

Sur le journalisme – About Journalism – Sobre jornalismo
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Call for Papers
The Fights of Journalism

Articles must be submitted by: May 31, 2023

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This call to articles, coming on the heels of the International Journalism Research Meetings, examines the historical and contemporary struggles that journalists, newsrooms or professional groups endure while defending journalism, its identities, its roles, its practices, its autonomy, its prerogatives, its sphere of operations, and even the rights and interests of its workers. These struggles of course raise a number of questions, such as what are the causes of these struggles? What issues do they relate to? Who are the actors involved? How are these struggles taken on? What are the results of taking on these struggles? How to overcome failures? Analyzing the *struggles of journalism* can provide a better understanding of how journalistic professional identities are constructed and developed through their struggles and of the relationships between the different actors in journalism compared to other spaces or other “worlds”. It can also help explore the evolution of power, role and place of professional discourse in journalism and society itself.

In order to analyze the struggles of journalism one must understand how different groups (newsrooms, unions, associations) interact among one another. One must also understand the relationships that journalists build with political worlds, social movements, and academic spaces when defending their common interests and values. Historically speaking, the processes of identity construction and demarcating boundaries in the work world are the result of struggles and alliances between journalists, associations, unions, and political actors, (even the state). In current times, however, other forms of mobilization are being employed to defend causes such as combating disinformation, protecting sources (especially *whistleblowers*), promoting transparency of government actions, and supporting access to information for journalists. This call to articles is an exploration into the collective dynamics involved in defending journalism.

The submitted articles for this edition are not necessarily limited to this subject; they can speak to the struggles that journalists or editorial teams in a media company face. Struggles

in media companies can take on many forms: fighting for workers' rights (employees, freelancers, or the self-employed), for women journalists' rights (Damian-Gaillard, et al, 2021), or for people who are considered minorities. Struggles can also be about professionals who are defending their journalistic writing (Dupuy, 2016), their place, their prerogatives, and their internal power. Journalists can also act to change their practices and protect ethics (Lelo, 2019, Ferrucci and Kuhn, 2022). These struggles can also be about journalists protecting or defending their work or media organization against external attacks (Gonzalez, 2021). This also includes forming or mobilizing internal collectives within a media company, which can include editorials or union representations (Marquez-Ramirez et al, 2021), internal collectives that defend ethics and deontology to combat harassment in the newsroom or cyber harassment (Posetti, 2021), or external groups (professional unions, association of independent journalists, etc.) that experience struggles within a journalistic organizations.

Articles submitted for this call could also address the collective public struggles of journalists. These can include studying the struggles fought nationally (historical or contemporary), the debates and speeches on the delimitation of borders and statutes, the struggles in establishing self-regulating journalistic organizations (such as journalistic ethics councils) that protect sources, the struggles to create laws of access to information or defending attacks on journalism. These types of articles can also be about the structuring or the struggles of international organizations and their defense of workers in the journalistic world, such as the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and the International Labor Organization (ILO), among others. Included in this group are Reporters without Borders (RSF) and any other entity that endorses freedom of the press, freedom of expression, democracy, and especially, protects journalists or their memory.

Another aspect this call to articles addresses is about the ways in which journalistic identities go about fighting for their identity construction and the strategies they use to negotiate/preserve their status. Studies have been done on the typologies of social roles (*professional roles*) of journalists (*watchdog, advocacy*) (Moreira and Oller Alsonso, 2018) which try to problematize the way in which the struggle is integral to the definitions and delimitation of journalistic identities. This allows us to explore the specific contexts of activist journalists who are engaged in social or collective causes. Historically, identities are constructed in relation to political and intellectual spaces, but more recently, alternative journalism, engaged journalism, solution journalism (Amiel, 2020; Figaro, Nonato, 2017), and other forms of journalism have given journalists the ability to fight many of the social issues that can reshape, shift or break up professionals and the profession. Lastly, journalists can also be seen fighting to build a public position, one they use to identify themselves before their peers and public. This public position is visible in polemicists, media intellectuals and commentators, who adopt argumentative or combative stances when dealing with current crises.

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The deadline for submitting the full manuscripts (30 to 50,000 characters, including notes and bibliography) is May 31st, 2023, at slj@ulb.be or directly on the website

<https://revue.surlejournalisme.com/slj/about/submissions>

Manuscripts may be written in English, French, Portuguese, or Spanish. Double-blind review. You can contact the editors in charge for any information request.

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