

Review of: "Free Speech Regimes and Democratic Vehemence"

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I've read Dr Yi's paper with much interest. It is very well written, structured, and it tackles a relevant contemporary issue which deserves scholarly attention. I appreciate many aspects of Dr Yi's work. First is his clear and original distinction between PR and VR regimes of free speech. Secondly, I find his hypothesis regarding the relationship between international cooperation and national speech regimes very interesting, original, and indeed worth examining in the future and supporting it with empirical data (as Dr Yi underscored it was not his ambition to provide such data, but to inspire future research). Thirdly, balancing conceptual-theoretical part with the case study part (primarily from South Korea and Japan) makes the article 'reader-friendly' and allows to give Dr Yi's interesting thesis a preliminary factual backing.

Perhaps, if Dr Yi continues his research on the topic in the future, he would like to consider providing a deeper analysis of the distinction between PR and VR regimes. In particular, it would be interesting to have his opinion on whether PR regimes can introduce limitations on freedom of speech on grounds other than incitement or other instances of material harm without losing their essence. For instance, is limiting nonsensical views on the basis of their falsity compatible with PR? Does imposing duty upon public officials not to cause expressive harm violate the principles of PR (or, rather, would the regime of PR be violated only when representatives of the media and private individuals are being called out for causing expressive harm?). Perhaps limiting speech on the basis of expressive harm is completely incompatible with PR?

It would be interesting to have a look at a more extended elaboration of Dr Yi's distinction. Let me be clear, though, that the way Dr Yi presented the distinction in his paper is fully sufficient for his purposes.