Celebrities in Haiti and depiction of their relief efforts in media

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ABSTRACT

In the last decade, celebrities’ philanthropic activism has emerged into the global phenomena. In order to raise the awareness about the global problems and suffering of others, as well as increase public funding of humanitarian organizations, celebrity figures are becoming ever more representative for the humanitarianism issues between the global North and South. Whereas celebrity interventions were previously considered to be important for media studies only, growing body of academic research admits it significance for the international development studies and global issues of communication. Through analysis of the most prominent researchers in the field of celebritized involvement in the global development, as well as independent discourse and semiotic analysis, this thesis proves the emergence of celebrities as new global actors of the development. The main objective of this paper is to both evaluate and debate on how celebritized humanitarians are depicted in the media in comparison to Haitians in immediate aftermath of earthquake in 2010. The results show that despite good intentions, the analysis shows that the images, which are being manifested by the celebrities within the North-South relations, are heavily criticized for inhibiting the development of Haiti and expanding the global inequality. Nevertheless, celebrities are not acting in own interests only and are suppose to present themselves in accordance to political forces and societal frames of reality of the global North.
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1. INTRODUCTION

During the last two decades, charity organizations and humanitarian individuals have been risking their lives to save others in emergency regions around the world. Some of these stories have appeared in the media as front-page news praising heroism of celebrities that are actively involved into humanitarian aid, others received less attention. Although humanitarianism is not a new phenomenon in the world, celebritized aid has emerged quite recently and is receiving ever more public attention and credibility. That is why UN secretaries have already started recruiting Hollywood and other Western celebrities as Goodwill Ambassadors (Cooper, 2008). As both worldwide recognized and politically unbounded figures, celebrities are believed to raise the public awareness better than politicians by committing to “save the world” and bringing media attention to urgent problems of the developing countries, as well as stimulating “Western” developed communities to donate. One of the most prominent researchers in this field, Lisa Ann Richey believes that due to their authority, legitimacy and influence celebrities are becoming increasingly effective in reaching wider audiences and even more in having an impact on local and global processes of governance.

Nonetheless, heavy criticism is being exerted on the issue both among academic researchers and popular publicists (cf. Dieter & Kumar, 2008; Tsaliki et al, 2011; Chouliaraki, 2012; Kapoor, 2013; Brockington, 2014; Richey, 2016), parallel to the growth of beneficial role of celebrity activism. Critics claim that depiction of celebrity philanthropy in the Western mainstream media portraits corrupt representation of the Global North and Global South worlds, extremely highlighting rich Hollywood celebrities on one side and weak suffering victims on the other side. What is even more important is that celebrities intervene into the discourse of natural development of the developing countries by imposing “Western” values of consumerism, industrialism and individualism, which lead to the lack of local sovereignty. Moreover, celebrity humanitarianism is also considered to represent a giant marketing mechanism that aims to promote Hollywood celebrities, improve their reputation and raise the value of their public (brand) image than a change factor of development.
This thesis researches the problem of mediated narrative of North-South relations by exploring celebritized humanitarian efforts in post-earthquake Haiti after 2010. On the example of three prominent U.S public figures (i.e. Angelina Jolie - UN Goodwill Ambassador, actress and film director, Sean Penn - actor and founder of J/P Haitian Relief Organization and Wyclef Jean- singer with Haitian roots, founder of Yele Relief Organization), who participated in charity campaigns after Haitian earthquake in 2010, the underlying power of contemporary humanitarianism to frame global social reality and influence constructs of global development are going to be investigated by analyzing words and images of celebrities depicted by the Western media about their humanitarian actions. It will be debated whether celebrity aid and fundraising in Haiti were used as tools for either fostering development of the global Southern developing countries or on the opposite rather for increasing neo-colonial attitudes discouraging development and leading to further global inequality between the rich/powerful and poor/miserable. Thus the main research question of the thesis is following:

**RQ: How is celebrities’ humanitarianism depicted in media in comparison to Haitian population?**

In order to answer the research question, both primary and secondary research methods will be applied. The analysis of the secondary data will provide an overview of the current research findings in the field of celebrity studies and will identify, whether academics consider celebrities as new global development actors or not. The second part of the researcher includes semiotic and discourse analysis of the sample of selected entertainment visual and textual media sources. The conduction of the individual empirical research aims to evaluate and prove existing theoretical findings on a real-life example.

### 1.1 Thesis outline

This paper is organized as follows: Chapter 2 presents a literature review. The aim of the literature review is to find theoretical evidence that celebrity studies significantly contribute to the development studies and issues of global communication. In order to achieve this goal, firstly, the concepts of humanitarianism, development and the North-South relations are introduced, defined and discussed in the scope of celebrity intervention. Secondly, the term of celebrity is defined within the development studies.
Thirdly, the celebrity and humanitarianism concepts are linked together. Finally, all of the mentioned concepts are joined into a theoretical framework by analyzing and providing the key findings of the prominent researchers in the field of celebrity studies. Chapter 3 gives a brief overview of the history of Haiti. Chapter 4 discusses semiotic and discourse analysis as methodological tools. The findings from Chapter 2 are then further used to initiate, compare and discuss the results of the empirical analysis of this thesis (Chapter 5). Chapter 6 provides a conclusion of both primary and secondary research.

1.2 Relevance for the Communication for Development studies

In scope of the relevance to communication for development, this thesis aims to highlight the important challenges of contemporary journalism and media, as well organisational communication. It is easy to criticise development, yet one should first embed it as a communicative practice in the 'doing'. The thesis thus tries to explore how the communicative practice of celebrities depicted through the Western media becomes a discipline and helps to understand what is currently considered as truthful representation of the social reality. To understand what truth is, a critical look at the available informational sources can be helpful. Critical analysis of popular and academic literature helps to evaluate the reality we are living in and the biased truth we believe in, which is created and impelled by current forces of truth. Critical thinking facilitates a creation of own evaluation of reality, although it might be of subjective nature as well. Yet only due to the ability to think, evaluate and criticize, the human kind continues to develop and only so can come up with the solutions of global development problems.

Furthermore, the involvement of celebrities as new actors in presenting or representing development needs much deeper investigations than simple evaluation of goodness/badness. It needs to explore the issues of power, privilege or accountability of its participants. Hence, Communication for Development is ideally suited to critically engage into the understanding of such issues and complexities.
2. CELEBRITIES AS NEW ACTORS OF HUMANITARIANISM

2.1 Brief introduction to the concept of humanitarianism

The concept of humanitarianism refers to the constructs of social life and dates back to the early 19th century. Humanitarianism can be defined in many possible ways, however generally it is conceived as an altruistic act, which has life-saving intention under consideration of the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence (Barnett & Weiss, 2008). As claimed by J. Pictet (1979) from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) the four core principles can be enhanced by three further ones: voluntary service, unity and universality. The core principles can be briefly defined as following. Humanity considers all human beings or people. Neutrality claims that humanitarian actors should take a neutral position in the conflict, neither supporting nor opposing one of the parties. Impartiality stands for providing help to causalities regardless of their nationality, gender, age, race, religion or political position. Independence supposes that humanitarian acts should not be dependent on any financial or moral assistance from the conflict parties or other actors that are directly or indirectly interested in the outcome of the issue. (Barnett & Weiss, 2008) According to the definition of Red Cross, the funding of humanitarian agencies should rather originate from private or non-governmental donors (Pictet, 1979).

These principles are conceived as guidelines for humanitarian organizations, whose main mission is to offer relief and protection. Organizations or individuals that follow all of the mentioned principles are thus ideally humanitarian. The further are the actual intentions from the ideal, the less credible is the act of humanitarianism. In reality most organizations are incapable of achieving the idealized status of humanitarianism, hence modern social theory suggests that “the essence of humanitarianism is to save lives at risk” (Barnett & Weiss, 2008, p. 11).

The plausibility of humanitarianism is easily evident by the relief from natural disasters, such as tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes and similar. This paper focuses on the act of humanitarianism triggered by the natural disaster, namely the Haitian earthquake in 2010 (see Chapter 3). Human caused disasters such as wars, genocide and other conflicts also endanger individuals, societies or even entire nations and consequently enforce humanitarian involvement as well. Third type of humanitarianism
does not require any particular natural or human-made disaster as a prerequisite for offering help for those in need. It aims to improve overall social situation in the world by improving health care and education systems, reduce poverty and suffering, as well as eliminate violations of human rights. (ibid.)

The principles of the early humanitarianism were based mainly on providing relief from war crimes and establishing international practices, which should hold the societies strongly together (Parmelee, 1915). The break-through of humanitarianism as a concept of international relations and social studies had appeared in 1864 with the establishment of Geneva Convention and International Committee of Red Cross (Richey, 2016). The second period of humanitarianism arouse during the period of the World Wars, when most of well-known aid organizations appeared including UN, UNICEF, Caritas, Oxfam etc. As the WWII ended, inequality as a new global issue resulting from decolonization, war destruction and in turn from the emergence of a development discourse and requirement of foreign aid, received foremost attention. Through the Cold War period and till now, the third type of humanitarianism (i.e. establishing world peace, security and equality) has been prevalent. Moreover, in the current millennium humanitarianism and counterterrorism are considered as equivalent by some countries. (Barnett & Weiss, 2008)

Nevertheless, the principles of humanitarianism are subject of an intense debate by many researchers. Mainly, the principles of neutrality and independence are being speculated. Critiques (cf. Barnett & Weiss, 2008; Brockington, 2014; Richey, 2016) argue that humanitarian organizations are not unbiased actors in their deeds anymore. On the opposite, they represent the interests of the global powerful elite, who intervene into domestic affairs with the help of humanitarian missions. In addition, interventions contribute less to the development of the suffering nations, but rather increase the inequality between the global North and “others”. Political powers also play a significant role in humanitarian aid as some powers use humanitarian tricks to increase political or military pressure on the regions of interest (Barnett & Weiss, 2008). Nonetheless, according to A. de Waal (2009) humanitarian aid is incapable to solve profound political problems despite the belief of Western governments and donating people.

However, intervention of political actors in humanitarian aid is not a new phenomenon either. Acts of charity are long present in all major world religions,
including Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Although Holy Scriptum proclaims the idea of charity as a voluntary act of love and compassion, many nations have misused this idea and have exploited “humanitarian” actions as interventions for military expansion, colonization or other forms of human rights abuse (Barnett & Weiss, 2008).

The term “humanitarianism” in this paper is hence considered as act of saving lives at risks (in accordance to Barnett & Weiss, 2008), yet author of this paper does not find counterterrorism and humanitarianism as equal terms and rather agrees with critiques (i.e Richey (2016), Brockington (2014)) that humanitarianism is an act of both desirable and undesirable intervention into the development of the suffering nations. Therefore, the goal of this paper is to explore and to confirm the hypothesis of undesirable intervention how Western mainstream media interprets celebrity humanitarianism as an interference method by powerful “North” with the goal to weaken the moral and social power of developing nations, also known as “others” or the “Third World”.

The critiques of the contemporary humanitarianism studies point the attention to the complexity of humanitarian aid (as described above), at the same time celebrities are receiving ever more credits for being the new actors in the international relations (see Chapter 2.3). Hence, the political interests may be artfully covered under the colorful celebritized wrapping that aims to bring global peace and security. The empirical part of this paper (Chapter 5) explores the problem in detail.

Finally, the terms “humanitarianism”, “charity” and “philanthropy” can be generally used (and are used in this paper) as equivalent. According to Kapoor (2013), the difference between the terms lies within the fact that charity has the religious descent, while philanthropy is rather secular term, describing corporate interventions. In addition, Littler (2008) applies the term “do-gooding”, which is defined as generation of “[…] a lot of hype and PR but is relatively insignificant in relation to international and governmental policy” (p.240). Richey (2016) suggests that this is a practical definition of humanitarianism in terms of modern theory. The author of this paper agrees with Richey (2016) and hence terms “philanthropy”, “do-gooding”, “charity” and “humanitarianism” are further considered in this paper as the same.
2.2 Change, development and North – South relations

To understand the principles of celebrity humanitarianism, it is important to see the underlying factors that foster human motivation to provide or receive aid. In this scope the significance of development and willingness to change plays a notable role in shaping world inequality and hence impelling powerful actors to help weaker ones. In other words, unequal stages of development contribute to the establishment of North-South relations.

The terms North and South are commonly used by scientific and political discourse to define the nature of relationships between richer, industrialized and developed countries and poorer, less industrialized and developing countries (Krüger, 2008). Although the majority of developing countries are indeed located in the Southern Hemisphere, the division between North and South is not geographical but is rather based on diverse economic, political and social factors. Structures like GDP, productivity, unemployment, mortality rates, life expectancy and similar generate the level of country’s development. In addition, political forces that represent the nation on domestic and international level through diverse institutions, coalitions and reforms add up to the development ability. Furthermore, historical background of a country also plays a role in the development. The historical influence in developing countries in the South is clearly visible through century long colonial relationships with the North in the past and anti-colonial movements since the end of the WWII. (ibid.)

The rising power of anti-colonial activities, the breakdown of “Old Europe” into new states and escalation of former colonies during the Cold War conflict led to the establishment of the development theory as a separate academic discipline. In the context of the North-South relations, international development is understood as “aid relationships aiming to combat poverty and/or reduce economic inequality” (Richey, 2016, p.10). The modernization theory of development claims that the nature of change is universal and linear process, meaning that all countries move through similar processes from developing to developed stage. Moreover, during the process of social change developing countries imitate the characteristics of developed countries. Modernization theory views the North (i.e. Western Europe, US, Australia) as “the centres of modernity, innovation, industrialization, dynamic entrepreneurship, achievement, rationality and freedom” (Krüger, 2008, p. 4). At the same time, the South (i.e. Africa, Asia and Latin America) is characterized by “the prevalence of traditional
institutions, undeveloped divisions of labour, the lack of utilization of their own resources, overpopulation, pre-democratic structures, and the predominance of rites, rituals, and primitive customs” (ibid.).

Whereas modernization theory usually analyzes the development of the particular country, dependency theory is used to describe the relations between North and South that force the development on international scale. Dependency theory suggests that the underdevelopment of South in comparison to North is indeed created by the Northern actors who exploit the developing countries in own interests. The exploitation takes different forms such as international trade mechanisms, use of the Southern resources by large corporations or creation of financial dependency. The supporters of dependency theory believe that developing countries should cooperate with each other to increase the collective self-reliance and contribute to the development, as well as decrease the dependency from the North. This claim is absolutely opposite to the modernization theory’s followers, who believe that cooperation with the North and integration into world markets, institutions and values will bring positive changes into development. (ibid.) Unification of both theories highlights the importance of the North-South relations on the global development and justifies the intervention of the richer into poor’s’ concerns.

Among traditional international development assistance, Richey (2016) names other forms of modern development methods, including corporate social responsibility (CSR), consumption-based humanitarianism (i.e. “brand aid”), remittances and investment. Therefore, humanitarian aid also plays an important role in the North – South relations and global development trends.

There is a significant number of institutions that constitute to the development of the global South and that mostly originate from the global North. The main goal of those institutions is to enhance global awareness of the Southern concerns and generate funding for their work in the development field. However, global public in general is weakly attracted to the problems of the developing countries and is not likely to engage into charity (Cameron & Haanstra, 2008). Hence, humanitarian organizations “brand” their donors and aid receivers. Cameron & Haanstra (2008) suggest that the best contemporary method to market development is to make it sexy. The image of the Northern donor is presented as sexy, sophisticated and successful in order to stimulate
mainstream publics to admire and follow it, hereby increasing general awareness and funding for the organizations.

Popular media and political figures are ideal candidates for adding sex appeal to the development and the North-South relations. Attractive public figures are well – recognizable both in the North and in the South and have thus higher degree of influence on the global relations. Smith & Yanacoupulos (2004) believe that celebrities are new public faces of development that create new global political and economic power relations. Therefore, celebrities are important component of the discursive dissimilarity between the global North and South, and are contributing communicators of global relations and development.

Furthermore, the representation of celebrity humanitarians in mainstream media incorporates aspects of modernization theory in scope of highlighting the “real” Northern quality of life, in particular freedom, power, modernization, innovation and entrepreneurship in contrast to undeveloped Global South. In this sense, media chooses the “best” from the Northern society as representative images of the North. At the same time, mediated responses of disasters (here, in particular of Haiti) reflect the undevelopment of the Global South with its overpopulation, lack of resources, primitive customs and so on. It often pictures the poorest ones, whose only hope is to receive help from donors in accordance to dependency theory As Balaji (2011) argues, such contrast between Global North and South is used by mainstream journalism or modern leaders to mediate the discourse of pity and expose the existing power relations. In this sense, Western media confronts two extremes of both worlds with the goal to explicitly underline the dissimilarity between them. Therefore, depictions of North-South relations in the mainstream journalism has a significant influence on the international development as it builds up the images of “others” in minds of the Northern audience.

In accordance to the above mentioned theories of Richey (2016), Balaji (2011) Cameron & Haanstra (2008) and Smith & Yanacoupulos (2004), author of this paper draws a connection between the role of celebrities in humanitarian interventions and the governance of North-South relations. The celebrities are hence viewed as corrupt but “sexy” representation of the Northern “perfect” world, which has power over the poor and dependent Global South, whereas the attractiveness of celebrities plays a major role in building public opinion and justification of intervention.
2.3 The term “celebrity” in the development studies

First of all, it is necessary to define and distinguish celebrity as an academic term within the scope of the development studies. Is being a celebrity means also being famous? Do celebrities belong to the entertainment industry only and are exclusively wealthy? Indeed one does not need to be a talented actress or brilliant singer to become a celebrity nowadays. On the opposite any public figure, which attracts the attention of certain number of offline or online followers may be considered as a celebrity. Brockington (2014) defines celebrity as “public appearances, which are materially beneficial, and where the benefits are enjoyed by the celebrity themselves and by other stakeholders whose job is to manage the appearance of that celebrity” (pp. 90-91). Hence, according to his definition, celebrities are people who are intentionally looking and constantly working for public/media attention. Under this category fall entertainment industry figures (e.g. actors, musicians, models, fashion bloggers etc.), as well as politicians, social activists or environmentalists. Yet, random “one-day stars”, who might have been interviewed by the reporters cannot be considered as celebrities. Figures that appear in the media unintentionally (e.g. criminal, witnesses) are not defined as celebrities as well.

Another definition of celebrity is introduced by Rojek (2001) as following: a public figure receives a status of celebrity if he/she possesses “ascribed greatness (enjoyed by royalty), achieved renown (won by great athletes) and attributed glory (afforded by the media to reality TV stars)”. Turner (2004) defines a concept more broadly by making a distinction that celebrities are public figures whose private lives are more interesting for the society than their professional achievements. Additionally, Boltanski & Thevenot (1991) define celebrity as a figure, who has a widespread reputation, is recognized in public, has success, is distinguished from others, and has opinion leaders, journalists and the media as own testimonials (pp. 222-30).

Summing up definitions brought up above, celebrity is thus a public figure (incl. real, or inanimate, individuals or groups), whose main goals is to perform for profit and to maximize public attention to its professional and private life. This definition will be further used in this paper. Furthermore, celebrities, which are mentioned in this paper both include entertainment industry figures (e.g. Angelina Jolie, Wyclef Jean), as well as politicians (e.g. Bill Clinton) and intellectuals (e.g. Bill Gates).
Celebrity is not a new phenomenon - human societies have always honored certain personalities with fame. Hence, enhanced interest towards famous people is not a product of modern highly digitalized world, but is one of the aspects of historical development of humanity. Nevertheless, the degree of importance and the opportunity of intrusion into celebrities’ life have dramatically increased. For instance, popular media like Forbes.com claims that “We are now so celebrity-obsessed that when someone orders a baby shower invitation, celebrity gossip websites and advertisers think it is important.” (Goodson, 2013, p. n.p.a), showing hereby nearly abnormal extolment of media figures.

The presence of celebrity triggers not only the interest of broader public, but also of academics. Some remarkable researchers (cf. Richey (2016); Brockington (2014)) claim that celebrities became the new actors in the North-South relations. Enjoying the status of privileged, celebrities nowadays engage into many diverse life aspects, including humanitarian and development interventions. Through these interventions, relationships between celebrity industry and the development industry are becoming ever more “intensive, formalized, systematically organized and competitive (in that charities are competing to get access to celebrities)” (Brockington, 2014, p. 95). Hence, celebrities have the power to influence development and communication issues between developed North and developing South alongside with traditional political and socioeconomic actors.

The author of this paper completely agrees with findings of Brockington (2014) about the growth of importance of celebrities as development actors because of their bright scope of public activities, which reach well beyond their initial professional industry (i.e. entertainment). Being adored by the mainstream public, celebrities smoothly integrate in all aspects of society, where their ideas or viewpoints are well heard and somewhat accepted by majority. The celebrity humanitarianism is also becoming an individual industry, where celebrities compete with each other in order to gain a better coverage and representation in mainstream media, and in turn the best image in minds of their followers.

While some academics still debate whether celebrity can be attributed as a theoretical concept beyond media studies, most researchers (cf. L.A. Richey, L. Chouliaiaki, A. F. Cooper and I. Kapoor) agree that celebrity studies is a discipline within the scope of development research. Due to their recognition among Western
audiences, some entertainment celebrities may be considered more trustworthy than politicians. Whereas some politicians are only mighty within one country, big celebrities are well-known globally. Thus, they have the power to bring the promoted message to the world fast and remarkably. When celebrities engage into humanitarian issues acting as aid celebrities, charities, aid ambassadors, celebrity diplomats (Richey & Ponte, 2014), they become promoters of international development within North-South context. In this way, celebrities shape a type of global government that rapidly increases awareness of Western societies to international problems (Wilson, 2011). Thus, celebrities contribute to the understanding of how North-South relations are conceived and developed both from the viewpoint of Western and “Other” societies. Being the “visible part of the development” (Richey, 2016) celebrity studies are hence an important contemporary construct in the development studies.

2.4 Celebrity humanitarianism

“The phenomenon of celebrity activism in international affairs has become too serious to be ignored” (Dieter & Kumar, 2008, p. 260). However, researchers debate about the nature of celebrity humanitarian contributions. Only few (cf. (Cooper, 2008)) conceive these as a positive force for development and for decreasing world inequality. The majority (as well as author of this paper) assumes the opposite:

“Celebrity acts of humanitarianism both reaffirm and perpetuate negative discourses and representations of developing countries as places of poverty, dependency, underdevelopment, and helplessness. Charity has never helped any country escape underdevelopment.” (Rene Preval in Katz, 2013, p. 10)

In other words, celebrity humanitarianism intervenes into discourse of natural development of the developing countries, preserves and even increases stereotyping between “richer” West and “poorer” South and imposes “Western” values of consumerism, industrialism, individualism and bank-dependence. In addition, some critics claim that celebrity philanthropy is nothing more than a giant marketing mechanism of celebrities themselves.

Nonetheless, the thoughtful discussion of the perceived celebrity contributions to the global development will follow later in this paper (see Chapter 2.5). Forehand, the author of this paper will draw a link between humanitarianism and celebrity, as well as define types and forms of modern celebrity acts for development issues.
As already mentioned above, celebrity humanitarianism has been particularly trending in the past decade and has developed to numerous forms. As Brockington (2014) claims, the industry of celebritized charity has become more organized and systematic in the last decade than ever before. First of all, almost every UN agency and NGO has at least one celebrity ambassador. For instance, Angelina Jolie has served as the UN Goodwill Ambassador from 2001 to 2011 and was later appointed as Special Envoy for Refugee Issues by UNHCR for her dedicated service (UNHCR, 2016). UN Secretaries have started recruiting Hollywood and other Western celebrities as Goodwill Ambassadors with the goal to raise the awareness about the global problems and suffering of others, as well as shape global public opinion of UN missions (Cooper, 2008).

As both worldwide recognized and politically unbounded figures, celebrities are believed to raise the public commitment to “save the world” by bringing the media attention to the urgent problems of the developing countries and stimulating “Western” developed communities to donate. Additionally, to raising fundraising, celebrities promote general awareness, as well as engage and reward other supporters of the humanitarian events. In order to do so, they commit field visits (e.g. in scope of her UN participation, A. Jolie has committed more than 40 field visits around the world to people displaced by conflict), they design products for raising donations (e.g. S. Johansson designed handbags for Oxfam to help Haiti), they make contacts to powerful people both in North and South possible (e.g. Claudia Schiffer as a spokesperson for Make Poverty History) and participate in charity events, such as live entertainment shows that aim to collect donations (e.g. Bob Geldof organized Live 8 charity concerts with the cooperation of Make Poverty History). (Brockington, 2014)

Not all celebrities work for or cooperate with the agencies; some establish their own NGO’s or humanitarian agencies. The goal of those private foundations is debatable, since it is unclear whether such are established in own interests or to truly contribute to the development process. Sean Penn has founded J/P Haitian Relief Organization, which managed to receive a grant worth $8.75 million from The World Bank and Government of Haiti and to fundraise further $80,000 from private donations in order to relocate people living in displacement camps after the earthquake in 2010. (J/P HRO, 2015)
Another American public figure with Haitian background, Wyclef Jean has also established a foundation “Yele Haiti” to raise donations for relief. Yet from $16 millions that he had collected (whereas first million was collected just over 24 hours through Twitter), less has actually reached Haiti. In 2010 W. Jean was accused for misusing the funds his organization had raised. It is estimated that W. Jean had spent $9 million alone on office rent and transport costs in private jets, as well as paid half-a-million salaries to his family members, who were also part of the organization. (Sean, 2010)

Thirdly, there are agencies that search for charitable activities for their clients or vice versa look for celebrititized clients to participate in humanitarian actions. Major organizations promote charitable activities to the Hollywood and other celebrities, as well as set up and manage the organizational issues. In this case, celebrities only need to invest certain amount of financial funds, so that the organization will act in their name and choose the most “image-making” disasters. Brockington (2014) names The Global Philanthropy, The Cause Effect Agency and Independent Celebrity Liaison as some of the most successful agencies in this field. Organizations that hunt for celebrity philanthropists work either individually or in cooperation with NGO’s, who now also have their own liaison officers. As “influential” celebrities are limited, NGO’s now have to compete in order to get a profitable cooperation contract with an artist, who is credible and relevant. That led to an establishment of agencies that advise NGOs how to cooperate with celebrities or share access to the well-known public figures. (Brockington, 2014)

Summing up, this subchapter has proved that the celebrity humanitarianism is growing to a significant industry that includes celebrities, PR managers, NGOs, private agencies and foundations, donors and other actors. The “hunt” for celebrities by NGOs signifies even more the evidence that celebrities are becoming new important actors in development issues. Katz (2013) claims that humanitarianism industry should arrange more celebrity involvement in the nearest future. At the same time, celebrities need to realize that liaison with experts, researchers and aid workers will ensure a sustainable and visible impact for the development. Hence, celebrity humanitarianism may be researched as an independent study field in scope of the development studies.
2.5 Understanding the nature of celebrity humanitarianism

After having defined all of the main concepts in celebrity humanitarianism studies, it is possible to link them together to a theoretical framework, which will be further used for an empirical analysis of this paper. In order to develop a theoretical framework, the findings of the prominent researchers in the field of celebrity aid studies are going to be provided and analyzed in this chapter.

Richey (2016) suggests that research on celebrity humanitarianism should be grounded on three main theories:

1) international development studies with a focus on interdisciplinary literature on aid celebrities;
2) media and communication studies with a focus on celebrities and representation of “others”; and
3) global studies with a focus on the research links to new actors and alliances in North–South relations.

Richey’s framework for analyzing celebrity humanitarianism explains clearly author’s standpoint in seeing the necessity of researching the involvement of celebrities into presenting development through public media, in scope of Communication for Development project. Richey helps to draw a connection between international development, media and global studies, which join to a critical field of celebrities for development studies. Before mentioned literature findings prove the growth of importance of celebrities as new global actors. Further literature findings in this chapter support author’s opinion of corrupt representation of the Global South by Northern celebrities through Western media.

First of all, two main contributors to the international development studies with a focus on interdisciplinary literature on aid celebrities are Brockington (2014), who argues that celebrities have a lobbying power in international development and Kapoor (2013), who debates that celebrity aid promote global inequality and neoliberal capitalism.

In details, Brockington conducted around 120 interviews with diverse NGO’s, media and celebrity agents, journalists and PR managers, as well analyzed numerous articles in the major UK newspapers. He concluded that celebrities have indeed become
important actors of the development. The link between the development sector and celebrity industry has become more systematic and planed. As a result new professional figures have emerged, who manage the charities of celebrities, including their choice of “needy” by comparing them to the best investment for celebrity. However, an understanding of the political economy of celebrity-charity-corporate relationship is still absent and needs further investigation.

Kapoor (2013) argues that the economy of celebrity-charity-corporations relationship is based on truly capitalism principles. He suggests that celebrities are using the poor to make profit on the needs of others and hence create destruction mechanisms for the South, while branding themselves or their charity organizations that make fortunes on selling diverse goods (e.g. media productions, movies, bags, cosmetics, T-shirt etc.) for aid purposes. In this sense, celebrities with their good intentions develop neoliberal capitalism, global inequality and rationalize poverty instead of reducing it. When talking about their experience most celebrities are talking rather about their feelings about poverty and their personal encounter with poverty, instead of actually talking about the problem. Moreover, celebrities’ involvement into the issues of the global development is controlled by the unaccountable elites of the political landscape.

Balaji (2011) proposes similar findings as Kapoor (2013), where he argues that mediated discourses of pity are the most popular representations of disasters by modern media. Moreover, he claims that American mainstream media specifically underlines “a discursive adult-child relationship between whites and Others” (p. 52). Hence, Balaji (2011) also draws attention to the unequal power relations between North and South.

On the opposite, Cooper (2008) praises celebritized humanitarianism as he believes in its positive and innovative force for changing the world and interconnecting diverse actors with each other. This may be true, in a way that celebrities do indeed increase the awareness of the problem. However, the author of this paper does not believe in its positive force because of the clearly visible unequal representation of celebrities in comparison to local population of the Global South (s. Chapter 5 for more details for case Haiti). Hence, the celebritized humanitarianism rather draws attention to creating pity, as in Balaji (2011) than innovatively communicates the need for development.
The main contributor of the second building stone of the celebrity humanitarianism framework or of media and communication studies is Chouliaraki (2012). She sees modern humanitarianism as a problem of communication between the North, the South and its audiences. This issue was impelled by the changing technology and roles in the media industry. The Northern audiences are both producers and consumers of the public media and hence enforce the unrealistic representation of the Others. Therefore, celebrities try to match the interests of the audience by publishing corresponding texts and images in media instead of showing the real solidarity for nations in need. Chouliaraki also agrees on consideration of the celebrity humanitarianism as a instrumentalized market place, where celebrities and NGO’s compete for donors and market shares in charity industry. This paper also seeks an independent examination of mediated discourses about representation of celebrititized humanitarianism in Haiti and aims to confirm Chouliaraki (2012) views on corrupt and “industrialized” representation of Haitians in need against celebrity humanitarians in Western media.

Furthermore, Cameron & Haanstra (2008) also suggest that the representation of development among Northern societies is very important for raising awareness and fundraising campaigns, as well as for creation of social power relations between Northern and Southern societies. Authors argue that in order to make development interesting for the global North it is necessary to promote it as something sexy. Sexy development images do not portray Southern receivers as poor and helpless victims and rather highlight the generosity of Northern givers. However, exactly this representation emphasizes the mightiness of the Northern charity.

In scope of the emerging literature on new actors and alliances, findings of Wheeler (2013) prove once again the importance of celebrities as new development actors. He argues that through humanitarianism celebrities engage also into the political scenery on the international level. At the same time politicians may also act as celebrities. Hence, celebrities engage public in politics, and politicians in turn become actors of celebrity industry to win public attention.

Last but least, one of the most prominent researchers in the field Richey (2016) herself believes that celebrities have the power to effectively reach and influence wider audiences and have within an impact on local and international process of governance. Celebrities are able to communicate and link together the values and authorities in
global humanitarian helping and in local receivers’ environments. Therefore, it is very important to include celebrities in the modern development, humanitarianism and political studies in order to be able to investigate the relations of power in the modern global world.

Table 1 below summarizes briefly the key findings of the most prominent researchers in the field of celebrity humanitarianism, highlighting their pro and contra arguments. The further research in this thesis relies strongly on the findings presented in this chapter. More precisely, author of this paper agrees with the Balaji (2011) that Western media aims only at depicting Haitians as weak victims to stimulate the feeling of pity. In this sense, the rich whites are reaffirmed in their privileged status over the Others and the world inequality is brought up to the surface, as in Kapoor (2013). Further, according to Cameron & Haanstra (2008), the development is sold as “sexy” in order to increase the public attention and make communication for development commercialized, which in turn confirms Brockington’s (2014) findings. Attractive Northern celebrities suit well for the role of “sexy” communicators for development, yet author of this paper supposes, in agreement with Richey (2016) and Chouliaraki (2012), that celebrities lack the skills of communication of global issues and rather aim at focusing the attention of their Global North audiences on their celebritized personality and subjective opinion. Finally, the author of this paper agrees that celebritized aid is becoming ever more popular and more trustworthy for the Northern audiences than political charity. However, author disagrees that celebritized aid can be more beneficial for the Global South because of the incapability of celebrities to manage development properly and to abstract from their celebritized image in the minds of their audiences. This means that the common Northern individual will always consider a celebrity doing her/his job for publicity, disregarding if celebrity’s actions are approved or criticized. Hence, author of this thesis disagrees with Cooper (2008), who strongly believes in the positive force of celebritized aid. Therefore, the aims of this paper is to further analyze how celebritized humanitarians are depicted in mainstream media against Haitians, whether celebrities are marketed as “sexy” (Cameron & Haanstra, 2008) or as mighty parents (Balaji, 2011) and how the inequality is communicated through them.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Key findings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pro celebrity aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balaji (2011)</td>
<td>Mediated discourses of celebrities depict Haitians as tragic and dysfunctional Others to increase feeling of pity and by drawing the attention of whites to underdeveloped blacks in order to reaffirm a discursive unequal relationship between whites (American) and blacks (Haitians) as parent-child bond.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockington (2014)</td>
<td>Celebrities are important development actors because they can mediate the relationship between Northern consumers, Southern receivers and global elites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron &amp; Haanstra (2008)</td>
<td>Representation of development as sexy increases the probability of interest towards the problem of the common Northern donor, his awareness and fundraising willingness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chouliaraki (2012)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper (2008)</td>
<td>Positive and innovative force for changing the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kapoor (2013)</td>
<td>Celebrity humanitarianism can address some minor individual and personal humanitarian causes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richey (2016)</td>
<td>Celebrities are new actors of development who positively influence the financing of the development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This chapter briefly introduces the reader to the history of Haiti, in particular to its political discourses. The aim of this chapter is to prepare reader for the case, which was chosen as a primary research field of this thesis.

The history of Haiti is very tragic (history facts are based on (Federal Research Division, 2006)). It is characterized by natural disasters, racial discord, poverty and political instability. Before Europeans arrived there Arawak and Carib Indians inhabited the island Hispaniola. Hard labor practices and diseases almost annihilated the Indian population during the 50 years of Spanish arrival. After 1697 French colonists settled on the island turning it into coffee and sugar producing colony with about 800,000 slaves. In the eighteenth century Haiti turned into strictly hierarchical society based on skin color and wealth, which however began to unravel in the end of eighteenth century when slaves outnumbered colonists and posed a threat to them. A numerous revolts occurred and resulted in Spanish and British military interventions. In 1803 after a long and bloody struggle the new nation of Haiti was finally declared an independent republic followed by 300 years of colonialism. The early independent period was characterized by political and financial instability and “black republic” found itself in isolation facing the ongoing threat of interventions. The first head of state, lieutenant Dessalines ruled the country through force and was assassinated two years after coming into power. The next decade of Haitian history was known as territorial partition of the island by two remaining leaders who both died in 1820 when Haiti was reunited by General Jean-Pierre Boyer who defended Haitian sovereignty for twenty years of his rule. He negotiated a payment of 60 million francs to France in return of country’s recognition and trade relations restorations which imposed an economic burden to future generations.

Political instability and constant unrests provoked interventions by U.S. in the beginning of twentieth century, which in 1915 resulted in the twenty years of occupation over Haiti by U.S. During this period Haitian economy was stabilized and its infrastructure improved. The following period in Haitian history was full of struggles between elite mulattoes and black population resulted in a victory of pro-black
nationalist François Duvalier in 1957 whose dictatorial ruling methods of blackmail and terror were harsh even by Haiti’s standards.

In the early ninetieth Jean-Bertrand Aristide who had a great support from the poorest Haitians won the presidential elections. He strived to free Haiti from ethnic, racial and economic hierarchy but met a strong opposition by a military coup, who seized control over the government in 1991 and only in 1994 after three years of political chaos Aristide was restored in power. The second half of the ninetieth was not more stable. Constant election frauds and lack of trust, inability to organize political election for years lead to ongoing political and economic crisis in the region. In the beginning of 2000th the GDP growth turned to be negative in Haiti. The streets of Haitian cities were fled with militant battles and gangs. United States-led Multilateral Interim Force in response to humanitarian crisis had to bring international troops to Haiti who restored security and enabled food and medical supply.

The elections in 2006 were finally peaceful and legitimate and brought Rene Preval, a former prime minister and successor of Aristide into power. The most recent presidential elections of 2010-2011 were won by Michel Martelly - a compass musician and entertainer whose lyrics have poked fun at the whole concept of the Haitian presidency. (Wadner, 2010) Even subject of research of this paper, Jean Wyclef, American with Haitian origin rapper musician and actor has announced his candidacy on presidential elections in August 2010 however his bid was rejected as he could not meet the necessary requirement of having lived in the country for at least five years before the election date (Guyler Delva, 2010).

The devastating earthquake that took place in Haiti in 2010 brought tragic consequences to the country and its inhabitants. The island of Hispaniola that is shared between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, has always been seismically active. The magnitude was 7.0 by Richter scale and 3, 5 million people were affected by the disaster whereas 220 thousand people were claimed to have died as its result. Almost 200 000 houses were destroyed or damaged severely. More than a million people became homeless. Rubbles and debris covered huge surface on Haiti. The earthquake caused death of 25% of all civil servants, more than half of administrative buildings were destroyed. More than a million people had to live in camps undergoing constant risks of storms and flooding. (DEC, 2015)
The tragedy that happened to Haiti required immediate and effective actions. Many national governments, charitable and profitable organizations began coordinating humanitarian aid to save Haitians (s. Appendices A and B for detailed financial information). Either relief and rescue workers were directly sent to the zone or monetary support campaigns were held. By September 5th 3,5 billion dollar were collected. The governments of US, the UK, Israel, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Brazil, Italy and Cuba sent over 1000 qualified personnel each. Field hospitals, naval vessels, transport aircraft facilities were organized. (theGuardian, 2010)

The distribution of mentioned above 3,5 billion dollar raised was unequal. The largest recipient of U.S. money was U.S. government itself (s. Appendix B), as well as donations from other countries. They were used to reimburse these countries for sending the relief forces to Haiti. 42% went to private and public NGOs. Less than 1% of all donations went to Haitian government, whereas Haitian NGOs received even less. Large percentage of funds was directed to international aid agencies and big NGOs like American Red Cross who received 486 million alone. Some money was sent to for-profit organizations whose business is disasters. Finally some percentage of the funds was pledged but never received. (Katz, 2013)
4. METHODOLOGY

The first section of this paper dealt with relevant theoretical constructs for the topic of celebrity humanitarianism. By a throughout analysis of the academic works in the previous chapters, first conclusions about how celebrities are depicted in academic literature were drawn. It was also discussed which current trends of celebrity humanitarianism exist, what and how celebrities communicate to the global community and how do they involve into the development processes. Based on theoretical findings, the autonomous empirical research will be further conducted. Thus, the second part of the thesis concentrates on the empirical study, which implies the discussion of the research methods, data collection and analysis, results and eventually a conclusion. The study is based on analysis of celebrity activism in Haiti after the earthquake in 2010 and includes an exploration of popular and social media sources for factors depicting a propagation of negative discourse and representation of Haiti as a place with poverty, underdevelopment, helplessness and dependency on the global North.

2.1 Research method

The first step in the empirical research process is the choice of a research method also known as a research design. The conducted study in this paper is a combination of two qualitative research methods: a semiotic and discourse analysis. The discourse analysis is chosen due to its ability to evaluate texts and interpret its surrounding discourse, and thus understand the true meaning, knowledge and power behind the words (Phillips & Jørgensen 2002). Semiotic analysis enhances the text interpretation by providing a method of visual material analysis. Semiology is a study of signs and entails the deployment of set of concepts that suggest the meanings of signs in an image (Rose, 2007).

The combination of those two complementary research methods provides more insights into the problem of inequality between USA (as the image of the developed Northern world) and Haiti depicted and fostered by celebrity interventions into humanitarian actions post earthquake in 2010. The discourse analysis aims to explore how Haiti and Haitians are portrayed in comparison to the Western celebrities in digital media texts. At the same time, semiotics investigates the comparison in the digital media images, searching within for signs and codes. Therefore, the combination of the
discourse and semiotics allows simultaneous analysis of digital media articles with text (as news, article, discussion or also description to an image) and images (as photos, ads, front covers etc.).

The power of transnational media, depicting humanitarian and awareness-raising campaigns lies within its ability to legitimize certain discursive narratives (e.g. colonialism or inequality) through framing social reality as expected by the majority of its audience (Entman, 1993). Framing in terms of media studies refers to selection of aspects about events or people, which should appear in media stories to create “maps of meaning” that reflect the already existing beliefs about reality. (Hall, 2000) In order to draw audience’s attention to the particular frame some details of communicated text or photography are brought up and made more outstanding than other facts, promoting within a certain causal interpretation or recommendation for understanding a cause described (Duvall, 2015). Therefore, analysis of semantic and discursive narratives of celebrity activism proposed or even impelled by Western media leads to an understanding of social structural relationships between the Global North and South and its influence on the international development. In other words, Northern media consumers form their “maps of meaning” of development based on the narratives constructed by the Western media. Furthermore, according to the literature reviewed in Chapter 2, celebrity activism does not promote development but rather increases inequality (cf. Richey (2016), Chouliaraki (2012), Balaji (2011)). Hence, media coverage of Haitian relief efforts and politics should prove the hypothesis of corrupt communication for development of celebritized humanitarianism. The importance of media representation of development, which is proposed by the author of this paper, may be summarized by Duvall’s (2015) assumption that

Relief efforts became entertainment spectacles for western audience consumption, the earthquake victims in Haiti were marginalised […]. The suffering of Third World peoples has historically been “staged, packaged, and disseminated” by western companies, governments, and NGO’s to further their own interests. The media spectacle of celebrity activism may promote stars’ images and neoliberal interventions while subordinating serious systemic issues in the Third World.” (p.6)

In order to prove, “media spectacle of celebrity activism” Duvall (2015) also applies semiotic and critical discourse analysis on a number of materials from journalistic and gossip media, which makes a justification of chosen methodological avenues for this paper.
4.1.1 Semiology

Semiology or semiotics in its different forms has been a popular method across diverse disciplines, which have interest in visual culture. Hence, semiotics can be applied to many sorts of visual materials. In this paper, semiology will be applied to digital images found in the digital versions of popular news and gossip media.

The high degree of applicability of semiotic research method for social studies was already proven in the late 1980’s by Judith Williamson (1978), who discovered that many forms of social differences (e.g. gender, social class, race) can be explored by analysing images. She explored the meaning of the images through the advertising, which she considered as “the most influential ideological forms in contemporary capitalist societies” (Williamson, 1978: cited in Rose, 2012, p 107). Goldman (1992, p. 1) adds that we are so used to ads that do not recognise their deeper social meaning and associate them with their ideological status anymore. However, ads bear much more information than just a promotion of the brand, product or service. Semiology as a method is able indeed “penetrate the apparent autonomy and reality of adverts, in order to reveal their ideological status” (Rose, 2012, p. 107). Along with ads, semiology can be applied to all types of visual material (Bignell, 2002).

In general, semiology is the analysis of meaning. Semiologists define “meaning” in the framework of ideology, where ideology is a construct that legitimates unequal social power relations. In line with the Marxism theory, ideology reflects the interests of the power or the egoistic interests of the dominant group that aims to impose their power to the rest of the world. Hence, semiotics aims to explore the signs for social inequalities enforced by particular ideology. (Rose, 2012)

The key term of semiology is the sign. The study of signs is largely dependent on the work of de Saussure, who developed a systematic explanation of how language works, where he discussed that the sign is the basic unit of the language. The sign consists from two parts, which are closely interrelated with each other: the signified and the signifier. The signified is a mental concept or image. The signifier is its image, text or sound. Although integrated with each other, the relationship between signified and signifier is not always coherent. Saussure explains this through use of different words in foreign languages for one object, as well as through multiple meanings of word/concept in one particular language. Hence, that’s truly important is the meaning, which is
attached to signified and signifier. The aim of semiology is to establish the relation between meanings (signifieds) and signifiers and to show within how the signified is understood and interpreted by its viewers in fact. (Rose, 2012)

With the help of semiology this paper tries to get the deeper understanding of the social meaning embedded into the images of celebrities in Haiti that are depicted against Haitians. The role of signifier on the most of those images is to prove (mostly) Northern societies the presence of celebrities in Haiti and thus guarantee that donations are transferred to sufferers of Haiti. Yet, the underlying signified may be to illustrate the undeveloped Haitians against powerful celebrities (see Chapter 5 for analysis).

In order to access the underlying meaning of the signified and signifier and hence understand the ideology of society behind visual material, codes (or also referent systems, mythologies) are applied by semiologists. Codes enable understanding of “orders of social life, of economic and political power and of ideology” (Hall, 1980, p. 134). Codes are therefore sets of “conventional ways of making meaning that are specific to particular groups of people” (Rose, 2012, p. 128). For instance, in order to promote development as sexy (see Cameron & Haanstra, 2008), people that are already encoded as sexy have to participate in the visual materials. As one of the sexiest woman in the world, Angelina Jolie is surely encoded as sexy in the Northern society and hence expresses the ideology that female celebrities have to be attractive and moreover kind, altruistic and open to the Other’s problems. In other words female celebrities have to represent traditional form of nurturing femininity, which is in line with dominant masculinity (expressed/expected by male celebrities), foundational of colonialism, according to Duvall (2015).

Seen from the qualitative research viewpoint, the process of coding contains assignment of codes, classifications, or names to certain elements of data. Coding helps to sort the data to more general categories. Categories for coding can be developed from intensive work with the data, without adhering to a precise pattern. Hence, the first step in the semiologic analysis is to develop a set of codes that have to be tested in order to understand signs and their signifiers/signified. The codes used in this paper base on the categories provided by Dyer (1982), who created a checklist for understanding the symbolization of human signs. The Table 2 lists all categories from the Dyer’s list that
are relevant for the current research. Hence, the codes that are elaborated in the table 2 below will be further used for the analysis of this paper (see Chapter 5).

Table 2: Codes for semiotic analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signs</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Representation of bodies</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>How old are the figures in the images and what does age transmit? Innocence? Helplessness? How often kids appear in the pictures?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Power of masculinity compared to emotionality of femininity? How often woman appear in the images?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>Is whiteness normalized? What is the ratio between black vs. white people in the image?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Attractiveness of the bodies. Are people obese?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looks</td>
<td>How is the stereotypically beauty pictured? Which beauty norms are enforced by celebrities?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Representation of manner:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expression</td>
<td>Who is shown as happy or sad? What facial and other expressions are used to show that?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye contact</td>
<td>Who is looking at whom and with which intensity? What is the nature of those looks?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pose</td>
<td>Who is standing or lying down? How does pose illustrate the social position?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Representation of activity:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch</td>
<td>Who is touching what and with effects?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positional communication</td>
<td>What is spatial arrangement of the figures? Who is positioned as superior and who inferior? What is degree of intimacy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settings</td>
<td>What effects do settings have on the images? Are settings normal or exotic? How set up is the image? Does one see the post effects of disaster?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on Dyer (1982)

4.1.2 Discourse analysis

The semiotics described in the previous chapter provides a precise understanding of the production of meaning through signs in images. However, as Rose (2012, p. 139) argues “nothing is ever just visual” and hence all visual images embed
also other semiotic resources. The discourse analysis can perfectly enhance semiotic analysis by providing an interpretation of texts and finding the ways for making meaning to the concepts. The discourse analysis method focuses thus on how discourse and discursive produce knowledge through discourse. In general, discourse analysis is used to study the ways social power abuse, inequality and forms of discrimination are exerted in social and political texts. In the context of popular media analysis, discourse analytical method is used to find a critical perspective on the field of study. (Phillips & Jørgensen, 2002)

The methodology of discourse analysis was mostly developed by Michel Foucault’s theoretical arguments. In his viewpoint, discourse “is a particular knowledge about the world which shapes how the world is understood and how the things are done in it” (Rose, 2012, p. 190). Moreover, the particular things and their meanings are connected to each other through a so called discursive formation.

Discourse analysis is trying to explore, which knowledge is currently taken as true (Winther & Philips, 2002). At the same time, to make people believe in a particular knowledge some form of power must be exerted. Foucault (1972) believes that there is a strong relation between knowledge and power. He also argues that the effectiveness of symbiosis of power/knowledge is much more important than the real truth. Say if powerful leaders are able to enforce certain knowledge to the wider audiences, it will be indeed considered as the righteous one even if explicit contra arguments exist. History is rich with examples depicting the supremacy of power over truth. Hence, in some historical moments a certain truth does not exist. Instead certain historical contexts have their own discursive formation or the “regimes of truth” (Foucault, 1972, p. 131).

Studying discourse includes investigation of how the expert knowledge is constructed through different statements and how these statements are communicated to the wider public through media channels. Hence, the discourse analysis of this paper aims to explore how the discourse of world inequality between the Northern sponsors (or equally donors, helpers, humanitarians, celebrities) and the Southern receivers (i.e. Haitians in this particular case) are communicated through media and in particular through news. In other words, how current regime of truth tries to reinforce the supremacy of richer North over poorer South. It tries to answer the question, why we actually believe that the South needs our Northern intervention in their natural discourse and which justifications we receive for that behaviour from the “powerful elite”. 

31
Therefore, the discourse analysis will search for particular patterns in texts accompanied with images depicting the celebrities (i.e. Jolie, Penn and Jean) during their humanitarian actions in Haiti after the earthquake. In order to answer a research question, the discourse analysis will focus on the similar signs as semiotics (see Table w), as well as try to answer following supplementary questions:

- How are the donors and receivers illustrated?
- Who is the target group for the particular news content?
- How is the earthquake harm described in the texts? Is it visible on visual materials?
- Are diverse texts contingent regarding specific words, metaphors and other linguistic (also visual) expressions?
- Which codes/signs/stereotypes of Northern and Southern cultures are present?

4.2 Research settings

For the purpose of empirical analysis, the event of earthquake in Haiti in 2010 (see Chapter 3) was used. As already mentioned in the previous chapter, the natural disaster has enforced a large interest of celebrity humanitarianism, whereas most of the contributing celebrities were of U.S American origin, depicting to some degree the post-colonial relationship between U.S and Haiti.

The semiotic analysis of visual material and discourse analysis of articles aimed to answer the main research question:

RQ: How is celebrities’ humanitarianism depicted in media in comparison to Haitian population?

In order to collect visual and textual materials for the semiotic and discourse analysis, the internet (primary browsing application: www.google.com) was browsed with tags similar to: “jolie/ penn/ jean in haiti”, “jolie/penn/jean earthquake haiti”, “celebrities helping Haiti”, “j/po”, “celebrity aid Haiti” and similar. From the suggested websites only trustworthy and popular sources were chosen, namely CNN (International), FoxNews (US), Telegraph (UK), Daily Mail (UK), Rolling Stones (US), as well as web pages of NGO’s, including UN and SOS Children Village. As a result, 3
images per celebrity were chosen among larger amount of visual materials available online. The author of this paper tried to chose different pictures depicting controversy actions. Despite this attempt, it was observed that most of the images depicting Haiti relief efforts by celebrities are similar in form, background and image, therefore limited amount of chosen images can be considered as representative and generalizable for the event of celebritized interventions in Haiti. Nonetheless, lesser amount of chosen images increases the subjectivity of analysis and higher probability of personal bias, which may be considered as a limitation of this thesis (for further limitations, see chapter 4.4.).

The images were then analysed with the help of semiotic codes, developed in the previous chapter (s. Chapter 4.1.1). Simultaneously, the search for textual material was initiated. Here as well the controversy text depicting similar events from the different sides was preferred. In order to understand the underlying meaning, as well as discursive “truth”, the codes and questions developed in the previous chapter were used. In summary, three texts (i.e. one pro celebrity) were chosen (s. Appendix C for full articles). Namely:

1. T1 is a combination of abstracts from two articles, published in Rolling Stones magazine in 2011. First article is a critical viewpoint of journalist Ms. Reitman on the failure of international aid organizations in general, and of Sean Penn’s J/PO in particular in Haiti. Sean Penn was very disappointed with the article and its accusations, so that he wrote a response article one month later, describing his position.

   This combination gives an interesting ground to explore how the “truth” about Haiti and humanitarian organizations involved is communicated by different actors.

2. T2 is an example of a standard NGO article reflecting celebrity’s field visit. In this particular case, UNHCR reports about Angelina Jolie’s visit to Haiti shortly after the earthquake. Due to its similarity to many other similar articles published by other charity agencies, it is a good example to evaluate the standards of reporting by international charity organizations, which mix dry facts with some notes of celebrity emotionality.
3. T3 is an abstract from the popular newspaper The New York Times, which depicts mismanagement of funds by Wyclef Jean in aftermath of post-quake. This text presents another side of charity by critically questioning the reader, where does he donate.

The results of the data analysis are presented in the next chapter (s. Chapter 5).


Angelina Jolie: http://www.unhcr.org/thumb1/4b7287f720.jpg
http://www.sos-usa.org/newsroom/angelina-jolie-visits-sos-childrens-village-haiti
http://i1.mirror.co.uk/incoming/article200498.ece/ALTERNATES/s1200/image-3-for-angelina-jolie-visits-haiti-gallery-799567543.jpg

Sean Penn: http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/01615/sean-penn-susan-sa_1615048i.jpg
4.2.1 Data selection for cases

This chapter introduces the reader with the personalities of three U.S celebrities chosen for the precise observation or as main empirical cases in this paper and explains the rationale for choosing exactly them. In brief, Jolie, Penn and Jean were chosen due to their binary opposite representation of humanitarian engagement style, traditional gender roles reflecting Western dominant discourses of femininity and masculinity, as well as racial identity. Moreover, due to their authentic humanitarian intervention all three celebrities figure frequently as dominant research subjects in academic literature. In justification of choosing Jolie, Jean and Penn as research cases for this thesis, author refers to the latest research contribution Richey (2016), Duvall (2015), Katz (2013) and Petrie (2008).

Angelina Jolie is probably one of the most noticeable persons in the global humanitarian aid and hence cannot be neglected by analysing the topic of celebrity humanitarianism. In comparison to other two research subjects of this paper, Jolie’s humanitarianism frames the traditional narrative of authentic motherhood with caring attitude towards earthquake victims and sincere adoptions of children from other Global South nations (Duvall, 2015). Media usually contrasts Jolie against Madonna, yet Madonna did not actively participate in Haiti relief efforts and hence is out of scope of this thesis. On the other hand, Penn and Jean competed openly with each other with the goal to gain legitimacy and authenticity as celebrity activists in Haiti in the Western media. Duvall (2015) believes that the competition between two binary opposite in their racial and political identity male figures actually represents the “post-colonial power dynamics and reinforces constructions of the cosmopolitan West and weak Global South” (p.2). Therefore, Jolie as a white female with exaggerated motherhood characteristics, Penn as a dominant white male with “authentic” activism as narrated by media and Jean as black emigrant male with lack of credibility, playing a symbolic role in contrast to his white fellows, serve as good examples to observe how Western media depicts celebrity humanitarianism within the framing of nationality, gender as well as representation of neo-colonial ideologies. Moreover, their diverse and conflicting personalities enrich research to the demanded level and allow excluding further celebrities, who participated in post-earthquake aid from the current analysis.
Further in this chapter, personality of each celebrity is presented in a larger detail.

Before 2001 and her role in Lara Croft: Tomb Raider Angelina Jolie was not even close to an example of a good and decent humanitarian. She lived quite a wild life with frequent media scandals focused on her misappropriated behaviour. However, after encountering the poverty and misery of life in Cambodia Jolie has changed her opinion and became world-concerned about charity, refugees and AIDS or war orphans. (Petrie, 2008)

Already in August 2001, Jolie was appointed as UN Goodwill Ambassador and in 2005 she was awarded with the Citizen of the World Award. In this position, Jolie has committed more than 40 field visits to troubled locations, including Iran, Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti and African countries. Probably there are no political or natural disasters in which she did not participate. Angelina Jolie’s humanitarianism has contributed to media coverage and public awareness about multiple problematic international issues, which otherwise may had been neglected by Western world (Repo & Yrjölä, 2011). Together with her partner and later husband Brad Pitt she has also adopted four kids from Cambodia, Ethiopia, Vietnam and Namibia before giving birth to their own two children. Especially for adopting children from the disastrous regions, Jolie became highly known as a leading American humanitarian. Her presence in news and gossip media as a mediator of a do-gooding remains hardly unremarkable even by a person, who is non-interested in celebrity news. Each public appearance of big Jolie-Pitt (or Brangelina) family makes news headline and brings the family remarkable revenues. Alone for selling the rights of the first baby pictures of Shiloh adopted from Namibia, Jolie has received $10 millions (Kelly, 2006). As Brangelina claims all received money went to charity. Through almost daily documenting of Jolie’s professional life as an actress, film maker and humanitarian, as well as private life, an attention to some developing countries may be brought and intensified, motivating people to donate or at least increase their awareness of the global problems. However, only certain chosen discourses of the developing countries are mostly brought up. (Petrie, 2008)

As for her activity in Haiti, Jolie has visited the country several times after the earthquake, alone and with Brad Pitt, whereas also as guests of W. Jean’s Yele foundation. In sum they donated over $1 million for humanitarian needs. (People, 2010)
Another important figure in humanitarianism - Sean Penn has managed to collect even more financial resources to help Haiti. He has founded J/P Haitian Relief Organization, which managed to receive a grant worth $8.75 million from The World Bank and Government of Haiti and to fundraise further $80,000 from private donations in order to relocate people living in displacement camps after the earthquake in 2010. (J/P HRO, 2015) He has also not just paid random field visit to Haiti, but stayed on spot for a long-term and even today five years after the quake J/P Organization still exists and contributes to the development of Haiti.

Sean Penn is also A-list Hollywood actor, filmmaker, political activist and critical journalist. In comparison to A. Jolie, Penn’s humanitarianism style is more radical as the actor tries to intervene in the actual conduct of politics and “to break the rules of what is considered appropriate celebrity behavior by criticizing his and other governments’ practices” (Rosamond, 2016, p. 149). His radical humanitarianism style suits well Duvall’s (2015) theory of dominant traditional and colonial masculine intervention methods.

Long before Sean Penn became a caring humanitarian, he was considered as a “bad boy”, quite similarly to Jolie. Penn was arrested for assaulting photographer and beating his wife Madonna in the 90’s. He was actively trying to promote himself as a hypermasculine figure. Nonetheless, in 2002 Penn started his protests against George Bush in 2002 in Iraq. His first humanitarian involvement was in 2005 during the Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, when he suddenly changed his public appearance to a shy and non-communicative person in order to match the public expectations of a humanitarian. As humanitarian, Penn exploits further his image of masculinity, which he now turned into the direction of “hands on” attitude, practical actions (e.g. personally delivering food and medicine) and participation in reconstruction works. Hence, Penn is one of fewer celebrities, who is depicted in actually participating in help delivery himself and not only collecting financial aid. However, with such image Penn highlights the assumptions of masculine power and protection of helpless, especially women and children, which is illustrated on the most images of him as a humanitarian (also visible in analysis of this thesis, s. Chapter 5). (Rosamond, 2016) Therefore, Sean Penn outstands from common celebrity aiders and serves as an interesting example to observe.
The third personality chosen for this thesis is Wyclef Jean. He was born in Haiti to medium wealthy family, yet has soon emigrated with his parents to U.S., where he has managed to establish a rap/hip-hop group (The Fugees) and become very famous in 1990’s. Although Jean has only seldom visited his native country, he wore Haitian symbols and was very popular on the island. So popular that he even ran for president of Haiti in August 2010, half a year after the earthquake. However, has never made it due to the reason that he was not even a resident of the country. Nonetheless, the hype about his political activities in Haiti opened an opportunity for the young population to vote for people they know and not ultimately for the “old-guard politicians who had let down so many hopes” (Katz, 2013, p. 215).

Similarly to S. Penn, Wyclef Jean has also established a foundation “Yele Haiti” to raise donations for relief. Yet from $16 millions that he had collected (whereas first million was collected just over 24 hours through Twitter), less has actually reached Haiti. In 2010 W. Jean was accused for misusing the funds his organization had raised. It is estimated that W. Jean had spent $9 million alone on office rent and transport costs in private jets, as well as paid half-a- million salaries to his family members, who were also part of the organization. (Sean, 2010)

Wyclef Jean is taken under observation because he should serve as a perfect example of American dream come true for his Haitian nationals. He is an inspirational source for young Haitian people, showing that it is possible to exit the misery and become rich or in other words “getting out and striking rich” (Katz, 2013, p. 202). At the same time, however, he managed to misuse the donations he collected and hence his case can provide a clear explanation to the question of a common charity provider: “where does my money go?” Moreover, according to Duvall’s (2015) findings, Jean is portrayed by the Western media as irresponsible activists, who lacks credibility for his actions and words, which highlights his black racial background, which is still framed in media as underdeveloped.

### 4.3 Research limitations

There are several limitations of the present study. First limitation considers the choice of sample, its size and variety. Modern digital media entails numerous visual and textual materials in the field of celebrities in general, and in Haitian relief efforts in particular. Therefore, it was necessary to filter the useful information from the major
rest, which made empirical analysis limited to three celebrities only, as well as 9 visual and 3 textual materials. The limited sample size leads to increased biased and lower variety and may worsen the interpretation ability of the researcher, as well as decrease the potential for generalization of observed findings. On the one side, the evaluation of quality of text or image and its richness of detail is rather a subjective author’s decision. On the other side according to Rose (2012) the discourse analysis in particular does not depend on the quantity of material analyzed, but rather on its quality. Nonetheless, the larger sample size could have provided more detailed and interesting results.

The lack of finite objectivity and the likelihood of other interpretations of the material, represent further limitations of the present discourse and semiotic analysis. Increased probability of biased opinion also decreases the validity of the present research. Thirdly, the empirical content may have been worsened through browsing Internet content. The reliability of the information available in the Internet may not always be absolutely proven. Nonetheless, only sources with traceable account were chosen. In order to increase validity and reliability, additional methodological avenues could have been applied, which would also increase author’s independence from existing literature findings. For instance, an empirical analysis could have been enriched by an opportunity to conduct qualitative interviews or focus groups with media representatives or celebrities to evaluate their opinion, without probable media censorship. Application of quantitative methods would also add up to better generalization of findings. For example, surveying common Western audience of mediated discourses would give insights into the existing or constructed framing of development in the Northern minds. The author of this paper considers further enhanced empirical research as an interested further research investigation.
5. EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

This chapter seeks answer to the research question by analyzing the visual and textual materials collected during the data collection process. Its main aim is to understand the ideology of depiction of the global charity and consequently depict is discursive practices as part of current “regime of truth” (Foucault, 1972). Due to the reason that modern ideology considers a celebrity humanitarianism as a brand, this research also employs methods used in media and marketing studies.

5.1 Analysis of visual material

The first glance at the selected pictures reveals some basic signs of earthquake devastation in Haiti. The three main explicit signs are:

(1) people living in tents;
(2) injured children;
(3) search/urge for water and food.

It is also easy to identify the signs of charity. These include people giving food or water to others; communicating with victims of earthquake; actively helping to carry stuff or organizing the everyday life in Haiti. Hence, the signifier of connection between earthquake and charity is the presence of celebrities at the devastated spot, which carry the message (signified) “We are here for you!”

However, these signs create only the general picture. The truth is that in the scope of the current ideology, the audience of images depicting celebrities’ engagement in Haiti might see some implicit signs, which leads to other signified. The message that is being sent is to justify the Northern intervention to the Southern problems, disregarding if the help and its extent is really needed or not. Moreover, modern societies are used to see celebrities as humanitarians. Thus it is part of their job to appear (as fast as possible) in Haiti to promote themselves and make pictures with earthquake victims. In order to find out how the signified of “global inequality” and “celebrity lobbying power in international development” is communicated through visual material, a second deeper look at the images should be taken.
According to the checklist proposed by Dyer (1982) and adapted to the topic of this paper, following main signs are presented in the picture:

- **Children**: most of pictures present children, who might be injured or look healthy, yet are always depicted as very happy to be close to celebrities. Grown-ups, who are presented in the pictures are usually passive by-passers, wearing t-shirts of charity organizations, hence being temporary workers and probably not the residents of Haiti at all.

Why does Angelina Jolie prefer taking pictures with young people? One of the reasons is that average Haitian population is quite young and there is simply no one else to take pictures with. Yet, more underlying reason is that images of children increase the misery transmitted with the picture. It shows to the Northern audience that most people in Haiti are uneducated and in urgent need in schools and teachers. At the same time, there is A. Jolie – educated, intelligent, famous and ready to share. The contrast, which is created through placing her with dozens of Haitian kids, stimulates the Northern societies to actively donate to her projects in Haiti, which is surely the act of humanity. However, once donated people start to feel their contribution to the international development and hence expect that their Northern values will be set through in Haiti, creating within a dependency of the South.

It is easy to blame A. Jolie for picturing herself on the contrast to poor children of Haiti. Nonetheless, the direction of correlation effect between the expectations of the Northern audience and Jolie’s image in the mainstream journalism remains unclear. Is it Jolie, who aims to transmit the intensity of misery through portraying suffering children? Or is the mainstream media, which wishes to depict all humanitarians around children to anticipate what their reading audience wants to see? As Richey & Ponte (2015) argue, the images and representations are becoming very important in development “branding”, whereas the image of development is misguided and is rather linked to the mechanisms of global capitalism and neo-colonialism. In this sense the celebrity humanitarianism functions as a market, where the Northern audience is “buying” the image that mainstream journalism is “selling” through a celebrity, who in turn just plays his/her role of development agent.

- **Women prevail**: 4 of 9 pictures presented in this analysis feature young and grown-up female Haitians, who are shown as receiving aid from
celebrities. Men are either passive or take part in demonstration (Image 1 for Wyclef Jean).

Femininity is considered to be weaker and more emotional (e.g. according to Hofstede’s (1980) cultural dimensions). The Northern media agencies place women in pictures with the same goal as children (described above): to enforce more compassion of developed nations for suffering undeveloped Haitians. For instance, image 9 for Sean Penn features him as the only male carrying sack of (undefined) food himself, while women around him also carry heavy stuff. What is the reason that other men are not helping women? What does media trying to show to the Northern audiences? Is it that there are no men left in Haiti after the earthquake and only Sean Penn can now help ladies? Or maybe it is showing the traditional stereotypes that women are supposed to be responsible for household. In any case, the signified here is the gender inequality in Haiti and hence underdevelopment in comparison to the North, which corresponds to Duvall’s (2015) findings.

- **Black, overweight, white or colourfully dressed:** the receivers in all pictures are Black (which is common for Haiti), grown-up female are noticeably overweight (=bad eating habits, no diet, no sports), kids on the opposite very thin (= lack of nutrition). Many are dressed in colourful/white clothes that contrast extensively with their black skin.

Haiti has a long history of being a colony. Traditionally, colony was ruled by powerful white nations. A. Jolie, S. Penn and many charity workers on the background of the pictures are White, which looks very contrasting to Black Haitians, in particular when wearing very bright clothes. In case of Haitian born Wyclef Jean the contrast is not so obvious. Yet, he also finds the way to show his prevalence over locals with standing above others and with heavy gesticulation. This proves that Haiti is still traditionally oriented with possibly existence of racial discrimination. Moreover, celebrities are considered to be examples of modern beauty norms in the developed societies. The ex-sex symbol of US – Angelina Jolie is skinny, with clear skin, decent make-up, done hair and elegantly dressed on all pictures. As it is known in the developed societies, the beauty costs money. Here another question arises: how many stylists and other assistance did Jolie bring with her to Haiti and from which funds they were paid? Neglecting the financial side of the question, the clear physical distinction between Jolie/Penn/Jean and Haitians once again highlights the global inequality,
Haitian underdevelopment and signifies the need for intervention into nation’s development.

In this sense, celebrities are representing themselves as ambassadors of the “good” American life, trying to be inspirational for Haitians. From the three celebrities analyzed in this paper, W. Jean serves as the best example of inspiration to develop in accordance to American standards. On the pictures, his is usually pictured as “one of the crowd”, yet always standing in the centre or above all others. He was born in Haiti, emigrated to U.S., became rich and famous in “the country of equal opportunities” and came back to help his former Haiti society – that is definitely making him to a role model to follow. However, from the other side, his life model actually shows young people the necessity to leave Haiti to find a better place for living. Hence, his visits to the country are rather demoralising and lead to the conclusion of the overall misery in Haiti, including the improbability of becoming wealthy one day.

- **Crowds, around celebrities, happy, thankful, and also uninterested:**
  6 from 9 pictures feature more than 10 Haitians standing around celebrity, who is usually found alone in the central of the image (or also with representatives of aid organizations in the background). Haitians who pose for the camera are depicted with happy facial expressions, others on the background seem uninterested (e.g. Image 6 for Sean Penn).

  Crowds of Haitians surrounding one or two celebrities signify the world distribution of power: there is only 1% of rich, powerful and famous and much more (99%) of others. However, Jolie, Penn and Jean are ready to share their financial and time resources with Haitians, while no picture depicts any national leaders helping own nation. Two possible meanings can be drawn from this fact. First, wider public is not anymore interested in the actions of political figures, especially of a small state and thus media does not cover many such topics, making within celebrities important communicators of international development. Second, the lobbying power of celebrities has become so powerful that they are able to implicitly communicate the Northern ideology to Haiti so that as a result it will become depended on U.S. government. The connection to the international politics is even featured on the Image 3, where Wyclef Jean stands next to Bill Clinton, who helps a Haitian woman to load a heavy sack of food on her head. Hence, the relationship between politics, entertainment and charity
should not be ignored. And by the way, it is interesting whether Bill Clinton visits Haiti as a humanitarian or a politician with own interests.

- **Inferior positions of Haitians; mighty, organized, controlled movements of celebrities**, backed-up with strong lifeguard men: local population is always shown around celebrities, who are brought to epicentre of the picture (= epicenter of life). Although, the movement cannot be traced on the image, it is possible to predict that celebrities gesticulate in a very controlled way (Images 1, 2) or organize people around them (Images 7, 8). On the half of the images, a lifeguard (or several) standing close to celebrity can be traced (s. Images 1, 6, 7, 8).

The presence of lifeguards enforces several debates. First of all, it is might be arguable if celebrities are really welcomed by Haitians. If Jolie, Penn and Jean felt absolutely safe among devastated and supposedly suffering people, they would not probably need a lifeguard so close to them that even the media photographers have to include one in every picture. Hence, celebrities are indeed scared of any act of violence against them by Haitians. Secondly, it may signify the wildness and primitiveness of local nation. The common Northern individual looking at the photographs of celebrities in Haiti secured by lifeguards may assume that Haitians are either disdainful or too primitive, and hence are not able to understand the good deeds of celebrities but consider them to be invaders instead and may attack. Due to the reason of security from unreasonable violence outbreak, the Northern society fully anticipates the presence of a lifeguard (however, hardly someone thinks about the financial cost of having a special 24/7 lifeguard). Therefore, celebrities as new political actors, communicate the necessity of North’s intervention into Haiti to make it the same “peaceful and beautiful” place as the audience’s home society.

Moreover, representing Haitians as inferior and primitive, gives a playground for celebrities and their charity organizations to blame Haitians in the lack of coordination, sufficiency and knowledge, in case of “sudden” disappear of financial resources, which were donated. “Where did the money go? […] It was easier to have the Haitian government carry the blame, especially a president (Preval, auth.) whose intransigence over the election was doing him no favors with Washington.” (Katz, 2013, p. 207) The connection to U.S government leads to the further even more implicit signifieds in pictures, such as dependency of Haiti on U.S, which is communicated
through American or Americanized (i.e. Wyclef Jean) celebrities in the Western (mainly American mainstream media).

- **Set up, unrealistic (and untouched) food, post earthquake effects not seen:** most of the pictures seem to be staged up in order to produce a meaningful and expected image of suffering Haitians for the Northern media.

In order to spot the somewhat unrealistic settings of visual materials, take a precise look at Image 2 (Wyclef Jean) and Image 5 (Angelina Jolie). Both celebrities participate in a meal course, organized for children. However, no one touches the food or drinks. On image 2 kids are fascinated by a speech of W. Jean (yet, what does he tell to hungry 6-8 year olds to keep them concentrated on words and not on food?) On image 5, fruits (vegetables?) look quite strange, even artificial. Moreover, there is definitely less cutlery and food than kids gathered in the picture. Only Sean Penn looks more or less natural on the pictures because he is mostly featured during his duties on field as a humanitarian. Yet, notice that there are no kids around him. Hence, the question arises, were kids gathered on purpose to take an impressive picture for the Northern media article because a general reader waits to encounter celebrity in exactly this way in Haiti?

Another suspicious picture featuring young Haitians is Image 4. On it A. Jolie visits a boy in a tent with amputated leg, which he lost during the earthquake. Although, she should proclaim sanitary practices, especially in case of children injuries, she does not take off her shoes, while the boy is lying down in his underpants only. The boy is very happy to see A. Jolie (though he doesn’t probably know her as a celebrity) as she apparently “raises his spirit” (SOS Children's Village, 2010). His happiness is highlighted in many texts featuring this image (s. next sub-chapter) with the message, how strong and resilient Haitian kids are. In reality, however, taking in account his young age the kid is probably happy to pose for cameras. But the semiotic message, which is being sent by such images, is to show the world how miserable are the conditions in Haiti, and in turn how superior are celebrities in their appearance. All together that signifies the clear distinction between the North and the South.
As a result of semiotic analysis, a table with codes that was developed in methodology part of this paper (s. Chapter 4.1.1) can be extended precisely to the case Haiti. Table 3 presents the findings for each Dyer’s checkpoint:

Table 3: Signs and codes for case Haiti

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signs</th>
<th>Symbolization for case Haiti</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Poor and helpless victims with a lack of education in a contrast to educated grown-up celebrities (\rightarrow) increases misery image of Haitians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Women are stereotypically considered weaker (\rightarrow) images of suffering women enforce more compassion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>Developed nations are stereotypically white. The contrast of Black (poor) Haitians to developed (white) celebrities (\rightarrow) highlights existence of racial discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Successful people are attractive and thus thin or sporty (\rightarrow) celebrities are per se physically attractive. Victims are either obese, anorexic or/and injured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looks</td>
<td>Celebrities are transmitting the image of beauty of clear skin, covered by skin protection, perfumes, branded clothes etc, which all symbolize progress and development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expression</td>
<td>Haitians are shown as victims, extremely sad without celebrities and tremendously happy with humanitarians (\rightarrow) shows dependence on the North. Explanation for intervention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye contact</td>
<td>Celebrities are powerful and hence keep direct eye contact with the Haitians, who either answer with a thankful smile or shyly look away. Celebrities also pose for camera and keep eye contact with the photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pose</td>
<td>The body language of celebrities shows self-confidence and justification for their presence in Haiti. To show their superior social position but caring attitude towards Haitians celebrities are bending over to offers, yet keep distance from them (\rightarrow) illustrating superiority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch</td>
<td>Celebrities with “caring hand”, or handing over donations (e.g. food, water), large crowds of Haitians reaching over to aim or to celebrities themselves (\rightarrow) depicting dependency on the mighty North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positional communication</td>
<td>Celebrities are shown superior over Haitians because their richness and power exceeds significantly that of local population. Celebrities are very low in numbers in comparison to Haitians (\rightarrow) all symbolizes inequality between rich and poor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settings</td>
<td>The images of celebrities do-gooding in Haiti are mostly set to show ultimate happiness that humanitarians are bringing to undeveloped nation. The more miserable the background of the image, the larger the readiness of the Northern donors to help (\rightarrow) exaggerates the distinction between the North and South.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Self-created, adopted from Dyer (1982)
In summary, the results of the semiotic analysis of 9 selected pictures, gives following three trends:

- Celebrity is depicted as the central figure on all images and has superior position over Haitian figures;
- None of the pictures shows clearly the earthquake harm;
- Feature of Haitian crowd (especially kids and women) is preferred.

These leads to two possible discourses: on the one side, it seems that the aim of mediated images depicting Jolie, Penn and Jean in Haiti is to highlight the difference between the North and the South through the Northern superiority. Moreover, it may be used by government (e.g. U.S) to justify the peaceful deployment of military coups to Haiti and huge spending of funds on it. The author of this paper fully agrees on this topic with Katz (2013), who argues that

“[…] a major chunk of U.S. government spending went through the Defense Department: $465 million through August 2010, mostly to the usual contractors or for standard deployment expenses” (p. 204). “Huge logistical operations cost money, especially when they involve nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and tens of thousands personnel. But it’s misleading to call such spending “money for Haiti”, especially when it gives the impression that any Haitian could have misappropriated or even profited from it.” (p.205.)

Finally, none of the pictures shows earthquake harm actually, yet the viewer unconsciously associates the celebrity as a post-quake helper with the characteristics of humanity, charity, kindness and similar, which without doubt increases the value of a celebrity as a brand.

5.2 Analysis of textual material

The semiotic analysis conducted in the previous sub-chapter shows how useful is this method for understanding the rhetorical motive and how it becomes persuasive. Combination with the text and discourse analysis will provide in this chapter some more evidence for the research question, as well as make the answer to some degree less subjective/biased. The discourse analysis does not aim to represent the opinion of the author of this paper but to understand the real voice of powers that construct the regimes of truth (Foucault, 1972).

In brief, the discourse analysis revealed three main discursive formations in Haiti: dependency, differentiation and establishment of new international actors. In the
following, the analysis shows how different voices of discourse and power try “to make themselves true” (Hall, 1997) through struggling between different “knowledge claims” and convincing the other in their “different understanding of aspects of the world” (Jorgensen & Philips, 2002).

The first discursive formation affirms Haitian dependency on U.S (mainly), as well as other international organization. This dependency relates not only to humanitarian aid, but also in existence of Haiti as “sovereign” state itself.

“Are we Haitians, once again, going to show ourselves incapable of carrying a project to conclusion? Are we going to do this Haitian style – Wash our hands and dry them in the dirt?” – Wyclef Jean rhetorically questions his own charity organization Yele (T3). Here and in other sources, Haitians are frequently shown as incapable people already so used to international aid that are Haiti is “known in developed world as “the Republic of NGOs” (T1) and having no control over their own future. The question arises, who has the power to control Haitian development? Through the analysis of diverse sources, it may be concluded that powers that construct the regime of truth are the ones, who have larger financial sources and who invest those gratuitous in Haiti.

The largest donor is non-surprisingly United States (s. Appendix B), who long has own interests in Haiti. Through large spending and enormous donations, U.S believes to establish “new and more efficient models for dispensing humanitarian aid” (T1), yet also secure their presence in Haiti: “We will be here today, tomorrow and for the time ahead” as Hillary Clinton promises (T1). Moreover, the Northern organizations are not planning to give up quickly as “Every day, the UN, governments, NGOs and local organizations are proving more people with protection […], yet the needs are still enormous and the displacement could last a decade.” (T2) Not to forget that forms of the Western supports includes not only celebrities taking pictures with victims for the Northern popular media, but also deployment of military troops, sanitary and medical workers, managers, photographers, drivers, guards, stylists, hairdressers and so on, on whom an impressive percentage of funds are eventually spent. Thus, the money fundraised by e.g. Wyclef Jean is eventually spent on his own needs (T3).

The new ways of “Build Back Better” (T1) by developed world is not a simple form of traditional post-disaster aid, it aims “to restructure, in a sense, shattered societies” by attracting foreign corporations and promote economic development by a
private sector, in other words by “New American Plan” (T1). This discursive formation clearly shows that the idea of rebuilding Haiti is much more inherent than it seems from the first side. With its “New American Plan” U.S charity organizations, both public and private “exploit power” (T1) through trying to impose “American norms with no practical regard for a Haitian context” (T1). The goal is hence to make the American norms to an ideology, which explains to “poor Haitians” how things are need to be understood and done (Rose, 2012). In order to make Haiti “a virtual, albeit dysfunctional ward of the West” (T1), U.S even helps Haiti to elect a president with “the kind of leadership that they need in the future” (T1), whereas the real “interest of the U.S. in Haiti is to have a government that is complaint” (T1) to provoke Haitians to ask for further support from States, increasing within its dependency knots. The result of such policy is thus to rebuild a state, yet not for Haiti but rather for US as Haiti is shown.

Nonetheless, what works in America will not necessary function in Haiti. This may be a possible explanation why so many rebuilding projects have failed despite “Haiti’s most hopeful hour for progress” (T1). As Reitman argues, “the idea of fixing Haiti is a flawed concept, revealing not only the limits of Western humanitarianism but the folly of believing that any country and its problems are ours to set right” (T1).

The second discursive formation shows difference between the Global North and undeveloped Global South in role of Haiti. This discourse is directly related to the discourse of international power forces and Haitian dependency on it because it serves as a justification of intervention for the North. “Haiti has a resonating history of class division, forced evictions and brutality” (T1) so Sean Penn explains why Haitians were suspicious to listen to his advice to re-locate to the camp owned by “rich white people” (T1). Thus Sean Penn affirms that racial background is still an important topic in Haiti, which should not be the case in the developed nation.

In addition, through depicting Haitians as poor, undeveloped, corrupted, irresponsible and having government that has “little interest in helping their own country” (T1) it is easier to blame them in case of any failure because of their inability to adapt to international (American) norms. “No one in the State Department or the Haitian government seemed willing to take responsibility for the relocation – or even for the rationale behind it” (T1). The reluctance to follow the regime of truth or “stubbornly refusal to be fixed” without doubt disappoints the individuals standing
behind the ideology. That is why it is needed to illustrate Haitians as underdeveloped and totally different from the North in order to explain to the wider Western public the (current) inability to change the future of Haiti.

At the same time, Angelina Jolie is “struck by strength and spirit of the Haitian people” (T2) and proposes “to give people the ability to work towards their own future as it helps to restore their hope and respects their dignity” (T2). Yet, the work she proposes is organized by the same power forces as described above as if “All roads lead to Rome”.

Finally, the discourse analysis proves the establishment of celebrities as new actors in the development discourse. Whether their presence in Haiti has a positive or a negative discourse is yet unclear, but in any case all three celebrities studied in this paper have left some remarkable contribution to Haitian development post-quake. Angelina Jolie “was in Haiti to listen and learn” (T2) (and to sell pictures with her and Haitian kids for impressive sums of dollars). Sean Penn’s J/P HRO’s engineering crew had “re-established entire neighborhoods, many hundreds of additional job our programs created” (T1) and etc and was favored by other development agencies for “his ability to break through bureaucracy” despite being “a movie star”. Wyclef Jean has fundraised $1 million in 24 hours over Twitter campaign (which have mystically disappeared together with other $9 million funds on his personal expenditures) (T3).

Despite skepticism towards celebrities and their “profit-driven development plans” (T1), their opinion is becoming ever sounder as it is believed that “private sector is more likely to try something new or entrepreneurial” (T1). One of the celebrities even managed to become a president of Haiti (although critics believe it is a part of the New American Plan): “Martelly was a celebrity who used his star power to appeal to Haitians across a wide political spectrum” (T1).

While celebrities blame each other for engaging in humanitarianism in scope of own interests, as for example Sean Penn claims “My impression is that Yele is at the service of Wyclef Jean and his reputation” (T3), the Global North believes in good intentions of celebrities and continues to donate “support and dollars” (T1).

To conclude, this discourse analysis has confirmed the findings of semiotic analysis and thus the visual and textual material are well contingent and depict following trends:
Celebrities are depicted as part of the powerful elite, who enjoy beautiful and wealthy lifestyle and in addition construct the regime of truth in Haiti, in Foucauldian sense. Therefore, the celebritized humanitarianism is institutionalized in mind-set in the modern international relations thorough the means of the Western mainstream journalism. Haitians, on the other side, are depicted as significantly weaker and dependent on their celebrity donors.

Some media sources describe Haitians as nation with strong faith and spirit, others at the same time as passive, corrupt and incapable to change their future without international intervention, including celebritized humanitarianism. Media tries to underline that due to their long-term colonial and neocolonial relationships with U.S., Haitians expect it and other donors to support the state.

Inequality between developed and developing nations is promoted by media through asserting the Northern public to believe that Haitians refuse to develop and rather follow outdated norms of living, while celebrities are “desperately” trying to improve the misery of Haiti.
6. CONCLUSION

The aim of this paper was to prove the emergence of celebrities as new global actors of development through depiction of their humanitarian efforts by the Western media. Moreover, by a comparison of Haitians as victims of the Global South and three celebrities as humanitarians of the Global North the art of communication for the international development of celebritized aiders was studied. First of all, the proof of importance of celebrity studies was explored by a literature review, which provided an evidence of normalization of celebrity engagement within existing academic research. Secondly, an empirical analysis in form of semiotic and discourse research methods have confirmed the effects of media narratives of celebritized aid on development framing in scope of the Western media consumer.

More precisely, literature findings have proved that modern humanitarianism is fully reliable on celebrity engagement and can no longer trigger compassion towards suffering nations/regions without celebrities. Philanthrocapitalism has become normalized in the Northern mind-set and is favoured by the most Western audiences. Therefore, possession of money, popularity or both gives celebrities a lobbying power in international development and ability to communicate the problems of the South to the global North. However, academics debate that celebrity aid promotes global inequality and corrupt representation of the global Southern issues and their solutions. Similarly opinion has the author of this paper by confirming her belief through the empirical research.

First of all, the text and images of Haiti in mainstream media show enormous diversity between U.S. celebrities of both genders and races and Haitian population, which is depicted in accordance to modernization theory as weaker, significantly poorer and more primitive. Although celebrities claim that they raise the spirit of suffering Haitians and inspire them to rebuild their state, it seems that their field visits are indeed more aspirational than inspirational because they act as ambassadors of good U.S. American life pointing out to Haitians and to the rest of the world the misery of living in Haiti. Having significant amount of power to construct and influence public opinion, celebrities increase within the feeling of global inequality despite their do-gooding motivation. Nonetheless, Foucault teaches us that the nature of power is never totally evident to us, neither in scope of its location or in its mechanisms of involvement into
its strategies of knowledge construction. This leads to the idea that celebrities may be important players in the global development, yet only represent the interests of some other forces: political, societal or more narrowly journalistic, who decide how to depict celebrities in public media to frame correct images of social reality.

As discussed in the analysis of this paper, the relationship between the celebrity, media and global discursive powers remains somewhat vague. One is clear, celebrities can be surely considered as new actors in the development. Both literature research and empirical analysis in this paper have proved the normalization of celebrity engagement in development issues. However, the scope of their actions, the roles they play or the depiction of their engagement in Haiti is controlled by the demand of the Northern media agents, who in turn act in the interests of their Western audiences. Despite the freedom of speech in the most Northern societies, mainstream journalism is still influenced by the ruling power elites and hence has to anticipate the image of celebrity humanitarianism that current regime of truth is impelling to create. The debate who nowadays exerts more power in this threefold relationship remains open and needs further investigation. Therefore, the author of this paper suggests exploring the correlation effects of power between political forces, celebrity actors and journalistic creators as a further research.

As a final concluding note, it can be said that celebrity aid contributes to the international development by increasing the awareness of mainly Northern audiences. Nonetheless, the messages, which are being communicated through the mainstream media do not foster the development of Haiti in a long-term and rather identify the critical difference in North-South relations and inequality between nations, despite being able to raise significant amount of financial resources needed for temporary development of the country in immediate aftermath of disaster.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


APPENDIX

Appendix A: Haiti aid distribution in 2010 and 2011 by project type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total resources available $</th>
<th>Unmet requirements $</th>
<th>Covered % per year</th>
<th>Uncommitted pledges</th>
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<td>-40,911,267</td>
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| COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES         | 2010     | 21,998,478                  | -137,330             | 101                 | 0                   |
| EARLY RECOVERY                            | 2010     | 53,742,941                  | 86,962,959           | 38                  | 0                   |
| EDUCATION                                 | 2010     | 85,523,851                  | 2,013,011            | 98                  | 0                   |
| EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS              | 2010     | 782,460                     | 3,651,305            | 18                  | 0                   |
| FOOD AID                                  | 2010     | 353,744,105                 | 132,998,437          | 73                  | 2,111,814           |
| HEALTH                                    | 2010     | 104,069,888                 | 38,250,291           | 74                  | 450,000             |
| LOGISTICS                                 | 2010     | 84,629,799                  | 25,214,077           | 72                  | 0                   |
| NUTRITION                                 | 2010     | 46,236,455                  | 1,872,497            | 96                  | 0                   |
| PROTECTION                                | 2010     | 42,940,134                  | 28,927,596           | 60                  | 100,000             |
| SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS                | 2010     | 102,276,697                 | 59,986,857           | 63                  | 220,000             |
| WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE             | 2010     | 97,216,853                  | 13,722,721           | 88                  | 0                   |

Grand Total:                               |          | 1,126,089,069              | 1,283,093,467        | 3,881,614           |

SOURCE: http://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/GCHA_R32vum_h893.xls
## Appendix B: 10 Main Haiti aid funders by country in 2010 and 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/organisation</th>
<th>Committed funding, $</th>
<th>Uncommitted funding, $</th>
<th>Committed funding, $ per person</th>
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A year and a half after the island was reduced to rubble by an earthquake, the world's unprecedented effort to rebuild it has turned into a disaster of good intentions.

In March of last year, two months after the devastating earthquake that killed 300,000 Haitians and left more than a million homeless, Sean Penn was faced with a monumental challenge. Penn, who had been spending most of his time in Haiti since the quake, was running a large camp for internally displaced persons in the foothills of a wealthy suburb of Port-au-Prince, on what had been the city's lone golf course. Nearly 60,000 poor and middle-class Haitians, most from Haiti's devastated capital, had migrated here, pouring over the crumbled walls of the exclusive country club, and established a spontaneous and overcrowded city of crude dwellings fashioned from plastic sheeting.

One night, a heavy rainstorm reduced much of the golf course to mud. Penn turned to Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, commander of the U.S. military's Joint Task Force Haiti, a 22,000-strong deployment, which was helping to lead the international relief effort. Keen immediately assigned the Army Corps of Engineers to come up with a drainage plan. Before the work could begin, however, some 5,000 refugees would have to leave the golf course. The question was where to put them.

It fell to Penn to explain the situation to the Haitians. So he took his translator and walked to the bottom of the golf course, where some of the refugees' leaders had gathered. The men were suspicious of Penn, believing him to be in cahoots with Haiti's wealthy landowners, a small and privileged elite who had ruled the country for generations and were now trying to forcibly evict many refugees from their land, often at the point of a gun. To the people living in Penn's camp, the "optional relocation" he was proposing smacked of a prelude to a larger, mandatory exodus.

"Look," said the actor, sitting down with the Haitians in a tent. "I don't give a fuck about the rich guys who own this club."
In context of reality and of the broader explanation I gave Ms. Reitman and her fact checker, I explained that I had indeed said those words knowing I was speaking to a group of pro-Aristide, anti-foreign “community leaders” whom, I had been informed in advance, believed that any whites operating in the camp within which they lived were doing so on behalf of the “rich white people who own the club,” which in Haiti has a resonating history of class division, forced evictions and brutality. I used those words about the landowners only in knowing I would need to court open minds, and had to make the separation clear between their assumptions about these landowners (which, had they been justified, indeed my words would have expressed exactly the position I and J/P HRO would have taken) and our own position as a humanitarian operation, presenting them with an opportunity to make a sacrifice for the greater good of the community.

He didn't even want them to leave, he said, but what was the choice? He pulled out a map of the drainage plan the military engineers had devised. Those ditches were a necessity, he said — without them, thousands of people might die in a mudslide or flood. Then he took out a Google Earth photo of Corail, a wide swath of land, some 18,000 acres, and laid out the proposal: Each family that agreed to move to Corail would get $50, courtesy of the American Red Cross, and a hygiene kit. They would also get shelter, food rations, clean water, free medical care and a school for their kids. And they would be first in line for jobs in Korean-owned garment factories that the Haitian government pledged would soon be built in the area.

"That's the plan," Penn said. "We'll step outside, you guys decide. If it were me, I would take my kids out there rather than stay here."

Within days, thousands of refugees had agreed to move to Corail. On Saturday, April 10th, 2010, the first group left the golf course in a caravan of buses, the exodus chaperoned by United Nations peacekeepers. They arrived, disembarking onto a dusty, cactus-strewn patch of land in the shadow of a denuded mountain that turned out to be as vulnerable to the elements as the golf course. Their new homes — bright white tents set up on the baking gravel — were both hot and flimsy; three months after the refugees arrived, hundreds of the tents would blow away in a heavy windstorm.

What those not in the field do not know is that 100 or more tents go down in EVERY camp with EVERY harsh rain. But rains in Haiti tend to fall at night, when fearful journalists dare not tread into “spooky” IDP camps, and too many U.N. bureaucrats have never seen the inside of a camp to begin with.

There were no schools, no markets, and the closest hospital was miles away. There were also no jobs, as the hoped-for factories would not be built for months — or even years. To return to the city meant a long walk to a bus stop followed by a several-hour commute. They were marooned.

In the aftermath of the move, no one in the State Department or the Haitian government seemed willing to take responsibility for the relocation — or even for the rationale behind it. "I've yet to see any evidence that proves that anyone was in more danger on the golf course than they would have been anywhere else — though everybody in Haiti thinks they were," says a senior U.N. official who asked not to be identified. "What the move proved was that it's possible to 'save' 5,000 people if you say they're in a dangerous situation and put them in what you call a safe situation. It was the most grotesque act of cynicism that I've seen for some time."
Penn, for one, admits that Corail was a problematic choice. "It's a very vulnerable area," he says, adding that he realized this immediately, having toured the site soon after it was selected. "It struck me as desolate, but we had an emergency, and this was an emergency-relocation area — I never said it was anything else," he insists. "I feel like shit. I hope those guys are OK when it rains out there. I feel an extra responsibility — of course I do. But we were betrayed," Penn says he was assured by international monitors and aid agencies that Corail was a safe place to live, and that shelters would be built within three months.

(From the response article) For our own part, J/P HRO’s engineering crew had re-established entire neighborhoods, removing over 120,000 cubic meters of rubble and demolishing hundreds of irreparable buildings, much of that rubble recycled and trucked into the slum of Cité Soleil to be used as fill beneath three new schools in assistance to the Digicel school project (mentioned in the Rolling Stone article). Our medical teams and clinics had treated over 115,000 patients, and pushed by truck and helicopter over 100 metric tons of cholera meds throughout the country, including mountainous regions so remote that inhabitants had never seen a white face before. Our school of 260 children was advancing, and we had ultimately helped to relocate over 30,000 people from camps to homes while coordinating camp services as management in that same period. We have trained and employed 250 Haitians on staff, as well as many hundreds of additional jobs our programs created, both through cash-for-work and cash-for-production programs. All of this principally funded by private donors.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake on January 12th, 2010, the international community resolved not only to rebuild Haiti, but also to establish new and more efficient models for dispensing humanitarian aid. President Obama, calling the tragedy "cruel and incomprehensible," pledged "every element of our national capacity" to the response. Former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton created a special fund for Haiti; the American Red Cross launched a wildly successful appeal, raising close to $500 million in one year. In total, an estimated one in two American households donated more than $1.4 billion to Haiti relief, with close to $11 billion more for reconstruction pledged by donor countries and financial institutions. "We will be here today, tomorrow and for the time ahead," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton promised during a post-quake visit to Port-au-Prince.

American and international officials gave their plan for Haiti a simple and compelling name, Building Back Better, a term that came into vogue after the tsunami that struck Asia in 2004, and that has since become something of a mantra in the development world. In a radical shift away from traditional approaches to foreign aid, "building back better" attempts to go beyond simple relief and not only to rebuild shattered structures, but to restructure, in a sense, shattered societies. At the forefront of this effort is private-sector investment being leveraged to build the kind of infrastructure needed to promote economic development and attract foreign corporations: roads, power lines, factories, markets. "The hope," explains Matthew Bishop, co-author of Philanthrocapitalism: How the Rich Can Save the World, "is that using the private sector will be a lot more efficient. Traditional aid has been extremely wasteful. When it is allowed to take the lead, the private sector is more likely to try something new or entrepreneurial."

But despite all that has been promised, almost nothing has been built back in Haiti, better or otherwise. Within Port-au-Prince, some 3 million people languish in permanent misery, subject to myriad experiments at "fixing" a nation that, to those who
are attempting it, stubbornly refuses to be fixed. Mountains of rubble remain in the streets, hundreds of thousands of people continue to live in weather-beaten tents, and cholera, a disease that hadn't been seen in Haiti for 60 years, has swept over the land, infecting more than a quarter million people.

This distillation of snowballed half-truths perilously threatens to dissuade donorship while bolstering reluctance and excusability on the parts of governments and NGOs alike to release already appropriated funds at this, Haiti’s most hopeful hour for progress since the earth shook.

As the relief effort has dragged on for well over a year, virtually every actor involved has blamed the others; […] Others say the goals were too lofty, the plans unrealistic; maybe Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, was simply too damaged to be fixed. Or perhaps the very idea of fixing Haiti at all is a flawed concept, revealing not only the limits of Western humanitarianism but the folly of believing that any country and its problems are ours to set right. Amid all the finger-pointing, however, nearly everyone taking part in the relief effort is quick to place at least some of the blame on the Haitians themselves. “Corruption is the reason those reconstruction funds haven't broken loose,” says one U.S. business consultant, who describes most Haitian politicians as “pathological narcissists” with little interest in helping their own country. Such accusations have been made by outsiders for as long as outsiders have tried to help Haiti — which itself may be the biggest problem. “Haitian people have always found a way to get rid of those who've tried to control them,” says Raoul Peck, Haiti's former minister of culture. "It's very easy to point at the Haitians for being corrupt or weak. What's much harder is looking at what's wrong with those who say they are just trying to help."

Haiti's dysfunction, while undeniably exacerbated by the quake, goes back generations. The first independent black republic in the world, it has been hobbled for most of the past century by a series of repressive dictatorships and military regimes, and so dependent on Western aid groups that since the late 1990s, it has been known throughout the development world as "the Republic of NGOs." The earthquake didn't so much destroy Haitian society as it exposed how deeply broken that society already was.

Because international NGOs get most of their money from large government agencies, they are beholden to the broader policy imperatives of their funders. "The big problem is that most NGOs are only really accountable to their donors, when we should really be accountable to the people we're trying to serve," says Dr. Louise Ivers, senior health and policy adviser for Partners in Health, a Boston-based NGO that has worked in Haiti for 25 years. Some organizations, she notes, "exist only to write grant proposals that respond to specific donor requests. If your mandate is just to follow the money, then the money determines what happens."

For too long, Clinton believed, the West had embraced "development for development's sake," throwing money at poor countries without demanding either accountability or results. Haiti had received so much foreign assistance over the years — more than $300 million annually from the U.S. alone — that it had become a virtual, albeit dysfunctional, ward of the West, and a poster child for the inadequacies of foreign aid.

Penn himself, by most accounts, has been one of the most effective players in Haiti. Some celebrities who threw themselves into the relief effort, like Wyclef Jean, quickly discovered that even the best-intentioned efforts to mobilize resources can go
disastrously wrong, undermined by mismanagement and corruption. But Penn, who arrived in Haiti a week after the earthquake with a team of doctors and rescue workers he had rounded up, forged a bond with both the U.S. military and with Dr. Paul Farmer, the well-known advocate for Haiti's poor. At first, many veteran relief workers were wary of Penn. "For all the usual reasons, I was skeptical of a movie star working in Haiti," admits Ivers, the senior health and policy adviser for Farmer's organization. "I doubted his motivation, and I was frustrated that I couldn't do what he was able to do." But Penn soon impressed Ivers and others with his ability to break through bureaucracy, and humanitarian officials now refer to his golf-course settlement, with its hospital, school, well-maintained water and sanitation, as a "five-star camp."

As such, the Iron Market, an ode to commerce and entrepreneurial drive, is also a pointed symbol of the disproportionate influence that foreign corporations wield over the future of Haiti. Under what might be called the "New American Plan," reconstruction is driven not primarily by the dictates of democracy but by the demands of the bottom line. "Ultimately it all comes down to governance," says Bishop, the co-author of *Philanthrocapitalism*. "There was this tremendous outpouring of goodwill after the earthquake, and this idea of 'build back better' caught on — but for all their consultations, no one really found out what the Haitian people's concept of build back better actually was."

The man who was actually elected president in April — the 50-year-old singer Michel "Sweet Micky" Martelly — also offers an indication of how little control Haitians are likely to have over their own future. The United States, along with Canada and the European Union, invested roughly $29 million in the elections, pushing for a recount when Martelly, viewed by many as the people's choice, was edged out by a rival, government-backed candidate in the first round. The recount was needed, Cheryl Mills explained at the time, to ensure that the people of Haiti got "the kind of leadership that they need in the future." Martelly also received robust support from Digicel and other private-sector interests.

A political novice sometimes described as the Ronald Reagan of Haitian politics, Martelly was an unorthodox if telling candidate to lead the new Haiti. An imposing man with a striking bald head, he was a celebrity who used his star power to appeal to Haitians across a wide political spectrum. Martelly made his name singing kompa, an Afro-Caribbean genre beloved throughout the country. For years, he'd been one of the most popular entertainers in Haiti. Martelly also positioned himself as a friend to U.S. business interests, which won him support from right-wing think tanks like the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "The interest of the U.S. in Haiti is to have a government that is compliant. They pushed for Martelly, and now they are expecting him to do their bidding — and he is."

The cumulative cynicism of Reitman's article dismisses Martelly as a right-wing militarist in the pocket of the private sector and the United States government. It is an assertion entrenched in the lust for endless struggle and the imposition of American norms with no practical regard for a Haitian context. And his call for a new Haitian military should be understood in the balance of a country currently under effective security occupation by the foreign faces, helmets, weapons and APCs of United Nations peacekeepers. (Despite the exceptional work by many of these peacekeepers and their leadership, there are always those who exploit power.)
This, then, is the legacy that decades of foreign investment have bestowed on Haiti: a brutal and intractable poverty, borne of a disastrous mix of well-intentioned aid and profit-driven development. Every decade or so, it seems, the world comes up with a bold new plan for saving Haiti — and each ultimately proves as ineffective and fleeting as the last.

Where to begin? In the areas of operation where J/P HRO have ongoing programs, I am known to the population not as a film actor, not as a warm and fuzzy humanitarian, but as a blan (that foreign guy who’s the boss of the organization working with them in their camps and their neighborhoods). I am also known, to those I am known, as a potential employer. In Haiti, what is wanted is a job.

Suspicion and cynicism toward U.S. policy in Haiti have shameful historic validity, but it is a new day. It is time for the Haitian people and their new president to have their voices heard and their needs met. So much white noise of corruption, both real and imagined, so much suspicion, and conspiracy. Well, 9 million human beings live in Haiti. They need our support. Rolling Stone readers and Rolling Stone magazine, they need your support and dollars.
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, February 9 (UNHCR) – UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie arrived on Tuesday in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, where she visited earthquake survivors and met aid workers from local and international organizations. Jolie, who said she was in Haiti to “listen and to learn,” visited medical centres, the UN mission and met with vulnerable children. On her arrival in the Haitian capital, Jolie was briefed by the United Nations Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General Edmond Mulet on the scale of the humanitarian operation to date and the challenges that remain.

She also visited a cash-for-work programme run by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in the Carrefour district of Port-au-Prince, which is enabling Haitians to earn an income as they help their country to recover. “To give people the ability to work towards their own future is so important at this time. It helps to restore their hope and respects their dignity,” said Jolie. The programme is assisting some 40,000 people with an aim of reaching more than 400,000. She commended the participants who told her they were happy to clean up their country and then sang her a song about Haitian pride.

In the Santo area of Port-au-Prince, Jolie visited SOS Children's Villages, a worldwide programme to raise children inside their own countries. Since the earthquake, the organization has begun providing additional care for children who have been newly orphaned or who have lost contact with their parents as a result of the catastrophe. SOS is working to reunite children with their family members and will continue to care for those without any caregivers. Jolie applauded their work, while stressing that “new adoptions should definitely not be encouraged as an immediate response to the emergency. Haiti had many trafficking problems before the earthquake and now must keep a very close watch on the children. I would encourage as much support as possible to groups like SOS and UNICEF providing care for children in country.”

The acclaimed actress also visited a tented hospital set up and run by UNHCR partner, Médecins Sans Frontières, in the commune of Delmas, also in Port-au-Prince. “I was struck by the strength and spirit of the Haitian people. Children as young as nine months old were coping with amputations with extraordinary resilience. I even met a little 10-year-old boy who had recently had his leg amputated, who was giggling to himself about a silly book as he sat on the floor,” Jolie revealed. “These doctors are extraordinary,” she said. “For all the patients that had to have amputations there are also a high number of limbs and lives that the doctors have managed to save.”

“It will take years to rebuild Haiti,” Jolie said, after seeing the devastation from the January 12 earthquake. “Every day, the UN, governments, NGOs and local organizations are providing more people with protection, food, water, shelter and health care, yet the needs are still enormous and the displacement could last a
decade. “Providing adequate shelter to the displaced is of paramount importance, especially as the upcoming rainy season threatens to add to the devastation. Everyone is bracing themselves for a second wave of tragedy.”

Before arriving in Haiti, Jolie spent a day in the Dominican Republic, where she visited Haitian earthquake victims in the local public hospital and in nearby shelters. “I was heartened to see the care being provided by Dominican doctors and nurses and to witness the generosity of local society, which is caring for discharged patients and their families in their recovery,” she said.
PORTAUPRINCE, Haiti — In a new memoir, Wyclef Jean, the Haitian born hip hop celebrity, claims he endured a “crucifixion” after the Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake when he faced questions about his charity’s financial record and ability to handle what eventually amounted to $16 million in donations. Portraying himself as persecuted like Jesus and Martin Luther King Jr., Mr. Jean, 42, writes with indignation about insinuations that he had used his charity, Yéle, for personal gain. He says he did not need to — “I have a watch collection worth $500,000” — and that doubters will someday understand “Yéle is Haiti’s greatest asset and ally.” But on his book tour for “Purpose: An Immigrant’s Story,” Mr. Jean, who made an aborted bid for the presidency of Haiti after the earthquake, neglects to mention two key facts: a continuing New York attorney general’s investigation has already found financial improprieties at Yéle, and the charity effectively went out of business last month, leaving a trail of debts, unfinished projects and broken promises. “If I had depended on Yéle,” said Diaoly Estimé, whose orphanage features a wall painting of Mr. Jean and his wife, “these kids would all be dead by now.”

Even as Yéle is besieged by angry creditors, an examination of the charity indicates that millions in donations for earthquake victims went to its own offices, salaries, consultants’ fees and travel, to Mr. Jean’s brother-in-law for projects never realized, to materials for temporary houses never built and to accountants dealing with its legal troubles. On the ground in Haiti, little lasting trace of Yéle’s presence can be discerned. The walled country estate leased for its headquarters, on which the charity lavished $600,000, is deserted. Yéle’s street cleaning crews have been disbanded. The Yéle branded tents and tarps have mostly disintegrated; one camp leader said they had not seen Yéle, which is based in New York, since Mr. Jean was disqualified as a presidential candidate because he lives in Saddle River, N.J., not Haiti.

This summer, the charity foundered. At the end of August, Derek Q. Johnson, Yéle’s chief executive, announced his resignation to supporters.

Mr. Jean founded Yéle, a word he coined to mean “cry for freedom” in 2004. Now 40, he had emigrated to the United States as a child, becoming an international star with his 1990s band, the Fugees. In his memoir, he says his journey from “a hut with a dirt floor” to “a mansion in New Jersey with Grammys on the mantle” motivated him to give back to his homeland. But from the start Yéle was lax about accounting and tax
filing, blurring the boundaries between its founders’ personal and charitable enterprises. The forensic audit examined $3 million of the charity’s 2005 to 2009 expenses and found $256,580 in illegitimate benefits to Mr. Jean and other Yéle board and staff members as well as improper or potentially improper transactions. These included $24,000 for Mr. Jean’s chauffeur services and $30,763 for a private jet that transported Lindsay Lohan from New Jersey to a benefit in Chicago that raised only $66,000. The audit considered it appropriate, though, for the charity to pay Mr. Jean $100,000 to perform at a Yéle fundraiser in Monaco because that was his market rate. It also found it acceptable for Yéle to pay $125,114 on travel and other matters related to a “60 Minutes” report on “Wyclef’s mission to help the people of Haiti and his personal success story” because it appeared to have heightened awareness of Yéle. It was deemed legitimate to have spent $57,927 on private jets to fly Matt Damon and others to Haiti because they gave “substantial contributions” afterward.

Yéle was small before the earthquake, with only $37,000 in assets. Immediately afterward, money started pouring in. Mr. Jean said he raised $1 million in 24 hours when he urged his Twitter followers to text donations. In 2010, Yéle spent $9 million and half went to travel, to salaries and consultants’ fees and to expenses related to their offices and warehouse. In contrast, another celebrity charity, Sean Penn’s J/P Haitian Relief Organization, spent $13 million with only 10 percent going to those costs. Though Mr. Penn’s group spent $43,000 on office related expenses, Yéle spent $1.4 million, including $375,000 for “landscaping” and $37,000 for rent to Mr. Jean’s Manhattan recording studio. Yéle spent $470,440 on its own food and beverages. Some of Yéle’s programming money went to projects that never came to fruition: temporary homes for which it prepaid $93,000; a medical center to have been housed in geodesic domes for which it paid $146,000; the revitalization of a plaza in the Cité Soleil slum, where supposed improvements that cost $230,000 are nowhere to be seen.

And a Miami company called Amisphere Farm Labor, incorporated in 2008 and dissolved in 2009, received $1 million in 2010 to provide hot meals to displaced Haitians. Yet a Haitian caterer has sued Yéle for $430,000 in non-payment for these very same meals, thus far succeeding only in getting the charity’s Haitian bank account frozen. Mr. Penn told The New York Times in 2010, “My impression is that Yéle is at the service of Wyclef Jean and his reputation.”

Derek Q. Johnson, then the chief executive of Yéle, was skeptical of the program and cancelled it. The Rev. Jean, in protest, sent an angry email to Yéle: “Are we Haitians, once again, going to show ourselves incapable of carrying a project to conclusion?” he asked. “Are we going to do this Haitian style — ‘Wash our hands and dry them in the dirt?’”