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Date: Mon, 03 Feb 92 12:00:45 CST

From: Sandra Braman <BRAMAN@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu>

To: George Gerbner <FGG@asc.upenn.edu>

In-reply-to: Your message of 31 Jan 92 16:10:27 EST

George: I like aspects of your idea of "Instant History" very much, but would like to think about it a bit to give a more measured response. You are actually talking about several different processes simultaneously -- the information-gathering process, the decision-making process, the record-keeping process. I'd probably want to treat them separately, and then discuss various ways of linking them together to meet the goals and basic features of your concept. Don't know if I told you, but my work in this defense area is going to be significantly stepped up now that I am working with a fellow who spent 12 years in Marine Intelligence, several as a special advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. We're beginning to work together on what a global media system would look like, as linked to a global surveillance system with information to be shared by citizens (as well as governments) from all nations in the world.

Will keep an eye out for Gulf War-related books. If you have a group that you think it might be appropriate to write about together, let me know. I'm favoring review essays in JofC, exploring specific themes through several related books, taking up to 3000 words or so. Would you be willing to do a review essay of books related to coverage of the war, and we can both keep our eyes open for books over the next couple of months before setting a final list of books to be covered?

I'm also putting together a panel on the defense aspects of/constraints upon information policy for the next Telecommunications Policy Research Conference. (old Airlie House). That is, putting a proposal together which will be rather favorably received, if you're interested.

My apologies for any inconvenience that the U of Colorado at Boulder may have caused you on my behalf. They had explicitly assured me that no one would be contacted until the short list point, at which point I would be called first to see if my name was still in the hat (it wasn't, and I'd gone in only reluctantly to begin with.) They never contacted me. Sorry. Sandra Braman

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Date: Wed, 05 Feb 92 11:44:43 CST

From: Sandra B <BRAMAN@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu>

To: George Gerbner <FGG@asc.upenn.edu>

In-reply-to: Your message of 05 Feb 92 11:21:44 EST

George -- The one thing that makes me nervous in the way you talk about Instant History is the happy ending part -- the aesthetic urge towards orchestration of a complete picture with perhaps an epiphany feel to it. Aesthetics works in chess, but not really well on the battlefield. Yes, let's keep talking forward about this.

I misunderstood your earlier message expressing book reviewing desires. I do think an essay looking at the information policy aspects of the coup attempt would be a terrific idea. But would want to do that at least six months down the road -- the issue currently in press has a long review essay by John Downing on books dealing with glasnost. The whole thing is truly mesmerizing, but we may not want to reflect that quite so clearly editorially However -- that would give us time to watch what comes out, look at a number of books, and spend a little time reaching agreement on which books might be included. Perhaps we could work towards an August deadline; between now and then, let both of us keep an eye out. I'll keep ordering and pursuing books for you, sending them along as they arrive. On your part, perhaps you could let me know what books you currently are thinking of as appropriate for inclusion, and if there are any in particular you'd like me to pursue for you. Your Gulf war book just coming out, of course, must be reviewed.

A paper for the TPRC panel that would compare the US Gulf War and the coup experience in the former Soviet Union would be particularly fascinating in today's shifting security environment. Would you be able to provide a 250 word abstract of what you would be discussing by the end of this month?

Re Colorado -- I don't know why, with all we know about cholesterol now, I have such a penchant for egg on my face. Bottom line is, apparently Alleman has the position, and long before that point I'd realize my interest in changing institutions had passed zero as it headed down into the world of negative numbers.

Cliff Christians and I, by the way, were just admiring your energy SB

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Date: Thu, 06 Feb 92 15:28:15 CST
From: Sandra B <BRAMAN@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu>
To: George Gerbner <FGC@asc.upenn.edu>
In-reply-to: Your message of 05 Feb 92 16:07:13 EST

George -- Haven't read a message with comments interspersed before . . . I like it. You at least clearly have more energy than most of us in figuring out these newfangled things!

TPRC is Sept. 12 -14, in Solomons, MD.

And while we're getting all this business out -- would it be possible to get an abstract of an environmental paper for the IAMCR conference, as we discussed earlier? March 1 the final deadline I'm told by Kleinwachter, who is now open to the idea of a panel devoted exclusively to environmental matters, shifted away from the biotech idea that didn't light enough fires. And I promise I won't ask anything more! Sandra Braman

results of your work so we can proceed. Let us know if you have any questions or problems. See you next Tuesday.

cc:Nejat
* BREAK **

File name = SP/SANDRA

Uncle. I can see your confusion, and I wasn't helping any. The sequence was this: This woman who has charted a research program to lie along the edge, has finally fallen over. The idea of looking at the intellectual property rights of genetic information is I think an extremely important one for the field, but the call for papers got absolutely zero response, despite some energetic tickling. Guess it will have to wait until my own writing in this area appears. Meanwhile, talked with Wolfgang Kleinwachter, who suggested changing the topic of the panel, given the problem. My thought, in trying to aim as close to the original intent as possible, was essentially to put together an environmental panel -- you introducing the issues you're concerned with, Chuck Whitney talking about some studies he's done on biases in environmental reporting, a paper on environmentalism and the alternative public sphere in the US and in Germany. And then my paper on the legal aspects I started with. But this all feels very much like pushing the river, which I try to make a practice of avoiding. Bottom line -- let's let it go.

In fact, my ex-husband's final crisis in January and his death have been more exhausting than any expectations. In addition to "normal" related matters, he was a major literary figure and so there are already issues of archival placement, a Festschrift, a major memorial event in NY at the end of May, etc.. This may be the summer to stay home and write a book. Now looks like no Sao Paulo at all, unfortunately. "Had we world enough and time"

I really appreciate what is experienced here as your support and willingness to at least consider participating in this panel. Thanks. Sandra Braman

Dear Sandra: I think you are doing more important things both on the personal and professional levels than to put together that panel for IAMCR.

Panels should be organized around already existing convergence of major research, or it won't work. So I think you made the right decision, for all the reasons you note, and more. Let us then continue to communicate about the other things. George.

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