

Transformative ICT Developments, Border Conflicts and Qualitative Methods

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Abstract

Transformative ICT's influence on international politics is analyzed in this paper. A qualitative methods idea for researching current border conflicts is presented. The information economy is presented as a significant influence on everything happening in the world today. The issue that has much importance for border conflict is the rate at which ICT is becoming more pervasive. Always seen as a metamorphosis influence from technology to other fields, pervasive ICT is having an even more influential reason now. As ICT becomes an idea all people use, the influence of the phenomena continues to increase. Now everyone uses three or four different interconnected devices. The number of different ICT devices in use by each person is continually increasing. ICT does not always prove an enlightening influence. Sometimes the negative externalities are so great that conflict happens.

Border conflicts are explained in terms of rational decisions by people across the border. Over the centuries, conflict often occurs along borders where there is disparity of power between protagonists across a border. In some instances, the weaker state has been aggrandized by the stronger one. Instances exist where perception of strength has been determinant. Erroneous perceptions that the adjacent state is weak, also, leads to conflict. Instances exist where conflict occurs irrationally because of ideological, religious, and other cultural reasons. Predominantly, however, border conflict is explained using a rational choice model. Political leaders across the border simply decide to initiate conflict with the expectation of making economic gains.

Qualitative methods offers authentic possibilities for gaining knowledge and better understanding current border conflicts. The paper uses the examples of tension along the North Korean borders and the present situation between Ukraine and Russia in discussing border conflict. Both conflicts are seen as analyzable with the rational choice model of border conflicts that has been presented. Using qualitative methods that combine performance ethnography and narrative, the issue of whether political leaders in the North Korean and Ukrainian-Russian border cases follow the rational model. Researchers using performance ethnography create narratives as they impersonate political leaders interfacing with Planet Romeo's matchmaking/dating/meeting capabilities. Different researchers with varying expert levels impersonate political leaders interfacing with Planet Romeo. Narratives explaining what happens are created and analyzed. Interpretivism produces qualitative results, and knowledge about border conflicts improves. The methodology places substantial emphasis on transformative ICT and the information economy. Conclusions emerge that are useful in discussing the rationality of present border conflicts.

Transformative ICT Developments, Border Conflicts and Qualitative Methods

How stable is the international order following transformative developments in information and communications technology (ICT)? Ordinarily, ICT is discussed as a positive factor in improving stability and cooperation. Often the quality of bureaucracy is explained as improving with the introduction of ICT. Technocrats are often explained to have less susceptibility to political corruption than ordinary bureaucrats. The ability of ICT to improve citizen involvement with policymaking is touted as a strongly positive feature of technological innovation. Similarly, increasingly ICT offers citizens the ability to involve themselves in the policy deliberation process. Additionally, cost-effective public management is enthusiastically supportive of additional plans for e-government. When revenues are low, governments can realize the same or higher level of service delivery by introducing e-government. These and other reasons are cited explaining why ICT developments are deemed positive improvements.

This paper allows that there are numerous recognized positive externalities that follow from introduction of plans for e-government. The discussion in this paper is not, however, about the positive externalities. Rather, this paper intends to examine possible negative externalities that are presently only weakly understood. The paper considers the possible costs of imagining a substantial amount of alignment to be being produced by increasingly pervasive ICT. This paper considers the possibility that exaggerated beliefs about alignment are hiding a major negative externality occurring as ICT becomes ever more transformative of society.

Transformative ICT Developments

The effect of technology on society is a continual process of metamorphosis from technology to culture. All the innovations that are now contending with the popular imagination have origins in the values and perspectives of their creators. As successive innovations happen each development leaves an impression on the culture. As technology changes at an increasing rate and as now we confront a tremendous proliferation of devices and gadgets mostly all networked globally. We are left asking whether we thoroughly understand the effect of all this innovation.

In earlier centuries, relatively simple innovations caused societal change. Important innovations occurred in painting. Improvement in artistic technique were accompanied by early academies that organizationally promoted the new developments. The changes these academies introduced “regarding the creation, selection, and transfer of theoretical and visual knowledge were long lasting” (Bignamini and Castelnovo, p. 225) The academies were powerful and imposing on the artists. No academy was “so powerful in imposing itself as a model-academy as the state-created and state-directed Académie de Peinture et de Sculpture” The French academy was established in Paris in 1648 and reorganized by the King's private Adviser Jean-Baptiste Colbert in 1663. The control established by the French Academy was great, and “Decisions were centralized to a degree never attempted before and never achieved later, not even by the dictatorships of our century.” (Bignamini and Castelnovo, pp. 229-230)

The example from artistic development in earlier centuries is useful in attempting to understand the transformative nature of present-day ICT development. When one explains that ICT innovations are pervasive, there is a substantial need to be thorough in explaining how ICT reaches the ordinary

everyday life. To say that ICT has a superficial influence is a much different conclusion than to find that ICT is affecting a significant range of daily activities. In the past, organizationalism followed after innovation. Now, ICT analyzers must explain technology's present influence carefully. To what extent is more organization following from ICT innovation, now?

Transformative ICT is usually explained in terms of the societal change that results from the innovation's effect on work process. When personal computers were introduced on a wide scale in the 1980s, changes happen and how tasks such as letter and report writing happened. Productive work of all sorts was accomplished differently with ICT innovations. Students no longer wrote term papers with typewriters. Small offices ceased to laboriously calculate revenues and expenditures with adding machines. Word processors and spreadsheet had appeared and had made productive contributions to how work was accomplished.

When the transformative influence of ICT is discussed usually the kind of social change that occurs from introducing computers, softwares, data, and networks is described. The type of change occurs is thought to resemble what happens when productive innovation occurs. Cultural change taking place may not be in the workplace, but rather in the home. Recreational use of ICT was in the home and away from the home account for a substantial amount of the transformation that ICT is causing our culture. How things were accomplished decades ago may be significantly different now with the introduction of ICT.

The basic model of innovation explains how ICT's influence is ordinarily described. The basic model scarcely takes into account the complexity and pervasiveness of current developments in technology, though. Only a decade or so ago, only a small percentage of people described themselves as computer

oriented. This was in the era when the term IT (information technology) was used more commonly than ICT. Now, as ICT has taken over with smart phones, there is a new reality because virtually everyone is familiar with ICT. The technology is no longer something that only a small percentage of people use. Instead, the current innovations in ICT are available and understood by most people.

Technology is transformative and almost everyone has become an ICT person. ICT is discussed as a metamorphosis phenomena because the values and ideas that ICT has are transferred, at least to some extent, to whatever area of knowledge is using ICT. One might say that everyone who is using ICT is acquiring ideas about orderly organization of reasons. The transformative occurrence happens as ICT users all have similarities in how they imagine organization of reasons. One could hypothesize that with ICT experience, people tend to see things in terms of files and folders. A new organizational art has been acquired by all who use the ICT products.

The technology transformative phenomena becomes even more complex as the number of ICT devices multiplies. Originally, the personal computer introduced people to IT. This was the only device in the household and was synonymous with IT. Gradually, device after device were introduced and the simple personal computer now contended with the laptop, the smart phone, the Blu-ray player, picture frames, tablets, printers, cameras, and even household machines like vacuum cleaners. Now, there appears to be limitless possibilities for various products that can all be connected through a wireless network.

Pervasive computing causes even more serious questions to be raised about the influence of ICT on culture and society. The more interconnected devices there are the better the claim that ICT has become inseparable from our culture. Increasingly, a larger and larger percentage of our explanations are tangentially about ICT devices. Our acceptance that ICT is becoming ubiquitous in our experiences is

almost impossible to deny. Those who decry technological determinism have new problems. Instead of the one PC, personal activities now revolve around more than a half-dozen different smart devices all networked.

Undeniably, those who do not like the idea technological determinism make some strong arguments about the resistance of organizations, society, and culture to the incursions made by the proliferation of these digital creations. Often the argument is made that ICT is not trustworthy because left unto itself no one could reasonably guess that new information could be accommodated reasonably with results that anyone would rationally accept. A kind of bounded rationality inevitably follows ICT innovation because no one can allow ICT itself can reasonably anticipate the future and store the reasons and ideas with adequate access capabilities. In other words, ICT is untrustworthy and could never create rational understandings about happenings in society and culture.

Opponents of technological determinism are confident that various organizing principles including tacit knowledge protect organizations, society, and culture. All that goes in to making success happen in organizations never is reduced to a series of principles and rules. Organizations can produce detailed personnel manuals explaining how an organization works, and yet never reveal anything about what really happens that decides outcomes. Only after a person has worked in an organization for several years, do they gain understanding about why things happen. These tacit rules are thought to be truly resistant to ICT, and those who don't like technology feel confident the integrity of the society they know will not be damaged by excessive ICT.

Similarly, organizations like their own uniqueness. Ethnographic differences can define all sorts of entities including industries, communities, social groupings, and affinity groups. The social truth is that

identity frequently happens around the peculiarities and idiosyncrasies embraced by different ethnographic combinations. These inherent organizing principles are sometimes explained as confounding the technological influence of ICT. However much people like their ICT, their acceptance and liking of how they strangely establish themselves differently from other entities in the environment appears to be a much more primal influence.

The transformative influence of ICT is, therefore, in dispute. Undeniably, this technology is becoming more ubiquitous all the time. The number and diversity of ICT innovations continues to astound the imagination. The frequency with which we use ICT appears to always be increasing. The amount of metamorphosis happening between this inundation of ICT technology reasonably is dramatically increasing.

These truths about ICT are not, however, uncontroverted. Opponents of technological determinism are numerous. Those who reason that society and culture are crafted around organizing principles insulated from these numerous innovations explain the technology shall not dominate. The transformative influence of ICT is disputed by those who imagine ethnographic divisions to have intrinsic value. Whether greater effort goes into ethnographic divisions than in accommodating ICT is altogether possible. No analysis of society can ignore the lengths to which groupings of people go to distinguish themselves from others.

While nowadays people ordinarily accept the importance of ICT innovations and even anticipate new developments, there is still substantial doubt that opponents in society have ceased their efforts. Readily identifying those who resist innovation is not effortless, and this strata seems to lurk undetected in the popular consciousness. Commenting on the transformative influence of ICT requires

estimating how the relative influence of ICT compares to those societal influences that appeared dedicated in resisting the incursions of ICT. Undeniably, the issue of universal acceptance of ICT and the metamorphosis of ICT values and concepts to all phases of human activity is not occurring without some resistance from various societal and cultural factors that likes dissimilarity and diversity. Tacit knowledge remains a major factor that questions the precise specification of everything that ICT would accomplish.

Some Examples of Present-Day Border Conflicts

The present international order imagines considerable stability. Ordinarily, border conflicts are thought of as theoretical in the present day and belonging to the past. In theory, border conflicts have happen when differences have occurred between people on both sides of the border. Borders establish differences between people on both sides of them. The differences that exist on both sides of a border may be insignificant or the disparities can be astounding. Historical development, language, religion, culture, social norms, and economic realities can differ across borders.

The most common situation in the development of the present nation-state system has happened when people on one side of a border perceived themselves to be more powerful and resourceful than their neighbors. Historically, many conflicts have been initiated when the powerful neighbor conquers the territory of the country across the border. International relations has accepted that aggrandizement frequently has stronger state incorporating weaker state following an altercation based on power realities. Whenever there has been a perception that the a cross border entity is weak, there's been a propensity for conflict to ensue.

This model of border conflict places great emphasis on perception of strength across the border.

Manipulation of perception of strength is vital to maintaining border stability. Theoretically speaking, protagonists across a border must perceive themselves as of approximately equal strength. Only when parity is believed to exist across a border, do stable conditions exist. This model emphasizes that rational calculation is important, even determinant in whether peaceful conditions or conflict prevails along a border.

Substantial difference across the border is imaginable so long as parity in powerful variables exists.

While rarely border conflict may happen based on ideology, this is imagined to occur only as an exception to the general model. Large amounts of disparity can occur because opposing political systems can develop in different ways. The political experiences on opposing sides of the border can be enough different to produce substantially different entities. Guarantees that cultural developments occur with similarity on both sides of a border do not exist. So long as parity on powerful issues exists on both sides of the border, considerable differences between states may occur.

Perception of equality of power is all-important. Conflict has happened in the past as states wrongly perceived a neighboring country's strengths. Deciding the state across the border is powerful involves deciding which reasons determine strength. Cognitive issues are involved as how perceptions are organized can be influential in determining how strong the adjacent country is perceived as being.

Many factors contribute to cognitive issues around perception of the across border country strengths.

Cognition about power can be influenced by all sorts of cultural and social factors. Historical development issues can be influential as experience conditions evaluation of new conditions. Religion is frequently cited in the present as a significant influence on cognitive skills in evaluating strength.

Similarly, social norms are possibly an influence in the cognitive tasks that go into analyzing the country across the border.

Cognitive disposition to ICT could be identified as a possible significant factor in present border conflicts. The many issues about ICT's influence all impinge upon cognitive predisposition to analyze power. How increasingly pervasive computing influences perceptive strengths is one of the important issues this paper analyzes. In conflictual situations, the cognitive influence of pervasive ICT is anything but certain. Whether ICT influences in an analogous manner on both sides of a border is questionable.

The conflictual possibilities that exist because of ICT's influence in border situations may be substantial. Because tolerance for an ever-increasing amount of ICT is uncertain, cognition could be affected by excessive use of ICT. From experience with ICT implementation in organizations, experts have learned there is substantial variance that can occur in acceptance of technology. Were one to extrapolate from organizational experiences to state-level predispositions for ICT, one would anticipate discovering substantial differences between how states create their info culture.

Calculations of adjacent country's strengths often involve elaborate efforts to gather information about power resources. There are famous examples of one country stealing an ability to produce strategic weapons and so altering the balance of power between countries. The intrigues that follow from attempts to understand the strengths of neighboring countries can themselves become significant influences in international politics.

When we analyze present-day border conflicts, the basic model this paper is presenting encourages following how countries on both sides of a border perceive the neighbor's strength. Not only is

perception of strength influenced by actual strength, there also numerous perception issues. Conflicts across borders have occurred both because of differences in strength and because of errors in perception.

Other factors such as ideology or religious fanaticism are possibly rarely involved, but for purposes of analysis border conflict is presumed to follow a rational choice model. There are, however, conditions that are related to national pride that may be rational as they influence national self-esteem. A country's self-esteem is difficult to evaluate as a rational reason. While self-esteem is an emotional factor, self-esteem is a valuable commodity improving equitable and rational deliberations on a host of issues. Attacks on national self-esteem can be considered attempts to negatively affect a state's power. Self-esteem is undeniably a power resource because of its significant influence in all sorts of strategic calculations.

Democracy is another virtuous quality often attributed to political systems. Democratic values require governments to act based upon the preferences of their citizens, often as expressed through their representatives. As long as the Democratic values are going to be extolled as highly virtuous, inevitably some border conflict is going to occur as people of one state are disposed to conflict with an adjacent state.

Instances where self-esteem is damaged to the extent that authentic democratic sentiment produces conflict could be analogized to outright provocation from one state to another. Undeniably, perceptions of power across borders are not the only factor that can influence border conflict. In some instances, provocation and aggression occur across borders that inevitably leads to response. From the theoretical perspective, states act towards one another with rational choice. Some provocations are severe enough

that response is necessary to prevent a loss of strength.

The preceding discussion is intended to convince that present border conflicts are significantly influenced by transformative ICT developments. Since perception of disparities across borders is very important in conflictual realities, ICT must be analyzed as a major variable in border conflicts. In the present day, a substantial amount of information about any situation is conveyed by ICT. The metamorphoses that occurs from technology to substantive reasoning may be affecting perceptions relevant to decisions about conflict across borders.

Arguably, ICT makes substantial changes in possible provocations across borders. The ability of countries to affect the self-esteem of other countries may have become greater as ICT becomes pervasive. In the past, the amount of communication that could be sent across borders was rather restricted. Today, in the age of globalism a vastly different situation exists. Now, substantial amounts of communication across borders is the norm.

Theoretically, the possibility exists that the vast amount of across the border communication that occurs normally between countries could suddenly turned hostile. Were ordinarily friendly messaging between states take an unexpected hostile turn, this could be viewed as extremely provocative. The dangerousness of such a shift, theoretically, could be substantial. National self-esteem could be negatively affected. Damage to national ability to reason successfully, strategically could occur. The wrath of the people as expressed through their representatives in their democratic institutions could occur.

Were conditions to be as they were before transformative ICT developments, no meaningful

provocation might have occurred. Now, though, as a massive amount of communications takes place across borders, a shift from friendly messaging to derisive commentary can have a profound effect. The possibility that derisive commentary damages respect for national achievement and diminishes self-esteem could be seen to be an attack on strategic strengths in rationalism. These possibilities did not exist before transformative ICT.

Democratic response might be an objective measure of whether shifts in commentary are adequately provocative to result in rational border conflict. Democratic virtue is to be highly prized, at least in most enlightened value systems. Shifts in friendly messaging across borders can best be seen not only as a provocation affecting self-esteem and rational strengths in strategic planning, but also as an attack upon a virtuous democracy. In such a situation, transformative ICT could itself be the cause of border conflict as one state takes a damaging hit from the neighbor across the border.

There are two basic conflicts in the present world order that are substantially border oriented and deserving of analysis as examples in this paper. The first example, is the situation prevailing between North and South Korea. Recently, a change in leadership has occurred in North Korea as the country's leader, Kim Jong Il, was replaced at his death by his son. As the son, Kim Jong Un, consolidates his power, some conflict with South Korea appears difficult to avoid. Minor provocations have already occurred between North and South Korea along the border.

A border region of Ukraine, the Crimea, has recently saw Russia seize most of the area's military bases. Popular sentiment in this area of Ukraine favored rejoining Russia. Some issues about the popularity of Russia throughout the Ukraine including Kiev have happened. Some prognostication believes that conflict is developing within the Ukraine influence by organized pro-Russian political group. Since the

EU is reluctant to take on the Ukraine, some popular sentiment may exist for economically regrouping with Russia.

Both Korean and Ukrainian conflicts are exemplary of border conflicts influenced by transformative ICT. In the Korean case, North Korea has sought to isolate its citizens from global ICT. The North Korean answer for global penetration of local culture is extreme. The government has simply removed the issue by removing citizen access to global ICT. To make this policy succeed, the North Korean government, however, must be authoritarian. As a program, North Korea's ban on global ICT is costly in cognitive terms. The negative externalities of the North Korean ban on global ICT are found in several aggressive attitudes towards neighboring countries. To the outside world the truth appears to be that only an aggressive and hostile ideological stance toward the world allows denying Internet connections.

North Korean isolationism attempts to negate the increasing globalism that ICT has produced. The logic of North Korean information economy policy could be described as product differentiation. When most of the world is seeking to be more interconnected, North Korea has sought to explain itself as a country lacking connections to the outside. In a world market where almost all competitors are attempting to succeed with global outreach, there may be a place for the opposing position. North Korea anticipates that opponents of ICT domination throughout the world will rally behind their cause.

Other countries have been gaining experience with this phenomena. Within the EU, contrasting the success and failure of Germany, France, and the United Kingdom is exemplary. Germany and France are both succeeding in terms of product differentiation and sale of the national products. These two countries have aggressively manage to project an image of their national competency to the globally

interconnected information economy. The market for French and German goods is strong and prosperity prevails at home. In contrast, the United Kingdom has experienced dismal failure in projecting a competent national image throughout the information economy. The UK has not succeeded in favorably differentiating their national product. The economy at home is terrible and the EU is required to provide funds to keep the UK together economically. The difference between the French and German case and the UK case, could be explained in terms of success and failure in differentiating national products that increasing markets for the national product.

North Korea is attempting to differentiate their national product by maintaining ICT isolationism and resisting interconnectedness. Possibly, those who resist technological determinism may find solace in the North Korean answer. North Korea's ICT policies may gain as the country is a clearly defined alternative. The risks of substantial negative externalities occurring from these programs is, however, difficult to estimate. Likely, border conflict is the inevitable result. The amount disparity North Korea is attempting to maintain across her borders questionable cannot be accomplished. The tensions across North Korea's borders are extreme as the country attempts policies greatly dissimilar from bordering countries.

The Ukrainian case is an example of reaction to hostility in the message stream across borders. Respect for the Russian perestroika achievements and democratic institutions took a sudden downturn in the beginning of 2014. After many years of communist rule, perestroika had replaced communism with the capitalist friendly socialist oriented democracy. Russian hopes for being lauded for their democratic accomplishments were not realized in the first months of 2014 when Russia hosted a winter Olympics in Sochi.

Democracy in Russia appears to have been meaningfully affronted as global ICT in early 2014 emphasized cultural difference between Russia and the rest of the world. The enthusiasm shown in the Russian parliament for Vladimir Putin's actions toward the Ukraine are a remarkable example of popular democracy. For decades the world had decried the lack of true democratic spirit in Russia. Now as 2014 begins, the world must accept a profound outpouring of popular Russian sentiment emanating from failure to respect the country's achievements in perestroika and democracy.

From the perspective of transformative ICT, the amount of interconnectedness between Russia and the world was likely a factor in the border conflict with the Ukraine. The messages Russia had been receiving globally took an unexpected turn as the country did not gain the respect they imagined they were due for their struggle to liberalize. The global affront with adequate enough to cause a popular reaction which manifested itself in the country's democratic institutions.

Pride in national political achievements led to reevaluating the European Union's rejection of the Ukraine. Transformative ICT had a major influence in this popular phenomena. In former decades, the number of people who would have followed these issues would have been few. In 2014, the attentive audience was enormous because of ICT's influence. Many thousands of people were encouraged to have political views because of ICT.

American analysis of e-government's likely development could be applied to this case. E-government is first discussed as simply providing government services. A second phase occurs as e-government is involves citizens with devising policies A third phase happens as citizens begin deliberating choices of programs. The Ukrainian border conflict shows similarities to this American analysis of the e-government's likely development. The extensive attentive audience had influence in formulating a

program for the Ukraine and in deciding to implement that program. Imagining an ICT audience that followed abuse of Russian pride and EU rejection of Ukraine is not difficult. Imagining the ICT attentive audience devising a policy answer to this situation is, also, possible.

Seeking Qualitative Data to Analyze about Border Conflict Issues

Qualitative data is not as difficult to gather as quantitative data. An advantage of qualitative methods is the diversity of ideas that qualify as data. The requirements for data useful in analyzing border conflict focus on data to explain a leadership phenomena in a closed society. The researcher is actively seeking to understand a phenomena that defies analysis because access to what is happening is unattainable.

Qualitative methods techniques including performance ethnography are ordinarily useful when the research problem is described as hindered by secrecy. The researcher must use a substantial amount of projective techniques to be able to comment on what is happening in this border conflict.

Performance ethnography is useful qualitative methods techniques for analyzing the two border conflict examples this paper has presented. When a social reality is unanalyzable, as is basically the case with the North Korea and Ukraine examples researchers could use performance ethnography . In a performance ethnography, the qualitative methods researchers work together using what knowledge they have to act out the unanalyzable elements of the social situation being analyzed. These methods allow, unanalyzable elements of the research problem to be filled in and analyzed by performance ethnography.

In designing a performance ethnography to analyze border conflict, one needs to be attentive to the

unanalyzable elements in the case being researched. Following some of the initial hypotheses this paper has set forth, one can direct research to one important issue now producing conflict. Transformative ICT proves a useful variable in theorizing about border conflict in both the North Korean and Ukrainian examples. Transformative ICT, as a variable, has explanatory power, this paper theorizes, because of the importance of information economy. Other possibly influences on border conflict, including leadership, are also more comprehensible with ICT as the focus.

Information economy explains why things work in ordering productive resources. The purpose of border conflict has been theorized to be rational in this paper's analysis; therefore, explaining conflict with emphasis on information economy can obtain results. The objective of analysis of these border conflicts is to improve the realism with which they are perceived. Both conflicts have authentic potential to significantly reorder international realities. The North Korean and Ukrainian cases could develop so as to produce substantially different global reality. Both conflicts are frightening in that the eventual outcomes are potentially more dramatic and substantial than ordinarily accepted. Results from analysis provide useful insights into the principal dynamics of these cases.

Connecting transformative ICT with the rationalism of information economy is effective theorizing because several crucial issues are included in analysis. By theorizing that conflict is rational, the relative variables are delimited. Information economy suggests variables related to ICT and making technology work. These variables combine some determinants of attaining national economic success. Few measures of rationalism in conflict are more adept than those associated with rational economic success.

Maintaining border conflict is rational is upholding one of two ideas. Conflict along the border is an

adjustment somewhat like occurs along a geological fault line. The second possibility is that conflict is destined to lead to the aggrandizement of the weaker state by the stronger state. Information economy gains may happen as border conflict harmonizes the two states. Alternatively, forcibly combining the resources of the two states may make national improvements in information economy. Both of these outcomes can be seen as rational.

Qualitative methods claim the ability to research issues not readily researchable with traditional quantitative methods. In researching unanalyzable situations, the projective techniques of qualitative methods are frequently the only techniques that produce reasonable results. A technique with similarity to performance ethnography is the idea this paper presents for analyzing the North Korean and Ukrainian situations.

This paper likes Planet Romeo as useful in producing the qualitative data needed to analyze the North Korean and Ukrainian border conflicts. Planet Romeo is a gay oriented matchmaking/dating/meeting service with headquarters in Berlin and a data center in Amsterdam. Planet Romeo has been online since October 2002. The first years of Planet Romeo's operation the services based in Berlin. In September 2006, data operations of Planet Romeo were moved to Amsterdam. Planet Romeo has more than 6,740,000 registered profiles and 1,389,150 active users worldwide. There are a large number of users on all continents with the predominant number in Europe.

Planet Romeo offers features to those who access their website that assists gay people in locating people of similar interests. The service is not to be sophisticated enough and have a large enough database to allow sophisticated matchmaking/dating/meeting reasons between people. Planet Romeo allows messaging and photo sharing between people. The complexity of the service is impressive as

connections are possible that otherwise would be difficult to establish, and because photo sharing accomplishes quality initial meetings.



Planet Romeo's OpeningScreen

The qualitative methods possibilities for Planet Romeo for better understanding the Russian and Korean leaders' reasons for creating tension along their borders are substantial. The technique I would use to study these border conflicts is a combination of performance ethnography and narrative. The Planet Romeo website offers an excellent place to begin this analysis.

Using performance ethnography I would encourage researchers of different expert levels to impersonate the North Korean and Russian leader interfacing with Planet Romeo's matchmaking/dating/meeting capability. The qualitative researchers would assume the role of either the North Korean leader or the Russian leader.

Using Planet Romeo's search interfaces, the researcher would create a narrative of the fake leader's

search of the database for his exact choice in men. This would be possible because Planet Romeo offers the user serious choices before allowing messaging with prospective friends. The screen activity of the researcher performing the role of the political leader could be saved and analyzed as data.

For the purpose of creating something analogous to the transcriptions of verbal speech that qualitative methods has long approved, several researchers could manipulate Planet Romeo's interface all with the same purpose. Thus, a series of recordings of screen activity on Planet Romeo could be created. The number of these screen recordings and how many researchers were used could increase based on the resourcefulness of the research project. Similarly, the expert strength of the person imitating the political leader could be improved by using people with greater expert knowledge of the countries and personalities being portrayed.

The results would be a series of narratives created with performance ethnography techniques. These narratives attempting to imitate how the North Korean leader or the Russian leader would seek to accomplish matchmaking/dating/meeting on Planet Romeo would provide data for qualitative methods analysis. Narrative is a very broad term in qualitative methods and includes anything that has story like properties clearly the narratives based on record screen activity for researchers interfacing with Planet Romeo could qualify and qualitative methods narrative.

Narrative is a well understood qualitative methods technique. There is a substantial literature that discusses analyzing narrative. Ideas could be drawn from this literature to enable a sophisticated analysis of the narratives in form of recordings of screen activity that had been created. Some technique analogous to hermeneutics could be used.

Interpretivism would eventually work with the analysis of narratives that had been produced. The qualitative methodologist would use his aptitudes to devise his results from the analysis of the screen recordings. The skillful qualitative methodologist could make some valuable observations about the border conflict along the North Korean borders and conflict between the Ukraine and Russia.

Qualitative Method's Potential Analysis of Border Conflict

The use of narrative is an orthodox qualitative methods technique. Whatever gains the qualitative methodologies ordinarily anticipates can be realized from this research design. The research design works from a series of narrative presentations of the political leader's personality created by performance ethnography. The qualitative methodologist then utilizes these narratives to make observations about why there is border conflict.

One substantial advantage of this methodology is that the technique has prima facie validity. The purpose of the study is to explore why a political leader wants border conflict. Ordinary explanations would like to know more about what influences the political leader's actions. What sort of factors are dominant and decisive in the leader's choice of alternatives? How is the leader's disposition towards different occurrences understood? The analysts of the political leader's behavior want to know whether the leader reacts in any unusual way when presented with situational choices.

For decades, people's reaction to gay situations have been understood as a valid indicator of stability. The proposed methodology attempts to explain how political leaders react to a matchmaking/dating/meeting gay situation. The performance ethnography researchers who imitated the

political leader's behavior are valuably devising insights about the political leader's personality.

Rational expectations about the political leader's personality and how he values political stability could be better understood using this methodology.

This technique is seeking to explain how rational political leaders are in border conflict situations. This paper has defined rationality in economic terms. The information economy's interconnectedness, globalism, and emphasis on using technology have been used to evaluate economic rationality. That observation has been made that differentiating the national product can be effective in promoting countries rational strengths. Success with the narratives about political leaders behavior would like to see some comments about whether leaders are likely the economically rational.

Using the Internet website Planet Romeo possibly is usefully in keeping the paper's analysis together with transformative ICT. The implications for transformative ICT affecting border conflict have been discussed in this paper. The technique for understanding border conflict places substantial situational emphasis on the ICT environment. The paper's methodology wants to know as much as possible about the political leaders'adjustment to the ICT environment.

The paper develops the perspective on border conflicts that wants to know whether the leader's reaction to ICT confounds border crises. As the information economy emphasizes the importance of ICT, this paper's conflictual analysis seeks to devise a methodology that places substantial emphasis on ICT.

Because of the increasing importance of ICT reasons this technique is a reasonable one for connecting analysis to some dominant realities in the social environment.

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