



Call for papers

Journalistic writings

International symposium organised by GIS Journalisme, a consortium of the laboratories
CARISM (IFP – Université Paris 2) CRAPE (CNRS – Universités de Rennes – IEP – EHESP)
ELICO (Universités de Lyon) GRIPIC (CELSA - Université Paris Sorbonne)

Paris 23, 24, 25 March 2017

Closing date for receipt of submissions: **31 August 2016**

Replies to contributors: 15 October 2016

From the moment journalists asserted their profession to be in search of autonomy, the question of writing presented itself as a marker of social differentiation and identity affirmation. There then followed a move from writing regarded as a distinctive style serving a specific narrative towards journalistic writings; the plural form marking increased differentiation within the profession, propelled by the emergence of new publishing media, new technologies, forms of specialisation through genre or subject matter. This revolutionised ways of writing and narrative modes (the ways of "telling a story"). Finally, the more recent advent of the Internet, digital technologies and mobile telephones has led to a re-examination of modes of journalistic writing and forms of narration.

But the question of writings is not one of concern solely to the profession. From the very outset, it has also formed the subject of extensive research on journalism. Written journalism has been the focus of scientific attention in numerous respects: study of the semiological constructions of journalistic content and the social representations thereby produced (and their possible influences); literary or linguistic analysis of these discourses etc.

In fact, journalistic writings are of relevance to all the social sciences, in that writing is regarded not as mere text, but rather the result of an information production process, the function of its visible traces being to unveil the social, cultural, historical, economic or organisational conditions of production.

To question writing is therefore to question, yesterday or today, the representations of the profession and its specialisations; the modes of acquisition and transmission of this know-how; the economic models that underpin the media market; the organisational structures of editorial functions; the modalities of appropriation of communication media and technologies; the representations created by journalists of their readership and their expectations.

This call for symposium papers invites contributors to organise their reflections around four key areas, based on a presentation of the results of research founded on empirical work, linking a study of writings and the conditions of their production, rejecting any artificial separation between what might be classified as independent textual analysis and study of the contexts of writing and reception. The aim of the first key area is to reset the historical context of developments in journalistic writing. The second examines the influence of the organisation on information outputs. The next task is to assess how digital technologies and mobile telephones are opening up new horizons to journalistic writings. Finally, the goal of the last key area is to review the discourses that celebrate journalistic writing.

Key area 1 - The dynamics of journalistic writings

Learning to write (or learning a form of writing) lay at the very centre of early professionalisation, as a means of affirming the distinctiveness and credibility of the profession. In the intervening years, forms of journalistic writing and narration have evolved radically, as the result not only of the technological advances and new media available, but also the rapid expansion of new journalistic genres (gradual emergence of the portrait, in-depth reporting, editorials, live-to-air pieces etc.) and new specialisations, all presented as new ways of offering professional know-how (war journalism, cultural journalism, sports journalism etc.).

Contributions in this key area will aim to grasp the spatial and temporal developments in journalistic writings, to offer an insight into the transformations in forms of narration, to pinpoint movements marking a break with the past or moments of transition that have led to renewed writing practices throughout the history of journalism.

Key area 2 - Organisations and writings

The production of journalistic content is conditioned by the underlying organisations. Journalistic writing is the product of an ever-shifting division of labour (proofreaders have virtually disappeared; editorial secretaries have become editors whose know-how has broadened, the titles of articles are no longer the sole purview of the "bosses", but also of writers at work; political journalists have fewer column inches to work with etc.). Between the writing function and other newspaper firm departments or outside players, a web of relationships forms a true relational ecosystem. Organisations evolve, restructure, modernise and adapt under the influence of the digital transition and the dynamic of the markets; they create new functions that impact the selection of subject matter, the hierarchy of information and how it is processed. Writings can thus be altered, rethought, constrained, even distorted in a way that is inconsistent with the original intention of the journalist.

Submissions will therefore take pains to place the logics of journalistic writing within their various relational ecosystems, be they traditional or contemporary. They will examine the weight of the organisation in the work of writing and how journalists succeed in maintaining their independence within them, or otherwise.

Key area 3 - Digital writings

The introduction of digital tools has facilitated the total transformation of journalistic writings and narratives. Writing can become multimedia and texts, images and data can be arranged in composite form (web documentary etc.). It can be based on integrative participative systems involving external and amateur contributions (live blogging, Storify etc.). It can take account of geolocalisation, live or deferred, with reporting using mobile technologies. It can present data in a new way, offering a visualisation that goes beyond computer graphics to become true data

visualisation, orchestrated by data journalists who sift through, sort and reorganise data to the benefit of an investigation or pedagogical process.

For this key area, therefore, contributions will address new forms of writing and narration using digital and mobile devices.

Key area 4 - Celebration of writing

Writing is a skill demanded of every journalist. Except in live situations, it is supposed "have a style", "a skilful pen", "a line", and this includes pieces for radio and television. Writing is not the sole domain of the written press. In the "new" media, writing can also be celebrated or presented as distinctive, as in the case of "multimedia writing". Yet the value attached to writing varies according to media, training, country (the comparison between French and Anglo-Saxon journalism is a classic case in point, the latter often presented as less "literary", more "factual") and according to historical conjecture, too. But journalistic writing is not only self-referential. There are professionals who celebrate the various sources of their inspiration and creativity, proclaiming stimuli originating from elsewhere (literature, cinema, TV series, art photo etc.). Contributions are therefore expected to focus on discourses that celebrate journalistic styles (or, conversely, lament their impoverishment), how journalistic training addresses this theme, the different ways in which national spaces or editorial offices approach or have approached the question of writing, or the celebration of sources of inspiration.

Submission procedures

Send the following to colloque.GIS2017@gmail.com :

- a 1,000-word summary (or 6,000 characters, including spaces), with 3 to 5 key words and an indication of the key area your paper focuses on.

Please omit any information liable to identify the author(s).

And

- a covering page showing the identity, the institution and the email address of the author(s)

This information will not be passed on to the members of the scientific committee tasked with assessing the submissions. Summaries and papers may be presented in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese.

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