

Call for Papers

Beyond the myth of journalistic storytelling – Why a narrative approach to journalism falls short

Guest Editors

Daniel Perrin

(Zurich University of Applied Sciences)

&

Marta Zampa

(Zurich University of Applied Sciences/Università della Svizzera italiana)

“Reports of new events are stories – no more, but no less”. This assertion by Gaye Tuchman (1976, 93) opened a window onto a central issue in journalism studies, i.e., the conceptualization of events in the news as stories. Since then, journalism research and education have further developed the concept of narrative journalism, which has resulted in a plethora of approaches to journalism as storytelling. In our special issue, we examine this “mantra to think story” (Cotter & Perrin 2016) as relevant but falling short and partly dysfunctional (Flath 2014). We theorize and empirically investigate why news is much more – and at the same time less – than stories and why this matters for both journalism research and practice. This special issue offers space for considering issues such as:

- the reasons (e.g., historical, political, pragmatic) behind the conceptualization of journalism as storytelling
- the relationship between storytelling and narration in journalism and other domains, such as literature, organizational communication, and everyday conversation
- the interplay of narration with other text-linguistic practices, such as description, explanation, and argumentation
- the role of this interplay in public discourse and in its constitutive processes, such as gatekeeping and framing
- the theoretical and methodological instruments for investigating this complex interplay in the dynamics of journalism in both the mass media and social media.

In brief, we invite contributions that deal with the storytelling mantra in journalism research by investigating and contextualizing the narrative effort of journalists from disciplinary as well as inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives.

Article format:

The length of papers in this special issue should be between 6,000 and 9,000 words (including abstract, footnotes and references). Papers can be written in English, French, German or Italian, but the abstract must be in English.

Key dates:

1st submission: **2017/09/15**

1st review: **2017/10/31**

2nd submission: **2017/12/10**

2nd review: **2017/12/30**

Final submission: **2018/01/31**

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Papers will be submitted to a double-blind peer-review process.

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