

Presentation

Communication, Risks and Opportunities: Promoting internal and external dialogue on Latin America

This edition of the Journal of Latin American Communication Research (JLACR) maintains the mission of the magazine to be a channel of dialogue between Latin America and other parts of the world. To do this, articles in this issue analyze Latin American reality along with specific situations that influence media professionals and scientific conditions.

Latin American thought is present in texts published in this issue as encouragement for researcher's, from inside and outside the region, to submit articles for the next JLACR's editions.

Communication, Risks and Opportunities is the subject of this edition and opens with two texts on Mexico. The purpose of the article by Ruben Arnoldo Gonzalez, *Investigative journalism in Mexico: between ideals and realities, the case of Morelia / Periodismo investigativo en México: entre ideales y realidades, el caso de Morelia*) is to analyze investigative journalism in the context of contemporary Mexican reality, especially local routines. The case study of journalists in the city of Morelia shows that the low level of professionalism leads to an exercise of the trade marked by the ideals of journalism and a difficult reality.

This number also includes the article *Organized crime and news treatment in Mexico: a longitudinal analysis of three news shows / Crimen organizado y tratamiento noticioso en México: Un análisis longitudinal de tres noticieros televisivos*. The text by Julio Juarez-Gámiz investigates how three different television news-shows present information about organized crime in Mexico. The study seeks to understand the correlation between the different socio-political contexts, positioning during newscast and narrative forms linking the state to the issues of organized crime.

Unfortunately, topics related to violence are present in many countries in the region. *The strategic issues of journalistic lexicon when reporting on victims of the Colombia armed conflict / Estrategias léxicas del periodismo al hablar de las víctimas del conflicto armado en Colombia* is Yeni Serrano's contribution for understanding the role of journalists in conflict situations, paying especial attention to the lexical patterns established in texts and the journalists' daily labor routines in Colombia.

Colombia is also the subject of another article. In *Beyond the "sewer": online media forums as shapers of digital public opinion in the framework of Colombian peace talks (2012) / Más allá de las "cloacas": Los foros de los medios en línea como formadores de la opinión pública digital en el marco de las conversaciones de paz en Colombia (2012)*, Silvia Mountain, Victoria González and César Ariza considerations systematize the comments published in three digital Colombian newspapers (eltiempo.com; elespectador.com and elcolombiano.com.co) on the latest peace process between September and October 2012. In addition to the results presented in the study, the findings encourage further research questions, such as what would be the impact on the behavior of users of the forums with the addition of a moderator to arbitrate comments online.

Risk as a theme is not confined only to issues of violence triggered externally but there are also internal factors such as inequality and poverty that generate it. In *The Digital Inequality in Brazil, 2004 – 2009: Evolution and Effects on Political Engagement / Desigualdad digital en Brasil, 2004-2009, su evolución y efectos en el compromiso político*, Rachel Reis Mourão and Charles Wood analyze the increased use of microcomputers between 2004 and 2009 in urban and rural areas of Brazil. Despite the gap in household income, the study shows that greater Internet connectivity increases knowledge and generate positive attitudes towards democratic governance.

The issue closes with the article *Exploring the Virtual Classroom: A case study of Malaysian and Honduran University Students / Explorando el aula virtual: un estudio de caso de universitarios malasios y hondureños* sent by Sharon Jacqueline Wilson and Beatriz Lovo Reichmann. The article shows an experience of cooperation between universities in different countries and continents. Using available technological tools in the everyday classroom, university professors try to use and develop new teaching methods that allow students to reflect on identities issues and learning methods. The central conclusion is that technology has the potential to contribute to the educational development within and outside the physical space of the classroom.

We appreciate your interest and texts' submissions. We trust you will appreciate their scholarly contributions. Hopefully next issues of the Journal of Latin American Communication Research will maintain the same quality and diversity of this year's publications.

Eliseo Colón Zayas and Fernando Oliveira Paulino, editors