

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

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In late June 2015, when this current edition of *Narrativas Jornalísticas Contemporâneas/ Contemporary Journalistic Narratives* was about to be finished, once again we resorted to the folder where the electronic files relating to that publication were gathered. It was surprising to note that almost nine months had passed since the invitation to edit the issue, which was received during the *12o. Encontro Nacional de Pesquisadores em Jornalismo/ 12th Journalism Research National Meeting*, in Brasília in 2014.

We can honestly say that, as gestations go, it was a long and enjoyable period, but also one filled with anxieties. On a positive note, from the beginning we knew this would be a significant task. After all, this is a dossier made by the Brazilian Journalism Research (BJR), a publication that since its inception in 2005, has contributed to the dissemination of the study and reflections about Journalism conducted by Brazilian as well as foreign researchers.

There were a total of 65 submissions to the dossier, from which we would have about 10 projects to consider. In the end, we selected 12 of them, which resulted in a strict acceptance rate of 18%. The studies considered the different epistemological and methodological traditions in our area, revealing how rich the narratives in the topic of Journalism research are. And who knows, perhaps their gathering in this dossier will be an important step towards consolidating this investigative segment in this country, as it has been in others - especially in the Anglophone world. From the beginning, we had the firm resolution to represent the body of researchers from all over Brazil. Our expectations were not only met, but also surpassed. In

the end, we had representatives from four of the five regions of the country as well as from Latin America, the United States and Europe.

In addition to the geographic diversity, we also believe that the richness of content is a staple of this dossier. In the body of work, we find research in the digital environments, such as in João Canavilhas' article (The University of Beira Interior, in Portugal), and Alciane Baccin's (UFRGS) on hypermedia reports; as well as Jenkins's concept of transmedia and their relationship to news reports, in Maria do Socorro Furtado Veloso and Yuri Borges de Araújo's (UFRN) perspective.

However, the dialogue covers not only new media, but also traditional ones, like photography, in a discussion proposed by Eliza Casadei (UNESP), extending this relationship with the image to graphic design, such as in Benjamin Picado's (UFF) article. Other projects examine vital tensions in journalistic narratives, such as the testimonial dimension in the first person narratives in the magazines *Trip*, *TPM* and *Rolling Stone*, done by Bruno Souza Leal and Igor Lage (UFMG). While at the same time, other research dwells on the long and detailed formats of longform journalism from the online journalism perspective, conducted by Raquel Longhi and Kérley Winqes (UFSC). The question of alterity or, more precisely, the great potential of narrative journalism that is nourished and that allows itself to be affected by the presence of the other, is considered by Reges Schwaab and Angela Zamin (UFSM).

Contemporary tensions are also present, as in the article that examines the Syria crisis from the point of view of the construction of media narratives by Markos Kounalakis, visiting professor at the *Centro para Mídia, Dados e Sociedade*/Center for Media, Data, and Society of the Hoover Institution, at Stanford University. Or the question of how corporate interests shape the media systems in Chile, by Claudia Lagos Lira, professor of the *Instituto de la Comunicación e Imagen de la Universidad de Chile*/Communication and Image Institute at the University of Chile. Additionally, the relationship between two sister-areas - Journalism and the History - is present in the study regarding the critical potential of narratives about the dictatorship period in Brazil (1964-1985) by Marta Maia and Thales Lelo (UFOP).

The dossier also opened itself up to reflections such as Ana Claudia Peres's (UFF), which proposes an attempt to understand journalistic narratives as producers of meaning in the context of the changing and growing urban experience. Or the question of

relationships, content and narrative (and social) fragmented and ephemeral experiences stemming from the notion of “information monocultures” developed by Indian philosopher Vandana Shiva, as proposed by Gabriela Nora (UFRJ).

This end product would not have been possible without the collaboration of many people, starting with our partners AD HOC, without which the blind evaluation process would have been impossible. However, the experience was very positive. The massive amount reviews made to the dossier helped us to select sound research, that were breakthrough in their novelty, the rigorous use of state of the art methods in our discipline, as well as dense theoretical reflection.

Therefore, we take this opportunity to thank those who in the full swing of the academic semester - between classes, production of articles, participation in conferences, student guidance, administrative work and so forth - still found the time to share their knowledge with us and to help us in this important moment of deliberations.

After we elected the chosen articles we began the slow text editing process. This is where, in our view, one of the most interesting moments of the production of periodicals begins: the dialogue between author and editor. We emphasize the word dialogue, because it is a working partnership. In our view, the editor has a serious commitment with his/her audience, to ensure an edition with new and interesting research that makes the discipline advance by methodological rigor and also by deep reflection.

The moment to request the translations of the texts into the English or Portuguese language arrived. And thus, the main challenge of a magazine that from the get-go was marked by the word “internationalization” started. It is the English version that increases the chances of Brazilian research to gain visibility in the competitive scientific community abroad. Thus, it is not enough to make a verbatim translation, because we are not simply dealing with loose words. This is something the Anglo community refers to as the ‘mindset’, in other words, thinking about research in its entirety. To achieve this ongoing level of quality, we relied on researcher and translator Samantha Joyce’s valuable help, as well as that of translator Cristiane Tribst.

Finally, the final moments of gestation arrived. In order to make all of this content compelling for readership, the work of graphic designer Daia Carpes was invaluable. With tranquility

and sensitivity to propose solutions, she infused life and beauty to the issue.

Our goal - and here I speak for the entire team - was only achieved due to the efforts of the SBPJOR's leaders, who have always had the BJR as the "apple of their eye" of the entity. In particular I thank the President, Cláudia Lago, who spares no efforts to guide, but also to get her hands dirty whenever I need.

As we finish editing this issue, we have more doubts and unease than when we first started, as it happens at the time of a birth. However, after transiting in these past recent months through all these sub-themes, methods and authors, we are left transformed with the certainty that Esperanto is not the universal language, that permeates and unites studies in our area – but narrative is. Our baby is healthy and beautiful. And now, happy and unlike what would happen in a real birth, we can lay our head down on the pillow and sleep in peace.

Monica Martinez, guest editor, and Mateus Yuri Passos, guest assistant editor to the dossier *Narrativas Jornalísticas Contemporâneas/Contemporary Journalistic Narratives*.