

Media and Psychology

 [IP- new member Elaine Venter](#) by Louise S. [2014, Oct 16]

Dear All,

It is my pleasure to introduce Elaine Venter to the Task Force.

Elaine Venter, MA

phone: 559 801 8303

email: elaine.venter@cgu.edu

Bio:

"Elaine Venter is a 3rd year PhD student at Claremont Graduate University in the Cultural Studies department. Cultural psychology was something that came in hand with her interests in immigrant studies while working on her MA in International Studies at the University of San Francisco. Currently, while still interested in the identity politics involved in immigrant communities, Elaine's work has expanded into the digital realm. Her current research interests involve identity politics and technology (especially relationships with the internet and social media). She believes that culture and politics go hand-in-hand in all aspects of our lives and psychology provides interesting ways of examining further how they all intersect to help us create the understandings we have about our realities."

warm regards,

Louise

 [Comment by Paul TP Wong](#) by Louise S. [2014, Oct 16]

A warm welcome Elaine. This is a very learned and friendly group. I am sure that you will enjoy it.

Paul

www.drpaulwong.com

 [Comment by J. I. \(Hans`\) Bakker](#) by Louise S. [2014, Oct 16]

Dear Elaine Venter and colleagues,

There can be no doubt that the digital age has shifted our notions of the self and the society we know best, as well as other selves and other societies.

Identity politics are especially important in the United States these days.

I was struck by reading comments in Table Magazine about Yale Episcopal chaplain Father Bruce Shipman. He wrote something to the editorial page of the New York Times. He has now been forced out of his (temporary) position (rather than being given the position as a regular position). It is alleged that he is Anti-Semitic.

He wishes to press Benjamin Netanyahu and the government of Israel to a resolution of "the Palestinian question". \

Sharon Kugler, the official Yale University chaplain, was disturbed by his comments.

This is merely one example of a controversial issue that I would most certainly not have heard about if it were not for digital media. I am inundated by emails every day and I regretfully cannot read "all the news that's fit..." to send to the web".

Good luck with your research Elaine. You are onto something important. Do keep in mind that many people in the world are more worried about getting potable water, a safe place to sleep and something to eat than how the media represent the world.

In a way the question of how the "medium is the message" is a question that is part of our affluent societies.

Sincerely,

Hans

J. I. Bakker
hbakker@uoguelph.ca

 [Comment by Elaine Venter](#) by Louise S. [2014, Oct 16]

 Thank you, everyone, for the warm welcome. I'm very excited to learn new perspectives. It's a great pleasure to to see others working across different fields.

Hans (alright to call you by Hans?) makes a very good point that some people would think studying the media would be less than being worried about gaining clean water, food, and shelter, but the media plays a big role today in shaping how we view other people in the world and getting involved in helping to support one another to gain those things or even making us aware of the plights

that others struggle through that we may not have to where we live. For example, how people who are homeless are represented in all media will have an affect on whether people choose to support programs both in government and nonprofits that provide services. Opinion affects on the people by the media are correlations that the late Stuart Hall had made with his earlier research on people's opinions on muggins in England.

The media and politics have a an interesting history with one another and public opinion can be swayed by how a story is framed. Organizations today who are especially working in human rights fields and other NGOs have to - in today's world especially - know how to work the media to gain more attention and supporters for the causes out there to develop more resources for what some of us take for granted (clean water, food, shelter, safety) for others (not just talking international funding here, but local funding in areas as well). Many people don't even know that there are people in the world or even right next door to them who don't even have these things, and media can play a large part in opening up the world and how others live/survive. How we represent the world in our media will have a lot to do with how we end up seeing the rest of the people and their issues; whether we see their issues as something that connects to us, or not and how that translates to action both in the cultural sense and political.

Studying the media is just one aspect and needs to be taken in connection with those studies asking questions about getting resources to people though as well, absolutely. The problem I find in my academic studies is when I feel like our questions and research remain in a bubble in our field leading to missed opportunities of connection with other fields where all could benefit from each other's work, and society at large could benefit from the collaborated efforts. This is where I find transdisciplinary discussion most helpful and interesting, and is one of the reasons I joined this group.

Enjoying being a part of the group already.

All the best,
Elaine
elaine.venter@cgu.edu

 [Comment by J. I. \(Hans`\) Bakker](#) by Louise S. [2014, Oct 16]

 Dear Elaine,

Yes, of course you can call me Hans.

You make some very good points.

Cheers to one and all,

from Brandon, Manitoba,

Hans

J. I. Bakker

Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professor

 [Comment by Elaine Venter](#) by Louise S. [2014, Oct 16]

Hope the travels have gone well.

Janet makes the most ardent point for me in terms of changing the ideology/ies concerning colonial views that still underpin and shape the discourse surrounding aid and human rights, and even in the socioeconomic as a whole. I'm originally from South Africa and have lived in the US for over 15 years now. The misconceptions that exist about South Africa (let alone the very large continent of Africa) is quite alarming at times; how a country, its government, and people are perceived will have a lot to do with how we treat discourses surrounding issues of human rights, aid, and so on. I tried to put the idea forth that I wasn't just talking about international media, but about media in each area of local groups as well. Both have affects at all levels and it's very interesting when you put the two against each other and look at comparisons. At all levels we have to be critical.

There have been interesting field studies done on the issues of getting mass communication efforts into the hands of indigenous peoples. One particular case study I remember included a group who went to an area in India where they gave the women of a small village on outskirts of a major city cameras and taught them to use them to share their opinions and ideas of living where they do. They were taught to edit the footage as well and created their own works. Of course, the question is complicated when we look at who is doing the teaching and how. It was a US based group that taught them aspects of film, but that school of thought - that discourse - came from a particular US perspective, so there are complications and questions asked about how much the point of

view then changes when this happens, but also, how the local groups then divert and evolve their own takes is also fascinating. This fits with your research on storytelling I believe. I had a very interesting virtual research methods course where we analyzed and created our own digital stories. I would be very interested in reading that forthcoming book, and congratulations.

I am aware there are some cultural psychologists doing work concerning different cultural groups and how they views ideas of the self and community that translate into ideology development, but haven't done far enough reading in that area. If anyone has some suggestions on any other works that I should take a look at, I'd truly appreciate any recommendations.

Elaine Venter
elaine.venter@cgu.edu