



Call for Papers

Beyond determinism: challenges and opportunities for journalism in a technological ecosystem

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“High tech” is having a noticeable impact on the development of journalism and innovation in the sector. The use of Artificial Intelligence, algorithms, chatbots, drones, or Augmented Reality (among other technologies) are shaping journalistic coverage and the ways that content is being produced, presented and distributed. Studies on technology in newsrooms show a clear tendency for journalists to work with sophisticated tools and experiment with them in their professional work (Pérez-Seijo et al., 2020; López-García and Vizoso, 2021; Barbosa et al., 2022).

The growing technical hybrid media ecosystem (Chadwick, 2013; Reese, 2021), in which *legacy media* are no longer the only sources of information that decide which information is important and which will be disseminated and consumed, has led to a number of debates about the challenges and opportunities that technology has on newsrooms. In this context, issues such as maintaining the sustainability of the media, the crisis of credibility, the power of technological platforms (Jurno and D'Andrea, 2020; Nielsen and Gunter, 2021; Napoli, 2021; Simon, 2022) or even the capacity of capturing and maintaining the attention of audiences (Zelizer, Boczkowski and Anderson, 2021) become important.

Journalism and technology have always had a very close relationship. However, the rapid technological change and the subsequent obsession with it often result in a lack of critical perspective and a certain determinism that prioritizes technology as the engine of communication advances. Some studies indicate that although it generates opportunities, it also brings about risks such as a loss of media credibility or reliability, gaps in ethical standards, or a standardization of low-quality news production (Murcia-Verdú and Ufarte-Ruiz, 2019).

Technology does not become journalism, nor does it replace or represent it. Therefore, “Defining journalism in conjunction with its technology often ends up confusing stage with reality, foreground with the background, modality with environment [...]” (Zelizer, 2019, p. 344). This determinism, according to Zelizer, is problematic because 1) it obscures the fact that technology is always changing journalism; 2) it blinds us to the harmful effects of technological change; and 3) it promotes the forgetting of what remains stable in journalism, despite changes in technological modalities. Although innovation has always been a part of adopting technologies (Palacios et al., 2019), Zelizer (2019) raises the need to establish a critical view of this process.

“Although there are multiple emerging technologies that are incorporated into journalism, the absence of a common label when referring to them makes it difficult to identify studies on the

topic” (Pérez-Seijo et al., 2020: 144). Thus, we talk about immersive, 360°, automated, algorithmic or high-tech journalism. The common denominator of these journalistic modalities consists of the predominance of technological tools that change the processes, formats, practices and models professionals work with, often with consequences that facilitate innovation (Carvajal et al., 2022).

For example, recent studies (Arias et al., 2023) have indicated that a high percentage (66%) of the innovations adopted by the Spanish media in recent years are linked to the use of technology, which corroborates its importance for the advancement of journalism. However, this study also confirms the existence of a large number of initiatives that operate independently from technological systems, especially at the organizational level. A study based on repeated cross-sectional research with journalists from 20 Latin American countries (Harlow, Higgins Joyce and Schmitz Weiss, 2023) points out that innovation is correlated to newsrooms and their continuous migration from legacy media to exclusively digital platforms. What this shows is that as digital technology becomes more institutionalized in newsrooms, journalists are learning and enhancing their knowledge of these tools in order to tell stories in more innovative ways, and to also engage better with the public.

As such, this scenario demonstrates the need to analyze innovation in journalism on three fronts: technological, organizational and ethical-social (Franciscato, 2010; Franciscato and Gonçalves, 2021; García-Avilés, 2021).

With this information in mind, this dossier is a compilation of original studies and research on these issues from a critical perspective, which may center upon the following themes (but are not limited to them):

- AI systems and their use in contemporary journalism;
- The scope of technologies and innovations in newsrooms;
- The rise of technological platforms and what they mean for journalism, news organizations and their audiences;
- Ethical dilemmas between large digital and AI platforms, and journalistic organizations;
- Editorial metrics and information consumption;
- High-tech journalism education;
- Consequences of algorithmization and datafication in management, production, curation and consumption of journalistic content;
- Effects of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on newsworthiness and news values;
- Regional inequalities in the development and adoption of high tech by newsrooms;
- Trends and effects of algorithmic literacy in journalism;
- Using technology to combat disinformation;
- Ethnic and gender diversity and accessibility of technology in the public sphere;
- Professional values of journalism in the high-tech ecosystem;
- Regulation, intellectual property, responsibility and transparency in the face of the sudden increase of AI in the media ecosystem;
- Consequences of using technology in the business models and management of journalistic organizations.

All articles must contain between 40 thousand and 55 thousand characters (including spaces) and can be submitted in Portuguese, Spanish, French and English. Once the article has been accepted for publication, any authors whose articles were written in Portuguese, Spanish or French, must also provide an English version.

All submissions for this call of papers must be sent electronically through the Brazilian Journalism Research magazine's website: <http://bjr.sbpjor.org.br>

Guidelines for formatting texts can be found at: <https://bjr.sbpjor.org.br/bjr/about/submissions>

If you have any questions, please send an email to: bjreditor@gmail.com

Important Dates:

Article submission: until September 05, 2024.

Articles accepted: until March 30, 2025.

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