

INTRODUCTION

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Brasileira de  
Pesquisadores em  
Jornalismo

# INTRODUCTION

CLÁUDIA LAGO AND SONIA VIRGÍNIA MOREIRA

*Directors*

FÁBIO HENRIQUE PEREIRA

*Executive Editor*

In this edition, **Brazilian Journalism Research** once again releases the results of empirical studies, but also includes thoughts on the theoretical developments within the study of journalism. These thoughts are evident in the opening and closing articles of edition 1.2017 with “A Professional. Or how to recognize one”, by Denis Ruellan and “Adelmo Genro Filho and the Theory of Journalism: 30 Years of *O Segredo da Pirâmide*”, by Felipe Pontes. The author of the first article offers a reflective look at studies he has been developing since the early 1990s on the professional identity of journalists; an identity formed by discourses on journalism, competitive relationships among social groups and the way in which it is subjected by individuals. Pontes article discusses appropriations and evolutions of the theory of journalism, as proposed by Adelmo Genro Filho in the 1980s, and its socio-historic development in Brazil. Both cases focus on stimulating debate on the modalities of theoretical reflection in journalism as a research subject.

Research on the impacts digital technology has had on journalistic practices is another topic in this issue. Sarita Fernandes and Thaís Jorge discuss this approach in “Routines in Web Journalism: Multitasking and Time Pressure on Web Journalists”, and Ana Lúcia de Sousa discusses it in “Video Activism: Digital Practices to Narrate Social Movements during the FIFA World Cup (2014)”. Both texts discuss the changes in Brazilian journalism. It is interesting to note that despite the changes addressed in these studies, old problems still remain in their proposals (objectivity versus activism, speed versus quality). These conclusions suggest a need for further research programs on the modalities of change in journalism as a socio-discursive practice in order to better understand the emerging phenomena in journalism.

**BJR** also includes important studies on journalistic narratives. “Framing Mandela: An (Inter)National Comparative News Analysis of the Iconic Leader’s Death” by Tania Rosas-Moreno and Samantha Joyce compares the frameworks of two journalists from Brazil (*O Globo* and *Folha de S. Paulo*) and two from South Africa (*The Star* and *Mail & Guardian*) in their coverage of the death of Nelson Mandela. Mateus Passos also chose an international theme: the work of writer/journalist Joseph Mitchell. In “Glimpses of a New York Emerging from Silence: Joseph Mitchell’s journalistic memorial essay”, the author analyzes a set of “later” texts by Mitchell in order to understand to what extent they represent “samples from a different generation that, despite being far from reporting, could still be classified as literary journalism”. Alda da Costa, Evelyn de Aquino and Thaís Braga continue with regional issues with their analysis of the debates on the referendum for the creation of two separate states, Carajás and Tapajós, from the existing state of Pará. Despite its regional focus, the conclusions in “Narrative Identities and the Plebiscite in Pará: An Analysis of the Front Pages for *O Liberal* and *Diário do Pará*” could very well be applied to other contexts. In fact, the authors show how the concentration of subnational media leads to the construction of similar journalistic narratives in both vehicles. They tend to represent the political interests and economic ideologies of media groups that structure public debate in Pará. This issue also presents a literary review in the field of photojournalism. Julia Ramos and Beatriz Marocco analyze conflicting theories that are changing the definition of photojournalism and the work of photojournalists in their text “Photojournalism: Diverse Concepts, Uniform Practices”. The objective is “to map out a symbolic arena of the conflict over the legitimate definition of the field and its limits”.

The selection and revision process of this set of articles clearly illustrates the challenges they present to editing an international science magazine on journalism. It is important to be open to the plurality of forms for carrying out research in the field. This includes empirical studies and theories of reflection, transnational, national and regional works, and more sociological, bibliographic or anthropological discursive methodologies. It is also important to maintain a rigorous evaluation process and monitor the articles as they reflect the status of **BJR** in the international and Brazilian academic community. It would be presumptuous of us to say that we have achieved this goal, but the quality of work published in this edition shows that we are on the right path.