

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

Boyu Chen<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Niigata Prefecture

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

**The article demonstrates how social media might jeopardize democracy using Zimbabwe as the case study. While the case is interesting, the author needs to go deeper into the topic to clarify the mechanism of how digital tools bring about pro-democracy and anti-democracy consequences. The book titled *Opposing Democracy in the Digital Age: The Yellow Shirts in Thailand* provides robust empirical studies on how anti-democracy arguments gain power in cyberspace. The book clearly identifies actors, their political thought, and the profile of their supporters. The article might be improved by including those dimensions in the analysis.**

Besides, obscenity, oppressing messages, and disinformation are commonly used as strategies in many anti-government movements and political campaigns initiated by populists. Most research focuses not on how undemocratic those messages are but on the contextual factors that lead to the anti-democracy results and how voters or other actors react to those strategies.