Front Matter

Abstract

On May 30th, 2017, a sit-at-home order was planned by organisers of the struggle for a sovereign Biafran state. This protest was largely mobilised via social computing sites such as Twitter and Facebook and was deemed a success due to the unprecedented level of compliance across the south-eastern region of Nigeria. However, this success did not correspond with the patterns deduced from the #Biafra Twitter network. The network was lacking in terms of poor coherence in their message, shabbily crafted narratives etc. So, could there be something more at play in driving the success of these social media inspired campaigns, and would that deliver the long-term goals of independence for the 'Biafran state'? This research explores these issues using NodeXL analytic tool to analyse the interaction of these groups on the #Biafra Twitter network. The findings are then discussed using Adaptive structuration theory to explore the existing gaps in the impact of social computing sites on self-determination groups in south eastern Nigeria. By doing so, I deduced that, the interaction between socio-political entities and technology is an iterative one between technology, tasks and groups understanding of the two. Furthermore, while social computing sites were used as an avenue to mobilise people, the success was a product of existing societal perceptions on the self-determination struggle in south eastern Nigeria and if these perceptions continued there is little hope for actualising their agenda.