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CALL FOR PAPERS: DÍGITOS JOURNAL – 9th ISSUE (2023)

Monographic section:

News consumption and news avoidance in the hybrid media system

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In general terms, we can say that the paradigm of information and news consumption is in a time of continuous change and re-formulation, in part because of the development of internet and new technologies and it affects how active audiences consume information. Speaking of journalism in particular, in recent years we have seen the transition from post-industrial journalism to a hybrid media system, in which traditional and new media coexist (Chadwick, 2013). The concept of hybrid media systems allows us not only to understand the changing environment of media, but also to understand how power works.

The process of digitization has dramatically changed the way people have consumed news in the last years. News use has become more accessible than ever but, at the same time, more people consciously decide to avoid them. News avoidance seems to be an increasingly problem, as more and more people tend to disconnect from the news. It is becoming a major phenomenon in the Western societies particular (Lindell and Båge, 2022). This is often framed as a democratic problem since news consumption is linked to civic engagement and political

participation. Therefore, if more people turn away from the news, they will also turn away from political activity and civic participation.

As Pablo Boczkowski (2021) said, we live in an era of abundant information so every citizen has the potential to consume news online. At the same time, however, there are social structures that might generate structural inequalities in terms of who is exposed to what kind of journalism, and who is socially predisposed to avoid certain news outlets. The studies that explicitly focus on the relationship between social inequality and news avoidance suggest that people in lower and more precarious social positions tend to avoid news more quickly than persons in higher social positions (Lindell, 2018; Lindell and Hovden, 2018; Toff and Palmer, 2019). As previous studies have shown (Kalogeropoulos & Klein Nielsen, 2018), inequalities in news consumption are more evident online than offline (Kalogeropoulos & Klein Nielsen, 2018).

Finally, the introduction of a gender perspective is seen as central. As previous work (Toff and Palmer, 2018) indicates, in general, women are usually less likely to use news and more likely to actively avoid news than men. This is potentially due to structural inequality and the way in which the workforce and domestic responsibilities are shaped in society, but also to the social perception that news is for men.

Summarizing, the aim of this special issue is to investigate, to analyze and to address challenging issues and emerging trends in news consumption research. In particular, we encourage contribution on the field of inequality and information access.

Areas of interest for this special journal issue include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- News consumption in the hybrid media system
- News avoidance in the hybrid media system
- Inequalities and news consumption
- Gender and news consumption

- Incidental exposure to news

The deadline for submitting documents is the **23th December**

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