

Review of: "Animation and YouTube as Alternative and Counterhegemonic Digital Public Sphere in Zimbabwe"

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The article is a compelling and interesting read, focusing on areas not frequently made visible within the academic field. I commend the author on highlighting a fascinating area of public engagement through cartoons. The literature review and theoretical orientation is strong and well developed. Tackling counter-hegemonic discourse in this way is productive, yet challenging. The background on MDC and cartoons is very useful.

I would encourage the author to strengthen the analysis in the following ways:

- More specific descriptions and examples of the cartoons (as a reader unfamiliar with the content, such details would be very helpful)
- A bit more local context that illustrates the stances within the cartoons (the analysis offer some but more would be useful in understanding the nuances)
- More details as to some of the terms used (the MDC typology, new-media affordances, discursive forms, counter-hegemonic propaganda, etc.). These are used well but I would like to see them further explored.
- When discussing "social media as a digital counter public sphere", it would be interesting to include the comments/reactions to the cartoons as well, in order to highlight the public engagement. This may be difficult within just this paper (and can be additional publications) but some mention would be useful.

Overall, a very engaging work, that could benefit from further expanding on the analysis. I look forward to reading more by the author!