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**Abstract:**

The port cities constituted dynamic axes of the national territories and stood out for their opening to the outside, for the transaction of goods, for the reception of the novelty and the exchanges of ideas. They were also free spaces for new technological experiences and the foundation of modern economic, scientific, social, and political projects. They stood out as privileged territories for the establishment of networks of knowledge and through these networks maintained the contact with distant geographies. Intellectual production over there is remarkable and the periodical press, considering general or specialized information, as an information industry at the service of new political, scientific and economic projects, finds in the port city space for its development.

This Special Issue brings together the work of researchers working on these subjects, allowing a multidisciplinary approach involving researchers from scientific areas such as communication, information, history, literature, and international relations. The objective is to analyse the relationship between the periodic press and port cities and how these urban spaces fostered public opinion and debate projects, as well as new specialized information.

**Keywords:** port cities, periodical press, international communication

Periodical press and specifically newspapers have been more and more considered as relevant sources to study history from different perspectives. However, if we look for the study of the press itself or of how press contributed to shaping the political, economic, and social movements, we will

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find a small number of published studies. Chapin, in her book *Shaping History: The Role of Newspapers in Hawai'i*, published in 1996, presents the compelling case of Hawaii. The author defends the thesis that local press shaped somehow local history, is not the source for the study of Hawaii's history but also the object of research to understand the way political and social situation evolved in Hawaii. Although this book has some years, the kind of approach suggested by the author, it is difficult to find in the studies carried by other researchers. When starting the International Seminars of Periodical Press, the organizers considered that it was essential to bring together researcher studying the different perspectives involved in this topic. The main aim was to create a forum of discussion based on an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach, that contributed to a global look into some questions that seemed challenging. We decided to invite researchers from very different areas such as communication, international studies, cultural studies, literature, history, information science. Hence, we decided to have as the topic for our first international seminar, held in April 2018, port cities and periodical press.

We found that the relation between port cities and the periodical press is still an understudied issue, though cities and dynamic local economies were essential for the development of the periodical press. Newspapers and magazines, but mainly the first ones, were positioned in a “double market”, selling content to the readers and at the same time selling space for advertisers to get readers attention (Lamour, Lorentz, 2019). The creation of profitable newspapers that lasted for more than the first issues was dependent on the local economy dynamics, attracting advertisers and at the same time retaining readers. Therefore, cities were places for the periodical press to flourish and to convert the newspapers and magazines business into a profitable enterprise. The relation between cities as providers of a market of middle-class readers and periodical press has been studied from different perspectives, capturing the attention of disciplines as economy and business, cultural studies, history and communication studies. Still, most of the research and published studies are concentrated in the capitals of the different countries, leaving behind an essential group of cities, which produced their views on local and international events (Hobbs, 2009). Moreover, if we restrict the perspective for port cities, we will find even less systematic studies about the local press and its dependence on local conditions for surviving or about the specificity of the covered news or published opinions.

Port cities: connecting people, ideas so newspapers

Port cities are known for connecting distant shores, resulting in the circulation of people, goods, ideas, capitals, and knowledge. They also represent connecting links for national and international

trade (Lee, Lawton, 2002), meaning the establishment of periodical and permanent connections. The role of maritime commerce for the European economy and urbanization is widely recognized. Some authors defend that 40% of the world's greatest cities in 1850 were seaports (Lee and Lawton), which gives us an idea of how important these cities were for the development of the economic sector of services and the growth of a middle class, medium educated and consumer of information and knowledge. At the same time, port cities can be described as global places, symbolizing global legacies which always are conflicting and tangled (Mah, 2014), resulting from the encounter and clashing of different social classes and diverse ethnic groups. The cultural and economic richness of most of these cities permitted the construction of material and immaterial legacies which remain in the communities' memories, converting these spaces into places of memory. All these contradictions, resulting from cosmopolitanism confronted with legacies of empire, colonization, social and economic inequality, racial tensions are readable in the local periodical press. The abundance of social and political debate in this press is representative of the main groups supporting or challenging local powers. While favoring the connections between people, port cities became nodes for regional, national, and international networks (Hobbs, 2009) exchanging information and knowledge.

New technologies which triggered the revolution of news, like the mail by steamship or the telegraph, were mainly based on port cities. Several researchers have documented and broadly recognized the impact of the periodical mail system as one of the oldest methods to connect distant places in the exchange of ideas (Hobbs, 2009, Goring, 2018, Pettegree, 2018). The introduction of the mailing system through the steamship had an enormous effect on communications as it permitted to calculate the day some correspondence would arrive or depart, thus endorsing predictability to communications. At the same time, the fact postal communications had special fees for newspapers and the exchange of periodicals, being for free in some countries, made it possible to exchange relevant information more continuously. A study for the American case revealed that 70% of the contents of the colonial newspapers resulted from the correspondence received from the Atlantic (Pettegree, 2018), which gives us a glance of how international this business was (Goring, 2018).

When the telegraph started to have commercial use, again the impact on the news was enormous, being the main obstacle for its purpose the fact it was expensive. The production and reception of non-local news changed with the introduction of the telegraph. The telegraph permitted the compression of time and the transcendence of space, introducing the concept of immediate and simultaneity (Kielbowicz 2019), which were very important when selling news and spaces to advertise. The society became permanently networked, and port cities became important nodes of

these networks. Port cities and their harbors were the first to be integrated into these new ways of connecting, and their newspapers were the first to get access to these international networks in which flows of information and knowledge circulated. Therefore, port cities were critical places for the circulation and exchange of people, ideas and newspapers, which makes us think if this kind of urban spaces resulted in some specific features concerning the development of the periodical press in general and newspapers in particular.

#### Same objects, different approaches

Defining knowledge may seem complicated. For some time knowledge was seen as having a fixed place in the DIKW pyramid - data-information-knowledge-wisdom. Users of this hierarchy often construe knowledge as know-how or skill, rather than knowledge in the sense of the know-that of propositional knowledge (Frické 2019). As this author points out, DIKW does not sit well in modern business process theory (Frické 2019), and we can add that it doesn't apply to the press context either.

Dijk (2004) examined the rule of knowledge in the news, news production, and news comprehension in the press and pointed out that are several complex aspects conditioning these rule. The most basic questions related to these aspects need some reflection: journalists need previous knowledge of the world to understand and report the new events. The origin of the previous knowledge and the way it is mentally represented requires attention. How the journalists select the knowledge to include or exclude in the news is essential, because usually, they know much more about news events and news actors than they report. Finally, it is crucial to achieving the relation of journalist's knowledge to the structure of the news, as e.g., headlines or news schemas.

This reflection is unequivocally linked with the concept of representation. As defined by Bhattacharyya (2019) "representations contribute towards the institutionalization of belief, facilitating in the interpretation of experience and thus constitute for what can be understood as knowledge in society". Moreover "while representation as a process is intricately connected with the production of knowledge, it needs to be kept in mind that this repertoire of discourses involves shaping human thought and experience and is oriented towards channelizing action and human relations in the social world" (Bhattacharyya 2019).

Still, about definitions, networks may have recently been more related to social networks with technological support, but we all have to be aware that non-technological networks already existed, probably, since humanity exists. And one of the most visible examples is the connection between

port cities and urban adaptation, contributing to experiences of sustainable development and the development of new scenarios of prosperity (Hein 2014).

This Special Issue brings together the work of researchers working on these subjects, allowing a multidisciplinary approach involving researchers from scientific areas such as communication, information, history, literature, and international relations. The objective is to analyse the relationship between the periodic press and port cities and how these urban spaces fostered public opinion and debate, as well as promoted new specialized information.

Helena Lima, in her article entitled "Centenary newspapers in Oporto. Identity editorial features and the construction of audiences in a city background", presents a study with the primary objective of identifying the specific editorial lines of three newspapers, launched in the 19th century in Oporto. The author explores how these newspapers ensured the loyalty of readers and promoted their role as part of this port-city identity, in the North of Portugal. *O Comércio do Porto*, *o Primeiro de Janeiro* and *Jornal de Notícias*, evolved according to the city prosperity and gained prestige at both local and national level. Using a diachronic approach to develop the study about the three Oporto newspapers, the author describes the different editorial strategies and highlights the transitions of these journals, which take part in today's national heritage.

Francisco Soares focuses on Angolan literature formed within port-cities, describing its features and concluding that, from 1920 to 1940, there isn't a correlation between the local and the thematic topics of the literature. In the article entitled "Literary production in periodicals of Luanda and Benguela-Lobito port-cities", Soares describes the local context transitions of the studied period as the growth of the transatlantic trade and communication ways, development of new media, articulating with the ongoing discussion of the colonial issues. In this context, the literature expresses the rising of an urban community of colonized people living in a complex social environment.

The article entitled "The Press and the City: João dos Santos Albasini", from Jessica Falconi, presents the relationship between the colonial periodical press and port cities through the eyes of the Mozambique-born journalist João dos Santos Albasini (1876-1922). Falconi's article consists in a case study build by the analysis of a selection of chronicles of the journalist Albasini published in two selected African newspapers: *O Africano* (The African) and *O Brado Africano* (The African Cry). Two port cities, Lourenço Marques (Mozambique) and Lisbon (Portugal) are evoked and interpreted by Albasini, influencing Albasini's daily activities, which constructed his knowledge and representations of the social and political life of the colonial and the metropolitan city.

The following article by the author Tereza Sena presents an independent exploratory, and descriptive approach to the role played by the local Portuguese press in the historical, documentary and historiographic research and promotion of Macau. The article expresses the need to form a public opinion about the disappearance of relevant sources, and the consequent lack of a real and serious history of Macau, the politicization of the historiographic text and the writer/editor intervention are highlighted. The article entitled " *Relics and Historical Memories in Macau's Portuguese Newspapers (Mid 19th to mid 20th centuries)*" also presents a case study regarding the publication in the local press of excerpts of Portuguese versions of two historiographical narratives produced by *foreign* authors, referring in this context, to non-Portuguese Westerners.

Patrícia Ferraz de Matos, in her article entitled "Colonial representations of Macao and the Macanese: Circulation, knowledge, identities, and challenges for the future", traverses some representations of Macau and the Macanese in the periodical press, crossing with an analysis of selected images of events of and about Macau. In an exploratory study, the author highlights the complexity of this port city considering cultural, social, historical, geographical, and, also, ethnic points of view. But this complexity doesn't prevent Macau for being currently a hub for internationalization strategies and processes, jointly with the challenge of the formation of identities.

The last article of this Special Issue takes us to travel through the brave crossing of Lisbon to Macau performed by the Portuguese aviators Sarmiento Beires and Brito Paes. In the article entitled "From Lisbon to Macau: the conquest of the air as seen by the Portuguese press in a comparative approach", the authors Cátia Miriam Costa and Olívia Pestana report the travel, its technical and financial constraints and report on how the various challenges have been overcome. Starting from the contextualization of the press in the first decades of the twentieth century, the authors undertake a comparative analysis of news from two Portuguese newspapers, the *Diário de Lisboa* and *O Comercio do Porto*. The detailed analysis of the news reveals that the newspapers follow different editorial strategies, but convergent in highlighting the patriotic and adventurous aspect of the event.

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