

## **Media, Democracy, and Identity in Times of Disruption**

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### **Medios de comunicación, democracia e identidad en tiempos disruptivos**

### **Mídia, democracia e identidade em tempos de ruptura**

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The *Journal of Latin American Communication Research* is proud to present Volume 13, Number 1 (2025), featuring a diverse and rigorous selection of articles that reflect the multiplicity of voices, methodologies, and critical lenses in contemporary communication studies across Latin America and the Caribbean. This issue addresses key concerns, including gender performativity in political discourse, argumentation in diplomatic journalism, identity in digital diasporas, comparative communication policies, media populism during public health crises, and feminist trajectories in sports journalism. Each article contributes uniquely to understanding the intersections of media, identity, democracy, and power within dynamic socio-political contexts.

Four of the six articles in this issue were submitted as part of a special call for papers—a joint venture between *Brazilian Journalism Research* (BJR) and the *Journal of Latin American Communication Research* (JLACR), edited by Silvio Waisbord and Liziane Guazina. This collaborative initiative invited contributions addressing journalism's role in defending democratic spaces amid rising populism and political violence.

Dandara Oliveira Lima and Liliane Maria Machado investigate Jair Bolsonaro's strategic deployment of masculine discourse during Brazil's 2022 elections through a French Discourse Analysis lens. Their analysis unveils how Bolsonaro's tweets evoke symbolic narratives such as 'The Messiah' and 'Wombs of the Nation' to enforce binary gender logics aligned with hegemonic masculinity, reinforcing an anti-gender agenda in political communication. Andressa Prates and Rejane de Oliveira Pozobon analyze Brazil's image in the global arena through speeches at the UN General Assembly and

media coverage by *Folha de S. Paulo*. Drawing on Amossy and Charaudeau's theories of discourse, the authors highlight how journalism occasionally contests official foreign policy narratives, acting as a political agent in shaping public diplomacy. Alexandre Douvan and Felipe Simão Pontes, "Media and Democracy: How Communication Policies in Seven Countries Protect the System from Authoritarianism", present a comparative analysis of media laws in Brazil, South Africa, Argentina, Australia, Japan, Mexico, and Portugal. Through political and economic parallelism lenses, the authors evaluate how regulations combat monopolies and ensure pluralism, identifying strengths and gaps in preventing media capture by state or market forces.

"Os Pingos nos Is: The Rhetorical Construction of Frontstage Journalism" explores how the program *Os Pingos nos Is* functioned as a rhetorical instrument of disinformation during Brazil's COVID-19 crisis. Ernsen and Prudencio analyze enthymemes and emotional appeals in the show's coverage, arguing that it advanced Bolsonarist narratives by privileging ideological resonance over factual reporting.

In "Mexican Women Shouting for a Goal: New References in Specialized Journalism," Xochitl Andrea Sen Santos investigates how Mexican women in sports journalism have become role models for younger generations through their roles as football narrators and commentators. The article traces the impact of women's professional football in transforming gendered barriers in media and sports representation via discourse analysis of interviews with nine journalists.

In Anglo-Caribbean 'YouTuber Vlogs: An Exploratory Study,' Shaheed Mohammed examines 520 videos from 52 Anglophone Caribbean content creators, alongside interviews and viewer comments, to analyze how identity and cultural claims are expressed on YouTube. The study emphasizes diasporic and local expressions of nostalgia, nationhood, and pragmatism, revealing the dual role of YouTubers as cultural ambassadors and digital entrepreneurs.

In bringing together these contributions, *Volume 13, Number 1* of the *Journal of Latin American Communication Research* reaffirms its commitment to fostering critical dialogues that interrogate the evolving dynamics of media, identity, and democracy across the region. The articles included reflect pressing concerns in the Latin American communicative landscape and offer valuable theoretical and methodological insights for

global conversations. We invite scholars, practitioners, and students to engage with these works as part of a broader endeavor to imagine and sustain more inclusive, transparent, and equitable communication practices in times of uncertainty and transformation.