Comparative Mediascapes and Cultural Interventions – Global Citizenship and Radical Reciprocity

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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:

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