

Call for papers

Special issue of the *Media Studies and Applied Ethics* - Datafication of Journalism

Deadline (abstracts): 13 December 2022

Edited by Ana Milojevic (University of Bergen)

### **Datafication of journalism**

Datafication is changing every aspect of our society including journalism as one of the important fundamentals of democracy. Following the news production phases (observation, production, distribution, and news consumption) Loosen (2018:4) distinguishes between four forms of datafied journalism: data-based journalism, algorithmed journalism, automated journalism, and metrics-driven journalism. Different aspects of data driven changes in journalism have been examined in all those forms during last decades, but many blind spots are still to be filled. Therefore, the main aim of this special issue is to put audiences in the forefront of examining different forms of journalism datafication.

Namely, data journalism as the fast-growing phenomena has been attracting scholarly attention. However, most of the research has been focusing on identifying characteristics of data journalism as the emerging subfield (genres, methods, storytelling techniques) and its integration into organizations, practices, and education worldwide (e.g. Bhaskaran, Kashyap & Mishra, [2022](#); Fink & Anderson, [2015](#); Munoriyarwa, [2022](#); Young, Hermida, & Fulda, 2018; Wu, [2022](#)), while far less is known about audience relation to data journalism.

In the strand of the algorithmic journalism research, studies of user interactions with algorithms have been more prominent and diversified, including user perceptions of news personalization process (Monzer, [2020](#)), experiences of news recommender systems (Wieland, [2021](#)), and satisfaction with algorithmic news selections (Swart, [2021](#); Thurman et al. [2019](#)). However, as Shin ([2022](#): 1168) underlines, “little is known about the ways through which readers understand and actualize the potential for trust or affordances in algorithmic journalism”.

Also, significant body of research considers audiences in form of audience analytics and metrics as central for journalism transformation, including journalistic roles (Belair-Gagnon, Zamith, and Holton, [2020](#)), news values (Kristensen, [2021](#)), news selection (Lamot and Van Aelst, [2020](#)), and journalistic norms and routines (Ekström, Ramsälv and Westlund, [2021](#)). However, this area of research is mainly focused on editors’ and journalists’ work and decision-making processes. Much less attention has been given to data-analysts as growingly important actors in media, companies providing analytics to media, existing metrics and infrastructures for audience datafication.

**Therefore, we invite submissions that theorize or empirically study the role of audience datafication in journalism, as well as audience interaction and engagement with data-based and algorithmic journalism. More precisely, studies that aim to answer: How is data journalism perceived, consumed, and valued in different contexts? What kind of audience needs data journalism gratifies? Does data journalism foster audience engagement? Second, we seek submissions that examine how users perceive algorithmic features and experience algorithm systems in the context of algorithmic journalism. Third, we welcome papers that focus on the role of various technological agents and non-journalist actors that intervene in the use of audience analytics and metrics in newsrooms.**

Timeline:

**Abstract deadline: 13 December 2022**

**Manuscript deadline: 31 March 2023**

No Payment from authors will be required. More information on the call:  
<https://izdanja.filfak.ni.ac.rs/casopisi/media-studies-and-applied-ethics>

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