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International peer-reviewed open-access journal,
published in electronic and print editions
<https://revue.surlejournalisme.com/>

Call for Papers
Global news diversity in perspective:
From international news flows to platformization of journalism

Deadline: July 5, 2022
Deadline for Articles: September 30, 2022

Editors of this special issue:
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Following the ICA preConference - a one-day event held in Paris on May 26, 2022 and sponsored by two ICA divisions (Global Communication and Social Change as well as Journalism Studies), this special issue of *About Journalism* aims to deepen and broaden reflections on international news flows and how platforms contribute to global news diversity. The journal will publish a selection of papers written by conference participants as well as external proposals considered relevant to the topic.

There have been decades of media and communication research about international news flows (Mattelart, 2014; Schiller, 1976). The research mainly deals with inequalities and imbalances in international news flows, including the asymmetry between the Global North and the Global South in flows of information, with a strong focus on international news agencies and global media networks. However, the digital shift requires us to update this stream of research in order to verify if the results found still apply or would need to be adjusted to new dynamics in news consumption, flows and production of international news. Even though these platforms do not actually produce news and are mainly occupied with news distribution, the latter only represents (a tiny) part of their business. Platform preeminence could be seen as a “corporate takeover of the digital world” (Smyrniaios, 2018). And if international news flows are not scarce, the lack of free original and consistent news was evidenced as still obvious (Paterson, 2007; Rebillard and Loicq, 2013). When mediated by algorithms, the question of international news access to large public visibility becomes central in the digital environment (Bucher, 2018) and remains political. How accountable are tech giants regarding their impact on media economies and cultural industries? In light of previous research in critical political economy, this special issue on platformization of news seeks to answer questions about the international news flows when they are mediated by platforms.

- How can we imagine a “free and balanced circulation” of online news that would not be market-oriented or politically-controlled by governments, but empowering for citizens and public debate?
- In what ways does algorithmic control over the circulation of news influence public debate?
- In what ways and to what results do platforms like YouTube shape the way news is conveyed to people? Does YouTube actively contribute to global news diversity and if so how?

- Are TikTok and Snapchat more prone to news diversity than more incumbent platforms like Facebook or Google?
- To what extent did the COVID crisis situation transform our understanding of platforms' domination over international news flows?
- What are the opportunities to resist or reduce the power of global platforms over the international news flows?
- Would citizens or consumers support restrictions or limitations of the influence that platforms currently have?

The special issue aims to address the platformization of journalism, its multiple challenges for global news diversity intertwined with the state of news economics and international news flows, and how it roots itself in a tradition of critical research in media and communication studies.

Schedule for publication

September 30, 2022: Submission deadline for the full papers.

December 15, 2022: Feedback and decision notice regarding publishing to authors

March 2023 (exact date TBA): Submission deadline of version 2 of accepted papers

Mid-June 2023: Publication of the special issue

Bibliography

Bucher T. (2018) *If... Then: Algorithmic Power and Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mattelart T. (2014), « Les enjeux de la circulation internationale de l'information », *Revue française des sciences de l'information et de la communication*, 5. DOI: 10.4000/rfsic.1145

Paterson C., "International news on the internet: Why more is less", *The International Journal of Communication Ethics*, vol. 4, n° 1/2, 2007, p. 57-66

Rebillard F. & M. Loicq (eds.) (2013), *Pluralisme de l'information et media diversity. Un état des lieux international*, De Boeck.

Schiller H. I. (1976), *Communications and Cultural Domination*, New York, M.E. Sharpe.

Smyrnaiois N. (2018), *Internet Oligopoly. The Corporate Takeover of Our Digital World*, Emerald Publishing, 191p.

The deadline for submitting the full manuscripts (30 to 50,000 characters, including notes and bibliography) is 30th of September 2022, at: editors.surlejournalisme@gmail.com or online: <https://revue.surlejournalisme.com/slj/about/submissions>. Please indicate in your cover message that you wish to be considered for the news flow special issue.

Manuscripts may be written in English, French, Portuguese or Spanish. Double blind review.

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