

# Journalism in debate

Ever since June 2009, when the Supreme Court judged it unconstitutional to demand a diploma for the practice of journalism, a spark was lit up on the debate about journalism in Brazil. In several fora, professionals and researchers in the field have dedicated themselves to analyzing the legal sentence and to discussing not only the practice of journalism, but also the theories and research on journalism. Tuned to this debate, E-Compós sent out a call about the theme, inviting researchers in the field to reflect upon the current journalism studies and praxis.

The edition presents five papers which comprise several approaches within journalism, raising an in-depth reflection about the topic and promoting new debates. In the opening article, the title of which is “Agenda-setting in Brazil: contradictions between success and the epistemological boundaries”, Kenia Maia and Luciane Agnez discuss the appropriation of the agenda-setting concept in the Brazilian studies on journalism, questioning above all the emphasis commonly given to the analysis of news production processes, paying little attention to the complexities and challenges of the receiving processes and their social uses. The debate proposed by the authors, focused basically on research efforts in the field, gives way to a discussion about quality in the

journalism practice, which also contemplates inquiries about the contributions that journalism researchers can provide to the theme. In “Quality Management System Applied to Journalism: Possibilities and Guidelines”, Josenildo Guerra analyzes the difficulties involved in the development of a quality management and assessment system and elaborates a preliminary proposal based on a definition of quality anchored on two basic requisites: truth and relevance.

The recurring concept of “truth” is also discussed by Francisco Rui Cádima in the article “Television Journalism and violent crime, or about a decisive “unstold”, in which he presents a debate on the relationship between violence and television news based on a Portuguese case. Partially rejecting the assignment of a mimetic relationship between the media and violence, the author discusses the short and long-term effects of broadcasting of what he calls “a tragic reality”, which characterize an enunciative regularity more than an action with direct consequences. The agenda decisions are then made based on several factors, including the “unspoken” negotiation between memory and forgetfulness.

The agenda planning is also done on the news production, through the action of interest groups in the daily routine of newspapers. In the text “The financialization of economy news: the use of communication strategies by interest groups and their impact on news content”, Paula Puliti discusses the implications that the predominance of an interest group in the economy news program has over the plurality character which the press enjoys in the democratic environments, characterizing a predominantly neoliberal view whose consequence is the financialization of the news.

The article by Leticia Matheus finalizes the edition presenting a debate on the relationship of the newspaper with time,

both in the historical sense as well as in its symbolic aspects, above all in its climate dimension. Under the title: “The arrival of winter or what have I got to do with Kuala Lumpur?”, the author sets forth a typology of time functions in the newspaper (pragmatic, historiographical and cosmological, of time measurement and mediation) indicating that newspapers provide a symbolic comfort of time domain and that their status depends also on this function, as well as on their intelligibility.

We believe that the articles published herein present a small sample of extremely high quality scientific production oriented towards journalism studies and that, by doing so, E-Compós is contributing to the dissemination and amplification of the issues involved in this fascinating research topic in our field.

Enjoy reading,

**The Editorial Commission**