

## Editorial

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In its origins, Latin American research in fields such as *media* and *communications* was influenced by European and American thought. In the last 30 years, the discussion and academic production in these fields have reached an independent status, which is reflected not only in the growing number of researchers, but also in the quality of theories proposed and the findings produced by the increasing number of projects supported by national, international and private institutions. Various universities and several scientific organizations such as ALAIC are supporting these efforts and promoting the internationalization of the rich data and analysis being produced in the region.

This first issue of the **Journal of Latin American Communication Research** (JLACR), published by ALAIC and supported by the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) of UNESCO, is part of the endeavor of many researchers to illuminate and diffuse the works in Latin American Communication Studies and to improve the quality of academic publications by ensuring they are based on international scientific standards. The Journal -edited and distributed entirely in English- intends to broaden the range of readers thereby increasing the impact of research worldwide.

Due to its importance and relevance, the Journal chose *Freedom of Expression and Media Pluralism in Latin America* as the main topic for this first Issue, considering that the region is constantly threatened by attacks against the free and responsible work of media, a matter that is widely incorporated in the researchers' agenda. Not surprisingly, the official Call for Papers produced a number of high-quality original manuscripts. They were subsequently evaluated by international pairs and, in most cases, translated into English from their original languages (Spanish and Portuguese). Our Associate Editors, in special Dr. Fernando Oliveira Paulino, worked hard to keep quality of the texts. The authors, of the five selected articles, research topics ranging from general Latin American studies to specific research in countries such as Brazil, Venezuela and Mexico.

We're very proud to open these articles with a text presented by Jose Marques de Melo (Brazil), a model in Latin American thought about communications. In his article entitled *World challenges of the academic community in the Ibero American space: Latin American Perspective*,

De Melo reflects on the question of citizenship in the Lusophone space within the Ibero-American world, an important topic considering the tremendous influence that emerging countries like Brazil have in the region. The author proposes strategies for strengthening national/regional identities and achieving sovereign participation in the world community of communication sciences.

One other article refers directly to Latin American processes. Andrés Cañizález (Venezuela) presents the *Milestones of Communication and Democracy in Latin American Thought*, where he reviews national policies and calls for “a new world order” of information and communication to tackle the democratic challenges caused by the boom of new technologies.

Three more articles, focusing on specific countries, have been incorporated in this issue. Éverly Pegoraro (Brazil) in her text entitled *Tracking a conflict in the printed pages of Paraná: journalistic discourse and the 1957 Leaseholders’ Revolt* presents a brief analysis of the journalistic discourse expressed by two newspapers of Paraná, in the southern region of Brazil, on one of the main agrarian uprisings of the country. David Bañuelos and Adriana González (Mexico) continue exploring the topic of this issue with the article *Freedom of Expression and Media Abuse: An Analysis of Miracle Products Adverts on Mexican Television*, where they combine the testing of ideas, criticism, and the documentation of facts, to show a study of the abuse of advertising and media coverage on Mexican TV. Finally, Márcia Franz Amaral and Raero Jornada Monteiro (Brazil) analyze a polemic case of Venezuela in the text *The Concept of Freedom of Press as a Symbolic Conflict in Journalism Field*.

The five articles that form the body of this first edition of the JLACR are exemplars of what is going on in Latin America concerning *Freedom of Expression and Media Pluralism*. Further discussion is expected, therefore the Journal aspires to create a new forum for debate and open it to other regions on the world.

Carlos Arcila Calderón, PhD.  
Editor Journal of Latin American Communication Research  
Universidad del Norte (Colombia)  
[carcila@uninorte.edu.co](mailto:carcila@uninorte.edu.co)

César Ricardo Siqueira Bolaño, PhD.  
Director Journal of Latin American Communication Research  
Latin American Association of Communication Researchers (ALAIIC)  
(Brazil) [bolano@ufs.br](mailto:bolano@ufs.br)