

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

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This is a very interesting article about the existence of alternative audiences that can be undemocratic.

For a better presentation of the text, I believe that all the theoretical part should go at the beginning of the text, in order to lay the foundations of the argument and to be able to know what the contribution of the text is. It does so when it comes to the public and the internet, but not to subaltern counter-publics. There is a recent text that may be of use to the authors:

Aruguete, N., & Calvo, E. (2023). Odiar el ágora: formas digitales de la recesión democrática en la era de la desinformación. *Lasa Forum* 52:2, 29 - 34.

Additionally, I think it is important to explain very well what the public consists of in the Habermasian vision and what the counter-public is, since, sometimes, it is not very clear if it is an alternative space in the public sphere or a real counter-public. YouTube, for example, seems more like a virtual public sphere that allows different expressions, but not a counter-public in Butler's sense.

I think the most important part of the text is to show that these alternative spaces, which are presumed to be democratic, can also be contrary to democracy and be recipients and spread fake news. In general, I think it is a very interesting text that will contribute to our understanding of the use of internet as part of political campaigns.