

Learning by Scrolling? The Twitter Thread as Lifewide Textual Offer and Cosmopolitan Potentiality

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Structure

- 1) Twitter Research
- 2) Lifewide Learning and Cosmopolitanism
- 3) Twitter Threads: collective-open, individual open/closed
- 4) Twitter Thread examples

1) Twitter Research

- Media agenda-setting (e.g. Vastermann 2018 and Abdi-Herrle 2018)
- Electoral politics (e.g. Galdieri, Lucas and Sisco 2018 and Kamps 2020)
- Street protests (e.g. Gerbaudo 2012 and Dang-Anh 2019)
- Twitter & online persona (e.g. De Kosnik and Feldman 2019 and Burrough 2016).

1) Twitter Research

- Also Twitter und learning research?
- Malik, Heyman-Schrum & Johri (2019): review 1313 academic articles on Twitter and Education (2007-17)
- Research undertaken: 80.6 % higher education; 9.7 % schools; online surveys 3.9 %, conference 2.9 %, misc. ed . Institute 2.9%
- Non-formalised contexts of learning?
- 313 million monthly users (Burgess and Baym 2020)

2) Lifewide Learning and Cosmopolitanism

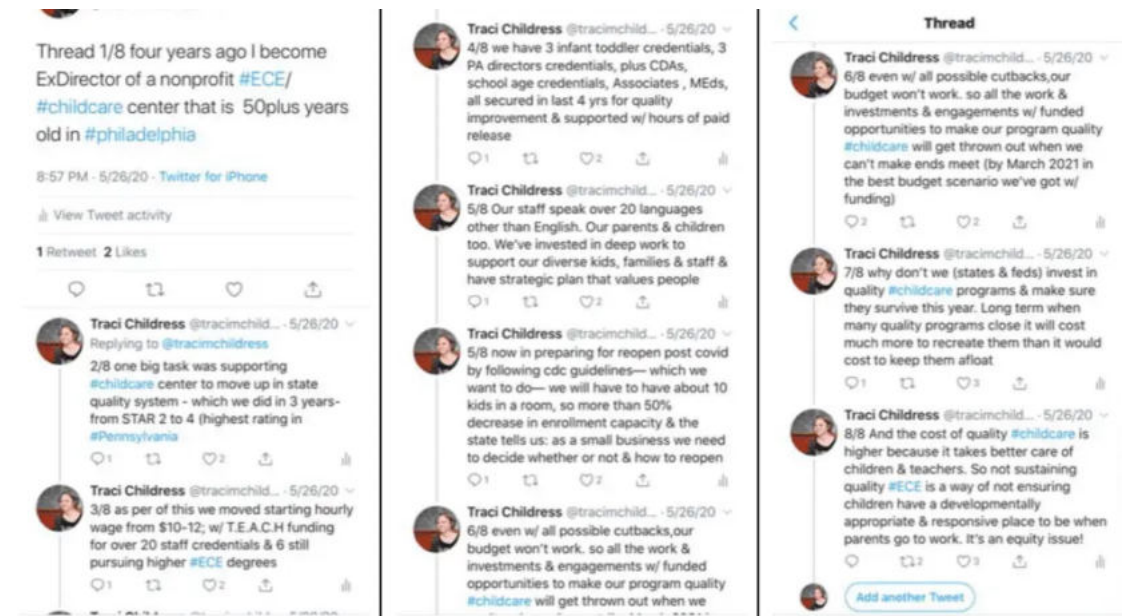
- Jost Reischmann (2014): “learning en passant” “by passing by”
- “Reading books, magazines, newspapers, watching tv, talking to colleagues, observing others, and exchanging with whomsoever forms a universe of small learning experiences”
- “Low compulsory”, “highly individualised”; “it can happen – or not” and “different people learn different things from the same situation”

2) Lifewide Learning and Cosmopolitanism

- Reischmann (2014): “Often this learning is holistic; it includes not only knowledge, but also reality handling, emotions, valuing, perspective transformation”
- Close to Delanty’s processural understanding of cosmopolitanism
- Normative theory, but also a social phenomenon
- Delanty (2008:218) cosmopolitanism: “transformation in self-understanding as the result of engagement with others over issues of global significance”
- Lenehan (2022) Postdigital Cosmopolitanism

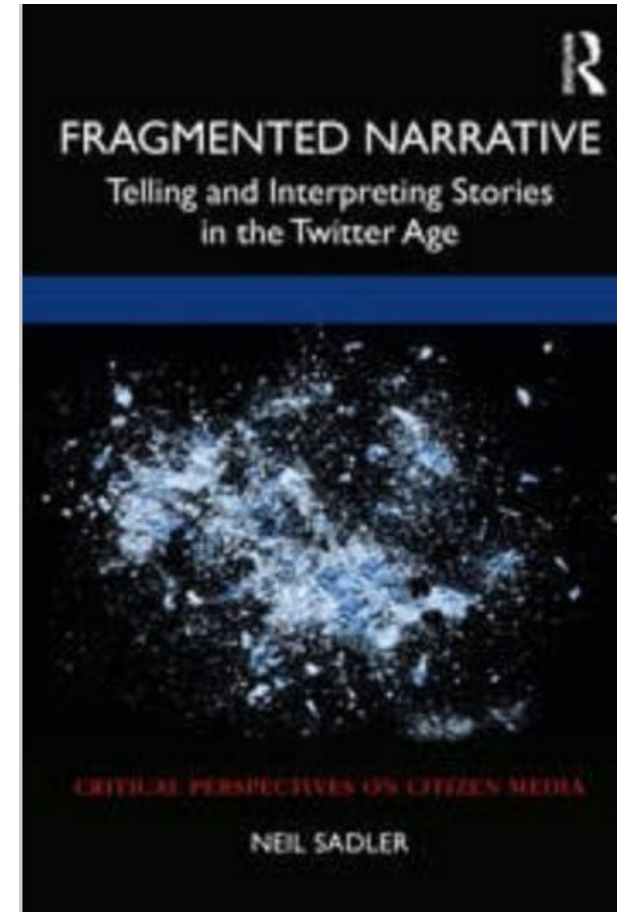
3) Twitter Threads

- Twitter threads – lifewide textual offer, with cosmopolitan potentiality: ‘fuel’ for perspective change, self-transformation engaging with the other over issues of global significance
- But, what is a Twitter thread?



3) Twitter Threads

- Sadler (2021): *Fragmented Narratives: Telling and Interpreting Stories in the Twitter Age*
- “Vertical narrative” (p. 51):
“sequentially posted fragments”;
may be open & “added to at any time” or have “clearly defined”
“textual boundaries”



3) Twitter Thread

Threads: text form not narrative *necessarily*

1) Collectively-created and very open: *openness* and plurality gives them meaning and force

2) Individually-created and closed/open/open to collectivisation: meaning and force comes from expertise

4) Twitter Thread: Examples



IndigenousX 142.6K Tweets

IndigenousX @IndigenousX

IndigenousX is celebrating its tenth anniversary with a different host each & every day (probably) for all of March!! Today: @mdavisqlder

📍 Sydney, New South Wales indigenousx.com.au 📅 Joined July 2010

6,591 Following 74.8K Followers

Followed by The Art of Asymmetrical Warfare (they/them) 🌈, AvrilFlynn.com, and 53 others you follow

- (Jenny) "Charmaine" Frecklington-Jones** @JonesHowdar... · 5h
Replying to @IndigenousX
I am on unceded Ngarabal land. 🙌🙌🙌
- Robert Cook** @r9453 · 12h
Replying to @IndigenousX
Gumbaynggirr Nation
- Julie** @Julie18147722 · 8h
Replying to @IndigenousX
Welcome Amy. I'm on Bribie Island, the land of the Gubbi Gubbi people.
- Lisa** @witch_lisa · 1h
Replying to @IndigenousX
I was born on unceded Gomerioi land, residing on unceded Gubbi Gubbi (Kabi Kabi) land 🖤🖤🖤
- Paula Redpath** @MasterofCBT · 12h
Replying to @IndigenousX
Unceded Kaurna country

IndigenousX (Amy Thunig Gomerioi/Kamilaroi) @IndigenousX

Yaama Yaama and good morning Twitter fam 🙌 my name is Amy Thunig, I'm a Gomerioi/Kamilaroi person living on unceded Awabakal lands & working as an education academic on unceded Darug lands & I am your host today 🎉

Whose land are YOU on today?

9:15 PM · Mar 20, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

83 Retweets 9 Quote Tweets 1,004 Likes

- Sorn has no time for this shit** @SornMcBeith · 12h
Replying to @IndigenousX
Unceded Ngunnawal country. A place that has been a meeting place for people from many countries from long before white people used it for this purpose. Between snow and sea, with the gang gang creaking above (it's a beautiful place)
- Bee** @5th Estate Citizen J... @BelindaJone... · 12h
Replying to @IndigenousX
I'm living on the unceded lands of the Yugambah ppl, I pay my respects to elders past, present & emerging.

Good morning all 🐝

4) Twitter Threads: Example

Katy Hayward
8,726 Tweets



Katy Hayward
@hayward_katy

as it turns out, a political sociologist working in&on the island of Ireland. @UKandEU Senior Fellow. @IrishEF Fellow. #Brexit NI/IRL #Border Own my own views.

📍 Belfast go.qub.ac.uk/hayward 📅 Joined September 2014

2,111 Following 26.7K Followers

Followed by Kieran Crotty, Schuler Democracy Forum, and 998 others you follow

Katy Hayward @hayward_katy · Feb 5, 2019

*To set out arrangements necessary to address
* the unique circumstances on the island of Ireland,
* maintain the necessary conditions for continued North-South cooperation,
* avoid a hard border and
* protect the 1998 Agreement in all its dimensions*.

4/15



🗨️ 3 🔄 5 ❤️ 34 📤



Katy Hayward @hayward_katy · Feb 5, 2019

Who isn't fed up of the #Brexit hell-on-wheels show? We want certainty, agreement, realism... In fact, we need compromise!

Could the #MalthouseCompromise be the olive branch that shows sign of dry land on the distant horizon? 🌱 (I'm thinking esp of you, @BorderIrish)

1/15

🗨️ 44 🔄 192 ❤️ 294 📤

Katy Hayward @hayward_katy · Feb 5, 2019

In sum: the Malthouse Compromise wd possibly be worth considering if:

- it was prior to triggering Art 50,
- avoiding a hard border only meant avoiding physical infrastructure at the border,
- the new customs declaration system of the UK was on target for delivery...

13/15

🗨️ 1 🔄 9 ❤️ 43 📤

- Katy Hayward's journalism and political commentary, particularly the [Twitter account](#) which analysed the Brexit process as it unfolded, and provided links to a wide range of invaluable sources

4) Twitter Threads: Example

← **Liam Hogan**
30.6K Tweets



Liam Hogan
@Limerick1914 Follows you

Librarian & Historian. Researching Slavery - Memory - Power.
medium.com/@Limerick1914/ Support my work ko-fi.com/liamhogan

📍 Eochail Arra 🌐 hcommons.org/members/liamho... 📅 Joined March 2012

4,562 Following 59.2K Followers

Followed by Rita Larkin, GalwayArch+Hist, and 998 others you follow

Liam Hogan
@Limerick1914

Guess who said it: Tucker Carlson or a far-right shooter.

Left: Tucker Carlson (2018)
Right: Christchurch mass murderer (2019)
theguardian.com/commentisfree/...

When confronted or pressed for details, proponents of diversity] retreat into a familiar platitude, which they repeat like a Zen koan: diversity is our strength. But diversity our strength? The less we have in common, the stronger we are? Is that true of families? Is it true in neighborhoods or businesses? Of course not. Then why is it true of America? Nobody knows. Nobody's even allowed to ask the question.

And here is an excerpt from the manifesto used by the man who killed 51 people in a New Zealand mosque:

Why is diversity said to be our greatest strength? Does anyone even ask why? It is spoken like a mantra and repeated ad infinitum ... But no one ever seems to give a reason why. What gives a nation strength? And how does diversity increase that strength? What part of diversity causes this increase in strength? No one can give an answer.

4:20 PM · Aug 10, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

160 Retweets 9 Quote Tweets 415 Likes

Liam Hogan
@Limerick1914

It's a sign of the times that callousness is now dressed up as intellectualism. That empathy is framed as being as morally problematic as prejudice. That bigotry and hatred is just honesty. That solidarity is treason.

8:59 PM · Oct 18, 2018 · Twitter for iPhone

Liam Hogan @Limerick1914 · Aug 6, 2021

A reminder that the most-watched host on cable news in the United States is an ethno-nationalist.

2,817 Retweets

Greg Sargent @ThePlumLineGS · Aug 6, 2021

"Who's freer?" Tucker asks, comparing US/Hungary. "If you're American the answer is painful to admit."

Whatever you think of the current state of US freedom, Tucker's route to this conclusion, and the vision of self rule here, are something to behold:

[washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/...)
[Show this thread](#)

central feature is Carlson fawning over Orbán, you'll be silenced by Silicon Valley or his policies and demagoguery. Orbán describes to criticize the "orthodoxy" of liberal international identity, defined as his country's "populism, if you yearn for association with a national language" and "tradition" and "land," a right cited and unswayed by socially liberal threats by "God" and "nature." etes") to traditional conservative values.

regates liberal internationalist western leaders uslim" and "Christian" communities, describing Orbán declares that his country decides

[floor notes](#), Carlson often has little to say about Orbán's rule. Indeed, in Thursday's broadcast. He even suggests that in Hungary, people international observers criticizing it as totalitarian hegemony.

1 27 76

4) Conclusion

- Twitter threads (collective and open; individual and closed/open) may have a cosmopolitan potentiality
- Preaching to the converted?
- Twitter: @DigInterculture #lifewidelearning

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