

Book Reviews

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Nico Carpentier, *The Discursive-Material Knot: Cyprus in Conflict and Community Media Participation*.
New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2017; 472 pp. ISBN: 9781433137532, AUD\$136.50.

In *The Discursive-Material Knot: Cyprus in Conflict and Community Media Participation*, Nico Carpentier places the focus of his research on the under-conflict island of Cyprus, to commence an exploration of community media culture, strategically using an interchangeably triadic scheme, in parallel with the concept of the Discursive-Material Knot (Knot). In the process of extensively analysing the evolutionary dynamics of participation theories and community media, using Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC) and MYCY Radio as a case study, the book is generating theory in discourse studies, while in parallel, its attempt to evolve community media participation research, which is justified by a detailed exploration of conflict-related matters, focused on the island of Cyprus. Organised in three distinctive but connected platforms, the book's structure is cleverly designed to explore complicated discursive material theories that not only resemble a tied, but clearly distinctive knot, but also challenge the reader to wonder in a path of theoretical and empirical (mile)'stones' in a non-linear way. The ontological approach of the first platform directly corresponds to the case study of CCMC at the last one, while epistemological and theoretical concepts of the second platform match strategically to fit substantial puzzle pieces of theory and application to the first and the third platform, respectively.

Initially, the discursive and the material are extensively debated and placed strategically on the Knot; their components are explored in an introductory referential debate on agency and the material, and along with the discursive structures and the 'structured entity' characteristic of discourse, they form the basis for a non-hierarchical, but almost aggressively interconnectable system of the theoretical analysis. The Knot, while showcasing that agency communicates culture and identity, can also be regarded as a social discursive structure, indicating the co-existence of many discourses. The material is redefined, discharged from its non-receptive critique and eluding some of its ontological properties, as the author chooses macro-textual and macro-contextual approach for his analysis; it presents a rational field regarding the discursive.

The second platform delves into core matters of community media theory, participatory theory and conflict theory. The discursive and material components are explored through the above, and the author is calling democracy and/or articulation to 'liquify' participatory processes. The approach focuses on participation and the community media, having commenced on grounds of the first platform, regarding the Knot. Based on the political theory of agonism, the author suggests that conflict transformations can form a complex interchange of roles between agonism and antagonism. In this context, antagonism demonstrates elements of a paradox construction of the complete self by the other, while agonism seeks togetherness.

Within the conflict Cyprus terrain, agonistic and antagonistic dynamics harmonise within the Knot, influencing the participatory processes in a distinctive community media environment. The third platform applies the former discourse in the case of CCMC, exposing the respective

counter-hegemonic and anti-conflict dynamics within the organisation. This contributes to a wider detailed demonstration of community media participatory assemblages, within a national/ethnic conflict zone such as MYCY Radio, while clearly showcasing its dialectic both agonistic and antagonistic identity.

The book forms a sturdy contribution to media participation theory and showcases the application of theory to a very delicate study, in which the author has clearly presented a well-constructed tied Knot, the ties of which are thoroughly analysed and explained, creating a stable new theoretical terrain for further study. The polyphonic properties of the Knot, which connect discursive arrangements to agency, form the biggest advantage of the concepts presented in this discourse studies work.

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Jock Given, *Australian Broadcasting*. Oxford; New York: Oxford Bibliographies, Oxford University Press, 2018, online institutional subscription.

This bibliography was commissioned by Oxford University Press for *Oxford Bibliographies*, a database of curated and annotated guides to scholarship and resources on an extensive range of subjects. An expert in the field, Jock Given has assembled a valuable selective guide to key topics and texts relating to Australian Broadcasting.

Primarily concerned with broadcast television and radio (with a final category 'After Broadcasting' relating to the post-broadcast era), the Bibliography begins with a general, way-finding introduction followed by a list of works which offer a contextualising 'Overview', a section focusing on 'Archives, Research Agencies, and Reference Works' and a list of 'Scholarly Journals'. These introductory categories provide a helpful general orientation for researchers new to the field. Subsequent topic sections offer more targeted reference material relating to, for example, radio and television history, industry structures, Australian broadcasting institutions, regulation and programming. Each of the 19 sections (and any subsections) into which the Bibliography is divided begins with a short synopsis providing a brief description of the organising principles and the content to be found under the specific heading.

Given's commentary is well expressed and jargon-free, and there is great value in this kind of scholarly bibliography, annotated with both clarity and insight and organised logically into key topic areas. Users will have no trouble determining which resources are relevant to their research, as it is clear why particular references have been chosen and what they contribute. This guide is helpful primarily because it directs researchers and students to the key texts on a particular topic relating to Australian Broadcasting, but also because of some of the unexpected recommendations, including insider accounts such as Magda Szubanski's memoir *Reckoning* and highly focused discussions such as John Herbert on the 'broadcast voice' and John La Nauze on the constitutional framing of Australian broadcasting regulation.

This bibliography is an impressive piece of scholarship, covering essential areas and relevant reference material. I would recommend it to researchers and tertiary students as a first port-of-call if they are embarking on a project in the field of Australian Broadcasting.

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