

“No es solo una crisis sanitaria”. Los periodistas brasileños enfrentan importantes riesgos profesionales y personales mientras denuncian la pandemia

Paula Melani Rocha¹, Rafael Kondlatsch² y Antonio Castillo³

Recibido: 20 de febrero de 2023 / Aceptado: 20 de mayo de 2023

Resumen. Este artículo examina los resultados preliminares y los hallazgos del periodismo de Brasil y la pandemia de COVID 19, realizados en el marco del proyecto de colaboración internacional The Global Risk Journalism Hub (GRJH). La reflexión se enmarca en torno a la declaración de misión del GRJH: conocer los desafíos que experimentan los periodistas de todo el mundo al cubrir “riesgos” globalizados, como pandemias de salud, crisis ambientales y conflictos humanitarios. En el contexto de un ecosistema de datos digitales globalizado, el objetivo fundamental de este artículo es examinar la práctica periodística actual para sentar las bases para el desarrollo de nuevos modelos de información internacional sobre crisis globales. Este artículo se basa en una encuesta y entrevistas cualitativas aplicadas a un grupo seleccionado de 20 periodistas brasileños. Estos datos se examinan a través de la metodología de investigación y el marco teórico diseñado por la colaboración de investigación internacional The Global Risk Journalism Hub.

Palabras clave: Pandemia; Periodismo; Ecología de los medios de riesgo; Brasil; Global Risk Journalism Hub

[en] “It is not only a health crisis” Brazilian journalists face significant professional and personal risks while reporting the pandemic

Abstract. This paper examines the preliminary results and findings of Brazil’s journalism and the COVID 19 pandemic, conducted under The Global Risk Journalism Hub (GRJH) international collaboration project. The reflection is framed around the mission statement of the GRJH – to find out about the challenges journalists worldwide experience when covering globalized “risks,” such as health pandemics, environmental crises, and humanitarian conflicts. In the context of a globalized digital data ecosystem, the fundamental aim of this paper is to examine current journalistic practice to lay the grounds for the development of new models of international global crisis reporting. This paper is based on a survey and qualitative interviews applied to a selected group of 20 Brazilian journalists. These data are examined through the research methodology and theoretical framework designed by The Global Risk Journalism Hub international research collaboration.

Keywords: Pandemic; Journalism; Risk media ecology; Brazil; Global Risk Journalism Hub

Sumario: 1. Introduction 2. Methods and techniques 3. Data and experiences of Brazilian journalists in the pandemic context 4. Findings 5. The theoretical framework of the Global Risk Journalism and final considerations 6. References

Cómo citar: Rocha, P.M., Kondlatsch, R., & Castillo, A. (2023). “No es solo una crisis sanitaria”. Los periodistas brasileños enfrentan importantes riesgos profesionales y personales mientras denuncian la pandemia. *Estudios sobre el Mensaje Periodístico* 29 (2), 347-355. <https://dx.doi.org/10.5209/esmp.87085>

1. Introduction

The paper brings the Global Risk Journalism Hub (GRJH) international collaboration project developed by 75 researchers from 35 Global North and Global South countries, under the coordination of Ph.D. researcher Ingrid Volkmer from Melbourne University, Australia, which investigates the news reporting of globalized crises issues. The mission statement of the GRJH is to find out about the challenges journalists

across the world experience when covering globalized “risks,” such as health pandemics, environmental crises, and humanitarian conflicts.

This paper, based on a survey and qualitative interviews applied to a selected group of 20 Brazilian journalists, seeks to address some of the main themes this conference aims to interrogate. In the context of the current pandemic, these concerns include threats to women journalists, digital media technologies and journalists’ safety, and the impact of internet shut-

¹ State University of Ponta Grossa (Brasil)

E-mail: pmrocha@uepg.br

² State University of Ponta Grossa (Brasil)

E-mail: emailrafak@gmail.com

³ RMIT University (Australia)

E-mail: antonio.castillo@rmit.edu.au

downs on journalistic work. The reflection uses the research methodology and theoretical framework designed by The Global Risk Journalism Hub international research collaboration.

In the pandemic context, attacks on freedom of the press and the exercise of journalism have grown on social networks and in person. In Brazil, a study released by Reporters without Borders and the Instituto Tecnologia e Sociedade do Rio (ITS-Rio) recorded half a million tweets containing hashtags attacking the press between March and June 2021. About 20% with a high probability of mechanical behavior. The study pointed to engagement linked to user groups that support the federal government in networks and women as the main targets. A survey by the National Federation of Journalists (FENAJ) revealed that the former President of the Republic, Jair Bolsonaro was the primary aggressor in 2021, responsible for 147 cases (34.19% of the total of 430 registered cases), with 129 episodes of discrediting the press. In addition, 18 verbal attacks on journalists. The data also reveal gender cuts. Monitoring carried out by the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism (ABRAJI) in partnership with UNESCO recorded 2021 119 attacks against women journalists, an average of 1 episode every three days; the main aggressors are internet users (51.7%) and public authorities (36.1%). Among individual aggressors, 91.3% are men. At the same time, the use of technology in the work process increased in compliance with the health guidelines of social isolation. Social networks became part of the journalistic production process, especially in the verification, editing, and circulation stages. The cuts of professionals in the newsrooms increased, and the health of professionals was also impacted by the excess of work, productivity, salary drop, home office, and the whole pandemic context.

The discussion is built into three sections within the context of these themes. The first section is dedicated to the research methodology suggested and utilized by the researchers associated with The Global Risk Journalism Hub. The second section interrogates the rich data obtained from the survey and qualitative research (interviews). And the third and final section of this paper looks at the journalism and media theoretical framework underpinning the Brazilian team of The Global Risk Journalism Hub research project.

2. Methods and techniques

The Global Risk Journalism Hub Project uses Qualitative Research: Cross-Country Sampling Strategy. As 35 countries with specific cultures participated, the relativistic sampling method was chosen for the qualitative part of the research. A sampling method considers the different lived realities and experiences of journalists, reporters, editors, emerging news professionals, and new news actors working to commu-

nicate the pandemic to national citizens. The new public ecology of the crisis assumes local/national characteristics according to the specifics of each country. Therefore, it works with the purposeful sampling strategy. The methodological process includes two-steps sampling approach for each country:

1. To identify key sources of information during public crisis communication in the context of COVID 19 and write a rationale. Provide background information and references (sources) for your country and region to justify your reasoning.
2. To identify journalists/representative of these news organizations/blogs/platforms, etc.

It was a fixed script with 19 questions, structured in six parts to be applied to interviews with the selected professionals. Throughout the research development, monitoring and monthly meetings are being held with the team of researchers and the general coordinator Ph.D. Ingrid Volkmer, in which partial results, guidelines, debates, and referrals are presented. Due to its breadth, the team also has eight regional coordinators. Ph.D. Antonio Castillo, RMIT University, Australia, coordinates Latin American countries and guides us in developing research and periodic exchanges.

In Brazil, the first step of the research was based on tracking information about journalistic coverage and the pandemic. A study conducted by Provokers, commissioned by Luminare, revealed a 65% increase in newsreaders in digital vehicles in Brazil in 2020 and that 16% paid for a digital subscription. Another study that also identified the rise in consumption was Coronavirus, Communication, and Information carried out under the coordination of professors Daniela Zanetti and Ruth Reis from the Communication Department at the Federal University of Espírito Santo⁴ (*Comunicação e informação num contexto de pandemia e isolamento social*, 2020). The survey showed that almost all respondents sought information about the epidemic: 75.1% daily and 21.8% a few times a week. Television station was the primary means used by people (73.41%), followed by journalistic websites and blogs (65%) and social networks, being WhatsApp (34.42%) and Facebook (25.15%). Additionally, another indicator was the Deserto da Notícia survey developed by Atlas da Notícia, which identified a 9.5% reduction in the number of municipalities that did not have local journalistic information and 642 new ventures, of which 449 were online initiatives. The project mapped 3,734 journalistic vehicles inactivity in 2021. Another significant finding was online as the segment with the highest representation in local journalism.

⁴ The web survey obtained 831 respondents from 24 Brazilian states, all five country regions, and people living outside Brazil. In https://www.ufes.br/sites/default/files/anexo/comunicacao_coronavirus-ufes.pdf

The concentration of professionals in the national territory is disproportionate and follows the logic of the publishing market. More than half of journalists work in the Southeast region (56.50%), with 38.8% in the state of São Paulo. In the South region, with the second-largest concentration, the state of Rio Grande do Sul is home to 7.3% of the national total, followed by Paraná with 5.2%; then the Federal District with 4.5%, and Bahia with 3.7%. Most professionals work in capital cities, 67.3% (O Perfil do Jornalista Brasileiro, 2018). As a result of professional cartography, we sought to interview professionals from all regions to learn about the different realities of some states with high and low concentrations. We were also careful to find professionals who worked in the border region (Brazil-Paraguay) and COVID epicenters in Brazil (São Paulo and Amazonas).

Thus, we defined that we would include journalists from the five regions of the country, men and

women, from radio and television stations, newspapers, native digital media, of traditional and emerging initiatives, which operate in capital cities, coastal cities, and in the interior of the country. We included press officers, as it is one of the job market segments in journalism. We also seek to diversify positions, functions, and ways of hiring. We used the snowball sampling technique and obtained 20 interviews. All were carried out via Meet, respecting the health standards of social distance. The interviews have been recorded for an average of 40 minutes, and we will not disclose the identity of the interviewees. All material was transcribed, translated into English, and sent to the regional coordinator. Then we made a critical reading of the interviews, systematizing and grouping the answers according to the themes. The next step is to classify the material grouped into analytical categories.

Table 1. Classification of respondents according to region, city, gender, type of media, function/position

Interviewee	Region	State/Federative unit	City	Gender	Media type	Function/position
1	North	Amazonas	Manaus	Female	TV/ traditional	general editor
2	North	Amapá	Macapá	Male	TV/ traditional	News reporter/freelance
3	Northeast	Piauí	Terezina	Female	TV/online/traditional	editor-in-chief
4	Northeast	Bahia	Salvador	Female	TV/ traditional	News reporter
5	Midwest	Mato Grosso do Sul	Ponta Porã	Male	TV/traditional/radio online	News reporter/ producer/cameraman
6	Midwest	Distrito Federal	Brasília	Female	Newspaper/online Traditional	News reporter (politics)
7	Midwest	Distrito Federal	Brasília	Male	Newspaper/online Traditional	Journalism coordinator
8	Midwest	Distrito Federal	Brasília	Male	Online/traditional	editor (podcast)
9	Midwest	Distrito Federal	Brasília	Female	Radio/State Company	News reporter (politics)
10	Southeast	Espírito Santo	Vitória	Female	TV/website	Reporter/editor
11	Southeast	São Paulo	São Paulo	Female	newspaper/online Traditional	News reporter/editor
12	Southeast	São Paulo	São Paulo	Male	website/emerging and independent media	director of journalism
13	Southeast	São Paulo	Ribeirão Preto	Male	Public hospital/press office	communication coordinator
14	Southeast	Minas Gerais	Belo Horizonte	Male	TV/traditional	Editor
15	Southeast	Rio de Janeiro	Rio de Janeiro	Male	TV/online/traditional	News reporter
16	South	Paraná	Curitiba	Male	Online/ emerging and independent media	Editor/news reporter
17	South	Paraná	Ponta Grossa	Male	German TV/traditional	Reporter data journalism
18	South	Santa Catarina	Florianópolis	Male	Radio/TV/Public company	Reporter/presenter
19	South	Rio Grande do Sul	Torres	Female	Radio/traditional	Journalism coordinator
20	South	Rio Grande do Sul	Porto Alegre	male	Newspaper/online/ traditional	Photo reporter

Source: the authors.

The research corpus consisted of eight women, twelve men; two journalists from the North region; two from the northeast region; five from the Midwest region; six from the southeast; five from the south. Sixteen work in capital cities, four of which are coastal cities; four operate in medium-sized cities - three in the country's interior and one on the coast.

3. Data and experiences of Brazilian journalists in the pandemic context

Brazilian journalism entered a phase of more accentuated transformations from the first decade of the 21st century, configuring a period of multiple crises: large-scale layoffs, precariousness and flexibility of work, accumulation of functions, closure of traditional vehicles, discredit ability, instability in business models and health problems of professionals (Mick, Lima, 2013; Figaro, 2013; Leite, 2015; Pontes, Lima, 2019; Rocha, De Figueiredo, 2020). An amplified context of the profession shared part of these crises at an international level resulting from the configuration of the third stage of capitalism, the technological revolution, the labor crisis (Rifkin, 1995), globalization, policies to rationalize corporate expenses, hyper-competition between markets and insertion of the Internet in the logic of the communication process (Charron, De Bonville, 20016). Between 2012 and 2018, the project of the independent agency Volt Data Lab computed 7,817 dismissals in media companies in Brazil, of which 2327 were journalists. That number tends to be higher because it continued in the following years and during the pandemic. According to the FENAJ survey, in the first six months of 2020 alone, 205 journalists were fired, 81 had their employment contracts suspended, and 3,930 suffered a salary reduction⁵. Some unions signed a labor agreement with 110 companies to reduce the working day and salary by 25% (Law 14.020/20) to avoid layoffs during the pandemic. The Journalist Profile 2021 survey⁶ points out that despite the agreement to reduce working hours, the percentage of journalists who worked more than eight hours was high, 42% of respondents. Another finding in the pandemic context was the reduction in formal employment contracts; 24% of respondents were legal entities, freelancers, and service providers between other modalities. In addition, according to the survey, 66.2% of respondents experienced stress at work, 34.1% were diagnosed with stress, and 31.4% received an indication to take antidepressants (Perfil dos Jornalistas, 2021).

During the pandemic, the category was more vulnerable, discovered by labor laws, and exposed to the virus during professional practice. In addition, according to a FENAJ report (2022)⁷, 314 journalists died due to COVID in the country - 81 in 2020, 222 in 2021, and 11 in 2022. Unfortunately, Brazil was the record holder in the number of deaths of these professionals compared with other countries. The report points out that after the vaccination campaign, the number of fatalities decreased in 2022.

The attacks on the credibility of the press and professionals took place in the country before COVID 19. The political, economic, and social crises began in 2013. They grew over the period, fueled by the production of disinformation - an emerging problem against society, the democratic state, and the exercise of the press. In the pandemic, the absence of policies and the lack of leadership of political managers aggravated the crises, resulting in 661 deaths⁸, increased unemployment, hunger, school dropout, and multiple and gender violence. The Amnesty International Report - The State of Human Rights in the World - 2020/2021 mentions that the constant tensions between federal and state authorities in Brazil, the lack of a national action plan anchored in available scientific information, and the lack of transparency in public policies favored the proliferation and spread of the disease.

The report states that the Brazilian government has not guaranteed access to economic, social, and cultural rights without discrimination, including the right to health and freedom of expression: "Obstacles to freedom of expression and attempts to restrict this right have affected the work of journalists and media professionals." (The State of Human Rights in the World 2020/2021:64).

[...] the COVID-19 pandemic finds the communication sector in a deep crisis, with a very dramatic picture for the world of work for communicators: layoffs, precarious contracts, salary reduction, work densification, all kinds of *eeestresseee* beyond the framework of uncertainties about the future. (Figaro, 2020:10).

The report Monitoring attacks on journalists in Brazil (2022)⁹, produced by the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism - ABRAJI, points out that in 2021 there were 453 attacks against journalists, media, and the press in general, 283 were on the internet. Like the FENAJ survey, ex-President Jair Bolsonaro also appeared as the primary person responsible for individual attacks, 83. When adding the attacks by ministers, political allies, advisors, and supporters of

⁵ FENAJ collected information from journalists' unions in 14 states, the city of Rio de Janeiro, and the Federal District. In total, Brazil has 26 states in addition to the Federal District.

⁶ The web survey was carried out between August 16th and 1st October 2021, obtained 7,029 respondents, with a sampling plan of 3,100 responses. The graduate programs in Journalism and Sociology and Political Science at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) carried out the study.

⁷ The survey includes active and retired journalists. Data were collected from April 2020 to February 2022 from direct searches on websites, blogs, and newspapers in the country, via information from state unions of journalists and colleagues.

⁸ COVID19 Data Repository by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University. In <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

⁹ ABRAJI's monitoring project is part of the Voces del Sur (VDS) network and entities from other Latin American countries.

the president, the number totals 271, representing 59.8%. Of the total cases, 69% involved state agents. The report shows that 62% of the aggressions originated or had repercussions on social networks. The main form of attack was stigmatizing speeches (74.6%) initiated by political agents and perpetuated by supporters on social networks. The number of cases that victimized women increased by 78.7%. Another significant fact is that political coverage generated more attacks, mainly on gender and against women journalists, and state agents were the main identifiable perpetrators of the attacks. Gender violence against women journalists increased during the government of former President Jair Bolsonaro, which also reduced the number of women in ministerial positions and public gender policies (Rocha, 2019).

Since 2013, ABRAJI has been monitoring attacks on journalists. From 2019 to 2020, the occurrences increased by 182.3%, and from 2020 to 2021, the increase was 23.4%. The country is among the most insecure in Latin America for exercising the profession (Monitoramento de Ataques a Jornalistas no Brasil, 2022).

The researchers interviewed 20 Brazilian journalists from the country's five geographic regions. Part of the questions addressed the conditions and guarantees to perform the work, the problems faced by the country during the coverage of COVID19, the impact of the crisis on journalism, the problems faced by disinformation in the work routine and the challenges faced personally and professionally. The answers discussed the experiences and qualified the indicators pointed out in the surveys.

4. Findings

This article presents a partial presentation of the results obtained in the application of the methodology of the global study. As is to be expected in a small sample, the objective is not quantitative. We sought, through in-depth interviews, to explore the subject in search of information, perceptions, and experiences that can give a dimension to the intensity experienced by these professionals, without any pretension of statistical direction (Duarte, 2011: 62).

Thus, for this first publication of the findings, we separate three points for the analysis of the responses of the professionals interviewed: a) attacks on the press; b) layoffs and salary reductions; and c) protection of journalists against COVID 19. The objective is to demonstrate, through the sample, how journalists were treated during the pandemic crisis in relation to financial and health security.

a) Attacks on journalists

As previously demonstrated in this same article, the president of the republic and his followers have been the main actors in attacks against journalists in Brazil. Among those interviewed for this research, prac-

tically all of them presented reports of frustration and discomfort with the way journalism has been treated in the country. As an example, it is possible to highlight the statement of a Podcast editor from Agência Estado, one of the largest in the country.

In Brazil, in addition to the health crisis, we have a major political crisis. A government crisis. Mainly from the government against journalists. In addition to an almost daily attack by the Federal Government on journalists, mainly from the mainstream press. And a government that incites its followers to attack journalists (Journalist 8, 2021).

For the journalists interviewed, the violence promoted by the president is one of the main problems faced by the profession in Brazil today. According to them, a climate of 'us vs. them' war is being created in which there is an inversion of values and the press is seen as manipulative and 'creator of untruths' while ex-President Jair Bolsonaro's political group (and his social networks) it would bring the truth 'which the communist press does not want to show'. An example of this reality is the response of a TV journalist from the northern region, the editor of the local newspaper, and a member of the team that also produces content for the national newspaper.

People treated journalists like villains, people didn't watch TV, but on the internet, they saw alarming posts about false situations. Fake posts about empty hospitals and people thinking that was true. For us, it was very difficult because, in addition to having to show what was happening, I still needed to deny these things (Journalist 1, 2021).

In addition, it's not just media journalists who are suffering attacks from the government. The Public Communication Company (EBC in Portuguese), a state-owned company responsible for generating journalistic content, was a victim of violence. The EBC radio journalist reported that there was censorship against materials produced about the pandemic.

Currently, Brazil is led by a president of the republic who loves this posture of fake news and denial. And this impacts our work because you create antagonism when spreading the news. Reporting that a thousand people have died and the president saying that a thousand people have not died creates confusion in society's minds. I think that the denial and the fake news from the government itself and some sectors of a society partially harmed the pandemic and all professional journalism.

(...) In EBC, it's editorial. As it is a public company, there is confusion between a public company and a government company. We do public communication. And this has hindered our work on the pandemic. Because if the government has a denial stance, the board also wants to adopt this stance, and we come into conflict at work. Recently EBC officials released a censorship report. They point out censorship cases and attempts to hide data, camouflaging views other than those shared by the government.

It happens because of this confusion between what is governmental and the public. So at EBC, there was a lot of conflict about that. If the Ministry of Health had information, but we had other sources saying that it wasn't quite like that, we had this conflict of what we were going to publish. And the matter was often censored.

On a personal level, it hurts a lot. Because you have to fight every day, all the time, you want to do a professional job and run into these obstacles. It affects your sentimental and emotional side. (Journalist 9, 2021).

In addition to this, many other cases could be reported because, as already mentioned, the president leads the ranking of attacks on journalists in an aggressive posture that has never been seen in the country.

b) Layoffs and salary reduction

The reduction in the size of newsrooms in Brazil is a phenomenon that has been happening for some years. Several vehicles have reduced their teams to cut operating costs and overload the workers they maintain, which contributes to the precariousness of journalism itself in the country. Moreover, the pandemic seems to have accelerated the process. In the responses to the interviews, most journalists pointed out that there were cuts in the newsrooms where they work or with close colleagues.

The editor of a southeastern communication group that owns TV and the Internet (formerly also a print newspaper) spoke about this process.

The affiliates (three from the interior of the state) were transferred to the headquarters in the capital. Presentation at the studio started to be done in the state capital. I see of Rede Gazeta that it has been making many cuts in recent years due to financial losses. There have been many layoffs, mainly on the site. The TV is what makes the most money with ads, but the cuts are more minor. The printed newspaper ended in 2019 because it was no longer profitable. I can feel it in the newsroom for the downsizing of the number of professionals. There are no more cars, no more photographers for everyone. There are three photographers. So, the downsizing is actual, and everyone has felt in the way of work for the past two years. (Journalist 10, 2021).

And the photojournalist of one of the largest vehicles in southern Brazil made the following report.

There were layoffs, the market was in crisis, and corona accentuated that. There were many layoffs in the first months, companies reduced hours and salaries. Risk at the individual level. Psychological. It wasn't two easy years, and it was worse for those on the street, those who were exposing themselves to bringing information. (Journalist 20, 2021).

In addition to them, the editor-in-chief of a portal in the northeast reinforced the position of the vehicles to send the oldest (and most expensive) journalists away, adopting the incentive that the government gave due to the pandemic (reduction of working hours and salary or incentivized dismissal).

But we've adopted firing measures and an adjustment process. They fired more old professionals; some took advantage of the pandemic to terminate the contract. Others took advantage of the Government's program of receiving part from the employer and another from the Government. (Journalist 3, 2021).

Although legal, the journey reduction was not effectively followed. Many journalists denounced that there was a salary reduction equivalent to the Federal Government's tax incentive program to avoid layoffs, but the working hours did not decrease, on the contrary, there was an increase in demand. And this complaint was a constant among virtually all respondents: the increase in the amount of work and demands for more production during the pandemic. As an example, we highlight the speech of a data journalism freelancer who, in 2020, worked for the daily *Estado de S. Paulo*.

I worked for almost six months at Estadão [the *Estado de São Paulo* newspaper] with a 25% salary reduction and a reduction in the workload. But the demand was not reduced. On the contrary, it increased due to the importance of coverage. Then it was less time, less payment, and more production. I left the newspaper in October. The precariousness of work with the end of physical space and the pressure of production were difficult. (Journalist 17, 2021).

Another journalist, who works as a press officer at a reference hospital in the treatment of COVID in the southeast of the country, reported an absurd increase in the work schedule without any additional salary or compensation for hours. According to him, it was common to arrive at the Hospital at 6:30 am and leave after 8:00 pm because the demand for information increased a lot, but the team remained reduced and often short-staffed due to sick colleagues due to exposure to the virus. Several journalists, incidentally, reported that they became ill or had sick colleagues due to the nature of the exposure while performing their duties.

c) Protection of journalists against COVID 19

During the research, it became clear that journalists best protected against COVID were employees of larger and/or state-owned companies. In the case of a journalist who works as a producer of journalistic content for a state agency linked to agriculture in Santa Catarina, southern Brazil, this was evident.

The company had priority in taking care of employees at the beginning of 2020. The Company immediately set up a home office, with all training and monitoring. It was something very positive, with telemedicine service. Each manager was responsible for following up on cases and suspicions, with information at all times. (Journalist 18, 2021).

Journalists from TV stations, major newspapers, and agencies in the five regions gave similar reports

regarding home office, equipment release, and isolation support. Interestingly, freelance reporters who cover for these same media were not treated the same. It is important to observe this duality in the testimonies of two professionals. While the editor of 'TV Globo da Amazônia' explained all the care provided by the company to employees (such as gloves, masks, home office, distancing, differentiated work schedule, etc.) a freelance reporter who produces content for the same broadcaster did not have any support, not even PPE. This demonstrates that journalists outside the newsroom are in an even more precarious and difficult relationship.

The same occurs with journalists in small vehicles. A cinematographer covering the border between Brazil and Paraguay, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, said he received only masks and nothing else. All work followed the same as the pre-pandemic period.

He also has an interesting statement about the attacks on journalists. In his case, the attack did not come from the Federal Government or from supporters of politicians, but from traders who did not want closed trade as a measure to contain the circulation and transmission of the virus.

Here we experience a problem of lack of resources because we were saying that the population should stay at home, not go out to avoid crowding. The traders were very angry; they said that we were working against them. 'How am I going to pay for advertising if you want to close my business'. But journalists continued to report. It's hard to be a journalist when advertisers act against you (Journalist 5, 2021).

There are many reports in more than 20 hours of recorded material and different perspectives to be addressed. For the purpose of this research, we highlight just a few points that demonstrate how, in relation to health care and finance; journalists were treated and exposed to physical and psychological risks. There is, in Brazil, an unequal labor relationship between professionals, and that was accentuated by the pandemic.

5. The theoretical framework of the Global Risk Journalism and final considerations

The theoretical discussion used by The Global Risk Journalism Hub project has to contemplate the collective effort to analyze journalism, the practice, and professionals in multiple and different realities according to each country, crossed by globalization and transnational interrelationships. The parts, their contextual particularities, and relationships make up the phenomenon in its complexity, hence the need to align the theoretical-methodological procedures with the entire team involved in the apprehension and critical analysis of the phenomenon from concrete reality: the COVID 19 pandemic. The pandemic can also be understood from the "horizontal" perspective proposed by Volkmer and Sharif (2018:2). "It is a

new perspective of a trans-societal political domain which already begins to produce policy measures. These are now less addressing the territorially 'bounded' national climate crisis but, in a new perception which politicizes globalized dense risk scenarios, the interdependence between phenomena." For the authors, it is an amplified political arena with diverse actors – politicians, citizens, activists from industrialized societies, islands, developed and developing societies, democratic and authoritarian states, and various societies that share similar problems.

The traditional nationally oriented paradigm of domestic/foreign policy and even of international relations are more and more replaced by 'horizontal' public policy domains, emerging as trans-societal axes of global/local or local/local or, as cities in Indonesia are facing the same crises as cities in Mexico, Spain and Saudi Arabia, even city/city governance across all types of societies (Volkmer and Sharif, 2018:2).

In globalized landscapes, it is not up to journalism only to report events but also to understand and communicate the global interrelationships and governance interests that surround them. The authors discuss this globalized 'risk' journalism on the environmental agenda and point to the need to insert investigation procedures at an international level into the process of journalistic production and a global and transnational understanding. All this goes through professional training and demands conceptual discussions about the practice of journalism and the public sphere, issues that are still little debated in the area (Volkmer and Sharif, 2018). For example, it is necessary to involve international interconnections in the social, political, health, economics, and science spheres. The pandemic coverage follows this same logic in demanding to apprehend the "cosmopolitan reality of crises" (Volkmer and Sharif, 2018).

Among the challenges faced by journalistic coverage of the pandemic are those pointed out by the authors. The press needed to report on the manifestations of the virus and its movement between different countries, the proliferation of COVID, the guidelines of the World Health Organization, the international policies adopted by each nation, and the scientific work developed by teams of researchers and health from different locations. This effort involved local, regional, and national newspaper teams and, until then, was not a common practice. Professionals were required to have little-known expertise in the professional culture and little present in the production routine.

The pandemic and its aftermath scheduled the agendas of politics, health, science, international, cities, culture, economy, and security; in short, they crossed all editorials. In addition to the interrelationships between local, regional, national, and global, the context of Brazilian journalism and the political, economic, and social local scenario also interfered with professional practice during the pandemic.

In this reflection, we seek, from the experiences reported by professionals, to cut three axes in dialogue with the event's proposal: attacks on journalists, layoffs and salary reduction, and protection of journalists against COVID. The purpose was to bring the confrontations of journalistic work in the coverage of the pandemic with the internal crises that have settled in the country - a health crisis, political crisis, social crisis, economic crisis, added to the crisis of the profession in the process. The political managers, the population, the downsizing of newsrooms, attacks on press freedom and the gender, censorship, the home office, and COVID interfered in the work process and professionals' experiences. The professional

and personal health of the professional was shaken. When the dissemination of credible information was essential in the fight against the disease, journalism had to circumvent barriers and attacks to carry out its work and inform. They worked more hours' in-home office and salary less. The official sources intentionally and violently disturbed the work of the press.

The following stages of the research will identify transnational commonalities in the practice of the profession and discuss the similarities found between countries that are part of The Global Risk Journalism Rub project, anchored in the studies of Volkmer and Serafin (2018), to understand the configurations of the globalized 'risk' journalism.

6. References

- Atlas da Notícia. 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/2p9fhm8u>
- Charron, J., & De Bonville, J. 2016. *Natureza e transformação do jornalismo*. Ed. Insular.
- Comunicação e informação num contexto de pandemia e isolamento social. 2020. <https://tinyurl.com/3u6kr48t>
- Comunique-se; APEX. 2018. *O Perfil do Jornalista Brasileiro em 2018*. São Paulo. 23p.
- Duarte, J. 2011. Entrevista em profundidade. In: Duarte, J. Barros, A. (org). *Métodos e técnicas de pesquisa em comunicação*. 2 ed. São Paulo: Atlas.
- FENAJ – Federação Nacional de Jornalistas. 2022. *Dossiê jornalistas vitimados pela COVID-19*. <https://tinyurl.com/4cechmvs>
- Figaro, R. 2013. *As mudanças no mundo do trabalho do jornalista*. São Paulo: Atlas.
- Figaro, R. (Coord.). 2020. *Relatório dos resultados da pesquisa [recurso eletrônico]: como trabalham os comunicadores em tempos de pandemia da COVID-19?* São Paulo: ECA-USP.
- Leite, A. T. B. 2015. *Profissionais da mídia em São Paulo: Um estudo sobre profissionalismo, diferença e gênero no jornalismo*. São Carlos: UFSCar, 232p. [Thesis] - Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Sociais, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais da Universidade Federal de São Carlos, São Carlos.
- Mick, J., & Lima, S. 2013. *Perfil do jornalista brasileiro*. Características demográficas, políticas e do trabalho. Insular.
- Monitoramento de ataques a jornalistas no Brasil. 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/253yrtm4>
- Perfil do Jornalista Brasileiro 2021. 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/4td8y59z>
- Pontes, F.S, & Lima, S. P. 2019. Impactos do mercado jornalístico na vida de seus trabalhadores: um estudo sobre indicadores de saúde dos jornalistas brasileiros. *Revista Famecos* 26 (2). <http://doi.org/10.15448/1980-3729.2019.2.31729>
- Rifkin, J. 1995. *The end of work. The decline of the global labor force and the dawn of the post-market era*. Tarcher Putnam Book.
- Rocha, P.M., & De Figueiredo, S.P. 2020. Configurações da organização tecnológica do trabalho jornalístico em rede no modelo pós-industrial: idiosincrasias e similaridades em realidades extremas. *Comunicação & Inovação* 21(45), 67-91. <http://doi.org/10.13037/ci.vol21n45.6189>
- Rocha, P. 2019. *A feminização no jornalismo como uma categoria de análise em construção: as transformações no mercado de trabalho, dissimetrias estruturais e conquistas*. Monograph presented to the evaluation board as a requirement for advancement in the class of associate professor at the Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa.
- The Amnesty International Report - The State of Human Rights in the World - 2020/2021. <https://tinyurl.com/3bj9mkba>
- Volkmer, I., & Sharif, K. 2018. *Risk Journalism between Transnational Politics and Climate Change*. Palgrave Macmillan. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-73308-1>
- Volt Data Lab. 2018. A data-driven news agency. <https://tinyurl.com/2kkmt7xm>

Paula Melani Rocha is a Professor of the Postgraduate Program in Journalism at the State University of Ponta Grossa (UEPG) and of the graduation in Journalism in the same university.

Master and Ph.D. in Sociology from the Federal University of São Carlos (Brazil). Post-doctorate in Journalism from the University of Fernando Pessoa (Portugal). She coordinates the research groups Journalism and Gender and The Knowledge in Journalism, both linked to the Postgraduate Program in Journalism at UEPG. Member of The Global Risk Journalism Hub (GRJH). Research Productivity Scholarship CNPq - PQ2 (2023-2026). ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5525-6650>

Rafael Kondlatsch. Photojournalist at the Itaipu Binacional Hydroelectric Power Plant (Foz do Iguaçu - Brazil). Until May 2022, he was a professor in journalism courses at the State University of Ponta Grossa (UEPG) and Santa Amélia University Center (UniSecal). He holds a master's degree in Media Communication and a Ph.D. in Communication. Currently, he is dedicated to researching journalistic production and mediation with a focus on Latin America. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6361-4603>

Dr. Antonio Castillo is a journalist and academic. Antonio is the author of *Journalism in the Chilean Transition to Democracy*, co-author of *Cosmopolitan Sydney*, and co-managing founding editor of the *Global Media Journal*. Currently, he teaches journalism at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5043-3486>