digital Media Research Centre (DMRC)

Abstract

This study investigates affects and affordance of digital media in maintaining transnational communication in a context of protracted experiences of trauma and forcible displacement. Drawing on a qualitative multi-sited research approach, I conducted semi-structured interviews and social media scroll back interviews (Robards & Lincoln, 2019) of 25 Rohingya diaspora living in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps in Bangladesh and in Brisbane

city, Australia. In this paper, specifically, I aim to explore how affects and affordances of technologies have been an emergent subjective form of networked space for transnational engagement within the Rohingya diaspora in response to trauma and suffering and to keep each other in contact in a context of statelessness and forced migration

Drawing literature from digital migration, diaspora and cultural studies (see Retis & Tsagarousianou, 2019; Leurs & Smets, 2018), I apply the concept of ‘transnational affect’ (Wise & Velayutham, 2017) and (imagined) affordances (Nagy & Neff, 2015) as an analytical framework for this study. I argue that emerging approaches to affective dimension of digital media practices requires a more nuanced notion of affordance as a collective effort, thus affordances of technologies are not only material, but also affective and emotional that constitute the transnational networked space of forced migrants. Additionally, Madianou and Miller's (2012) concept of polymedia allows me to better grasp how diverse media (plat)forms in cross-cultural settings are utilized in relation to digital transnational connections. This paper brings a special focus on both “ the materiality, affect and media on which communication are built” (Nagy & Neff, 2015, p. 1), rather than describing the types of communication technologies that are involved in transnational communication.

The findings show how affordances of technologies (such as affordances of WhatsApp) have facilitated affective practice (such as photographs of grief and mourning and affective politics of collective sufferings and pains) that underpin the digital spaces to negotiate force migration and displacement. Based on findings, I develop the idea of ‘*affective networked space*’ that acts as an alternative space to compensate for the absence of Rohingya script and physical presence and play affective roles from disseminating resources to everyday transnational communication. I argue that while transnational connectivity is formed with the affordance of digital (poly)media, ‘*affective networked space*’ is not only infused with love and intimacy, but also imbued with collectives suffering, pains, and solidarity. It provides a new avenue of participatory digital connections and offers the unique features of coping with uncertainty as well as performing transnational identity to exert their agency in the context of (im)mobility and forced displacement.

This paper contributes to the burgeoning research on affective nature of digital media practice and emphasises conducting future research to investigate how different media (plat)forms are utilized among forcibly displaced and vulnerable groups.

Submission ID

1744

The communicational practices of slavery combat from the Public Ministry of Labor in Maranhão (MPT-MA)

Authors

Mr. Wanderson Nicolau - Federal Un

Abstract

The contemporary slave labor is, in itself, a complex phenomenon. There is legislation to punish exploiters, there are numerous institutions dedicated to the subject, a network to protect victims has been created, numerous events, meetings, research and discussions are organized. However, this wound insists on continuing. In addition to the comfortable posture of just looking for culprits, this research seeks to point out the contributions that the field of communication can offer to the fight against slave labor carried out by the Public Ministry of Labor in Maranhão (MPT-MA).

This paper studies the communicational practices of slavery combat from the MPT-MA, an important Brazilian organization that promotes the human rights and defends the fragile democracy of Brazil. The study performs analysis on the categories of communication and slavery, based on the approaches of Kunsch (2003; 2016), Henriques (2012), Castells (2003; 2007; 2009; 2011; 2013), Lévy (1993; 1998; 2000), Moura (2009; 2016; 2020), Esterici (1994), among others.

It typifies the research as a bibliographic and documentary study, of a prospective, descriptive and analytical character, with a quali-quantitative approach, presenting a brief report on the historiography of slavery in Brazil and carrying out data mining on the performance of the MPT-MA in combating slavery. It aims to map the main communicational practices of slavery combat by MPT-MA, in addition to mapping the contributions of different audiences to the communication flows of the MPT-MA and analyzing the work routine of the MPT-MA's Social Communication Department.

In the end, it presents the launch of a product called the Communication Practices Protocol for Strengthening the Fight against Slave Labor by the Public Ministry of Labor in Maranhão (MPT-MA), with the aim of valuing the area of communication and recognizing its role in the fight for the defense of human rights and its importance for the full exercise of citizenship.

Submission ID

1923

Diasporic politics structure and aspects: A media perspective

Authors

Dr. Mostafa Shehata - Menoufia University

Abstract

Abstract[1]

In post-revolution Arab societies, immigration especially to Western democracies has become a constant process and a hope for many people seeking a better life. The members of Arab diaspora, who departed because of political restraints and economic pitfalls, found themselves trapped by homeland crises and hostland polarization. Such

conditions have expanded the horizons of transnational interaction and communication of the diaspora. The aim of this paper is to investigate and theorize the aspects of diasporic political communication among the Arab diaspora or Arab roots diaspora in Europe. The paper is based on the “diasporic politics” notion brought up by Laguerre (2006), which includes three dimensions of politics: national, international, and transnational. These dimensions have allowed the identification of the ways and levels of the diaspora engagement in politics from a media perspective. Namely, the contribution of media and communication channels in shaping the Arab diaspora’s engagement in politics is the focus of this paper. The empirical data were collected through interviews and observations from Arab diaspora members originating from four countries: Syria, Bahrain, Tunisia and Egypt. Each of these countries has experienced different crises (destructive war in Syria, failed revolution in Bahrain, thwarted democratic transition in Tunisia, and failed political transition in Egypt), which would shape the diaspora’s political interaction. Participants ($N=180$) were recruited in several countries: United Kingdom, France, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands and Turkey. The analysis showed that the three dimensions of politics (national, international, and transnational) represent intertwined spheres of political communication for the Arab diaspora, who largely engaged in similar political activities regardless of what country they originated from or departed to. In addition, media channels facilitated the diaspora engagement in five key political activities: involvement in parties, associations’ formation, online campaigning, friendship networks, and international activism.

Keywords

Diasporic politics – Arab diaspora – online campaigning – international activism – friendship networks

Notes

[1] This paper is based on a collective research project running at Copenhagen University by four scholars, whose work has focused on the political communication of the Arab diasporic communities in Europe that originated from four countries: Syria, Bahrain, Egypt and Tunisia.

Submission ID

1971

Silent Asian: From A Prospect of Rhetorical History

Authors

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Abstract

Asian ethnic groups are citizens of Asian immigrants and descent living in non-asian countries. As an important part of the community of shared future, these groups are in dilemma between tradition and modernity, acceptance and exclusion. Especially with the popularity of social networks and intergenerational development of immigrants, Asian ethnic culture presents complex and diverse problems. However, Asian Groups are called "Silent groups". They share a silence rhetoric and the so-called "Silence" is passive. They are not silent, but selectively ignored.

This study develops Asian rhetoric, a rhetorical criticism theory to analyze these problems. It regards the Asian ethnic group as the research subject, takes the discourse practice of the Asian ethnic group as the research object, and analyzes the process of identity and belonging of the Asian ethnic group. As a silent vulnerable group in western culture, Asian rhetoric provides a reference for solving the problems of "Absence" and "Aphasia" of Asian groups.

This study focuses on Asian integration, resistance and aphasia in historical dimension:

1. What is Asian Hate in history, daily life and social media?
2. How do Asian immigrants and descent group change their silent rhetoric tradition and make rhetorical struggle?
3. How to build up the heterogeneous resonance?

Asian rhetoric reproduces the contradiction between isolation and acceptance. The function of Asian rhetoric is to reproduce the solutions in intergrated culture and intercultural communication. However, the existing relevant studies mainly focus on introducing the literature and history of Asian ethnic groups, or regard Asian ethnic groups as objects, inclined to how Asian Americans integrate into the western mainstream society, and ignore the particularity of Asian ethnic groups themselves, and do not systematically summarize the hatred and struggle of Asian Americans. Therefore, this paper integrates rhetorical criticism and other analytical methods, combs the Asian hate events as the research object synchronically and diachronically, investigates the discourse practice and struggle of the Asian ethnic group, traces the growth and development experience of the Asian ethnic group, and analyzes how they complete the process of identification between historical and cultural changes.

This paper finds:

1. Asian rhetoric functions

Asian rhetoric completes the inheritance of tradition and the test of modernity. Whether it is the narration of the suffering of immigrants in the early history of Asian immigrants or the complaint of discrimination in media, the ultimate purpose of Asian rhetoric is to reproduce and express Asian groups. Second, whether diachronic or synchronic, Asian rhetoric faces aphasia dilemma. The dedication history of Asian American railway workers in the 19th century was deliberately ignored by western history. Asian immigrants not only suffered long-term discrimination, but also suffered the impact of anti Asia in the period of global epidemic. How to express and fight is the main content of Asian rhetoric. Third, Asian rhetoric reproduces the contradiction between isolation and acceptance between existing culture and Western culture. Asian Americans often live in ethnic communities and urban enclaves relatively isolated from the western mainstream society. Asian groups of different generations also have the process of alienation, rejection, return and identification with the existing culture. The function of Asian rhetoric is to reproduce the ideas and attitudes of Asian groups in the face of traditional culture and emerging culture.

2. Ethnic differentiation of Asians

Another deficiency in the current academic study lies in the confusion of groups and Asian discourse categories. As a silent and aphasia group in the west, the sources of Asian discourse are complex and the expression methods are diverse. The Asian ethnic group is in the process of generation, and its resistance also exists in different stages. Therefore, this paper summarizes the main contents and characteristics of Asian rhetoric in different historical periods, including "conflict and resistance", "integration and seeking common ground", based on combing the development history of Asian "Encounter new challenges" and other transformation stages.

3. Gender of Asian ethnic groups

There are gender differences in the voices of Asian ethnic groups in the Internet era. In the era of new media and in the context of contemporary globalization, Asian discourse is in a contradictory state, such as questioning and accepting the existing culture. In the face of complex media culture conflicts, the goal of Asian rhetoric is how to inherit and develop Asian culture, how to use valuable Asian rhetoric theory resources to analyze and solve contemporary practical problems, and take care of Asian groups, especially vulnerable aphasia groups such as women, which is an important goal that this paper needs to continue to analyze and solve.

Submission ID

2037

Online communication of arts organizations for refugees

Authors

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Dr. Rita Grácio - Lusófona University, CICANT

Abstract

Our research question in this paper is how do arts-based education organisations' projects working with underage migrants and refugees communicate online? There is a gap concerning three key discursive approaches that we wish to tackle when communicating about these populations: miserabilism, even-image, and gender-neutrality. We propose to analyse them by focusing the research on a case study of two music organisations in two different European countries – the Swedish Dream Orchestra and El Sistema Greece. Through a multimodal critical discourse analysis of their digital communication, the results show that both organisations use their multicultural contexts as an asset to persuade people to join the orchestra (as volunteers, as teachers) and to make donations. However, they do not present intercultural and transcultural alternative approaches. These findings are important to question the choices made when communicating about such ethically and emotionally-charged social facts as social integration of underage migrants and refugees through art-based educational projects in Europe. This paper is part of a broader research project "YouSound - Music education as an inclusive tool for underage refugees in Europe", funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT - EXPL/SOC-SOC/0504/2021).

Submission ID

2168

COVID, Communication and At-Risk Immigrant Communities in Stockholm: Ignoring, Leveraging or Modifying Media Ecologies?

Authors

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Abstract

The first death from COVID-19 in Sweden was reported on March 11, 2020. As of the writing of this paper, over 16,000 residents have lost their lives. In reports published by the City of Stockholm in June of 2020, stark differences in how COVID-19 impacted different districts of the city were made clear. In June of 2020, Stockholm (not including outlying suburbs) saw 53 cases of COVID-19 per 10,000 inhabitants, and 9.3 deaths per 10,000 inhabitants. Within the city, however, certain districts saw much higher per capita numbers. Rinkeby-Kista, for example, was hit hardest, with 96 cases and 16.7 deaths per 10,000: rates nearly double the city average; and, in the case of per capita deaths, triple the

national rate. Other Stockholm city districts seeing numbers significantly above national and city averages included Skärholmen (13.1 deaths per 10,000) and Spånga-Tensta (12.0 deaths per 10,000). All of these districts have much higher-than-average percentages of residents born outside of Sweden, or with parents born outside of Sweden.

The national and ethnic background of those most impacted by COVID-19 in Stockholm provided yet another layer of over-representation. In a report published by Stockholm's Center for Epidemiology and Community Medicine (2020), residents of Stockholm who were born in Somalia, Syria and Lebanon were found to have died at significantly higher rates than the general population, with residents of Stockholm born in Somalia experiencing per capita rates of death four times higher than residents of Stockholm born in Sweden. One of the criticisms raised against the Stockholm Region has been that they were slow to recognize the threats posed to immigrant communities within the city, and to provide health information to residents. In one of the first major news articles to address the high rates of infection and mortality among the Somali community in Rinkeby, on March 30, 2020 *Expressen* reported that it took two weeks for local authorities to address the rapid spread of the virus and plan an information campaign.

With this context in mind, in this paper the authors -- in a project on media use, trust and COVID-19 among migrant groups in Stockholm financed by the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development -- present research (based on policy analysis, content analyses and interviews) on the extent to which information producers (municipalities, national political parties, news media, regional/local media and local organizations) exploited multiple channels for their information on COVID-19 targeting minority groups in Stockholm. In other words, the extent to which the broader (often transnational) media ecologies occupied by minority communities in Stockholm were considered when dispersing key health information to at-risk communities. In addition, the paper addresses how information producers addressed/considered/accounted for (or did not account for) the issue of trust in their information/messaging targeting at-risk immigrant communities.

Submission ID

2479

Bilingual practices in transnational contexts: A glimpse to the challenges for digital-native Latino media in the United States

Authors

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Abstract

This proposal addresses some of the preliminary findings of a larger research project that seeks to map digital-native Latinx media in the United States (Retis & Cueva Chacón, 2021). We seek to examine bilingual strategies in news media production in the post-digital era (Cramer, 2015). We present historiography of the diverse practices of bilingualism implemented by Latinx media since the advent of the Internet, and, more specifically, during the last decade. And we look to evaluate and extend the framework proposed by Lewis (2008) that categorized bilingual journalism under three forms: production, content, and tailored bilingualism while paying attention to the new opportunities for bilingualism afforded by new media (i.e. social media, text messaging apps). Based on a preliminary mapping of 103 digital-native Latino news media, active as of December 2020—where more than half of the organizations (54.4%) delivered their content only in Spanish, 28% only in English, and 15.5% delivered the news in both English and Spanish—this study will analyze the strategic selection, combination, and transformation of linguistic resources in the discursive spaces provided by the bilingual news media specifically the 16 digital natives that offer their news in English and Spanish. Traditionally, bilingual media in the U.S. have operated as a space where double monolingualism takes place (Androutsopoulos, 2007; Lewis, 2006); however, new media is providing new opportunities for code-switching, language mixing, and in general, closer linguistic encounters worth observing. This qualitative study will rely on digital ethnography methods and critical analysis to observe how these linguistic encounters are presented to the audiences and what are the implications for journalistic practices. The authors also relied on their professional and academic experience following and observing Latino media in the U.S. for several years to “be able to put into words some aspect(s) of the field otherwise left unspoken” (Hine, 2017).

Submission ID

2588

Building back better or more of the same: Examining the NYT coverage of the crisis at the southern border in Biden’s America

Authors

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Abstract

While the world was battling the COVID-19 pandemic, Joseph R. Biden was elected the 46th President of the United States of America. After running a campaign to ‘Build Back Better’, Biden defeated his controversial rival, President Donald J. Trump, by more than 7 million votes and promised to usher in positive change in the country and restore the U.S. image as a leader in international affairs. Coupled with these promises, Biden committed

to bring back the days of a humane presidency, and to solve the U.S. Southern border crisis where thousands of migrants had been left stranded by the harsh Trump policies. U.S. however experienced a surge of migrants at the border, post-election.

Mexican author, Carlos Fuentes referred to the U.S.-Mexico border as a 'bleeding scar' in 1997 (Ramos, 2021) with many single Mexican men risking border crossings over the years. However, in the past, this border situation has been called the Central American migrant crisis because many migrants have been coming from Central America's Northern Triangle area- encompassing Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, to escape severe violence, torture by gangs and economic suffering. But migrants arriving at the U.S. border during Biden's presidency are more diverse (Gramlich, 2021) - while many are still coming from Central America, and Mexico, a considerable number are people escaping the devastation inflicted by COVID-19 and climate disasters in places like Brazil, Haiti, India, Nicaragua etc. Thus, the current study refers to this as *the U.S. southern border crisis*.

The Central American migrant crisis became a salient issue, a few years back, thanks to Trump and his promise to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border and make Mexico to pay for it (Keith, 2019). After getting elected, Trump undertook many policy actions and made significant border policy changes forcing asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their asylum requests were being processed, triggering parent-child separations, and causing migrant child deaths at the detention centers (Avecedo, 2019) till the courts stepped in.

Biden, who campaigned to bring back a humane approach to immigration, thus inherited a messy border policy from his predecessor. But his task has become more challenging because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study examines how media covered the Biden administration handling of the U.S. southern border crisis, through a textual analysis (using the constant comparison method) of 40 news stories published by *The New York Times* about the U.S. southern border crisis between November, 2020 and November, 2021. Understanding this is important because media often shape attitudes about migrants and migrant-related policies. Georgiou (2006, pg. 341) highlights how "Media become involved in the everyday construction of images of Us and the Others, while fixing and (re-)broadcasting those images to members and non-members of a group." Christoph (2012) also mentions that media coverage is vital to any issue but even more so to the issue of immigration, because media is responsible for the public narrative of who the immigrants are and what people including politicians are referring to in relation to them. The textual analysis identifies four categories of content: *the Biden presidency- an era of hope and positive change, causes and complexities of the Southern border crisis, critique of the Biden presidency, and, migrant journeys, of confusion, suffering and hope*. Sub-categories are also developed for these categories.

The findings indicate that though violence in Central America is still a primary driver leading to a migrant surge at the U.S. southern border, climate crises and the COVID-19

pandemic are two major events causing more migrations from Central America as well as bringing in new migrants to the U.S. from other countries around the world. The study examines the complexities of the southern border crisis, the era of hope ushered in by Biden and a critique of the Biden administration's handling of the crisis. It recommends that news outlets stay agile in reporting on migration crises because the dual effects of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic have intensified extant migration crises and changed the parameters of global mass migration.

Submission ID

2643