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### **Listening and Recognition**

The politics of recognition insists that cultural injustices of misrecognition and disrespect are as significant as, and inextricably intertwined with, injustices in the distribution of resources and rights. Although rarely deployed in media research, the recognition framework suggests that media justice requires not only access to resources and to airtime, but depends also on the value and attention afforded different voices, forms of media and cultural productions. In this paper I argue that the listening framework expands the politics of recognition beyond policy interventions and the affirmation of group rights, instead highlighting ongoing processes, complex negotiations and interconnections across differences. Recent feminist scholarship on the other hand has examined 'listening' as a crucial metaphor for rethinking political theory and communication studies, which have usually focused on 'speaking'. Susan Bickford's (1996) work on listening in political theory turns our attention to intersubjectivity and agonistic respect, while Krista Ratcliffe's (2004) re-appropriation of 'eavesdropping' provides strategies for shifting unearned privileges. This paper explores possibilities for expanding the media justice agenda beyond a conventional emphasis on speaker's rights through listening for privilege and shifting entrenched hierarchies of attention. I argue that media justice requires not only the recognition of marginalised 'others', but also a recognition of naturalised privileges, colonial histories and a commitment to decentring conventions of proximity and distance, interest and relevance.