

RESUME

Date: October 11, 2017

Name: Melissa Brough

Department: Communication Studies

I. PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

A. Degrees

1. Doctor of Philosophy (2014), Communication
University of Southern California
2. Master of Arts (2010), Communication
University of Southern California
3. Bachelor of Arts (2002), Modern Culture & Media, Development Studies
Brown University

B. Relevant Experience

1. Assistant Professor (Spring 2016 – present)
California State University, Northridge
Department of Communication Studies
2. Postdoctoral Researcher (Fall 2014 – 2015)
University of California, Irvine
Connected Learning Research Network, Digital Media & Learning Hub
3. Graduate Instructor (Fall 2011 – Spring 2012, Spring 2014)
University of Southern California
Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism
4. Graduate Researcher (2009 – 2012)
University of Southern California
Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism
Civic Paths Project
5. Guest Lecturer (March 2011)
University of Antioquia, Medellín
Department of Communications
6. Visiting Researcher (Spring 2011)
University of Medellin
Communication, Youth & Citizenship Project

7. Research Assistant (Fall 2008 – 2010)
University of Southern California
Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism
Mobile Voices / Voces Móviles Project
8. Teaching Assistant (2008)
University of Southern California
Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism

II. TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS AND DIRECT INSTRUCTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

A. Class Visitations

1. Fall 2016 (by Department Chair and Department Personnel Committee Member)

B. Courses Taught

1. COMS 360: Communication and the Sexes
2. COMS 454: Communication and Technology

III. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF STUDY

A. Current Research

My scholarly work centers broadly around the relationships between digital communication technologies, participation, and social change. I am currently engaged in two primary research topics: youth participation in public life in the digital age, and parental support of young people's digitally-connected learning among low-income and historically disenfranchised families.

My most ambitious current project, entitled *Youth, Power and Participation: Polycultural Civics in the Digital Age*, is now in book manuscript form under review with Duke University Press. Based on my dissertation, which received awards from the National Communication Association and the International Communication Association, the book responds to a defining contradiction of our times: the mainstreaming and commercialization of discourses of participation with the rise of social media, on the one hand, and the ongoing political and economic disenfranchisement of the majority of youth worldwide, on the other. The book bridges contemporary and historical scholarship on participation from both the global North and South, historicizing and critically situating digital media practices rather than treating them as new and independent of a much longer history of communicative processes. It applies these bodies of scholarship to several case studies in Medellín, Colombia, a city now famous for its urban transformation. In the

wake of the destruction of public life by narcotrafficking and armed conflict, much of Medellín's "transformation" was fueled by discourses and practices of youth/citizen participation, both on and offline. My analysis is based on a year of ethnographic research that I carried out as a Fulbright grantee in 2010-2011. Cases studies range from a governmental digital citizenship initiative to grassroots community media and hip hop activism.

With regard to the second area of research, existing studies show that parental supports can be critical to young people deriving learning benefits from digital environments, but there is limited research about lower-income families. A narrative of deficit about low-income families remains predominant; they are most often discussed in terms of what they lack. Yet many under-resourced parents are finding ways to foster such learning opportunities, even with limited digital literacy themselves. As a postdoctoral researcher for the Connected Learning Research Network at the University of California, Irvine, I spent a year collecting data on this topic from low-income Latino, African American, and other minority families in the greater Los Angeles area. This research challenges the dominant narrative of deficit typically used to describe low-income families by documenting cases of students who are positively engaging with and learning from digital media, and the supportive practices of their parents in the face of ongoing resource and structural inequalities. It takes an asset-based perspective to reveal practices that might be atypical, but that may be replicated by other parents facing resource constraints.

I am currently analyzing my data and co-authoring (as lead author) a book chapter on this research for a collection edited by Dr. Mizuko Ito of the University of California, Irvine, to be submitted to a top academic press. Additionally, I co-authored (third) a manuscript with colleagues from Columbia University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the London School of Economics, that we submitted to the highly ranked academic journal *The Information Society*. Both of these publications build upon refereed papers that I delivered in 2016 and 2017 at the International Communication Association's annual conferences, and the Digital Media and Learning conference.

B. Refereed Publications

Literat, I., Kligler-Vilenchik, N., **Brough, M.**, & Blum-Ross, A. (In review). Analyzing youth digital participation: Aims, actors, contexts, and intensities. Manuscript submitted to *The Information Society* (January 2017; revisions submitted June 2017).

Brough, M. (In review). *Youth, Power and Participation: Polycultural Civics in the Digital Age*. Manuscript submitted to Duke University Press (February 2017).

Brough, M., Lapsansky, C., Gonzalez, C., Stokes, B., & Bar, F. (In review). Mobile Voices: Design as a method to explore the possibilities and limitations of community participation. Manuscript submitted to *Mobile Media & Communication* (April 2017).

-----Work completed prior to CSUN appointment-----

Brough, M. (2014). Participatory Culture. In M.L. Ryan, L. Emerson & B. Robertson (Eds.) *The Johns Hopkins Guide to New Media and Digital Textuality*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins.

Brough, M. & Li, Z. (2013). Media Systems Dependency and Human Rights Online Video: The 'Saffron Revolution' and WITNESS's Hub. *International Journal of Communication*, 7:0. URL: <http://www.ijoc.org/ojs/index.php/ijoc/article/view/1423/854>

Brough, M. & Shreshtova, S. (2012). Fandom Meets Activism: Rethinking Civic and Political Participation. *Journal of Transformative Works & Cultures*. URL: <http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/303/265>

C. Non-Refereed Publications

Brough, M. (2016). Game On! Connected Learning and Parental Support in the CyberPatriot Program. Irvine, CA: Digital Media and Learning Research Hub.

-----Work completed prior to CSUN appointment-----

Brough, M. (2014). Analytical Antidotes to Technological Determinism: Learning from (Digital) Citizenship and Participation in Medellín, Colombia. In J. Servaes (Ed.) *Technological Determinism and Social Change: Communication in a Tech-Mad World*. Lexington Books.

Brough, M. (2012). Fair Vanity: The Visual Culture of Humanitarianism in the Age of Commodity Activism. In S. Banet-Weiser and R. Mukherjee (Eds.), *Commodity activism: Social action in neoliberal times* (pp.174-194). New York: New York University Press.

The VozMob Project (co-authored with 12 members) (2010). Mobile Voices. In M. Aslama & P. Napoli (Eds.), *Communications research in action: Scholar-activist collaborations for a democratic public sphere* (pp.177-196). Bronx, NY: Fordham University Press.

Brough, M. & Otieno, C. (2010). Envisioning the Return: Participatory video for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration. In H.L. Skartveit & K. Goodnow (Eds.), *Changes in museum practice: New media, refugees, and participation* (pp.17-32). Oxford: Berghahn Books.

D. Refereed Conference Presentations

Brough, M. "Kids Are There to Explore": Values and Strategies of Low-Income Parents Raising Digitally Connected Children. International Communication Association Conference, San Diego, CA, May 2017.

Literat, I., Kligler-Vilenchik, N., **Brough, M.**, & Blum-Ross, A. Analyzing youth digital participation: Aims, actors, contexts, and intensities. International Communication Association, San Diego, CA, May 2017.

Brough, M. Reclaiming Participation in the Age of Social Media: Citizens' media in Los Angeles & Medellín. Global Fusion Conference, Philadelphia, PA, October 2016.

Brough, M. Gaming the System: Connected learning and parental support among non-dominant families in the CyberPatriot program. Digital Media and Learning Conference, Irvine, CA, October 2016.

Brough, M. Productive Tensions between Institutional and Grassroots Participation: The case of Medellín's participatory budgeting. International Communication Association Conference, Fukuoka, Japan, June 2016.

Brough, M. Connected Learning Among Low-Income Families. International Communication Association Conference, Fukuoka, Japan, June 2016.

-----Selected refereed presentations and invited lectures prior to CSUN appointment-----

Brough, M. Parenting Connected Learners in Low-income and Non-dominant Families: Learning from 'positive deviants'. Digital Media and Learning Conference, Los Angeles, CA, June 2015.

Brough, M. Participatory Public Culture and Youth Citizenship in the Digital Age: The Medellín Model. International Communication Association Conference, San Juan, PR, May 2015.

Brough, M. Mobile activism's symbolic design, and ecologies: Analytical anchors amidst rapid technological change. Invited lecture, Ubiquity, Mobility, Globality: Charting Directions in Mobile Phone Studies Conference, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, November 2014.

Brough, M. & Shreshtova, S. *Fandom Meets Activism: Rethinking Civic and Political Participation*. International Communication Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ, May 2012.

Brough, M. Nuevas Tecnologías, Nuevas Prácticas?: Oportunidades para los medios comunitarios y ciudadanos (New Technologies, New Practices?: Opportunities for community and citizens media). Invited lecture, International Seminar, National Radio of Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia, October 2010.

Brough, M. Invisible Children: Participatory Culture & Humanitarian Spectacle. Digital Media & Learning Conference, La Jolla, CA, February 2010.

Brough, M. Fair Vanity? The Visual Culture of Humanitarianism in the Age of Consumer Citizenship. American Studies Association Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2009.

Brough, M. Mobile Voices: An analysis of participatory design for popular communication and social change. International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) Conference, Mexico City, Mexico, July 2009.

Brough, M. Online video and symbolic politics: YouTube and Burma's Saffron Revolution. OURMedia Conference, Accra, Ghana, August 2008.

E. Professional Service

1. Reviewer, University of California Press
Spring 2016
2. Ad-hoc Reviewer, *The Review of Communication*
Summer 2016
3. Ad-hoc Reviewer, *Journalism Practice*
Summer 2016

F. Professional Memberships

1. International Communication Association
2. National Communication Association
3. Connected Learning Research Network
4. OURMedia Network

G. Professional Meetings

1. International Communication Association (May 2017), San Diego, CA
2. International Communication Association (June 2016), Fukuoka, Japan
3. Digital Media & Learning Conference (October 2016), Irvine, CA
4. Global Fusion Conference (October 2016), Philadelphia, PA

H. Research-Related Grants & Awards

1. Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity Award (Spring 2016)

-----Selected grants and awards received prior to CSUN appointment-----

2. Gerald R. Miller Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award, National Communication Association, 2015.
3. Global Communication & Social Change Top Dissertation Award, International Communication Association, 2015

4. Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Award, Colombia, 2010-2011.

IV. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY

A. Committees

1. Department Committees
 - a. Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Spring 2016-Fall 2016

B. Other Service Contributions

1. Campus Expert, Freshman Common Reading, Fall 2016
2. Co-Presenter, Looking Good on Paper: Crafting the Academic CV and Non-Academic Resume, Department of Communication Studies Graduate Professionalization Series, March, 2016
3. Organizer, Hybrid Course Design Training, Communication Studies Department, May, 2016