Global Voices Online

Questions

Whose voices, which globe? Is there a particular geography of voice?
Are the global voices (known as bridge blogs) substantively bridging familiar global boundaries or redrawing them?

What is the substance of the global voices conversations?
Are there particular subject matters that are discussed globally or regionally?

Who are the publics for global voices?
Do the commentators on global voices postings form a distinctive geography?
Global Voices Online

Whose voices, which globe? Is there a particular geography of voice? Are the global voices (known as bridge blogs) substantively bridging familiar global boundaries or redrawing them?

Findings

There is a distinct conversation geography in that "global voices" cluster regionally. The main non-regional grouping is 'globalized' in the sense that it comprises G8 countries (+China). Inter-regional conversation is insignificant.
Global Voices Online: A Conversation Geography

Whose voices, which globe? Is there a particular geography of voices?

Are the global voices (known as bridge blogs*) substantively bridging familiar global boundaries or redrawing them?


Stats: From 1 October 2006 - 1 October 2006, there are 4141 posts, 3038 comments, 1632 posts commented upon, 112 distinct bloggers and 2005 distinct commentators.

“Global Voices” cluster regionally. The main non-regional grouping is globalized in the sense that it comprises 98 countries (+China). Inter-regional substantive conversation is insignificant.

* Bridge blogging? “Blogs designed to increase communication between people from different countries and cultures.” Global Voices Online > FAQ, http://www.globalvoicesonline.org/? page_id=272

Legend (4 Africas map)

- Issues
- Countries

Source: globalvoicesonline.org.

4 AFRICAS - The substance of the conversations differs per African country cluster. Congo, Burundi and Rwanda organize conversation about human rights, freedom of speech, and elections (with a governance conversation significantly associated). Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia and Zambia organize conversation around the arts & media as well as racism, gender and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transsexual issues. A third set of countries cluster around a single issue: the diaspora, and the fourth around law and international relations. Only arts & culture, history and music unite the African clusters. The issue of development is insignificant.

COUNTRIES WITH ISSUES

China and India organize distinctive issues spaces, and to a lesser extent so do the United Kingdom, Germany and France. The issues of human rights, media, freedom of speech, and Internet are most significantly associated with China.

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CONVERSATION PIECES: PUBLIC MEDIA PROJECTS AND THEIR PUBLICS

Analyse, edit, design, write, share online or off

Data: by Google; Harvesting from Issuucrawler; All text by Global Voices Online; Illustration from Amsterdam by Mobi.png; All text by Global Voices Online
What is the substance of the global voices conversations? Are there particular subject matters that are discussed globally or regionally?

Findings

The Middle East, Africa and to a lesser extent Central Asia, South Asia and the Caribbean regional clusters, have rather distinctive issues.

There are few issues that cross more than 3 regions. "Global Voices" are regional voices.
Global Voices Online: Local Voices, Local Issues?

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Legend

Issues
Regions


Co-occurrence analysis of countries (grouped by region) and tags.
Who are the publics for global voices?
Do the commentators on global voices postings form a distinctive geography?
While the voices and the issues may cluster regionally, are the publics more global in their participation?

Findings

The publics for global voices (understood here as blog commentators) tend not to comment on posts across regions. In their commenting behavior, the publics for global voices cluster regionally.

The Caribbean regions have the greatest quantity of comments, and like the African, South Asian, South and Central American, Middle Eastern and Caucasian clusters, they appear to organize tight-knit local conversations.
Global Voices Online: Local Voices, Local Issues, but Global Publics? A Renewed Regional Clustering.

Who are the publics for global voices? Do the commentators on global voices postings form a distinctive geography? While the ‘global voices’ and the issues may cluster regionally, are the publics more global in their participation?

Stats: From 1 October 2005 - 1 October 2006, there are 3038 comments, 1632 posts commented upon, and 2005 distinct commentators.

The publics for global voices (understood here as blog commentators) tend not to comment on posts across regions. In their commenting behavior, the publics for global voices cluster regionally. The Caribbean regions have the greatest quantity of comments, and like the African, South Asian, South and Central American, Middle Eastern and Caucasian clusters, appear to organize tight-knit local conversations.

Legend

Countries

For more information, visit centerforsocialmedia.org/mpm or contact socialmedia@american.edu.

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