

**Presentation**  
**Technologies of the self and communication practices in Latin America**

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Eliseo R. Colón Zayas, Ph.D.  
Editor  
JLACR  
[journal.alaic@gmail.com](mailto:journal.alaic@gmail.com)

This edition of the Journal of Latin American Communication Research (JLACR) puts together a group of essays that deals with what philosopher Michel Foucault calls technologies of the self. Foucault defines these technologies as those “which permit individuals to effect by their own means or with the help of others a certain number of operations on their own bodies and souls, thoughts, conduct, and way of being, so as to transform themselves in order to attain a certain state of happiness, purity, wisdom, perfection, or immortality” (Foucault, 1988, p. 18).

This edition and opens with a text on Mexico. The purpose of the article by Rebeca Padilla Torres, Mónica Cervantes Velázquez and María de Jesus Ávila, *Inequalities among young people using the Internet in Aguascalientes, Mexico: An analysis of statistically significant differences between socioeconomic levels* is the study of inequalities among youth regarding access, equipment and use of the Internet. The case study presents the partial results of a survey conducted in the state of Aguascalientes, Mexico. It provides valuable statistical description of youths between 18 and 29 years of age from four different socioeconomic levels with regard to Internet access and equipment and their use: academic, political and financial uses.

This number also includes the article *Rurbanity and Mediatization: A case study of TV consumption on an Argentine agro-town*. The text by Edgardo Luis Carniglia investigates how television consumption, mediates with contemporaneity in urban and rural areas in Latin America. The study seeks to understand the role play by the urban configuration of an agro-town such as Río Cuarto, Córdoba, Argentina in television consumption.

*Colonial Bodies at the Media Universal Stage: The Case of Puerto Rico's Participation in Miss Universe* is Manuel Avilés Santiago's contribution for understanding the role of beauty pageants to understand complex layers of identity, such as race, ethnicity, gender, and class. Avilés Santiago provides important ideas to

understand coloniality at large in Latin America and transnational display of cultural nationalism in the region.

The issue closes with Ryan Salzman's *Exploring Social Media Use and Protest Participation in Latin America*. The article deals with social media and protest behavior. Using the Latin American Public Opinion Project 2012 survey data it explores the relationship in the use social media use and protest behavior in eight contiguous Latin American countries from Mexico to Colombia.

We appreciate your interest and texts' submissions. We trust you appreciate their scholarly contributions.

### **References**

- Foucault, M. (1988). Technologies of the Self. In L. H. Martin, H. Gutman, & P. H. Hutton (Eds.), *Technologies of the Self: A Seminar with Michel Foucault* (pp. 16-49). Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press.