

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

Michael Briguglio¹

¹ University of Malta

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This article provides a very interesting analysis of online political activism in Zimbabwe, against the party in power. The article needs to be developed further to reach publication standard. Some comments

1. The argument that the pro-opposition digital discourse can itself become totalising and absolutist can be developed further. Does this tally with the official discourse of the opposition? Can this be applied to other polities characterised by deep polarization?
2. The definition of 'hegemony' and 'counter-hegemony' need to be explained. If a Gramscian or post-structuralist (e.g. Laclau & Mouffe) theoretical framework is used, then it must be shown how Zanu PF is hegemonic – for example through popular support, etc.. . If an alternative definition of hegemony is used, it needs to be explained.
3. Methodology needs to be explained and engaged with. How were samples chosen, and how were they are analysed?
4. The paper implies that there are only two voices in the public sphere of Zimbabwe, those of the Government and the Opposition party. Is this the case?
5. Is the length of the paper in conformity with requirements? As it seems to be rather short.