

JOURNALISM RESEARCH IN SPAIN

A meta-research of Spanish peer-reviewed journals (2000-2014)

Group of Advanced Studies in Communication - GEAC

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INCOMES-25

25 years of communication research in Spain

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RESEARCH FOCUS AND BACKGROUND

Media and professional context of journalism in Spain:

- Consolidation of a media model of polarized pluralism with strong political parallelism,
- Deep crisis in the labour market of communication professionals (especially of journalism professionals).

Institutional context of journalism research in Spain:

- ANECA (2003): National Agency for the Evaluation of Quality and Accreditation. Evaluates teaching and research activity
- ACADEMIA (2003): Program for the university teaching accreditation
- EHEA (2007/2008): progressive implementation of the European Higher Education Area in communication studies.
- Internationalization of research activity: Spanish scholars adopt international research standards (theoretical frameworks, methodological procedures), get published in peer-reviewed journals, and participate in international conferences.

OBJECTIVES

This study aims to observe, journalism research in Spain journalism studies, by describing:

- RO1: Major fields and objects of study.
- RO2: Research modalities and methods.
- RO3: Research techniques.

METHOD

Sample

- 729 papers published by four Spanish leading journals in the communication discipline. 360 papers refers to journalism studies (N=360 articles, 49.4% of the total sample).
- 9 out of the 15-years period were analysed (60% of the years: 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014).

Coding

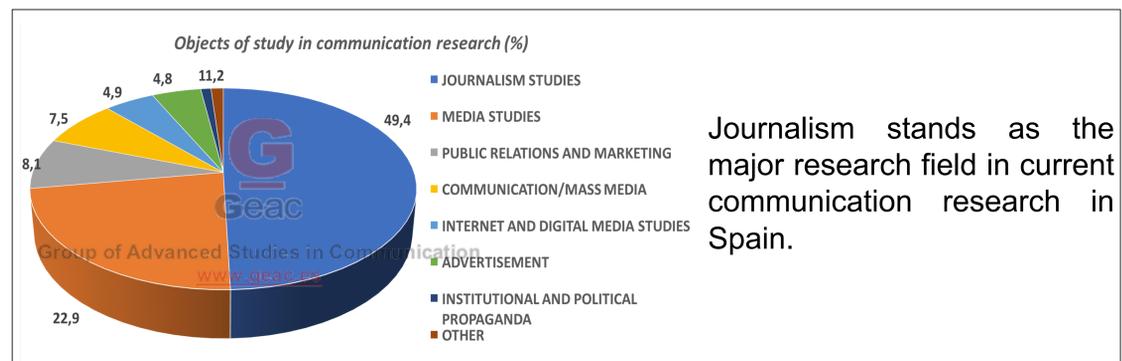
- Systematic encoding of 36 variables.
- Double-coding of all units by independent coders with discussion of disagreements in coding.

CONCLUSIONS

Spanish journalism research is a dominant field in communication, it mainly consists on descriptive studies, with a lack of theoretical discussion, performed by empirical modalities (mostly by quantitative techniques, but also without systematic methodologies).

- Theoretical and methodological works are limited, while empirical research is dominant.
- The standard techniques with a greater presence are the quantitative content analysis and the documentary research.
- However, the systematicity of empirical works is still insufficient: a quarter of the analysed papers were performed without methodological description.

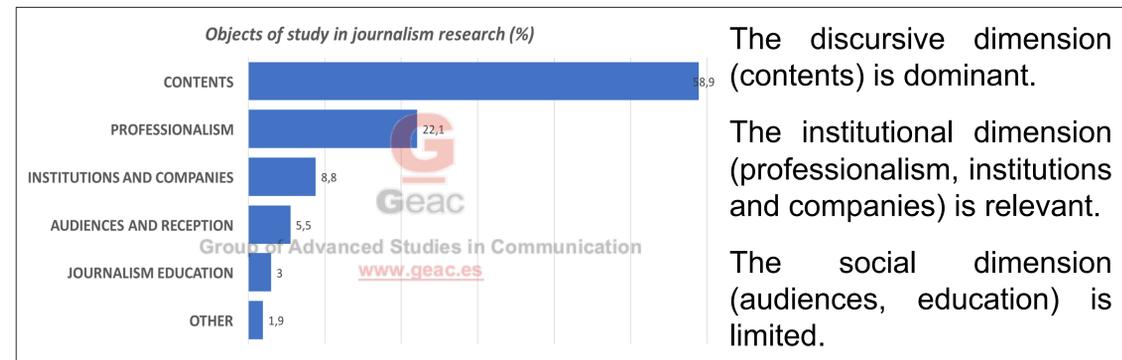
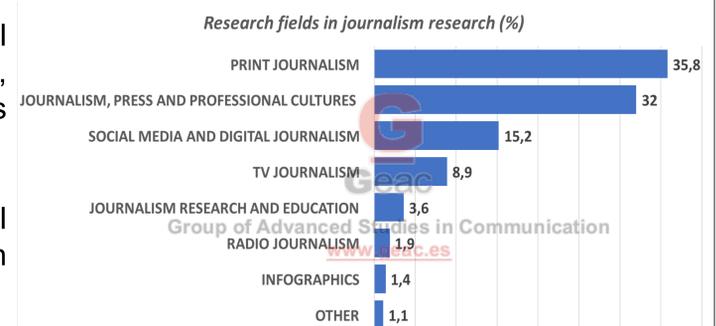
RESULTS



Journalism stands as the major research field in current communication research in Spain.

Print journalism and general topics on journalism (press, professional culture) stands as main research fields.

Social media and digital journalism is a field with growing interest.



The discursive dimension (contents) is dominant.

The institutional dimension (professionalism, institutions and companies) is relevant.

The social dimension (audiences, education) is limited.

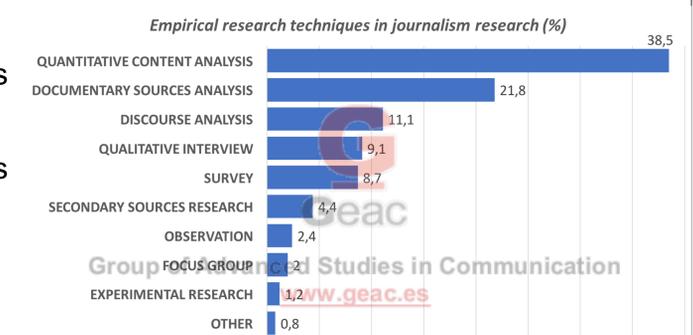
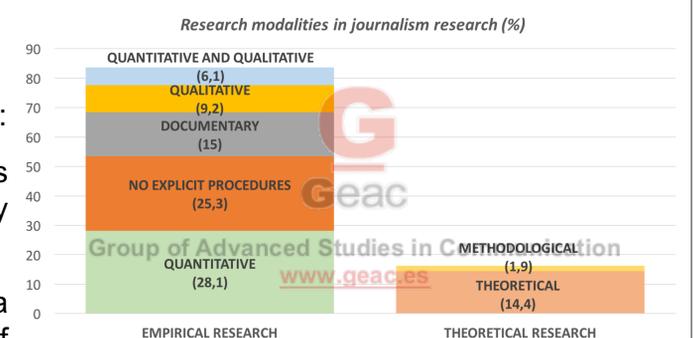
Empirical studies are majority:

➤ Quantitative research is relevant (specially by content analysis)

➤ Significant studies lack of a explicit description of methodological procedures.

➤ Qualitative research is limited.

➤ Experimental research is very scarce.



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