



Call for papers

Journalism and algorithms

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It is no exaggeration to say that contemporary society is immersed in a broad process of platformization (van Dijck, Poell, de Wall, 2018), datafication (Mayer-Schönberger, Cukier, 2013; van Dijck, 2014) and algorithmic performativity (Cheney-Lippod, 2017; Lupton, 2016; Dourish, 2016; Gillespie, 2010; Finn, 2017). These intertwined trends of platformization, datafication and algorithmic performativity (PDAP) (Lemos, 2019) correspond to the new phase of capitalism, a data or surveillance capitalism (Zuboff, 2015), whose dynamics are linked to five large companies (GAFAM - Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, and Microsoft) that control the digital economy through their platforms.

The platformization of society acts by the daily irradiation of data collection from digital platforms, about the smallest personal movements (like a message, posting a photo, writing a comment, buying something, visiting somewhere, etc.), generating inferences about behaviors, inducing actions. This basic data collection process is datafication, a different process from digitization, which simply consists of turning analog objects into digital ones.

Platformization and datafication are expressions of the performance of algorithms. They analyze large amounts of data and propose solutions to the most diverse problems. Their codes are kept as an industrial secret and are therefore opaque and dominated by an "epistocracy" (Danaher, 2016), generating a sense of neutrality, efficiency and rationality. If platformization and datafication are the forms of digital action in contemporary society, algorithms are the fuel that drives them.

Algorithms exert power and generate policy (Bucher, 2018) by modulating actions into a broad network of actors, influencing worldviews and, consequently, the direction of society and culture. Not only do they evolve with events, they also may change events themselves through complex assemblages of socio-technical networks. The power of algorithms lies in the possibility of inducing sociability practices, shaping political actions and intervening in the way we produce knowledge (they choose, classify and present certain information).

This algorithmic performativity changes the ways we receive and process information. It is no longer about "getting what you see," as in the metaphor of graphical user interfaces (Wysiwyg), but about receiving information based on how we are viewed by the datafication processes on the platforms. This performativity is broad, diverse and immanent, producing value, engagement, effectiveness, memory.

Therefore, immanent and pragmatic analyses, more interested in what the algorithm does than what it is, should be called to account for the phenomenon (Introna, 2016; Seaver, 2013).

Given the above, we can think of algorithms as media objects. They are, at the same time, "channel - code - message - worldview", whose performances in "sending" and "receiving" are based on information choices to solve problems. Moreover, they are an important part of the operation of all recognized digital media.

From their understanding as cultural forms, the problematization of how these socio-technical networks act should consider the ways in which algorithms impact and are impacted by their interactions with society and its institutions. Journalism can be understood as one of the fields in which these interactions are most intensely perceived, especially when considering its historical configurations and purposes (Deuze, 2005, 2017; Park, 1955; Schudson, 1978, 1995; Chalaby, 1998; Rodrigo Alsina, 1989). Brin, Charron, Bonville, 2004; Gomis, 1991; Franciscato, 2005). Algorithms are technical artifacts situated in the contemporary, but they respond to an old longing, based on the imagination, about a certain capacity for accumulation and processing of information and knowledge (Stefik, 1996; Davis, 1998; Noble, 1999). Journalism and algorithms operate data to produce information, but their historicity is different.

What happens when these agents meet? How do algorithms interact today with journalistic practice? In what ways can journalism change as a professional practice and as a social institution? How does journalism interfere with the socio-technical configurations of algorithms? In what ways have artificial intelligence resources been activated to respond to the demands of the journalistic field? How does journalism face the challenges presented by the performance of algorithms? (Anderson, 2013; Coddington, 2015; Diakopoulos, 2015; Dörr, 2016; Lewis, 2015). Beyond the volume of data and processing skills, the emergence of artificial intelligence systems seems to challenge the field of journalism in terms of the principles of the institution and the reconfiguration of the profession, from the point of view of the theories of journalism, its values (Carlson, 2017; Deuze, 2005, 2017), functions (Schudson, 2007), properties (Groth, 2014) and practices.

This dossier seeks to answer the following questions:

- What are the challenges and perspectives of algorithms for "data journalism"?
- What are the processes for the development and adoption of algorithmic solutions for news collection, production and distribution? How can the use of data viz and data mining shape reporting processes?
 - How can journalism benefit from the use of big data, particularly in communicative processes on digital platforms and social networking sites?
 - How have automation and artificial intelligence been employed in journalistic production and what are their future prospects?
 - How does the relationship between journalism and algorithmic performance reconfigure news coverage? Can these interactions generate new news formats and narrative models? How do these questions reconfigure theoretical understandings about the social construction of reality?
- What are the prospects for using automation to address challenges posed by notions such as "post-truth" and "fake news"?
- What normative values and discourses about what journalism should be are embedded in the configuration of algorithmic journalism?
- Who are the actors (inside and outside newsrooms) involved in journalistic automation processes and what roles do they play (journalists, software developers, foundations and emerging organizations)? What are the impacts of their interactions on journalism and its business models?
- What are the challenges for journalism training and journalism university curricula when considering the adoption algorithms in journalistic production?

Articles that provide empirical evidence and relevant case studies on the development and consequences of algorithmic journalism, as well as those proposing innovative theoretical and/or methodological approaches to better understand the interaction between PDAP and journalism, are welcome in this issue. The topics of interest are (not exclusively):

- Platformization and journalism
- Datafication and journalism
- Automation and journalism
- Algorithms and data journalism
- Dataviz and journalism
- Journalism, artificial intelligence and natural language Software
- Algorithms, politics and fake news
- Algorithms, journalism and digital humanities
- Algorithms and journalistic values
- Algorithms and journalistic narratives and formats
- Algorithms, privacy and journalism
- Algorithms, journalism, data policy and transparency
- Algorithms and applied research in journalism
- Ethics, algorithms and journalism
- Algorithms and journalistic practice
- Algorithms and training in journalism

Articles must be from 40,000 to 55,000 characters with spaces, APA Style. As Brazilian Journalism Research publishes two versions of each issue (in English and in Portuguese/Spanish), the authors of the articles accepted in Spanish or Portuguese should provide the English translation. In the same way, the authors of texts accepted in English should send a version in Portuguese or Spanish.

The articles should be sent exclusively through the SEER/OJS electronic system available on the website of the journal: <http://bjr.sbpjor.org.br>

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