

Editorial

We welcome you to this first issue of our Journal. Observatorio (OBS*) is an e-journal with an open access editorial policy.

(OBS*) promotes the publishing of articles in several different languages because we believe that scholars should have the freedom, through the choice of publishing language, to target different academic communities within or outside their home country.

Given the research networks established, by many of the members of the editorial board, along the last decade, we chose to foster the networking of knowledge among researchers that publish and/or read one of the following seven languages: English, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, French, Catalan and Galician.

The journal adopts a theoretically pluralist stance and welcomes contributions from the various disciplines and fields that have an interest in any aspect of communication. The spread is inclusive, incorporating diverse perspectives. Among the submissions, to the first issues of Observatorio (OBS*), we have found such different areas as: journalism, cultural studies, anthropology, sociology, media management, media economics, semiotics, history, law and engineering. Thus, this journal encourages interdisciplinary contacts between scholars and hopes to provide a platform and focus for debate and scholarship. (OBS*) publishes both theoretical and empirical work, in this way, we hope to meet the needs of both academics and practitioners.

Observatorio (OBS*) e-journal main section consists of academic articles submitted for peer-review. The journal will also offer its readers two other sections: (1) Networking Research – contributions that will allow a better understanding of current academic publishing and research being carried in a number of different countries, allowing the networking of researchers; (2) Special features - contributions that focus on events, like conferences, or where invited scholars, or members of the media business community, will publish articles on specific issues. Both sections, "Networking Research" and "Special Features", will be available in-between the launch of editions, allowing (OBS*) readers to find updates to the Journal's contents. The Journal will also be open to promote special thematic issues associated to conferences or seminars.

To support the journal's international focus, we have invited a board of active contributing editors. This panel representing various areas of interest, expertise, and even geographical differentiation, will assist us in shaping the direction of the Journal and act as a quality audit of journal issues. In addition (OBS*) has an advisory board comprising scholars able to advise on new trends and developments and identify young researchers in the field.

The launch of a new journal requires commitment and the combined will and work of a large team of people. We would like to thank all the colleagues who agreed to take part in this editorial project. Without doubt this project would never have got off the ground without the role played by all the Associated, Research Review and Advisory Editors.

In short, Observatorio (OBS*) provides an opportunity for an expanding community of scholars and researchers to meet and share their work. We encourage you to contribute with articles, since the future identity of (OBS*) as an e-journal will be made out of the research themes that you will decide to share with the several possible audiences of this journal: the international research community; your own national research community; or scholars, outside your national community, that share with you the knowledge of a given language.

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