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M O N O G R A P H S

TITLE

Innovation In Journalism: Expanding The Field Of Research

SCIENTIFIC
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Full Professor of Journalism at Miguel Hernández University, where he lectures in the Master's Degree Program in Journalism Innovation. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree (National University of Ireland) and a PhD in Communication (University of Navarra). He has been a visiting scholar at the Media Studies Centre in Columbia University (New York). Professor García-Avilés is also the head of the GICOV Communication Research Group and founder of *InnovaMedia*, a network of researchers exploring innovation in the media. He has published over 100 articles and papers related to communication and currently he works in the European project "Journalism Innovation in Democratic Societies". His research focuses on journalism innovation, narratives, and news quality.

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He holds the chair for "Journalism Studies I" at KU of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt (Germany). His research explores ethics and quality in journalism with a focus on innovation and transformation, transfer between science and practical applications, convergence, digital journalism, and journalism education. Since July 2021, he has been the Vice President of study programmes and teaching at KU Eichstaett-Ingolstadt. Professor Klaus Meier was a winner of the "Ars legendi" award for excellence in university teaching in 2017. From 2009 to 2010, he served as professor of cross-media journalism and media convergence at TU Dortmund University, and from 2001 to 2009 he was a professor of journalism studies at the University of Applied Sciences in Darmstadt. In past years, he has also worked as a newspaper and television journalist.

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Bachelor's Degree in Audio-visual Communication (University of Navarra, 1998), and in Sociology (UNED, 2004), as well as PhD in Communication (University of Navarra, 2002). Winner of the Extraordinary Doctorate Award. Professor Herrera Damas has authored 6 books and more than 80 papers published in prestigious academic journals. She has served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Ottawa (Canada), Texas U. (United States), and at the Missouri Journalism School (United States). Since February 2008, she has taught at Carlos III University of Madrid, where she is an Associate Journalism Professor and head of the Innovation in Digital Media research group. Her current focus of study is on innovation in digital media, with special emphasis on best practices related to immersive journalism, media labs, verification of information, and augmented reality.

DESCRIPTION AND THEMATIC AREAS

Research into journalism innovation has undergone considerable growth over the last two decades. However, theoretical, methodological, and systematic contributions have received scarce attention, fragmented at best, as reflected in several literature reviews (Bleyen et al., 2014; Dogruel, 2015; Belair-Gagnon and Steinke, 2020; García-Avilés, 2021a). Journalism in the digital age is increasingly difficult to define, and its boundaries are becoming blurred (Carlson and Lewis, 2015), yet it still plays a crucial role in guaranteeing the basic values of democratic societies, such as freedom, justice, equality, and solidarity. Therefore, it is important not only to identify how innovation has been implemented in different processes, products, or areas of journalism, but also to understand how they have influenced the industry and, ultimately, society (Luengo and Herrera, 2021).

Thus, research on journalism innovation should consider the complexity of interrelated contextual factors, the convergence of news and technology, and the changing professional context (Konow-Lund, Hågvar and Olsson, 2019), as well as structural elements or organizational innovations such as media labs as a "motor for transformation" (Hogh-Janovsky and Meier, 2021). As argued by Leyla Dogruel (2014, 62), research into journalism innovation "demands a combination of normative theory regarding the media, theoretical and empirical approaches to economics, sociology, communication and innovation theory, as well as media-specific frameworks".

Our approach to understanding innovation prioritizes the public-service value of journalism, its relationships with audiences, and the sustainability of the media in a precarious economic context. In this regard, journalism innovation should not only focus on product and technology-related aspects, but also on news quality, social impact, and ethics, because in addition to its economic value, media innovation has an influence on organizations, media systems and news consumers.

There is a need for further research into the nature, conceptualization, and effects of journalistic innovation. Researchers interested in processes of media transformation should explore further in order to determine the objects of study that can be labelled as 'innovations' and comprehensively integrate different perspectives and methodologies. Scholars should strive to engage in theoretical reasoning to expand diffusion theory and to consider the challenges associated with Big Data and Artificial Intelligence, disruptive players such as tech companies, as well as the changing political environment. Methodological proposals for research are also encouraged. New approaches are welcome on the ways in which innovation and transfers between research and journalistic practice can be integrated into journalism education (Meier and Schützeneder, 2019). It is necessary to expand the traditional methods of single case studies to include longitudinal investigations considering broader factors that might influence the development of journalistic innovation at the macro, mezzo, and micro levels. Furthermore, there is a need for comparative studies of an international nature in order to shed light on innovation in diverse contexts and markets, so that news organizations can grow, adapt, react, and transform themselves.

The Covid-19 crisis is speeding up the process of media transformation (García-Avilés, 2021b). The pandemic has fuelled innovative practices in the media and has contributed to understanding the reasons why they promote public service journalism, thereby providing an opportunity for innovation (Hess and Waller, 2020).

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