

Technology as an Unmediated Cultural Broker: Reflections on the Production and Performance of the Humanities and the Arts in the Lusophone African Diaspora

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This paper interrogates the role of open source and social networking applications as platforms and as teaching tools on and about identity and social context related to the Lusophone Africa Diaspora. Internet-based applications that promote user-generated content and self-publication are reflections of the production of culture. Ephemeral content in such content providers as *YouTube*, *Facebook*, *Flickr* and others are rich sources of online ethnographic and qualitative information. This content exemplifies a transnational connection linking representations of the humanities and the arts to identity and social contexts. Within this open unmediated communication, temporal realities are formed. This paper focuses on the meanings behind the use of select web 2.0 tools by those who produce the content as well as by those who are informed by it. How can these publishing forms be used for knowledge creation? Online examples are drawn from Lusophone Africans artists, writers, photographers, and producers.