Element2 - Reflection

Zewen xue
Student id: 21009879

During the course of this project, I recognized a close relationship between the communication intervention and the curriculum and readings provided. The communication intervention strategy provided me with concrete ideas for conceptualizing the integrity of the program and the implementation plan. In addition, I incorporated multispecies collectivity into my considerations. I recognized that art as a form of multi-species engagement (Sachs Olsen, 2022) could help me better understand and focus on the importance of multi-species collectivity, for example. Why should I care about multi-species ecological communities as a conservation audience in this project collectivity? It emphasizes the interconnectedness and interdependence of individual species and views humans as part of a broad ecological community. (Celermajer et al., 2020) Focusing on multispecies collectivity means that I recognize my close connection to other species and my dependence on the ecosystem as a whole. Through art sites and interactive experiences, I can evoke interest and concern for multi-species collectivity and conservation.

In this project, I plan to merge online activism, offline protest marches and digital interactive art on a single website to protest the dumping of nuclear waste water in Japan:
First, online activism is a powerful tool to quickly spread information, mobilize people to participate in protests, and raise social awareness. (Askanius & Gustafsson, 2010) Online forms of activism, such as petitions, signature campaigns, and social media activities, allow more people to participate and express their concerns and grievances digitally.
Second, offline protest marches are a traditional form of protest that can attract media attention, increase public visual impact, and deliver a strong voice through mass rallies. Marches can serve as a platform to rally protesters, collectively express their demands and act in solidarity. (Enjolras et al., 2012) It can draw attention in the public sphere and put the issue of nuclear wastewater at the center of public discussion.

However, I have also critically reflected on the structure of the project:

• While online activism can spread information quickly, it may struggle to have a substantial political and economic impact. Petitions and signature campaigns may be merely symbolic actions without substantive transformative effects. (McCaughey, M. and Ayers, M.D. eds., 2003)In addition, activism on social media is often vulnerable to information overload, information filtering algorithms, and cyber violence, which can lead to message distortion and a weakening of solidarity effects.

• While an offline protest march can attract media attention and public visual impact, it can also be plagued by government restrictions, police intervention, and security concerns. Marches can lead to traffic disruptions, public order problems, and tensions with local communities.

• Innovative forms of digital interactive art can appeal to a broader audience, but it may only have an impact in specific communities or cultural circles, making it difficult to reach the attention and understanding of the general public. In addition, digital art may also be limited by technological dependencies and the digital divide, limiting access to and participation in artworks by certain populations.

In summary, while online activism, offline protest marches, and digital interactive art all have their merits and potential, I need to continually evaluate their methods, effectiveness, and impact in my practice. By utilizing a combination of these methods, I can maximize the visibility, impact, and results of the protests and have an intervention effect on the dumping of nuclear wastewater.

Reference

Askanius, T., & Gustafsson, N. (2010). Askanius and Gustafsson, Mainstreaming the alternative. *Article*, *2*(2), 23—41.

Celermajer, D., Schlosberg, D., Rickards, L., Stewart–Harawira, M., Thaler, M., Tschakert, P., Verlie, B., & Winter, C. (2020). Multispecies justice: theories, challenges, and a research agenda for environmental politics. *Https://Doi.Org/10.1080/09644016.2020.1827608*, *30*(1—2), 119—140. https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2020.1827608

Enjolras, B., Steen–Johnsen, K., & Wollebæk, D. (2012). Social media and mobilization to offline demonstrations: Transcending participatory divides? *Http://Dx.Doi.Org/10.1177/1461444812462844*, *15*(6), 890—908. https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444812462844

Sachs Olsen, C. (2022). Co-Creation Beyond Humans: The Arts of Multispecies Placemaking. *Urban Planning*, *7*(3), 315—325. https://doi.org/10.17645/UP.V7I3.5288

McCaughey, M. and Ayers, M.D. eds., (2003). Cyberactivism: Online activism in theory and practice. Psychology Press.