



II International Colloquium on Structural Changes in Journalism
Subject: Status, careers and routines
Call for papers

Where: Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil

When: May 7, 2013-May 10, 2013

Submission deadline: November 15, 2012

Organization: Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN) and Universidade do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte (UERN)

In association with: Department of Communication at UFRN, School of Communication at Universidade de Brasília (UnB) and Réseau d'Études sur le Journalisme (Network for Studies on Journalism/REJ)

1. Colloquium Subject

Pushed by changes in technology, reduction of production time, circulation and consumption of information, the instability of labor relations and changes in production routines and relationships with sources, journalism is undergoing changes that consequently affect the status, careers, rules, professional identity and the production process of journalists.

These changes call for different analysis. On the one hand, a rhetorical "crisis" of the profession is created; on the other, discourses around the liberating role of new technologies, the multiplication of channels and possibilities of professional activity for journalists arise. This dual discourse – crisis and rebirth – is recurrent in the construction of the professional identity of journalists. Based on the sociology of professions, we understand that professional identities have the property of being constantly developed by the dialectic of permanence and change, of the ancient and of the modern, of chaos and renewal. However, journalists have a unique identity construction in relation to other professional groups: it is based on morality. This is explained by the fact that journalists do not have an exclusive domain or a special expertise. Journalists have been quite active to define their boundaries and competences. However, they have not triumphed and transformations on the professional field and media are historical evidence of that. Therefore, currently the moral and deontological discourse as a means of identity acquire more significance: "Everyone can do journalism, but only journalists have the professional morality to ensure quality," is understood every time the space of information activity is extended. It is a typical community discourse, which is related with other "communitarianisms" which develop everywhere ("the French natives", the "national preference") and that, unlike the universalism of when journalists believed the

universality of the deontology without noting that the standards are defined by the relationships, then necessarily marked by location. That is how the connection between identity and ethics is established: morality is contextual, and this assertion is dialectic (morality is created by the context, and vice versa). This relationship can be observed from different angles, such as the status, career and production process.

The aim of the colloquium is to continue the discussions on stability and structural changes in journalism started at UnB in Brasilia in 2011, focusing on the study of the relationship (and the transformation of the relationship) between the professional standards (collective deontology, individual ethics) and identity of journalists, a central theme of the **II International Colloquium on Structural Changes in Journalism – Mejor 2013**.

We invite scholars from different national contexts to discuss at UFRN, in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, the colloquium subject, which will be divided into three main areas of discussion:

1) Changes in the journalist status. The emergence of new technological devices (web 2.0, and use of technologies such as tablets, smart phones and the like), the expansion of the areas of expertise of journalists (teaching, organizational communication, entertainment), as well as changes in the structure of media organizations (with the introduction of integrated newsrooms, multiplatform production processes and other mechanisms) seem to suggest changes in the status of the journalist. Papers may be about investigations on the changes of the professional group, the evolution of representations articulated (by journalists and other social actors) around identities and how changes in the structure of work and the process of circulation of media goods shape these processes. Thus, papers may try to answer the following questions: how the evolutions of the status of journalists result in new rules, and/or how new values change the status of professional journalists? Laws, jurisprudence, administrative applications, the definitions of employment, labor organizations and the academic curriculum change: what impact do these developments have on moral standards? Conversely, do the role the public, the competence of the sources, the making of media discourse into a spectacle, the relationship with temporality have statutory effects?

2) Changes in journalism careers. Some studies on the sociology of professions determine that careers are the result of a relationship between individual path and the collective dimension of the social world. This would refer to factors of symbolic, economic and social order and would delimit the terms of access and rise within the workspace. If careers are actually the result of a relationship between the individual and collective dimensions, this means that individual paths may have an impact on the representations and collective social arrangements. Conversely, the dominant conceptions necessarily deal with personal pathways. Papers dealing with this subject area may address the following issues: Currently careers seem – much more than before – porous (transfers to other *métiers*), discontinuous, difficult at the beginning, prematurely interrupted and parallel (multiple practices exercised simultaneously). Does this state affect the standards? How are deontological and ethical standards maintained or changed from a given space/time to another? Does being rigorous (or not) in the application (or discourse) of morality have consequences on careers? Papers comprising analysis of the changes in terms of access and mobility within the profession, as well as on the mechanisms of career management in relations that journalists establish among themselves and with other social groups and spaces (e.g.: sources, public, intellectuals, politicians, businessmen and academics) may also be submitted.

3) Changes in production routines. The standards of conduct of a group are relational, negotiation processes, and also a result of their transactional use. In other words, even if some

values are ontologically associated with an activity (a doctor, for example, has compassion because s/he heals, a journalist respects the truth because s/he informs), moral standards are contextual. The work conditions of journalists have changed. With companies going through mergers, and under the pace of flexibility, acceleration, the ephemeral nature of work processes, there are jobs, which have been extinct, while a single professional may accumulate multiple activities. Technological convergences result in the fusion of previously distinct activities. The mobility and ubiquity of technologies characterize the increase in hours worked and the break in workspace boundaries. The fragmentation and discontinuity of narratives and the need of multi-media contents impose other rhythms to the production process of journalists. Papers dealing with this subject area should eschew a mere normative approach to the relationship between identity and deontology ("the good and bad journalist" and reflections on "information quality") in favor of studies that seek to connect transformations of professional standards (deontological statements, deliberative spaces) and changes in social and economic organization of journalistic production (production routines, technical applications, the actors involved).

2. Deadlines

Abstract submissions	December 15, 2012
Notification due	January 15, 2013
Final version due	March 15, 2013
Publication of the proceedings of the colloquium	Mai 2013
Mejor 2013	May 7, 2013-May 10, 2013
"Olhares Cruzados" (Crossed Looks) Study Day	May 10, 2013 at UERN, Natal

3. Paper submission guidelines

3.1. Originality

3.1.1. Papers must be original, that is, only papers that have not been published before in its current or a substantially similar form, or previously presented at other scientific conferences will be accepted.

3.1.2. Single-authored, co-authored and multi-authored papers will be accepted.

3.1.3. Preference is given to papers presenting empirical studies.

3.2. Submission methods

3.2.1. Abstracts may be submitted in Portuguese, Spanish, French or English. Abstracts should have between 3,000 and 6,000 characters (including spaces) and up to five keywords. They should address the problematization of the object of analysis, the theoretical and methodological framework and the analysis results – except for essays or literature reviews.

3.2.2 Abstracts will be evaluated through blind peer review by the scientific committee of the colloquium. The following criteria should be met: originality, relevance to the field, adequacy to the colloquium subject, relevance of literature, theoretical and methodological adequacy, clarity, cohesion and compliance with the formal requirements of scientific language.

3.2.3 Abstracts should be submitted only through the e-mail coloquemejor2@gmail.com, within the deadline set in item 2.

3.2.4. To ensure blind review, abstracts should not contain any information that would enable the identification of the authors. A cover letter should specify authors, affiliation, a brief curriculum vitae of the author (up to 3 lines) and corresponding authors' e-mail addresses; this information will not be disclosed to members of the scientific committee responsible for the evaluation of the submission proposals.

3.2.5. The authors of accepted abstracts must submit the full texts within the deadline set in item 2. Papers should have between 30 and 40 thousand characters, and may be submitted in Portuguese, English, French or Spanish.

3.2.6. Papers should be submitted only through the e-mail coloquemejor2@gmail.com.

4. Publication of the event's proceedings

4.1. All accepted papers will be published electronically in the proceedings of Meior 2013.

5. Selection of papers for the “Journalism and Identity” Dossier

5.1. The scientific committee of Meior 2013, together with the editorial board of the *Brazilian Journalism Research (BJR)* journal, published by SBPJor (Brazilian Association of Journalism Researchers) will identify and select papers (full texts) that, due to their relevance to the subject matter of the event, scientific relevance, explanation of the research problem or aim, adequacy and topical relevance of the adopted literature, quality of theoretical reflection and explanation and consistency of methodology, may be included in the 'Journalism and Identity' dossier in the *BJR* Journal, scheduled to be published in the second half of 2013.

5.2. In the event of selection, translation of articles into Portuguese and English will be in charge of the authors and should be done according to the schedule that will be informed in advance by the editorial board of *BJR*.

6. “Analysis of different grounds in journalism research” Study Day

The *Analysis of different grounds in journalism research* study day is included in the event program. The event will be organized by the *Réseau d'Études sur le Journalisme* (Network for Studies on Journalism), with participation of international guests. The aim of the study day is to promote interdisciplinary and methodological discussion on the possibilities of comparing and analyzing different grounds in journalism research. From the collaboration of researchers from different countries, we seek to advance the discussions on the advantages and limitations of producing comparative studies between national and regional realities, media or diachronic analyses on distinct historical periods. Prof. Dr. **Fábio Henrique Pereira** (Universidade de Brasília, Brazil) and Prof. Dr. **Florence Le Cam** (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) are in charge of the organization of the Study Day.

7. Contact and Organization

7.1 The organization of Meior 2013 is coordinated by Kênia Maia (UFRN), president of the organizing committee, and Fábio Henrique Pereira (UnB), president of the scientific committee.

7.2 The organizing committee of Meior 2013 may be contacted by e-mail at coloquiomejor2@gmail.com.

7.3 Further information and the proceedings of Meior 2011 are available at www.meior.com.br

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School of Communication at Universidade de Brasília (UnB)

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