Media Representations of Chinese Elderly Digital Refugees

in the Age of Health Code

被時代拋棄的人：健康碼時代下中國老年數字難民群體的媒體再現

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As the health code has become an effective means of controlling Covid-19 in mainland China, the digital divide in society has been further torn apart, and some elderly people who cannot integrate into the era are excluded and represented by the media as helpless and angry elderly digital refugees. Through the critical discourse analysis of specific texts, this article aims to explain the context in which the media representation of elderly digital refugees produces their own textual metaphors,

and further reflects modern discourses such as digitization and technology. This kind of representation is produced in the context of digitalization and the aging society in mainland China today, reflecting that members of society, including the elderly, have to face the digital and modern society, otherwise they will encounter the dual exclusion of society and numbers. In a deeper sense, the elderly digital refugees are not just a metaphor for the neglected remainder of life in the digital age but are also a microcosm of ourselves who are trapped in a systemic siege without knowing it.

隨著健康碼成為中國大陸對於新冠肺炎疫情管控的有效手段，社會中原有的數字鴻溝也因此被進一步撕裂，無法融入時代的部分老年人們則被排除在外，並被媒體再現為無助、憤怒的老年數字難民形象。本文通過對具體文本進行批判性話語分析，以闡釋老年數字難民媒體再現在何種語境下生產及自身的文本隱喻，並進一步反思數位化與科技等現代性話語。這類再現在當今中國大陸數位化與老齡化的語境下得以生成，體現出包括老年群體在內的社會成員已必須跑步進入數字與現代社會，否則將會遭遇社會與數字的雙重排除。而在更深層次的意義上，老年數字難民不只是數字時代被忽略的餘數生命的隱喻，更是深陷系統圍城困境而不自知的我們的縮影。