

## **Mobilization and collective struggles: When female journalists join together and head to the front lines**

**Deadline for article submission: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

### **Editors of special issue:**

*Florence Le Cam, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*

*Manon Libert, University of Mons, Belgium*

*Paula Melani Rocha, UEPG-PR, Brazil*

Female journalists organize a “byline strike” at the French business daily *Les Échos* to protest wage inequalities and the lack of women in senior positions within the newsroom (Baulieu, 2017). Women collectives emerge internally (the Belgian newspaper *Le Soir* is one example) to reflect on and fight against persistent sexism, both within the organization and the newspaper itself (Le Cam et al., 2021). Female journalists in Latin America established a transnational network in 2005—the Red Internacional de Periodistas con Visión de Género (RIPVG) with representatives in 36 countries—to work toward building an inclusive form of journalism that combats oppressions associated with social markers of difference, ultimately strengthening the full exercise of citizenship and democracy (Gustafson, 2023). In Brazil, female journalists mobilized to combat harassment and sexism. In June 2016, a group of professionals came together to organize the #jornalistascontraoassédio collective. Since then, and with the support of ABRAJI (Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism) and FENAJ (National Federation of Journalists), they have been leading campaigns such as #mulheresjornalistasemluta and #juntoscontraomachismo. Two years later, in March 2018, 52 sports journalists from various media outlets spearheaded the #DeixaElaTrabalhar campaign on social media to combat the psychological and sexual harassment faced by female professionals in stadiums, on the streets, and in newsrooms. Brazilian clubs signed this manifesto, which grew into a campaign that garnered international attention thanks to the support of journalists from other countries. Videos showing these journalists being harassed by the public and their sources were widely circulated.

The organization is also strong on the international stage: the international network Coalition for Women in Journalism, in particular, fights against violence and harassment of women journalists, as do the Asociación Mundial de Mujeres Periodistas y Escritoras and the International Women's Media Foundation, as well as union groups such as the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Gender Council.

These examples illustrate the multiplicity of forms of collective mobilization among female journalists. These collectives have been created over time and across different countries. They emerge either within media organizations or outside them (focused on a specific theme or driven by resistance to gender equality) as a collective response to harassment and inequalities of gender, race, and sexuality within the profession. History shows us that collectives were being formed as early as the late 19th century with the feminist newspaper *La Fronde*, founded by French female journalists and activists (Lévêque, 2009), with women's networks established to help with professional integration, or with defending their professional competencies within a space that traditionally denied them access and stifled their contributions to shaping the field and the profession.

These initiatives emerged in a space that denied them access and obscured their contributions. The historically "masculine" status of journalism and its "masculine" professional culture (Silva, 2014; Le Cam et al., 2021; Damian et al., 2021) has obscured records of female participation in the Brazilian, Belgian, and French press as early as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when they used journalism to critique the prevailing social order and demand the right to education, to vote, and to paid employment (Duarte, 2003; 2016). This obscuring process continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century as contributions from the lesbian press (Silveira-Barbosa, 2023; Eloit, 2017), the feminist press, and the alternative press (Woitowicz, 2025; Press, 2011).

Some of the collectives are organizational and emerge internally within newsrooms. They often emerge spontaneously, in "reaction" to specific situations or concerns, to transform organizational relationships and professional practices. They can also become visible to the public in order to garner support and strengthen mechanisms for action.

Other collectives unite female journalists outside their respective media companies and advocate for a number of causes, such as combating gender stereotypes or denouncing violence, and can take public stances by drafting manifests or conducting awareness campaigns.

Lastly, some collectives become institutionalized over time by creating professional associations or integrating into trade unions. What these mobilizations have in common is that they highlight the collective action of female journalists and their fight against inequalities and discrimination.

The focus of this call for papers is the collective engagement of female journalists. Although research in the sociology of gender in journalism has developed extensively throughout the 2000s, it has primarily studied gender discrimination and inequalities within the profession (Ross, 2001; Franks, 2013; de Mendonça Jorge and Leal Adghirni, 2016; Leite, 2017; Lelo, 2019; Pontes, Rocha and Mick, 2025), the forms of horizontal and vertical segregation that structure media organizations (Damian-Gaillard, Frisque, and Saitta, 2010) and the strong presence of violence—both public and organizational—in the field (Brambila and Hughes, 2019; Waisbord, 2022) which women are particularly exposed to (Chen et al., 2020; Baroni and Marinho, 2023; Kebian and Sacramento, 2024; Rocha, Ferreira Rovida, and Villanueva, 2025). Conversely, studies that focus more on the ways in which female journalists unite, support one another, and organize collectively to fight against these inequalities and forms of discrimination are uncommon.

Some studies have focused on networks of female journalists (Ross, 2001), professional associations of female journalists (Orain, 2015; Nozha, 2011), the public denunciation of male domination in politics by a collective of female journalists (Damian-Gaillard and Saitta, 2020), the professional struggles of collectives of female journalists in Mexico (Rojas, 2024), or the resources which these collectives rely on (Byerly, 2004). Studies on combative journalism and the battles within journalism (Tixier, Figaro, and Hernandez, 2024) are particularly valuable and warrant further exploration of the collective struggles of female journalists so as to anchor the study of female journalists in the realm of political and social action, in the practical exercise of women's struggles, and—at times—in historical and contemporary feminist struggles.

This call for papers aims to expand on these reflections by placing collectives led by female journalists at the center of the analysis. It involves exploring the reasons for the existence of these collectives—their history, objectives, victories, and failures—as well as their modes of organization, the strategies and mechanisms of action they employ, the types of engagement they are involved in, and the effects they have on lives, careers, and professions. The proposals may be framed within a historical or a contemporary perspective.

**This edition addresses the following topics:**

1. Female journalists and their role in building a female and feminist professional culture;
2. Historic mobilizations led by female journalists within the field of journalism and their contributions to public debate;
3. Media or media productions grounded in a feminist or resistance perspective and created by female journalists in all their diversity; organizational models, strategies, and mechanisms of action;
4. Challenges faced by female journalists—across different ethnicities, races, classes, sexualities, and age groups—and the effects these challenges have had on their lives, careers, and professional practices, and their forms of resistance;
5. The context in which collectives of female journalists emerge, including their diversity, history, and objectives.

**Submission instructions:**

The deadline for submitting articles (which must be between 40,000 and 55,000 characters, including spaces) is **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. Texts may be submitted in **Portuguese, Spanish, French, and English**. If the paper is accepted for publication, all articles submitted in Portuguese, Spanish or French must also provide an English version.

All submissions to this specific call for papers must be made exclusively via the Brazilian Journalism Research website, available on the journal's site: <http://bjr.sbpjor.org.br>.

BJR is rated A1 by Qualis-CAPES (2021–2024).

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

### **Important Dates:**

Article submission: **until October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

Accepted paper submission: **until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

Publication date of the edition: **by August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027.**

### **Bliography**

Barbosa-Silveira, P. (2023). *Imprensa Lésbica: uma história possível*. São Paulo, Ed. Dialética.

Byerly, C. M. (2004), « Feminist interventions in newsrooms », dans C. Byerly & K. Ross (eds), *Women and media: international perspectives*, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, pp. 109-131.

Beaulieu, L. (2017), *Journalistes et féministes. Sociologie d'un engagement professionnel*, mémoire de Master 2 « Genre, Politique et sexualité », sous la direction de Laure Bereni, Paris, EHESS.

Beaulieu, L. (2019). Journalistes et féministes: Entre assignation à des stéréotypes et stigmatisation au travail. *Sur Le Journalisme, About Journalism, Sobre Jornalismo*, 8(2), 62-77.

Brambila, J. A., & Hughes, S. (2019). Violence against journalists. *The international encyclopedia of journalism studies*, 1-9.

Chen, G. M., Pain, P., Chen, V. Y., Mekelburg, M., Springer, N., & Troger, F. (2020). 'You really have to have a thick skin': A cross-cultural perspective on how online harassment influences female journalists. *Journalism*, 21(7), 877-895.

Damian-Gaillard, B., Frisque, C. et Saitta, E. (2010). *Le journalisme au féminin : assignations, inventions, stratégies*. Rennes : Presses universitaires de Rennes.

Damian-Gaillard, B. & Saitta, E. (2020). La féminisation du journalisme politique : reproduction et subversion des rapports de genre. *Recherches féministes*, 33(1), 233-250.

Damian-Gaillard, B., Montañola, S. et Saitta, E. (2021). Genre et journalisme : Des salles de rédaction aux discours médiatiques. De Boeck Supérieur.

de Mendonça Jorge, T., & Adghirni, Z. L. (2016). Brazil: Need for National Debate on Women in Journalism. *The Palgrave International Handbook of Women and Journalism*, 211.

Duarte, C. L. (2003). Feminismo e literatura no Brasil. *Estudos Avançados*. São Paulo, 17(49), Set. /Dez. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0103-40142003000300010>

Duarte, C. L. (2016). *Imprensa feminina e feminista no Brasil: século XIX – dicionário ilustrado*. Belo Horizonte: Autêntica, 2016.

Eloit, I. (2017). «Le bonheur était dans les pages de ce mensuel»: la naissance de la presse lesbienne et la fabrique d'un espace à soi (1976-1990). *Le Temps des médias*, 29(2), 93-108.

Franks, S. (2013). *Women and journalism*. Londres : Tauris. 6. Damian-Gaillard, B., Frisque, C. et Saitta, E. (2010). *Le journalisme au féminin : assignations, inventions, stratégies*. Rennes : Presses universitaires de Rennes.

Gustafson, J. (2023). *Jornalistas em aliança : tecendo redes de proteção e resistência na formulação de uma perspectiva de gênero transnacional*. Tese (doutorado) - Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Centro de Comunicação e Expressão, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Jornalismo, Florianópolis. <https://repositorio.ufsc.br/handle/123456789/247752>

Kebian, G.; Sacramento, I. (2024). Silenciamento de mulheres jornalistas: gênero, violência e autointerdição. *Estudos em Jornalismo e Mídia*. 21(1), p.133-146. Disponível em: <https://periodicos.ufsc.br/index.php/jornalismo/article/view/100831>

Lévêque, S. (2009). Femmes, féministes et journalistes : les rédactrices de La Fronde à l'épreuve de la professionnalisation journalistique. *Le Temps des médias*, 12(1), 41-53. <https://doi.org/10.3917/tdm.012.0041>.

Le Cam, F., Libert, M & Ménalque, L. (2021). *Être femme et journaliste: Enquête sociologique dans un monde au masculin*. Bruxelles : Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles. 209 p.

Leite, A. (2017). Editoras, repórteres, assessoras e freelancers: diferenças entre as mulheres no jornalismo. *Cadernos de Pesquisa*, v.47, n.163, 44-68. <https://doi.org/10.1590/198053143810>

Lelo, T. V. (2019) A feminização do jornalismo sob a ótica das desigualdades de gênero. *Revista Estudos Feministas*. 27 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1590/1806-9584-2019v27n254225>

Melani Rocha, P., Ferreira Rovida, M., & María Patricia Manrique Villanueva, L. (2025). Sobreviventes da pauta: o adoecimento das jornalistas sob ataques no exercício de sua profissão. *E-Compós*, 28. <https://doi.org/10.30962/ecomps.3151>

Orain, B. (2015). «L'Association des Femmes Journalistes (AFJ), un réseau féminin de professionnelles, 1981-1999», Master 2, Histoire, sous la direction de Martine Cocard, Université de Rennes II. *Genre & Histoire*, (15).

Pontes, F. S., Rocha, P. M.; & Mick, J. (2025). Feminização e assimetrias de gênero no jornalismo: um estudo longitudinal da trajetória de profissionais brasileiras em contextos de crise. *ARACÊ* , 7(10), e8700. <https://doi.org/10.56238/arev7n10-057>

Press, A. L. (2011). Feminism and media in the post-feminist era: What to make of the “feminist” in feminist media studies. *Feminist media studies*, 11(01), 107-113.

Rojas, D. N. R. (2024). Las luchas de los Colectivos de Periodistas en México: Acciones para la protección y la defensa del ejercicio periodístico. *Sur le journalisme, About journalism, Sobre jornalismo*, 13(1), 134-151.

Ross, K. (2001). « Women at Work: journalism as en-gendered practice », *Journalism Studies*, 2(4), 531-544.

Silva, M. V. (2014). Masculino, o gênero do jornalismo: modos de produção das notícias. Florianópolis: Insular.

Smati Nozha, « « Nous voulons juste une égalité homme/ femme qui est inscrite dans la loi mais qui ne se concrétise pas dans les faits » », *Sciences de la société*, 83 | 2011, 152-160.

Tixier, F., Figaro, R., & Hernandez, M. E. (2024). Introducción: El periodismo, una profesión de luchas. *Sur le journalisme, About journalism, Sobre jornalismo*, 13(1), 24-29.

Waisbord, S. (2022). Can journalists be safe in a violent world?. *Journalism Practice*, 16(9), 1948-1954.

Woitowicz, K. J. (2025). Journalism in times of dictatorship: Feminist resistance in the alternative press in the 70s and 80s in Brazil. *Journalism*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849251407289>