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To the  
**Editorial Office of the  
International Journal of Communication**

## Submission to the International Journal of Communication

August 4, 2021

Dear Larry Gross, dear members of the editorial board,

Enclosed to this letter please find our submission “How to Make Sense of Nonsense: Political Absurdity and Parodic Memes in the #Sharpiegate Affair.”

This article interrogates the memetic reactions triggered by #Sharpiegate. The affair was a moment of overt political absurdity that provoked critical engagement with the irrationalities of Trump’s performance. Analyzing the imbroglio around a doctored map of Hurricane Dorian in 2019, we show how parodic memes offered a response to publicly displayed unreasonableness.

Our analysis characterizes the renditions shared on Twitter as clumsy corrections. In the tradition of political jamming and its tactic of *détournement*, this memetic genre works by emulating and exaggerating the distortion of images with bold scribbles. The renditions take the form of prospective or retrospective interventions that unavailingly hoped to draw a desirable condition into being. This gesture of point-blank meddling stands in opposition to the populist truth-tampering that became evident in the #Sharpiegate affair. The meme provided a rallying point for spontaneous resonance and collective self-ascertainment while acknowledging its limited ability to correct political pretensions that are out of touch with reality.

The submission follows the guidelines for manuscript preparation laid out on the journal’s website.

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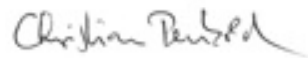
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documents not accepted.

Given the growing interest in this topic and the strand of cognate contributions already published in *the International Journal of Communication* we hope you can consider the submission for publication and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine Berndt".