

# Editorial

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Communication research in Latin America currently covers a wide range of thematic areas, which was evidenced in the previous ALAIC congress that was held in May in Montevideo, Uruguay. Presenting at the congress were 16 permanent research groups as well as 3 special interest research groups. Yet this thematic diversity has common roots and interests, above all if we consider that in the region topics such as critical studies of culture and of development have played – and continue to play – a very important role. This edition – Volume 2, Number 2 – of the *Journal of Latin American Communication Research (JLACR)* includes a diverse range of studies that analyze culture and development in the region using a communication-based perspective.

Even though in previous editions we put guidelines into place for the topics addressed by papers to ensure that the editions were monographic, on this occasion we made a general Call for Papers that will allow for the evaluation of articles from a wide range of areas. We received an excellent response, not just from researchers in the Latin American region, but also from academics that live in other latitudes, are conducting research in our region and share our areas of study. In this sense we have met our objective of internationalizing this journal and we are generating real interest among researchers from countries that aren't directly related to Latin America and can observe local processes "from an outsider's perspective".

This edition provides a general overview of progress made and discussions that are occurring regarding communication in Latin America. In first place, we have an article written by Jan Servaes titled "Communication for Sustainable Development. Indicators for Impact Assessment in the USAID Project 'Educational Reform in the Classroom in Guatemala'". This article contributes to the discussion on communication for development (C4D) through the analysis of a project in Guatemala, an area that is of great importance for the region and in which very significant advances are being made.

Following this, a text by Paul Madlock titled "Relational Maintenance Strategies among Mexican Coworkers" provides an organizational view of relationships between Mexican workers which finds that beyond the cultural aspects involved, their relationships are conditioned by their personal needs. A third article "News Media Consumption and Political Interest in Latin America" by Ryan Salzman shows us how consumption of information via the media in Latin America directly affects public interest in politics.

Two more articles complete this edition. One from Natalia Coimbra De Sá, titled "Elite Squad movies and sense of agency in Brazil: How Fictional Narratives Contribute to Shaping Fans'

Realities?”, in which the author employs an ethnographical perspective to describe and analyze the reception of two films that were very successful in Brazil. Finally, Kárita Cristina Francisco presents the article “Mobile Telephony in Latin America and Brazil: Similarities and Singularities” in which the economic, social and political aspects associated with the communication device that has the greatest penetration in the region are analyzed.

With this edition, the *Journal of Latin American Communication Research* completes 2 years as a scientific publication in which it has been preparing for the strict processes of international indexing. During the editing process of Volumen 2, Number 2, the Editorial Team has deeply regretted the death of Dr Juan Díaz Bordenave, one of the pioneers of theory and practice of Communication for Deveopment in Latin America. Also, this Editorial Team would like to thank all of the authors and collaborators who have contributed to the Journal and maintain an open invitation to new researchers to submit their work to be part of our evaluation and editorial selection processes.

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