

Sur le journalisme – About Journalism – Sobre jornalismo

Open access international peer-reviewed journal,

published in digital and print formats

<https://revue.surlejournisme.com/>

Call for Papers

Journalism and the Far Right

Deadline for submissions: 1 September 2026

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While the process of normalising the far right in France and internationally seems to have been particularly successful in the electoral arena, this phenomenon has been under-studied in other areas of politics, including journalism (Kaciaf, Klaus, 2024). However, these fields can help us understand both what this normalisation means and the political processes at work during election campaigns (Lehingue, Pudal, 2026). This is the subject of this special issue of *Sur le journalisme*, which aims to examine, from the perspective of the sociology of journalism and the media (Neveu, 2024), what the normalisation of the far right means and does to information production practices. More broadly, we invite contributors to question the restructuring of media spaces, marked by the growing audience of media outlets whose editorial lines can be considered reactionary and conservative, as well as by the advent of new media, particularly “pure players” (Bouron, 2025), which claim to support the far right.

The processes of the “right-wing shift”, mainly observed in elite spaces (Tiberj, 2024; Challier, 2023), are thus contributing to the reconfiguration of journalistic spaces. On the one hand, the institutionalisation of the far right in the United States and Latin America has encouraged certain dominant media players to assume a more pronounced right-wing (and in some cases, far-right) political identity. This includes media outlets such as Fox News in the United States (Kaiser et al., 2019), Jovem Pan in Brazil (Marques, 2024), and CNews in France (Leveneur et al., 2024). On the other hand, the platformisation of information (Rebillard, Smyrnaiois 2019) has encouraged the development of a new constellation of alternative media in Europe (Haller et al., 2019) and Latin America, many of which are at least aligned with the political right.

However, these media outlets employ journalists: some of them have press cards, make a living from their profession, and produce information that is *a priori* legitimate, which circulates beyond the boundaries of reactionary pages and is therefore picked up by other media outlets (Lefébure et

al., 2024). Indeed, traditional and even so-called progressive media outlets have been able to legitimise and structure the political capital of spokespeople for various far-right parties by, for example, granting them a large audience, but one that is at odds with their positions in the partisan arena (Barbosa de Almeida 2022; Darras 2019, 2025; Dahani 2021).

As such, rather than observing the production of potentially stigmatising social representations based on the finished products (Berthaut, 2013), which are more widely documented (Sécaïl, 2024), this issue proposes to observe, through a more internalist approach, the conditions under which information is produced in these media. This is done from the perspective of the sociology (and sociography) of journalists or news producers, through the content production chain, paying attention to professional beliefs, the division of journalistic labour within newsrooms, and the financing conditions of these productions. This issue is, therefore, in line with work on the ethnography of news production and the construction of the journalism profession in little-studied media spaces, which also feature media outlets with highly variable audience levels and different modes of organisation, only some of which are independent (Ferron, 2015).

To examine these phenomena, this issue is divided into three themes: (1) the far-right media space and the sociology of journalistic work in these newsrooms; (2) the transformation of coverage of the far right in other areas of journalism; and (3) the appropriation of journalistic standards by far-right digital production hubs.

Theme 1: Working in newsrooms that lean towards the far right

The first theme looks at the journalistic careers of those who work for media outlets which lean towards the far right. How does someone come to spend at least part of their career in a media outlet identified as such? Is it a continuation of past activist experience, or an ideological affinity developed within the family and social circle? Do these journalists consume the news produced by the media outlets they work for? To what extent do they spend their entire careers in these media outlets, and can they return to less politicised media? Do these newsrooms offer rapid career advancement, facilitated by less competition in the job market? What resources do journalists in these media outlets invest? In other words, under what conditions is the journalistic capital acquired in these media outlets transferable elsewhere, to newsrooms with different political positions? This theme therefore allows us to question the boundaries between far-right politicised media and non-politicised media and their porosity, by examining the mobility of journalists in this space.

Theme 2: Covering the far right in traditional newsrooms

A second theme invites us to extend the reflection by examining what is at stake in terms of the putative transformations in media coverage of the far-right “constellation” (Blee et al., 2024) in other areas of journalism. This theme invites us to focus on the profiles, careers and professional practices of those who cover the far right in established newsrooms. It allows us to focus on the evolution of the structure of newsrooms, particularly political departments, in their coverage of contemporary far-right movements (specialisation of columnists, changes in the number of dedicated journalists, socio-professional profiles and the place of young people entering the profession, the attractiveness of these positions, conditions of access to partisan sources, and the

difficulty of daily work). In line with these questions, the link between the sociography of specialised columnists, their working conditions and the production of media narratives around the far right (framing, reserved media treatment, normalisation or depoliticisation) can also be explored.

Theme 3: How the far right is reappropriating professional standards

A third theme starts from the idea that the profession of journalism is characterised by the vagueness and porosity of its external boundaries (Ruellan, 2007). This definition allows different actors, from various political backgrounds, to claim to be journalists. This leads to a struggle to define professional standards, with the aim of legitimising oneself while disqualifying one's competitors, particularly in the digital arena, where pages mimic the aesthetics of journalism (Orso, Goulart Massuchin, 2025). Staff working in far-right media therefore also claim the right to use journalistic techniques and professional ethics to serve their editorial line. So, to what extent do these productions succeed in appropriating journalistic codes to impose a far-right political agenda? Specifically, what symbolic forms and narrative stereotypes (Neveu, 1993) do these media outlets use in their productions? How do these far-right digital profiles employ markers of objectivity (cross-checking sources, verifying information, direct observations, interviews, etc.)? We are particularly interested in work that sheds light on how journalistic standards are used, or even simulated, in far-right pages that claim to be journalistic. What mechanisms do they use to construct a narrative, in particular by promoting “affective polarisation” (Iyengar, 2019)? How do they construct an “other” based on a fixed and repulsive representation, while promoting a positive and mythologised “us” (Froio, 2017; Gimenez and Voirol, 2017)? How do these two modes of expression combine?

Submission guidelines:

The deadline for submitting complete manuscripts (between 30,000 and 50,000 characters, including footnotes and bibliographical references) is **1 September 2026** via slj@ulb.be or directly on the website: <https://revue.surlejournalisme.com/slj/about/submissions>. Please indicate the title of the issue in question in the subject line of your message. Manuscripts may be written in English, French, Portuguese or Spanish. Articles are evaluated using a double-blind review process.

Sur le journalisme – About Journalism – Sobre jornalismo is a journal indexed in the following academic databases: EBSCO Communication Source collection, *Archive ouverte en Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société* (HAL-SHS), DOAJ, EZB (*Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek*), Mir@bel, Sudoc, Sumários.Org, WorldCat (OCLC), European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS). *Sur le journalisme* is classified as a qualifying journal in France (according to the HCERES index). Brazilian Qualis-CAPES evaluation for 2021-2024: A3. A3.

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