

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

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Journalism is a social and discursive practice (Ringoot and Utard, 2005). An instance for building reality, journalism makes use of discourse as a resource to produce *reality effects* in the social world. But journalism itself is also a discursive construction, a practice situated in the interstice of several discursive formations.

This can be considered one of the assumptions of this issue of *Brazilian Journalism Research*. The 13 articles that integrate this second issue of 2015 work on the materiality of the journalistic text and its discourse from the semiological, discursive, narratological and content analysis.

The journalistic discourses which we deal with trespass here, therefore, the formal scope of the methods of Discourse Analysis and Critical Discourse Analysis. We speak about the symbolic dimensions of the social world, of the relation between “the words and the things,” referring to Michel Foucault’s classical work (1966), which originates journalism’s own discursive formation, characterized by a constitutive heterogeneity, by a broad diversity of objects, practices and statements.

But what would the marks of the discourse of/about journalism be? The question, which goes on through all this issue (and a reasonable part of the researches about journalism) is proposed right in the first article: ‘Journalism as a justified true belief,’ written by Sílvia Lisboa and Marcia Benetti, from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. In order to discuss this question from an epistemological point of view, both authors seek

out in Philosophy the very notion of truth—so close to the journalist discourse’s heart—so they can situate it as a kind of founding instance of this practice. Thus, “journalism becomes knowledge when it is built as a plausible testimony of reality, basing its news production on methods and processes that attempt to reduce the error and the false reports.”

This interference, which comes close to common sense, in reality, refers to a type of rhetoric, which is frequently articulated as a way to characterize journalism and distinguish it from other social practices. More than an essential component of journalism, justified truth discourse is an important component of the social and historical process of the construction of this practice and is usually evoked during moments of crisis, threats, critics and changes... Throughout this *BJR* issue, it will be once again approached in the construction of arguments—of rhetorical, scientific or normative nature—used by journalists and by the authors themselves to produce distinctions between “good” and “bad” journalism, between the “professionals” and the “amateurs”, between “journalism” and “literature”, between “reality” and “fiction”.

Two works illustrate this perspective through a more diachronic outlook. For them, journalism’s discourses consist of the raw-material to understand its changes and permanence. In ‘Photojournalism in the Belém press: 1900–1950,’ Netília Silva dos Anjos Seixas and Thaís Christina Coelho Siqueira, from Federal University of Pará, show how as of the first half of the last century, the newspaper of Pará’s capital progressively increased the space dedicated to the publication of pictures, incorporating the practice of photojournalism to journalistic production. As for the following article, ‘Camcorder John and media narratives’, by Míriam Cristina Carlos Silva, Sorocaba University, explores the process of innovation of journalism in the relationships it establishes with other social discursive universes—in the case of traditional narratives from the inner parts of Brazil. These exchanges materialize through the free appropriation of journalism conventions by other social actors (the use of the video camera by the character about whom the article is titled, its incursions in ascertainment activities), at the same time as tensions inside this space are produced, above all in the relation between “reality” and “fiction”, between “amateur” and “professional” practices.

The discourse about truth is an identifying feature of

journalism, which allows us to situate the discourse place of the traditional press in clear opposition to Camcorder John's "mythical narratives". This same founding tension is resumed in the two following articles: 'Accuracy and Independence in Journalistic Coverage of Extreme Weather Conditions in the Amazon,' by Allan Soljenitsin Rodrigues from Federal University of Amazonas and Grace Soares Costa from Martha Falcão College and Political Scandal as a narrative experience,' by Helder Prior from the Universities of Brasília and Beira Interior. The first work analyzed the authenticity and precision of the coverage about the droughts in Amazon between 2005 and 2010. After a rigorous content analysis, the authors came to the conclusion that precision was secondary in a coverage that privileged "governmental dramas and actions neglecting information about causes, paramount for a reflection on the prevention of future impacts." In turn, Helder Prior peruses the political scandal from a distinct standpoint—the idea of journalism as a narrative and which operates a selective reconstruction in reality—to reach a similar conclusion. In his proposal, the author concludes by situating the political scandal, in the way it is brought forth nowadays, as an "eminently dramatic event" and which combines the journalistic techniques with the techniques of the fictional universe in producing its narratives.

Two articles work on the way journalistic narratives represent the matter of suffering. 'Suffering Body: narrative and political tensions of images in photojournalism,' by Angie Gomes Bondi, from Tuiuti University in Paraná and Ângela Cristina Salgueiro Marques from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, show that the publication of face and body of women in the foreground of journalistic pictures "reveals a rupture with stereotypes or with framings that reduce the subjective agencying" constituting of traces of resistance "to the ready ways of life, to the erasure and disappearance of the subjects in narratives that only fit' the individuals in previously architected discursive frames." But Suffering narratives in printed journalism: the construction of scenes and the place of subjects,' by Danila Gentil Rodriguez Cal and Leandro Rodrigues Lage from the Federal University of Minas Gerais and University of Amazon, operates an analysis of the narrative strategies used by the printed journalism to build and portray scenes of suffering related to domestic child labor. By

using “language of piety,” these narratives “bring about decisive repercussions for the configuration (or non-configuration) of home child labor as a political problem in Brazil.”

The last part of this issue presents a sequence of articles that deal with the bordering research objects in journalism, related to the appropriation of digital technologies to journalistic practice and discourse.

‘Multimodal approach for automatic emotion recognition applied to the tension levels study in TV newscasts’, an article by Moisés Henrique Ramos Pereira, Flávio Luis Cardeal Pádua and Giani David Silva, from the Federal Center for Technological Education of Belo Minas Gerais, proposes the innovation from a methodologic point of view by presenting a multimodal model of semio-discursive analysis of TV news carried out through computing techniques for the automatic determination of levels of tension in videos of these programs. Through an analysis of speech modulations and face expressions of the reporters and narrators, it would be possible to obtain “traits about the tension of the discourse generated by the statements of the respective report and the standard in sequencing the news transmitted in the production installations of these international objects.”

Two texts show how innovations related to the transmedia convergence can cause reconfigurations in the role of the journalist and in the relationships they establish with other social actors. In the first one, ‘Convergence and transmedia storytelling in journalism’, Elaide Martins, from the Federal University of Pará, discusses the identifying implications of the accumulation of tasks by the individuals who work at “converging” newsrooms. Geane Carvalho Alzamora, Vitória Barros and Jéssica Malta, from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, authors of the article ‘*IReport* for CNN Transmedia Storytelling on the Brazilian Protests in 2013’, discuss the identifying tensions caused by the practice of participating journalism and concludes that, in this scenario, “the journalistic mediation, away from weakening itself before these challenges, seems to grow stronger.”

The participation of audiences in journalism is resumed in the study of Kati Eliana Caetano of Tuiuti University of Paraná: ‘The Extended Space of Public Opinion in the Context of Multi-Platform Journalism’ The author shows that, in a digital environment, the process of amplification of public debate is

not restricted only to the content of journalistic websites, but is implemented in the dialogue of these informative materials and other means and discourses—such as audio, image, audio-visual, infographics, documentaries, *newsgames*. In this model, the informative exchanges alternate “between constructions of larger argumentative density and other, variable, that go from mere adhesions or refusals to passionate formulations.” The author points out to a double process: the claiming (even if its partial) of the role of journalism as sphere of mediation of public debate; and the complexity of journalistic narrative by the incorporation of other actors, formats and languages.

In a study about the multimedia infographics of the papers *Clarín.com* and *Folha de São Paulo*, Walter Teixeira Lima Junior, from the Methodist University of São Paulo, and Eduardo Fernando Uliana Barboza, from the State University of Mato Grosso, show the relative setback in the process of integration of new technologies to the journalistic production, above all by the difficulty in building multi-disciplinary teams in newsrooms. In order to change this scenario, the authors advocate for the use in production of reports and multimedia infographics of HTML5, marking language of hypertexts most used in the Internet, present in several multimedia products of the industry of entertainment.

Then the article that brings up an international comparison closes this issue: ‘Data’ journalism, a practice of investigation? A glance at the German and Greek cases’, by Juliette Charbonneaux from CELSA Paris-Sorbonne and Pergia Gkouskou-Giannakou from Blaise Pascal University. Through a semiotic analysis of discourses about “data” journalism, the authors show how this new practice is situated in a relation of continuity with investigative journalism, at the same time as it appeals for a set of “new” discourses, originating from the digital culture and from the *open data* movement to legitimize itself. In this sense, the ideals of “transparency” and “objectivity” of journalism are rearticulated and re-signified as part of a process of affirmation of “data” journalism in Germany and Greece. Even referring to other national contexts, the article contributes to the comprehension of renewal dynamics of journalism and discursive management of this space through logics of approximation/distinction with concurring/neighborly groups and practices.

In this issue, BJR continues its proposal of constituting

itself as a space for discussion able to reflect on the diversity of objects and the theoretical and methodological approaches of studies in journalism in Brazil, at the same time as it broadens its opening to the international scientific production. We hope our readers appreciate this work!

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