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The Discursive-Material Knot

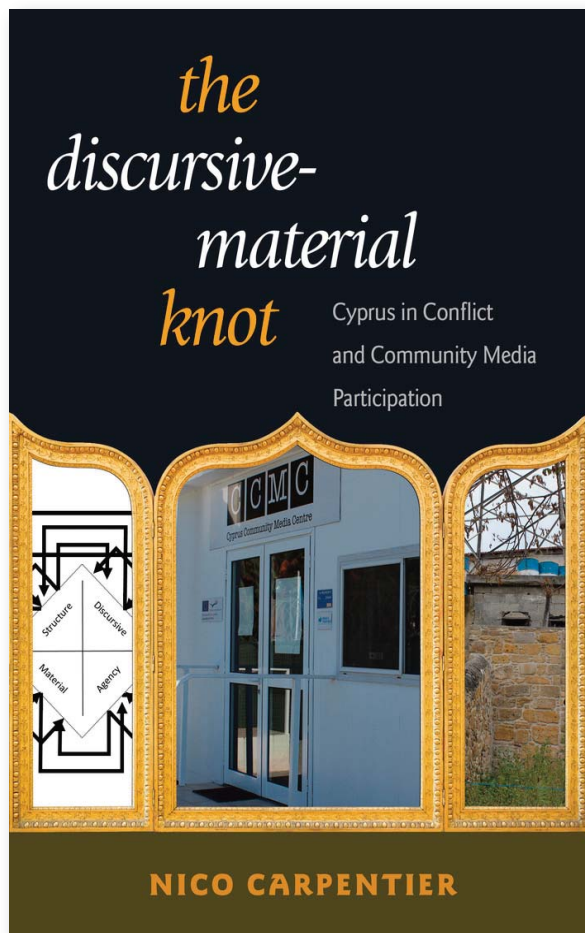
Cyprus in Conflict and Community Media Participation

NICO CARPENTIER | 2017 | XVIII, 472 pp.

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The theoretical framework of the discursive-material knot consists out of a non-hierarchical ontology of the interactions of the discursive and the material, articulating the assemblages that are driven by this ontological setting as restless and contingent, sometimes incessantly changing shapes and sometimes being deeply sedimented. This book acknowledges the importance of discourse studies, in having produced a better understanding of the socio-political role of frameworks of intelligibility, and of materialism theory in highlighting the importance of the agentic role of materials. Still, the combination of the discursive and the material requires our attention in a much more fundamental way; that is where this book's first platform aims to provide a contribution. These ontological-theoretical reflections are not produced in a void, but they are put to work in this book, first in platform two, which consists of a discursive-material re-reading of three theoretical fields, dealing with practices that are all highly relevant in contemporary democracies: participation, community media and conflict (transformation). Finally, in the third platform, this book turns its attention to a particular social reality, analyzing the logic of the discursive-material knot in the particular context of the Cyprus Problem. This case study fills a gap by bringing community media and conflict transformation together, through the analysis of the role of the Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC), and its webradio MYCYradio, in contributing to the transformation of antagonism into agonism. Deploying a discursive-material analysis to study the participation and agonization (and their articulation) in CCMC/MYCYradio shows the complexity and richness of conflict transformation processes, in combination with the importance of organizations such as CCMC/MYCYradio for the betterment of society.

Nico Carpentier is Professor in Media and Communication Studies at the Department of Informatics and Media of Uppsala University. In addition, he holds two part-time positions, those of Associate Professor at the Communication Studies Department of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Docent at Charles University in Prague. He is a Research Fellow at the Cyprus University of Technology and Loughborough University. Earlier books are *Understanding Alternative Media* (2007, co-authored with Olga Bailey and Bart Cammaerts), and *Media and Participation: A Site of Ideological-Democratic Struggle* (2011).

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Praise for *The Discursive-Material Knot* by Nico Carpentier

"The Discursive-Material Knot takes us to a highly significant, yet under-studied, region and provides a rich account of community based media in Cyprus. I particularly commend Nico Carpentier's fine work to bring together the discursive and the material on the basis of a well-researched case. This is a must-read for anyone who is interested in discourse theory and community media."

—Miyase Christensen, Stockholm University, Sweden

"Every few years a book offers great insight on the often contested relationship between citizen media and agency. *The Discursive-Material Knot* is one such remarkable contribution. Embracing both critical reflection of participation theories and analytical interpretation of empirical studies, this book articulates an original model that deepens understanding of community media and conflict transformation."

—Tao Papaioannou, University of Nicosia, Cyprus

"The Discursive-Material Knot will be an invaluable methodological toolkit for all those that will be researching community media organizations within the context of the ecological systems in which they operate. Its non-hierarchical nature and the use of a knot model for its analysis, is a very fitting tool to tackle the variety of diverse community media practices across the globe. The combination of highly theoretical work with empirical research, embedded within a mix of participatory use of qualitative research methods, promises to be a great resource for scholars and reflective practitioners alike."

—Salvatore Scifo, Bournemouth University, United Kingdom

"Nico Carpentier's latest book on community media inspires the reader to imagine a 'non-hierarchical buffer zone' in 'triptych' form. Taking Cyprus as a case study is not only a courageous act, but also a transcending experiment for rhizomatic media creating their own agency...*The Discursive-Material Knot* is a creative referral throughout the book; a perpetual reminder of antagonistic interactions between conflict, community and participation."

—Asli Tellı Aydemir, Researcher and digital rights activist

"In this inspiring and outstanding book, Nico Carpentier provides an innovative theoretical framework which allows understanding and explaining the complexity of civil society community media. This integrated interdisciplinary approach is complemented by a fascinating in-depth history and ethnography of Cypriot society and its range of— sometimes—agonistic media production and reception, thus succeeding in grounding the grand theories in discursive and material practices."

—Ruth Wodak, Emeritus Professor, Lancaster University, United Kingdom, and University of Vienna, Austria

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