Media and Information Literacy in a Global Context

GEN Inquiry Meetup

November 18, 2022
Presenter: Chesa Caparas, MA
Introduction

Chesa Caparas, MA

- US-born Filipina, raised in Washington DC area, educated in Swiss boarding school, attended college and graduate school in California
- Professor of English and Asian American Studies at De Anza College and Coordinator of their Women, Gender, and Sexuality Center
- Fulbright Scholar to the Philippines April-September 2022
Overview

An outline for today's presentation

- The Research Experience
- Insights from Qualitative Study
- What It Means for Global Educators
The purpose of my Fulbright

- Teaching and Research Grant
- To study the role of social media in the teaching of Media and Information Literacy (MIL), especially as it relates to mis/disinformation
Why the Philippines?
Why now?
The international research experience

• Learning what to say and how to say it
• Personal, professional, and political considerations
• Cultural relativity and cultural humility
• Much gratitude to the institutional researchers, ethics review board, and colleagues at home and host institutions
The study...

- Focus on narrative: what stories are people telling about media, information, and literacy?
- Studied how people in academic settings navigate polarizing conversations
- Conducted interviews and Focus Groups with Senior High School (SHS) and University educators
The findings...

• The Post-Truth Era: "circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief" (Oxford Dictionary)

• Anti-intellectualism or "smart-shaming"

• Emotional Labor: "professionalism" and maintaining one's "reputation"
• What to make of the "echo chamber"?
• "Twitter is instead the equivalent of putting an anarchist crust-punk from Seattle into the same room as a Kappa Alpha alum from Auburn and watching them talk about politics all day. Of course, they would probably rip each other’s heads off. Now, imagine watching a thousand versions of that all day. It would make you think the world is crazy." (Breland, 2022)
• Precarity and polarization (Bryson et al, 2020)
What does this mean for Global Educators?

Questions for discussion:

• How can we cultivate cultural humility, emotional intelligence, and conflict resolution skills as part of media and information literacy?

• How can we as educators rebuild trust in institutions, such as academia, the news, and the government, even while addressing the problems within those institutions?
Thank you

Chesa Caparas
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Find me on LinkedIn :)
Sources

IMAGES
• UC Strike photo by Matthew Bowler from City Daily News
• Expectation vs Reality post by Meghna_2727
• Photo of Elon Musk at the 2022 Met Gala by Sean Zanni/Patrick McMullan via Getty Images

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