



Call for Papers

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JOURNALISM AND EXPERIMENTING

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This call for papers refers to the different forms of experimenting in journalism, which in recent decades have undergone in-depth and expedited changes. There are many reasons for these changes: the crisis associated with the economic model of media companies, adapting to escalating technological advancements, misinformation, dissatisfaction, or even discredit on the part of citizens. Experimenting has become imperative for the media in the face of these challenges. Experimenting here refers to an experiment which is result-driven. It is one of the paths that journalism has historically used to continuously adapt and utilize new contexts of production, transmission, and reception. This call for papers is open to experiments conducted within and outside the journalistic system. It is these experiments that will give rise to questions which journalism then must be able to answer, both from the past and the present, and whose reason for being does not always appear self-evident.

Those who are interested may submit articles addressing one of the following topics:

Topic 1: Objects, practices, audiences. Media and technological changes in journalism give rise to multiple experiments that open out in several directions. Digital development presents new possibilities in terms of content production (multimedia, interactivity), narration, format, transmission, and audience engagement. More recently, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and the use of algorithms have started to attract attention. However, in addition to technological innovations, these experiments also explore new journalistic practices and new ways of investigating, checking, formatting, and visualizing information. They also provide an opportunity to establish another relationship with writing, with different aesthetics, and with other rhythms of information. It therefore becomes vital to create more attractive content in order to gain new audiences, and especially to maintain them. The purpose is to analyze their development potential and how they articulate with conventional newsroom practices, that is, their ability to integrate with journalism so as not to remain marginalized practices or niche products. These experiments can sometimes be radical and go so far as to question the foundations of journalism, its objectives, boundaries, and even its epistemology.

Topic 2: Actors/actresses, places, temporalities. These experiments mobilize a multiplicity of actors/actresses (both journalist and non-journalist) within and outside of media. They contribute to the current development of journalism, in which tasks and skills, identities, and professional trajectories are all being

reshaped. These experiments have modernized professional cultures and transformed journalism itself, which has led to some resistance. They provide the opportunity to consider other forms of media organization, such as R&D departments and *media labs* hosting multidisciplinary teams of journalists and engineers who work side by side. There are other, more unexpected places, sometimes outside of media, that emerge as a result of individual and collective initiatives and events. We are also mindful of the circumstances behind these experiments, their own temporality, and their development as a process that eventually fits into a strategy to encourage sustainable innovation in an environment marked by permanent changes.

Topic 3: Speech, reflexivity. The objective of this topic is to question the very notion of experimenting, that is, the understanding between enthusiasm and criticism in speeches and authorship, which partially overlap with innovations and changes. These experiments are accompanied by a reflexivity that needs to be properly characterized. How are their principles, values, and purposes understood? In terms of technology, they question the place of editorials and the humans, as well as the ethical and deontological meanings of journalism. For academic studies in journalism, experimenting is a problem of choice. Its history, variety, and expansion raise important questions about how researchers study it. Which paradigms are referenced and which theories and methodologies are used? In addition to the professionals' objects and speeches, we are interested in studying the experience from the part of the receivers. Contemporary journalism is in constant development and addresses impermanent practices and objects, which is difficult for research in that it obeys another temporality. This setback is what needs to be detected in the rapid succession of innovations, the constants, the cycles, and the ruptures that can be modeled. This problem leads researchers to establish a fertile dialogue with the professional world and think about the place that academic research can occupy in understanding and mastering these phenomena that affect the quality of the information delivered to the public.

Topic 4: Experiments and journalism: a historical perspective. Journalism has always produced experiments for practices, formats, and devices. It is these experiments (and the distribution of them) that have led to certain changes in journalism. This is what happened with the emergence of new journalism in the United States, with photojournalism in Europe (late 19th century, early 20th century), and in Brazil (early 20th century). All of these phenomena have been well studied. Others are not yet objects of academic studies and are considered in the history of journalism as "natural" extensions of the practice, not taking into account the context, conditions, or actors/actresses who played a part in the transformations. The works for this topic should try and analyze experiments that have been conducted throughout history in order to demonstrate how they are carried out in relation to the specific contexts they are a part of. They should also expand on the discussion through initiatives and failures that modernize journalism, whether successful or not, even though they have never been used outside of localized or restricted spaces. Since experiments in journalism encompass a number of fields, the selection process will focus on proposals from the human and social sciences, as well as interdisciplinary contributions and professional journalists.

Articles should be 40,000 to 55,000 characters (about 30 pages) and should be submitted by March 31, 2021. BRJ accepts manuscripts in Portuguese, Spanish, French and English. Authors who submit their articles in Portuguese, Spanish or French will be required to provide an English translation within one month of acceptance of the final version.

Manuscripts are only accepted via the journal's online platform: <http://bjr.sbpjor.org.br>

Any questions should be directed to bjreditor@gmail.com

Author guidelines: <https://bjr.sbpjor.org.br/bjr/about/editorialPolicies#custom-0>

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