

Ambition, the attraction of popularity, the role played by companies affected by commercial factors and competitiveness all distort the role of the journalist. The investigation of facts is a long and costly process and everything points to companies' wanting overwhelming results which come from explosive material. The journalist concludes by recalling the events in Alcàsser; certain professionals were left to carry the can and certain media lost a good chance to apply the evangelical maxim of guilt and the stone.

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Long live complexity

JOSÉ MANUEL GARAYOA

The author analyses one of the branches of journalism which has undergone a spectacular transformation in recent years: economic information. His article is divided into four different sections:

The first is a brief overview (“subjective and surely incomplete”) of the evolution of the economic press. The second section shows how economic information is provided not from a position of equilibrium, but rather from one of profound disequilibrium. Thirdly, he explains what ethical reference elements the economics journalist has applied when guiding his behaviour through the crisis he is immersed in.

Garayoa goes on to frame the article around three different social stages: starting from the long Francoist period up until the recovery of political freedom. The economic crisis of the seventies and the Moncloa Pact, at a time when the economic press began to take off. The socialists coming into power in 1982 witnessed the beginning of a period in which the Spanish economy began to shake itself free. Shortly afterwards came the news “boom” which gave rise to the eclosion of a financial and industrial class which cornered the general interest. Some of the economic protagonists also started to appear in the pink press.

The complexity of economic information continues to grow. Since Spain joined the EC the Spanish economy has experienced a dramatic change. The

journalist is not altogether free of problems: sources, lies and the withholding of information by some sources cause substantial perturbations in the journalist's daily work and he concludes: "The journalist's area of action and reflection has to be extended. A journalistic ethic of complexity will be born from this base, "the only one which suits our times".

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JOSEP M^a GIRONA

The author bases his article on data gathered by the Centre d'Investigacions sobre la Realitat Social (Centre of Research on Social Reality) in December 1992. The study shows that the media are capable of imposing heroes and leaders. Television has the greatest influence, followed by the radio.

The present article refers to how a third of those surveyed in the aforementioned study believe in the independence of journalists, whereas the majority do not trust them.

This journalist believes that it is time for deep reflection on ethical and deontological problems. The journalist in question works on the radio. A very immediate medium although it does have its own problems. On the one hand, there lies the impossibility of having been unable to conduct radiophonic journalism throughout the 40 years of the dictatorship. On the other, the radio has to compete with the culture of image developed in recent years. The radio does not have the same opportunities as television does to access information sources even although the importance of the sources may be vital to the radio.

The author recalls what happened when TVE broadcast the fiction programme "Camaleó" which informed of a coup d'état in the USSR. Many radio journalists dashed frantically to the studio to inform of a news item which finally proved to be false. And he wonders: What happens when news is broadcast which later proves to be untrue? How can the people who