



Abstracts

The 16th Annual Conference of the Catalan Communications Society

PANEL DISCUSSION

Within the framework of this 16th Annual Conference of the Catalonia Communications Society in Girona, the board of directors have decided to organize a roundtable on public audiovisual media in the context of globalization.

We consider that certain matters, such as the closing of Ràdio 4, the restructuring of the Televisió Espanyola production center in Sant Cugat, the precarious employment situation of journalists and media professionals, oblige us to reflect on the changes that globalization has provoked in the area of public media.

We wonder how the concentration of media into a few private conglomerates affects the information offered to citizens. How can free exercise of the profession be guaranteed without stable employment conditions? In the case of our country, how can the establishment of communications entities that respect the use of the Catalan language in programs be guaranteed? How is the independent, rigorous information dissemination that democratic societies need to strengthen their continuity reinforced? What public policies enable and guarantee independent journalistic activity that provides citizens with pluralistic, ethical information free of political pressure?

It is necessary to develop communications services that counterbalance the exercise of political power and, in the case of Catalonia, that guarantee the presence of our language and identity. All these factors together should contribute to the education of listeners and viewers, enabling them to perform as responsible citizens.

For these reasons we have invited professionals from public radio and television and theoreticians from academe to analyze the subject together.

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CATALONIAN GOVERNMENT REPORT: COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE, 2006

BY ENRIC MARÍN

during the two-and-a-half-year administration that the media was quick to dub the «tripartit» (the tri-party). As is known, it is through the Communication Secretariat that the Presidency develops what we could call industrial policies in the media sector and manages government information policies.

The current leftist Catalan government, supporting greater autonomy for Catalonia, have developed communication policies inspired by lengthy debates, which came to a head in Catalonia during the late 1990s and early 2000s within democratic institutions, such as universities, the College of Journalists, the Audiovisual Council (CAC), and the Parliament. One of the most important and politically-charged points in this process of collective consciousness raising was the 1999 resolution of the Catalan Parliament that defined the plan for the Catalan system of communication for the following years: reform, upgrading professional standards, public media independence from the government, exclusive domain of the Catalan government in media infrastructure, and independent audiovisual content monitoring through the CAC.

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ETERNITY IN THE PRESENT. LLORENÇ GOMIS' JOURNALISTIC STYLE

BY LLUÍS PASTOR

This article describes Llorenç Gomis's journalistic style traits: clarity, irony, and a commitment to post-conciliar Catholic thought. To illustrate these characteristics, we analyze ten of his articles published in the journal *El Ciervo* and ten articles from the newspaper *La Vanguardia*. The clarity of Gomis's style is tested by applying Robert Gunning's Fog Index algorithm. Gomis's irony, present mainly in his articles on local customs and society, comes out from between the lines of the aphorisms in his journalistic prose. We also explore a truly unique trait in Gomis's prose: the principle of the second chance, which is also illustrated by diverse examples.

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THE CARHUS PROJECT: A CLASSIFICATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
AND HUMANITIES JOURNALS

BY LLUÍS ROVIRA

The Catalanian government agency, Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca (AGAUR), is responsible for the management and evaluation of undergraduate and graduate scholarships, and research grants. In this context, the evaluation process takes on special relevance since it ensures efficacious decisions and consolidates the agency's credibility in the eyes of the scientific community.

In some disciplines, such as the social sciences and humanities, evaluation cannot operate in the same way as in other more objectively studied areas. Furthermore, research in the social sciences and humanities is not carried out in a totally homogeneous way. The fields comprise many well-differentiated areas of knowledge with great diversity of research subjects.

To evaluate these disciplines with equanimity, it is necessary to develop tools that help evaluators judge as objectively as possible what research subjects are and are not relevant.

Therefore, in 2005 the Department of Research of the Catalanian government drafted a list of approximately six thousand journals in the areas of social sciences and humanities to aid in the development of such evaluation tools. The journals are classified into 4 groups (A, B, C, and D) according to quantitative factors (presence in indexes and data bases), quality, and area of knowledge.

Open section

IMMEDIACY AS A BASIC VALUE OF DIGITAL JOURNALISM AND ITS IMPACT
ON THE PRODUCTION PROCESS OF FOUR DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS

BY DAVID DOMINGO

It has been said that digital journalism would revolutionize the profession. However, everyday life in digital media offices shows that the conventions of traditional journalism tend to be reproduced, with some significant losses. Observation of the production process of four Catalanian digital newspapers (Telenotícies.cat, El Periódico Online,

Diari de Tarragona Digital, and *laMalla.net*) and lengthy interviews with the professionals who work for them revealed that immediacy is the prime factor used by digital journalists to define and justify their work. The objective of offering a constantly updated product with a reduced work force results in dependence on teletypes, difficulty in checking information, and neglect of other journalistic possibilities on the Internet, such as multimedia production, links with other webs, and use of diverse sources. The results of only one of the newspapers, whose strategy was based on thematic specialization, compensated for the risks involved with digital publishing.

Open section

THEMES OVERLOOKED BY JOURNALISM. TEENAGERS, "THE BODY",
AND TEEN MAGAZINES: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDY

BY MÒNICA FIGUERAS

This article summarizes the doctoral thesis titled *Female Teen Magazines and Corporal Identity*, read in the Department of Journalism and Audiovisual Communication of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, October 2005. Available at <http://www.tdx.cesca.es/TDX-1114105-163606>.

Open section

TELEvised NEWS REPORTS ON INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICS. JORDI PUJOL
AND TVE IN CATALONIA: A CASE STUDY

BY MIQUEL PERALTA MAS

This thesis, directed by Armand Balsebre, Professor of Audiovisual Communication at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, takes a close look at media professionals' production routines: steps in writing news reports, ways of using new technologies, socializing among other journalists, and linking to government sources of information.

The objectives of this study were twofold. The first was to analyze the political and institutional articles on the official trips of the then President of Catalonia, Jordi Pujol, produced from 1997 to 1999 by professionals of the Serveis Informatius of the Catalanian branch of Televisión Española.

The second objective was to study the political leader himself. One of the keys for understanding Pujol's long democratic mandate was his continued, almost omnipresent, presence in public opinion. To achieve this, Pujol took advantage of the media. His presence in the newspapers, on the radio, on television, and on the Internet was constant motivation for expression of opinion.

Open section

THE DREAM OF A SOCIETY AND ITS JOURNALISTS. THE PAPER TELEVISION (CATALONIA, 1931-1936)

BY *FRANCESC CANOSA FERRAN*

Every era dreams of the era to come, and this article describes the birth and attempts at consolidation of the television dream of a society and Catalan journalism during the Second Spanish Republic. These desires and experiments can be seen through information about television found in the Catalan press published in Barcelona during the period studied. We look at how the media, in this case the press as the hegemonic medium, became the tool by which the society could think about reality. Thus, society and journalism were inseparable from the television dream that was to become a metaphor for a Catalonia that couldn't be.

Open section

AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION STUDIES IN CATALAN UNIVERSITIES

BY *JOSEP M. MARTÍ, MONTSE BONET, MARTA MONTAGUT
AND ANTONI PÉREZ-PORTABELLA*

The audiovisual sector of the Països Catalans [including—besides Catalonia proper—Valencia, the Balearic Islands, and the part of Catalonia within France] has experienced important growth and remarkable diversification in recent years as a consequence of new media and technologies.

During the same period there has been an increase in the number of university departments and professional training centers that give degrees in audiovisual communication. There exist real difficulties in adapting curricula to reflect the context of sectorial change and,

especially, to respond to the new training demands compounded by the pace at which these changes are happening. Furthermore, universities are immersed in the process of adapting their curricula to the Bologna agreement, known as the European Space for Higher Education. It is, therefore, more necessary than ever to carry out an overall analysis to give shape to the state of the question and propose pedagogic programs and methods to orient the task of audiovisual education.

Such an analysis is under way and is part of a broader research project being carried out under the auspices of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans. The principle objective of the research is to analyze current audiovisual training programs to ensure that centers offer curricula that prepare students for professional options that are foreseen.

At present, we are in the second phase of the study, which is to be finished in the autumn of 2006, and which is devoted to an analysis of the training demands of radio, television, multimedia, etc., with special attention to professional profiles and an overview of the prospective mid-term evolution of the sector.

Finally, the third phase is to be devoted to the creation of a repertoire of new professional areas. This list, along with information on minimal training, job descriptions, and required skills, is intended to serve as a tool in the drafting of new curricula and guide in-house training for many companies. Suggestions regarding new methodological instruments for professional training in the audiovisual sector will be included.

Open section

THE BASIC RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: SOCIETY *VERSUS* POWER

BY *MARC CARRILLO*

«The basic right to freedom of expression: society versus power» was the title of an address at the VII Congreso Internacional de Historiadores de la Comunicación and was added to the presentations published in *Treballs de Comunicació*, no. 20.

Twenty-six years after the enactment of the Spanish Constitution in 1978, freedom of expression and the right to communicate and receive information has proven to be a fundamental pillar of the democracy, commensurate with the representative institutions in importance.

With the establishment of the European Community, the European system of rights and liberties regained the essential characteristics of any democratic society. Putting an end to systems of preventive control over

the right to freedom of expression and information, typical of authoritarian regimes, meant suppression of government censorship and intervention over the distribution of publications and audiovisual programs, in other words, administrative sequestration. At present, only the judicial authority is enabled with the power to limit, when appropriate, the exercise of these rights through justified preventive measures. This is the liberal tradition that the European Community regained, a tradition that has been further enhanced by the incorporation of new contributions emerging from post-World War II constitutionalism.

Open section

THE DANCE OF THE RECORD COMPANIES.
A CULTURAL INDUSTRY IN TRANSFORMATION

BY DAVID FERNÁNDEZ

This article reviews the origin and growth of the Catalan record industry. The focus is on cultural policies, dance music in the context of the tradition of live music, and the relation between the record industry and other cultural industries. Also examined are some of the changes being considered at present, how the record industry is responding to these changes, and possibilities for expansion into the international market.