

Call for Papers

Special Issue

Communication and Violence:

Narratives, Representations and Practices in a World in Conflict.



Dates 03/03/2025 30/10/2025

Guest Editors:

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It is evident that violence, in its manifold forms and manifestations, has historically been a pivotal dimension in the study of social dynamics. From the epic tales of antiquity to the most recent and prevalent viral content on social networks, communication has played a pivotal role in the construction, representation and perpetuation of narratives of violence. According to Johan Galtung, violence is not only direct, but also structural and cultural, perpetuated through symbolic and narrative systems that legitimize inequality and conflict. This monograph explores how communicative processes influence the creation of violent messages and the perception of and response to violence in diverse contexts, both local and global.

In recent decades, the academic study of the relationship between communication and violence has seen significant growth, with various disciplines adopting complementary theoretical and methodological perspectives. This has led to the development of an interdisciplinary body of knowledge that illuminates how violence is mediated, symbolised and, in many cases, normalised by the media and digital technologies. The media's role is twofold: it informs and shapes perceptions and social imaginaries, often influencing the way in which phenomena as complex as violence are understood.

Historically, traditional media such as print, radio and television have been pivotal in reporting (or misreporting) conflict, humanitarian crises and structural violence. However, recent advancements in technology have profoundly altered the dynamics of documenting, circulating and consuming violence. Media narratives surrounding wars, acts of terrorism, gender-based violence, police violence and digital hate speech have the capacity to shape public perception, whilst concurrently bearing ethical, political and legal implications. The advent of technology has precipitated a paradigm shift in the manner in which violence is disseminated, with media entities, victims and perpetrators now assuming the role of content generators and disseminators. In the era of networked communication, visual and narrative depictions of violence acquire a multiplier effect, reaching global audiences in real-time and precipitating novel dynamics of power and resistance.

This monograph proposes an in-depth analysis of the interaction between communication and violence from critical, theoretical and empirical perspectives. It invites researchers from around the world, especially from contexts affected by structural or direct violence, to contribute their reflections and findings. The monograph seeks to address the following questions: How are violent acts represented in the media? What role do narratives play in the perpetuation or mitigation of violence? What are the ethical and professional challenges for communicators in violent contexts? Finally, we seek to explore the role of communication practices in promoting a discourse of peace.

Topics of interest:

1. Media representations of violence:

- Violence in news and entertainment.
- Sensationalism, misinformation and stigmatization.
- Analysis of conflict and war narratives.

2. Social networks and violence:

- Hate speech, polarization and cyberbullying.
- Digital platforms and dissemination of violent acts.
- The role of algorithms in the amplification of violence.

3. Organized crime and communication:

- Representation of organized crime in the media.
- Narco-narratives and their impact on public perception.
- Communicative strategies of organized crime.

4. Terrorism and communication:

- Use of the media by terrorist groups.
- Media coverage of terrorist acts and their effects.
- Narratives of fear and security.

5. Wars and armed conflicts:

- Mediation of violence in conflict zones.
- The role of journalists in war coverage.
- Representation of victims in war contexts.

6. Government repression and communication:

- Use of the media as tools of repressive propaganda.
- Silencing of critical voices in authoritarian regimes.
- Coverage of repressed protests and social movements.

7. Violence against journalists:

- Threats, censorship and murder of journalists.
- The role of the press as a target of violent actors.
- Protection initiatives for journalists in violent contexts.

8. Symbolic and structural violence:

- Violence against women.
- Racism, xenophobia and discriminatory discourse in the media.

- Violence against migrants.
- Narratives of exclusion and inequality.
- Communication and the normalization of structural violence.

9. Communication for peace:

- Media strategies for conflict resolution.
- Awareness campaigns and violence prevention.
- Communication in post-conflict social reconstruction processes.
- Peace journalism.

10. Ethical and professional challenges:

- The role of communicators in violent contexts.
- Coverage of violence in conflict zones.
- Ethical dilemmas in the representation of victims.

11. New methodological perspectives:

- Innovative methods in the analysis of violence and communication.
- Interdisciplinary and collaborative studies.
- Use of big data and network analysis in studies on violence.

12. Violence and media education:

- Media literacy for violence prevention.
- The role of education in the formation of critical audiences.
- Pedagogical tools for the analysis of violence in the media.

Call for papers:

We welcome original articles, theoretical essays, case studies and literature reviews that contribute to a better understanding of this complex relationship between communication and violence.

This monograph seeks to position itself as a space for critical reflection and academic debate on a topic as urgent as it is necessary, with the intention of providing theoretical and practical tools to transform narratives of violence into opportunities for dialogue, justice and peace.

The Revista Panamericana de Comunicación is a scientific publication of the School of Communication of the Universidad Panamericana (Mexico).

It is an international, open access, indexed, double-blind refereed journal, whose evaluation and publication processes are optimized, with a current average approval time for an article of only four weeks. Since 2019 it maintains its website in bilingual version, receiving papers in English and Spanish. This journal is diamond access, does not charge for publication nor does the publication have added charges of any other nature. The journal stores a copy of all its papers in the institutional repository SCRIPTA, managed by the Universidad Panamericana Library: <https://revistas.up.edu.mx/rpc/index>.

The current development of the Revista Panamericana de Comunicación allows it to be considered a prestigious journal due to the quality and originality of many of its contributions, and it is regularly included in the bibliographic repertoires of the scientific field to which it belongs.

It publishes original and unpublished research and studies on scientific communication in areas of current debate, with a broad approach. It specialises in monographic topics, but also accepts works on communication in general in its Miscellaneous section.

Submission and Publication.

Proposals may be submitted from the publication of the announcement of this monograph until November 10, 2025. After this date, the articles on this topic that are accepted will be published in the miscellaneous section, on the corresponding dates.

The papers will be published as they are reviewed and definitively accepted, in an agile process, trying to reduce the time as much as possible. Therefore, we intend that, if we receive an article on the subject in March, it will be published soon, perhaps in mid-April if all the actors have met the deadlines. Our commitment to the authors is that their papers will be thoroughly and impartially evaluated.

Although the monograph corresponds to the first half of the year, the papers will be published online when the latest version is accepted.