ABSTRACT

My dissertation explores how journalists who self-identify as “transnational” shape their journalism to make human rights claims that trouble, open up and go beyond the nation-state. The project is a multi-sited, ethnographic, comparative case study of journalism education among two different transnational peoples: Romani/Gypsy and Saami (the Indigenous peoples in the current states of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia). Drawing upon 45 interviews with journalists and journalism educators, my research suggests there are two distinct strategies in how transnational peoples’ journalism is conceived, taught and assessed. These strategies influence and are influenced by larger socio-political contexts: the Saami media work within an Indigenous rights framework; their goal is to engage with journalism as a form of self-determination. This differs from Romani media programs, which are funded by non-state donors who aim to use Romani media as a form of claiming citizenship. These citizenship claims are both within a specific state as well as within Europe. In short, the political, economic and cultural contexts shape the journalism, and the journalism in turn shapes the politics.

Although the differences are significant, both transnational groups recognized the power of journalism in agenda setting within, between and across borders. Through the framing of information in particular ways, journalists, editors and the media outlets, as well as the funding sources for this journalism, were all engaged in a form of agenda setting (Carpenter, 2007; 2009) and productive power (Barnett & Duvall, 2005). My findings indicate that a unique feature of transnational peoples’ journalism is recognizing and operationalizing power beyond that of the state; another contribution is a more robust understanding of objectivity in journalism – one that demonstrates how journalists can be credible, without pretending to be neutral. These are all important contributions to reimagining human rights advocacy beyond current discussions of transnational advocacy which still often privilege the state and tends to pay scant attention to journalists themselves. Learning from transnational peoples who are creating, teaching, and participating in journalism education in its many places, forms, and media allows us to make more sound connections between human rights and journalism.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Place of Birth: Long Beach, California, USA
Academic Studies: M.A., University of Chicago, 2003
B.A., Antioch College, 2000

GRADUATE STUDIES

Field of Study: Journalism and Human Rights Education

Selected Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>POL1563A</td>
<td>International Relations and International Organizations</td>
<td>Michael Byers</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCFI601B</td>
<td>Indigenous Methodologies</td>
<td>Jo-Ann Archibald</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDST601A</td>
<td>Critical Theory</td>
<td>Claudia Ruitenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL1B60</td>
<td>Independent Study: A Critical Look at Transnational Advocacy and Media: Norms, Culture and Power</td>
<td>Sheryl Lightfoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDST601B</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>Jennifer Chan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDST508D</td>
<td>Interviewing Methodology</td>
<td>Shauna Butterwick</td>
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SELECTED AWARDS

2013 Michael Smith Foreign Studies Subsidy
2013 Patricia Dyer Memorial Award in Education
2011 Vanier Fellowship Social Sciences and Humanities Council
2011 Student Mobility Grant, UBC
2010 Liu Institute Bottom Billion Fieldwork Fund
2003 Fulbright Scholarship
2004 Central European University Graduate Course Scholarship
2003 University of Chicago Human Rights Internship Award
2001 - 2003 University of Chicago Merit Scholarship
1996 - 1999 Antioch College Academic Excellence Award

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


SELECTED INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Then people know and [then] maybe things can change: How transnational peoples media are shaping transnational politics,” Association for Borderland Studies, Finland and Russia. (June 2014)


“Human Rights Journalism as a Form of Human Rights Education?” Maxwell School, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (November 2013)


“Crafting the nation: two strategies of transnational people’s journalism.” Interdisciplinary.Net, Prague, Czech Republic. (March 2012)

“Human rights, social change and media: What can we see in transnational peoples’ media?” University College London, London, UK. (February 2012)

“What Romani journalists can learn from Saami journalists.” Saami University College, Guovdageaidnu/ Kautokeino, Norway. (May 2011)

“Expelling the victim by demanding voice.” Presented at the Anthropology of Europe Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago. (April 2011)