

Comparative Mediascapes and Cultural Interventions – Global Citizenship and Radical Reciprocity

Ron Krabill, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences



Comparative Mediascapes in South Africa and the United States (2000-2005)

- > Partnership between the University of KwaZulu Natal, The New School for Social Research, and UW Bothell
- > 30 students (15 from RSA, 15 from USA); instructor of record for both institutions
- > Completely asynchronous, online course using Blackboard discussion boards

Comparative Mediascapes in South Africa and the United States (2000-2005)

- > Each week had a new theme, introduced by a written “lecture” addressing the topic and some prompts; then students would do further research and post responses
- > Highly successful; unsustainable workload for the instructor; too focused on the instructor managing discussions
- > Very little administrative or infrastructural support

Cultural Studies as Collaboration: Cultural Interventions (2017-)

- > Cultural Studies as Collaboration: Second core course in MA in Cultural Studies curriculum, cohort model
- > Pairing graduate students between the MA in Cultural Studies at UW Bothell and the Centre for Film and Media Studies at the University of Cape Town
- > Possible additional partnerships with schools in Palestine, Australia, and Tanzania

Cultural Studies as Collaboration: Cultural Interventions (2017-)

- > Limited to a single (but significant) assignment within the class
- > Small groups of students designing a cultural intervention in response to a pressing social issue that both resonates across the multiple settings and is flexible enough to adapt to each specific setting
- > Possible topics could include state-sanctioned violence, environmental destruction, indigenous rights, activism within institutions of higher education

Lessons Learned: Global Citizenship and Radical Reciprocity

- > Start small
- > Use the most basic technology available
- > Be highly attentive to differential technological access for students
- > Make sure that everything you do has a pedagogic (rather than purely technological) purpose

Lessons Learned: Global Citizenship and Radical Reciprocity

- > Develop the ability of students to see how issues of social justice are both intensely local and travel transnationally
- > Empower students to critique and intervene together in issues across transnational collectivities
- > Emphasize the critical importance of Radical Reciprocity in making Global Citizenship a transformative concept

Thank You!

> I welcome further correspondence:

Ron Krabill

Associate Professor

School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

University of Washington Bothell

rkrabill@uw.edu

425.352.3592