

## **Editorial**

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### **How to promote academic dialogue?**

This special issue of the JLACR about "Communication and Media studies: The regional dialogue" is presented as a result of efforts to promote internationalization and cooperative relationship among scholars and scientific entities.

The challenge has been stimulating the regional specificity and contextual embeddedness of theories, methodologies and research traditions, articulating differences as opportunities for the intellectual enrichment of academic communities.

We received and selected texts from ECREA, the European Communication Research and Education Association, NORDICOM (Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research), IAMCR (International Association for Media and Communication Research), ICA (International Communication Association), and from the Latin American Communications Researchers Association (ALAIC) members.

Some JLACR papers ideas were discussed publicly during roundtables at Communication Conferences. In 2011, ECREA and ALAIC created a taskforce and since then the entities have been developing continuous activities together.

The ALAIC-ECREA taskforce organized roundtables to debate international prospective and expose their empirical analyses about the thematic, theoretical and methodological lines that have been followed by different regions in Istanbul (IAMCR 2011 and ECREA 2012), Montevideo (ALAIC 2012), Durban (IAMCR 2012), and Dublin (IAMCR 2013). At ICA International and Regional Conferences, ALAIC members were present at seminars about scientific cooperation in London (2013), and Brasilia (2014).

Another result of ALAIC-ECREA partnership deserves to be mentioned. Inspired by the European Media and Communication Doctoral Summer School, ALAIC supported the experience of the Latin American Communication Summer School, organized by a consortium of universities, at the University of Brasilia in March 2014.

In this issue, César Bolaño ("Latin American Communication Thought and the challenges for the XXI Century: Some theoretical points for a collective and critical new research agenda") summarizes some ideas about the changes in the capitalist economy and society in the transition from the XX to the XXI Century and emphasizes the importance of the Latin American Political Economy of Communication and Culture in order to develop the global communication field in the collective perspective proposed by the ALAIC-ECREA task force.

Furthermore, the JLACR issue brings complementary manuscripts from European, North and South American researchers. Nico Carpentier, with his article "On Walls, Squares, Bridges and Sqridges. A framework to think about North-South dialogues in communication and media studies", analyzes antagonism in the academia within a series

of dimensions, such as political conflict, paradigmatic conflict, linguistic conflict and organizational conflict proposing the notion of the *sqridge* (square plus bridge) as a space to promote dialogues in academic spaces.

In the article “Media and Communication Research Goes Global. Reflections from a Nordic Horizon”, Ulla Carlsson reinforces the importance of collaboration across frontiers as an interplay of national, regional and international processes, which are decisive for the development and improvement of the media and communication research field.

Katherine Reilly analyzes the changing world scenario as well. In “Emergent Latin American Theories of International Communication in a Post-Global World”, the researcher considered that the Latin America’s rich tradition of critical international communication research can be improved through an approach to research and knowledge production that emphasizes communication’s emergent epistemic processes of geopolitical production.

In the article “For the democracy of the systems of evaluating academic production: convergences of Latin-American & European scholars”, Aimée Vega Montiel points out the IAMCR role as influencing the policies of scientific production. For that, it would be necessary regular representation of all regions in consultancy bodies of IAMCR attending organizations such as the UNESCO and OECD. Aimée also prescribed more research and publication of regional analyses seeking participation of regional publishing houses and the use of Open Access as tools to promote academic interaction.

At last, in the text “United and fragmented: Communication and media studies in Latin America”, Silvio Waisbord argues that the field remains united yet fragmented in multiple, parallel lines of research. According to him, adopting an analytical position that places theoretical questions at the center will connect to arguments produced in different settings, and contribute to broad debates in the global community of communication and media scholars.

This edition includes an interview with Eliseo Colón Zayas, director of the School of Communication at the University of Puerto Rico and also in charge of ALAIC’s international relations, about the critical school tradition, and the similarities and differences between Latin American and researchers from other regions.

We thank the authors aligned in this issue for offering substantial contributions to promote academic dialogue. A special thank you goes to our partner Nico Carpentier for his permanent support, ability to propose ideas, to develop activities, and to plan regional and international meetings. Thank you also to the Carlos Arcila Calderón, past editor, and to Heloiza G. Herscovitz, current editor, for their dedication to the *Journal of Latin American Communication Research*.

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