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The Mediatization of “Bare life”: Negotiating the Mediation of the “Voiceless” through Robert Lepage’s *Lipsynch* and Nicholas D. Kristof’s Investigative Column

In Robert Lepage’s latest theatre production *Lipsynch*, one theme of the production sees the director attempting to give voice to characters that are “voiceless”, disenfranchised or alienated in the global political economy. In another form of media advocacy, New York Times journalist Nicholas D. Kristof gives voice to the “voiceless” by partaking in investigative journalism which mediatizes the sufferings and occasional triumphs of his subjects.

A key aspect of these attempts lays in the mediatization of global inequalities of our neoliberal milieu. This paper attempts to problematize the above mediations by analyzing the works through Giorgio Agamben’s treatise on “bare life” where he suggests that these mediations cannot help but fall into the trap of mediatizing its subjects in a state of perpetual victimhood. I argue in the paper that both Kristof and Lepage present in their subjects a decidedly “first world” perspective of Agamben’s idea of the “bare life” that needs to be saved. How then do we theorize the mediatization of “bare life” in its different forms as a necessary but fraught promise? In other words, are these engagements paradoxically re-inforcing the very social exclusions and delineations that they are trying to bridge ?