專輯論文

感受他人的「痛苦」:

「底層」痛苦、公共表達與「同情」的政治

袁光鋒

摘要

「留守兒童」問題已經成為當下中國重要的於其議題。在一些公共事件中,這一群體的「痛苦」引發了「道德震撼」和公眾「同情」,推動了公共討論的進行。本文以兩起畢節留祭兒童死亡事件為案例,以商議民主理論為框架,討論了大眾傳媒是如何塑造底層「痛苦」的,以及底層「痛苦」引發的公眾「同情」暴如何在網路空間中被表達的。研究發現,傳統媒體通過「代理者認言」向公眾呈現了留守兒童的「痛苦」,並賦予「痛苦」以公共價值。「同情」推動了圍繞這一議題的公共討論,公眾的「同情」結構主要完含悲痛、憤怒、諷刺、羞愧、無力感等情感,在表達「同情」時,公眾會徵用現有文化資源和官方的話語資源。採用「我們—他們」的視角,將他者置於與「我們」不同的文化位置,是網民拒絕同情的主要策略。儘管在兩起事件中,媒體和公眾「同情」都引發了較多的公共討論。但政治權力的結構性不平等導致底層群體的「情感體驗」很難獲得進入公共空間的常規管道,「同情疲勞」是這一群體不得不面對的事實。

關鍵詞:同情、痛苦、商議民主、留守兒童、公共空間

語史。電郵:ygf@nju.edu.cn

論文投稿日期:2016年6月25日。論文接受日期:2017年1月26日。

袁光鋒,南京大學新聞傳播學院副教授。研究興趣:情感與公共生活、政治話

Special Issue Article

Feeling Other's Pain: Subaltern's Pain, Public Expression, and the Politics of Compassion

Guangfeng YUAN

Abstract

The problem of "left-behind" children been an important issue in contemporary China. This group's pain aroused a "moral shock" and public compassion in some public events. Two case studies are used to examine the representation of this subaltern group's pain in mass media and the public expression of compassion in cyberspace from the perspective of deliberative democracy theory. Mass media represent the pain of left-behind children through the language of agency, and they play an important role in making their pain a public issue. The public compassion aroused by subaltern pain has been an important protivation for public expression, which is structured by emotions such as sorrow, anger, satire, shame, and powerlessness. Netizens use both official and cultural discourses to express compassion. These findings are valuable because they contribute to considering the moral and emotional dimensions in the formation of the public sphere. Subalterns' pain is rarely expressed in the public sphere because of the inequality of political power, which inevitably leads to compassion fatigue.

Guangfeng YUAN (Associate Professor). School of Journalism and Communication, Nanjing University. Research interests: emotion and public life, history of political discourse.

Keywords: compassion, pain, deliberative democracy, left-behind children, public sphere, subaltern

Citation of this article: Yuan, G. (2017). Feeling others' pain: Subalterns' pain, public expression, and the politics of compassion. *Communication & Society*, 40, 203–236.

致謝

在香港中文大學第九屆「傳播科技與新媒體事件」工作坊期間,本文得到與會同仁諸多珍貴的意見,之後邱林川教授、李立峯教授、陳韜文教授以及匿名評審人為本文的修改提出許多有益的建議,在寫作過程中,黃旦教授、黃佳博士、胡翼青教授、周海藏教授、王辰瑤教授也對本文提出許多富有價值的修改建議,特此為謝,文責自負。本文係國家社會科學基金項目《基於「情感」視角的當代中國公共輿論研究》(項目編號:16CXW021)的研究成果。