

April 12, 2019

Dr. Larry Gross
USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
3502 Watt Way | Los Angeles, California 90089-0281

Dear Larry,

I am so pleased to submit my manuscript, "Preemptive Dissuasion: An International Analysis of Governmental Media Campaigns to Deter Asylum Seekers," for consideration in *The International Journal of Communication*. This project was made possible through a fellowship at the ZeMKI Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research at the University of Bremen and support from the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.

In recent years, the governments of the United States, Australia, and Norway have developed and launched informational multimedia campaigns targeted at dissuading unwanted groups of asylum-seeking migrants and have disseminated these media in strategic international locales. This project investigates the visual and textual facets of these deterrence campaigns using critical narrative analysis. Asylum seekers globally occupy a precarious liminal position: when they are successful in their applications for protection, they receive refugee status; when applicants are denied, legal protections are terminated and removal proceedings may ensue. This paper interrogates the processes of governmentality at work in this liminal space. Specifically, I analyze the ways government-funded and internationally-disseminated deterrence campaigns offer material directives that (1) discursively bifurcate the nature of the threats posed when individuals seek asylum, and (2) omit requisite information about migrants' human right to seek asylum, thereby advancing strategic ignorance in both primary and secondary audiences.

I presented this paper (in Spanish) at the 2018 MESO conference at the Universidad de San Andres in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In accordance with the terms of the ZeMKI fellowship that funded this research, an early working version of the paper is available (in German) in the *Communicative Figurations Working Paper Series* at the University of Bremen.

Thank you for your consideration. I will eagerly anticipate your response.

Sincerely,



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