Luxury Brands Aura Reconstituted for the Digital Age

Abstract:

As the Internet has risen in prominence, it has become one of the essential brand management tools. As such, luxury brands are increasingly using digital strategies. Yet, because the luxury brand has unique characteristics compared to other brands, their brand aura has been gradually undermined by these digital initiatives. As pandemic has been worldwide, the luxury brand needs to find a new way for its brand development in the future. This research aims to explore a new strategy for luxury brands basing on digital platform technology. Previous research demonstrates that luxury brands have developed websites but use them primarily for brand image development rather than sales. Thus, there is a need for research on how luxury brands can increase digital sales without diluting their brand image, or aura, as can happen on third-party sales platforms such as Tmall. Thus, this study has focused on how luxury brands can develop their internet sales presence while retaining their aura and offers insights into building a digital strategy and reconstituting brand aura in digital spaces. It has adopted qualitative to collect all customers' negative feedback from Burberry flagship store in Tmall to do content analysis and explore how the luxury brand aura has been affected by this sales place. In conclusion, luxury brands collaborate with online retail is a trend under the economic rescission situation. As a luxury brand, it could use a proper way to work with the Internet and make its digital strategy simultaneously.

Keywords: aura, luxury brands' cultural value, digital promotion strategy, ecommerce (online) sales strategy

Reference:

- [1] Angelini, F. and Castellani, M.(2019), "Cultural and economic value: a critical review", *Journal of Cultural Economics*, Vol.43 No.2, pp.173-188.
- [2] Aprillia, A., Setiawan, R. and Munthe, R.G. (2019, July), "Online luxury and instore luxury shoppers' analysis towards luxury goods". In Global Competitiveness: Business Transformation in the Digital Era: Proceedings of the First Economics and Business Competitiveness International Conference (EBCICON 2018), September 21-22, 2018, Bali, Indonesia, p.280. Routledge.
- [3] Arora, R. (2011), P's of luxury brand marketing. *Warc Exclusive*.
- [4] Ashill, N., Semaan, R.W. and Williams, P. (2019), March. Measuring Brand Charisma: An Exploratory Study of Luxury Brand Consumers. In 2018 Annual Meeting of the Decision Sciences Institute Proceedings, pp.1074-1093.
- [5] Bain & company (2018), 'Global personal luxury goods market set to contract

between 20 - 35 percent in 2020', available at https://www.bain.com/about/mediacenter/press-releases/2020/spring-luxury-report/ (accessed March 08, 2021)

- [6] Beer, D. and Burrows, R. (2010), Consumption, prosumption and participatory web cultures: An introduction, pp.3-12.
- [7] Benjamin, W. (1936), "The work of art in the age of mechanical reproduction". *Visual Culture: Experiences in Visual Culture*, pp.144-137.
- [8] Berry, C.J. (1994), *The idea of luxury: A conceptual and historical investigation*, Vol. 30, Cambridge University Press.
- [9] Beverland, M.B. (2005), "Crafting Brand Authenticity: The Case of Luxury Wines", *Journal of Management Studies*, Vol.42 No.5, pp.1003-1029.
- [10]Burberry, are you a Tmall's "scorpion" or a Tmall's guest?, WeMedia website, available at http://wemedia.ifeng.com/34586242/wemedia.shtml (accessed September 5, 2019) (in Chinese)
- [11]Burberry collaborates with Tmall Store and set up the luxury brand new business model, available at http://www.xinhuanet.com/fashion/2017-10/15/c_1121805208.htm (accessed Feb 16, 2018)
- [12]Burberry Tmall Store FrontPage, available at https://burberry.tmall.com/index.htm?spm=a1z10.1-b-s.w5001-14908573404.8.5f47774411v0ky&scene=taobao_shop (accessed August 17, 2019)
- [13] Campaign Asia-Pacific (2019), To Post-90s Chinese, Luxury Is No Longer for Rich People, available at https://www.luxurysociety.com/en/articles/2019/05/post-90s-chinese-luxury-nolonger-rich-people/ (accessed April 22, 2019)
- [14] Cashmere Scarves from Burberry, Burberry Official Website U.K., available at https://uk.burberry.com/embroidered-vintage-check-lightweight-cashmere-scarfp80092931 (accessed June 8, 2019)
- [15] Castillan, L., Chheang, C., Denoux, C., Ferrenbach, C., Gérard, C., Hua, E., & Manière, I. C. (2017), "Online luxury: The code breakers of a traditional sector", *Procedia computer science*, Vol.122, pp.579-586.
- [16] Chevalier, M. and Gutsatz, M. (2012), Luxury retail management: How the world's top brands provide quality product and service support, John Wiley & Sons, pp.67-68.
- [17] Chuon, A. and Hamzah, H. (2019), "Buyers' Perception of the Marketing Mix of Luxury High Rise Residence (LHR) in Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle (KLGT)", *International Journal of Property Sciences* (E-ISSN: 2229-8568), Vol. 9 No.1, pp.54-68.

[18] Daniela Coppola (2021), 'E-commerce worldwide - Statistics & Facts', available

at https://www.statista.com/topics/871/online-shopping/ (accessed March,08,2021)

- [19] De Mooij, M.(2019), Consumer behavior and culture: Consequences for global marketing and advertising. SAGE Publications Limited.
- [20] Doherty N.F. and Ellis-Chadwick F.E. (2006), "New Perspectives in Internet Retailing: A Review and Strategic Critique of the Field", *International Journal of Retail & Distribution Management*, Vol.34 No.4/5, pp.411-428.
- [21]Fernandes, M.T. (2012), "A Holistic and Cultural view of Value. *Advances in Management and Applied Economics"*, Vol.2 No.1, p.55.
- [22] Feshchenko, V.(2019), "Graphic Translation of Experimental Verse as a Strategy of Poetic Text's Transcreation". Studia Metrica et Poetica, Vol.6 No.1, pp.94-115.
- [23] Frontier Economics (2015), "The economic and financial contribution of highend creative and cultural industries to the U.K. economy", A Frontier Report for Walpole, available at www.thewalpole.co.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2017/05/Walpole-Economic-Impact-Assessement-Study-Sept2015.pdf (accessed August 22, 2019).
- [24] Goodman, N. and GOODMAN, N.A. (1968), *Languages of art: An approach to a theory of symbols*. Hackett publishing.
- [25] Goulding, C. and Derbaix, M. (2019)," Consuming material authenticity in the age of digital reproduction", European Journal of Marketing, Vol.53 No.3, pp.545-564.
- [26]Goworek, H., Perry, P., Kent, A., Straker, K. and Wrigley, C. (2016)," Emotionally engaging customers in the digital age: the case study of 'Burberry love'". Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management.
- [27] Hammad, H., Muster, V., El-Bassiouny, N.M. and Schaefer, M. (2019), "Status and sustainability", *Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management: An International Journal*.
- [28] Hauck, W.E. and Stanforth, N. (2007), "Cohort perception of luxury goods and services", *Journal of Fashion Marketing and management*, No.11 Vol.2, pp.175-188.
- [29] Heine, K.(2012), The concept of luxury brands, Edition 2, pp.2193-1208.
- [30] Hornby, A.S., Cowie, A.P., Gimson, A.C. and Hornby, A.S. (1974), *oxford advanced learner's dictionary of current English* (Vol.1428), Oxford: Oxford university press.
- [31]Kapferer, J.N. (2015), Kapferer on Luxury: How luxury brands can grow yet

remain rare. Kogan Page Publishers.

- [32]Kefi H. and Maar D. (2018), "The Power of Lurking: Assessing the Online Experience of Luxury Brand Fan Page Followers", *Journal of business research* (*in press*), available online from 28th August 2018.
- [33] Kim, J.H. (2019), "Imperative challenge for luxury brands: Generation Y

consumers' perceptions of luxury fashion brands' e-commerce sites", *International Journal of Retail & Distribution Management*, Vol.47 No.2, pp.220-244.

- [34] Krepapa, A. and Regkoukou, S., Ion Beratis (2016), "Engagement with Luxury Brands on Instagram: An Exploratory Analysis", Global Innovation and Knowledge Academy (GIKA 2016) conference proceedings. Marketing, Vol. 32 No.1, pp.15-27.
- [35]Lam, S.S.K. (2019), "Multi-layered Identities by Social Media and Prosumption Practices in Digital and Participatory Communication", *Journal of Digital Media* & Interaction, Vol.2 No.3, pp.7-22.
- [36]Li, C., Cui, Z., Chen, J. and Zhou, N.(2019), "Brand revitalization of heritage enterprises for cultural sustainability in the digital era: A case study in China", *Sustainability*, Vo.11 No.6, p.1769.
- [37]Li, J. (2010), *Luxury Brand Management in method and practice*, Beijing: Peking University Press, p.19. (in Chinese)
- [38] Liu, S., Perry, P. and Gadzinski, G. (2019), "The implications of digital marketing on WeChat for luxury fashion brands in China", *Journal of Brand Management*, Vo.26 No.4, pp.395-409.
- [39]Lu, C.B. (2016), "Luxury Brand Emotional Promotion Model in Social Comparative Perspective", *Journal of Dong Nan Academic*, No.5. (in Chinese)
- [40] Ma, F., Shi, H., Chen, L. and Luo, Y, (2012), "A theory on fashion consumption", *Journal of Management and Strategy*, Vol.3 No.4, p.84.
- [41] Market Research Report (2010), European general retail & luxury goods: onlineopportunity or threat?, Sandford C. Bernstein & Co. LLC, NY, pp.79-92.
- [42] Matteini, M. (2019), The Aesthetics of Scholarship: Weng Fanggang and the Cult of Su Shi in Late-Eighteenth-Century Beijing, *Archives of Asian Art*, Vol.69 No.1, pp.103-120.
- [43] Mrad, M., Farah, M.F. and Haddad, S. (2019). "From Karl Lagerfeld to Erdem: a series of collaborations between designer luxury brands and fast-fashion brands", *Journal of Brand Management*, Vol.26 No.5, pp.567-582.
- [44] Munkhjargal, K., Sukhbaatar, I., Oyungerelbayarsaikhan, Enkhtaivan, U.,

Boldbaatar, K. (2018), "Online consumer perceived risk and attitude influences on online purchasing behavior: in case of Mongolian online shoppers", *International Journal of Management and Applied Science*, Vol. 4 No.3, pp.52-56.

- [45] Nobre, H. and Simões, C. (2019), "NewLux Brand Relationship Scale: Capturing the scope of mass-consumed luxury brand relationships", *Journal of Business Research*, No.102, pp.328-338.
- [46] Nueno, J.L. & Quelch, J.A. (1998), "The Mass Marketing of Luxury", Business Horizons, Vol. 41 No. 6, pp.61-68.
- [47] Nyeck, S. (2004), "Luxury Brands Online and Offline: The Case of French Brands", *Journal of European Retail Digest*, pp.20-24.
- [48] Okonkwo, U. (2007), Luxury Fashion Branding, Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- [49] Parrott, G., Danbury, A. and Kanthavanich, P. (2015), "Online Behavior of Luxury Fashion Brand Advocates", *Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management*, Vol.19 No.4, pp.360-383.
- [50] Pentina I, Amiachuk, A and Taylor D.G. (2011), "Exploring Effects of Online Shopping Experiences on Browser Satisfaction and E-tail Performance", *International Journal of Retail& Distribution Management*, Vol.39 No.10, pp.742-758.
- [51] Pourazad, N., Stocchi, L. and Pare, V. (2019), "Brand attribute associations, emotional consumer-brand relationship and evaluation of brand extensions", *Australasian Marketing Journal (AMJ)*.
- [52] Reitzle, W. (2001), Luxus schafft Wohlstand. Reinbek bei Hamburg.
- [53] Ritzer, G. and Jurgenson, N. (2010), "Production, Consumption, Prosumption: The Nature of Capitalism in the Age of Digital' Prosumer'", *Journal of Consumer Culture*, Vol.10 No.1, pp.13-36.
- [54] Ritzer, G. and Miles, S. (2019), "The changing nature of consumption and the intensification of McDonaldization in the digital age", *Journal of Consumer Culture*, Vol.19 No.1, pp.3-20.
- [55] Roberts, J. (2019), "Luxury international business: a critical review and agenda for research", *critical perspectives on international business*, Vol.15 No.2/3, pp. 219-238.
- [56] Robinson, A. (2013), "Walter Benjamin: art, aura and authenticity", Ceasefire, available at HTTPS:// ceasefiremagazine.co.uk/walter-benjamine-art-auraauthenticity/htm (accessed 05 Sep 2019).
- [57] Shuhong Kong (2014), *Luxury brand history*, 2nd edition, Beijing: the University of International Business and Economics Press, pp.212. (in Chinese)

- [58] Sombart, W. (1967), Luxury and capitalism, University of Michigan Press.
- [59] Stegemann, N. (2006), "Unique Brand Extension Challenges for Luxury Brands", Journal of Business & Economics Research (JBER), Vol.4 No.10, pp.101.
- [60] Steg, L., Vlek, C., & Slotegraaf, G. (2001), "Cognitive-Reasoned and Affective-Emotional Motives for Using a Motor Car", *Transportation Research-F: Psychology and Behavior*, Vol.4 No.3, pp.1-19.
- [61] Steg, L. (2005), "Car use: Lust and Must. Instrumental, Symbolic and Affective Motives for Car Use", *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*, Vol.39 No.2-3, pp.147-162.
- [62] T is for tartan, soft design lab website, available at http://softdesignlab.com/ttartan/ (accessed September 7, 2019)
- [63] Thompson, C.J. and Haytko, D. (1997), "Speaking of fashion: consumers' uses of fashion discourses and the appropriation of countervailing cultural meanings", *Journal of Consumer Research*, Vol.24 No.1, pp.15-42.
- [64] Throsby, D., (2001), *Economics and Culture*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [65] Trench Coat from Burberry, Burberry Official Website U.K., available at https://uk.burberry.com/womens-trench-coats/ (accessed June 8, 2019)
- [66] Veblen, Thorstein (1899/1973), *The Theory of the Leisure Class*, Boston, MA, USA: Houghton Mifflin.
- [67] Vickers, J.S. and Renand, F. (2003), "The Marketing of Luxury Goods: An Exploratory Study-Three Conceptual Dimentions", *The Marketing Review*, Vol.3 No.4, pp.459-478.
- [68] Vredeveld, A.J. and Coulter, R.A. (2019), "Cultural experiential goal pursuit, cultural brand engagement, and culturally authentic experiences: sojourners in America", *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, Vol.47 No.2, pp.274-290.
- [69] Wang, Z., Chen, C. and Guo, B., Yu, Z.W., and Zhou, X.S. (2016), "Internet in China", *I.T. Professional*, Vol.18 No.3, pp.5-8. (in Chinese)
- [70] Yin, W. J. and Gu, Y. J. (2011), "Analysis study of luxury brand extend problems in Chinese market", *Journal of Chinese Market*, No.27, pp.6-8. (in Chinese)
- [71] Yoox Net-A-Porter Group, available at http://www.ynap.com/document/2017full-year-results/ (accessed September 5, 2019)
- [72] Yu, M. Y. and Liu, Z. L. (2015), "The influence of social status factors in the purchase of shanzhai (mimicry) luxury products consumption", *Academic journal in Shanghai Jiao Tong University*, Vol.12, pp.1741-1747. (in Chinese)
- [73] Zeki, S. (2019), Notes Towards a (Neurobiological) Definition of Beauty. Gestalt

Theory, Vol. 41 No.2, pp.107-112.

- [74]Zhao, M. (2011), "Net-A-Porter, it is a legend", *Journal of Chinese Garments*, No.10, pp.90-93.
- [75]Zhu, F. and Zhang, X.(2010), "Impact of online consumer reviews on sales: The moderating role of product and consumer characteristics", *Journal of marketing*, Vol.74 No.2, pp.133-148.
- [76] 93% of Consumer Engagement with Luxury Brands Happens on Instagram, Digimind website, available at https://www.digimind.com/news/pressreleases/93-of-consumer-engagement-with-luxury-brands-happens-oninstagram/(accessed September 5, 2019)