

Editorial 1

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Mediterranean in Scopus, on its thirteenth year of publication

Mediterránea en Scopus, en su 13^{er} año de publicación

Defying the superstitions and bad omens that often accompany the number thirteen, *Mediterranean Journal* has been placed in the second quartile of Scopus on its thirteenth year of uninterrupted publication.

Without wishing to appear self-congratulatory, I believe we deserve to celebrate this with those who, in some way, read, cite or collaborate with us. The indexing received is a recognition of the hard and altruistic work, with a public service vocation, of the 25 members of the Editorial Team, the 65 members of the Scientific Committee, the more than 1000 external reviewers, the 389 perceptive articles and, above all, the more than 600 authors who have placed their trust in the journal, within its rigorous review processes, to disseminate their research. The wide *Mediterranean Journal* family is made up of an interdisciplinary, international, inter-university and experienced team. It is impossible to name them all here, but I would like to mention four people who have accompanied me in this task, in an intense and special way. Jesús Segarra-Saavedra, associate editor, indefatigable, enthusiastic, first learning and now contributing, without whom nothing would have been possible. Tatiana Hidalgo-Marí, associate editor, rigorous, exhaustive and meticulous, and an excellent reviewer. Both have grown up with the journal and have given the best of themselves. M^a Carmen Fonseca-Mora, member of the Scientific Committee, an exemplar of companionship, always accurate and inspirational in her advice. And my dear Carmen Marta-Lazo, co-editor, who arrived at just the right time, lending a hand so that the project could grow as it has done. I would also like to pay tribute to José Manuel de Pablos who, in his visionary role, instilled in the field the need to promote scientific Communication magazines.

Mediterranean Journal is ranked 158/447th in the world and 8/31st in Spain, in the *Communication category*, with an H-Index=4 and an SJR=0.39. It achieves a CiteScore of 0.9 (2021), reaching 2nd quartile (Q2) in the by-product Scimago Journal & Country Rank (SJR), in its first year of indexing, according to the update published on 10 May 2022. The CiteScore is the value resulting from the division between the citations received over the last four years by the articles published in the journal and the total number of texts published (scientific articles and reviews). This value has been steadily improving, year by year.

All this comes a few days after part of the editorial team was at the CRECS congress held in León (Spain) and the poster *Gestión editorial del tiempo: plazos de revisión y otras fechas clave en las revistas científicas españolas de Comunicación* [Editorial time management: review deadlines and other key dates in Spanish Communication journals] was awarded a prize for its content. There were several presentations in which time figured as a pressing problem. The poster is the result of an exploratory study, in the process of publication, aimed at identifying, classifying and analysing the 1589 scientific articles published in 2021 in 62 Communication journals listed in Dialnet (2020). A distinction is made between texts published in the miscellaneous section and those published in special issues, in order to focus attention on the time-lapse between the journals receiving the articles and their final publication. More than 3976 dates were considered, arbitrarily varied (acceptance, receipt, publication, review, editing, submission, acceptance with modifications, open peer review and preprint). The average number of days between receipt and publication is 74 days for the total sample. In special issues, the time-lapse

decreases. It appears to be possible to simplify these basic data and to inform those who want to publish in a transparent way. A challenge that editors and publishers need to address and resolve. The first step has been taken.

We manage times that can be improved. Those of us who edit need to empathise with those who write the texts, without being infected by permanent urgencies. We must take care to acknowledge receipt of each interaction, inform authors of the evolution of the process in a timely and ongoing manner; guiding rigorous and, at the same time, agile revisions, and preventing texts from sleeping the sleep of the just is all part of editorial time-management. No one likes having to wait, but acceptable deadlines are understood to be necessary. Reviewers are responsible for accepting or rejecting as soon as possible; they are expected to avoid unnecessary delays, to make reports with clear and feasible guidelines, to seek to improve the text and, if accepted, to respect the journal's deadlines. For every text published, at least three colleagues have devoted their time to reviewing it. If we think in terms of the sustainability of the system, for every published text, we must accept three revisions. Those who write the texts must scrupulously follow the indications prescribed by the journal. Every indication has a reason and responds to a part of the process necessarily supported by self-management. Inexplicably, some texts already display their flaws in the submission itself, failing to adhere to aspects indicated in the journal guidelines. This inexorably influences the timing and also the acceptance of the text. Databases, in the age of information and *Big Data*, take more than a year to index the content of the journals they accept. Time, time, the most precious asset, the responsibility of all of us.

Also in León, we held the annual meeting of the *Plataforma de Revistas de Comunicación* [Communication Journals Platform] (PlatCom), a meeting place for editors and publishers where we exchange experiences and mutual support. Of the group of associated journals, five have joined Scopus. It represents a unique space to share and enjoy among peers. Therefore, we find new reasons to celebrate.

In this issue, we present twenty-five texts organised into two monographs, the Miscellaneous section and the reviews (five). The themes of the special issues are as follows:

- Ethics of digital communication: new models and instruments of accountability (five texts plus the editorial) coordinated by Dr. Jesús Díaz-Campo (International University of La Rioja, Spain), Dr. Ruth Rodríguez-Martínez (Pompeu Fabra University, Spain), Dr. María-Teresa Nicolás-Gavilán (Panamerican University, Mexico) and Dr. Susanne Fengler (Technischen Universität Dortmund, Germany).

- Disinformation and treatment of democratic memory in social networks (six texts together with the editorial), coordinated by Dr. Carlos López-Olano (University of Valencia, Spain), Dr. Sebastián Sánchez (University of Valencia, Spain) and Dr. Mauricio Dimant (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel).

The Miscellaneous section compiles seven research articles on a variety of topics. Journalism studies motivate two of the texts. Immersive journalism and virtual reality is the subject of the text by Angelo-Eduardo Rocha and Paula-Melani Rocha (Brazil) and the curricular analysis of journalism studies motivates the proposal by Carles Marín-Lladó, Laura Cervi and Elvira Calvo-Gutiérrez (Spain).

A monster calls is what motivates the text by Rocío García-Pedreira, who makes an original comparison between book and film, focusing on the aesthetic and narrative construction. Minors are once again the protagonists of Teresa-Gema Martín-Casado's proposal. "The creation of content by minors does not represent equality, it does not always happen, and it is not always regulated or treated as relevant", concludes the author.

Brilliant creativity is not always a guarantee of effectiveness. This is the proposal of Noemí Martín-García and María-Cruz Alvarado-López, within the framework of studies of advertising festivals, where creativity and effectiveness play a complex artistic game.

The representation of the European Union in the press for EU residents on the Costa del Sol is the subject of the text by Juan-Antonio García-Galindo, Natalia Meléndez-Malavé and Antonio Cuartero. The results show that the spaces highlighted tend to be more closely linked to EU institutional issues than to the notion of Europe as a common cultural space.

Pablo Medina-Aguerreberre, Toni González-Pacanowski and Eva Medina are the authors of the seventh and last text, which proposes a useful communication model for the promotion of Spanish cancer associations, a subject of both publicity and social interest.

We continue to work to make your research more visible.

Thank you.