Mobilizing Action in French Cooking Shows

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As anyone who has prepared food together with others could tell you, kitchens can be rather tight spaces. Kitchens on the set of French cooking shows are even tighter spaces, with the participant interactions in them further restricted in that certain individuals present during the production of a cooking show (like camera operators) usually cannot be addressed during filming. This research investigates the ways in which a chef recruits the assistance of a co-host while also directing the unaddressable participants on the set, all while smoothly providing cooking instructions for the overhearing audience during a live shoot. Perhaps surprisingly, the recruitments of assistance rarely contain commands, but instead consist of descriptions of actions that the speaker is in fact undertaking or about to undertake. Such “action combinations” are economical in that they can be simultaneously directed to two different coparticipants, each of whom will hear it differently depending on their role in the interactional setting: at the same time that a speaker’s action combination recruits a co-host to assist the speaker, the camera operator orients to it such that they anticipate the speaker’s upcoming move and react accordingly.
A Flood of Tweets

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Have you ever thought about the number of tweets that are generated during a crisis situation such as flooding, that happens over an extended period of time? There are literally thousands and sometimes millions of tweets, if you total all tweets in the various hashtags used by different stakeholders such as citizens, news media, government officials, and relief agencies. Curious about what people were saying, I looked at a sample of tweets during major flooding in India and the Philippines. I used a convenience sample of 600 tweets in two of the most popular hashtags in the two countries on a specific day during the two crisis situations. I found that many were offering help; providing information updates such as on weather, power outages, road closures; issuing warnings and telling others where they could take shelter. Others were seeking information and requesting for help. Some complained that the information provided was not accurate. Sharing of relevant, timely and accurate information empowers users and helps better mobilize resources during crisis situations. Based on such information, national disaster relief plans can incorporate guidelines for social media use during emergency situations.
Peer Mentor Circles for International Graduate Students

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Approximately one million international students pursue graduate degrees in the U.S. each year. Their participation in higher education is important as diversity has become a focus for many higher education institutions. International graduate students contribute to the U.S. classroom through their cultural diversity and global perspectives, which can increase awareness and appreciation for other cultures among domestic students, staff, and faculty. Unfortunately, international graduate students encounter a myriad of challenges as they transition to academic and personal life in the U.S., such as navigating a new educational system, adjusting to American culture, coping with homesickness and academic stressors. If unaddressed, these challenges can lead to depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Research shows that social support systems offered by the host institution can ease the transition to graduate school in the U.S. and create a sense of belonging among international students on campus. My research explores the utilization of a concept that is commonly used in the workplace called peer mentor circles to create a social support system among international students to increase their personal and academic success.
Parasocial Relationships: Examining Viewers’ Connections with Characters in Television Series

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Today, audience members have numerous ways to view episodes of their favorite television series. Binge-watching is on the rise due to the extensive variety of streaming services available to viewers. This type of viewing experience is impacting audience members’ connections with characters in television series. These connections that are formed are considered parasocial relationships (PSRs). PSRs are described as one-sided relationships in which an individual develops an attachment towards a character being portrayed through the media they are consuming. This study examines the strength of viewers’ PSRs with characters in both scripted and reality television series, and it evaluates PSRs between viewers and characters when a series is viewed on a weekly basis and when it is binge-watched. It also assesses whether the gender of a viewer and series’ character has an impact on PSRs.