

CONFLICTS IN THE PROFESSIONAL ROLES OF JOURNALISTS IN SPAIN: IDEALS AND PRACTICE

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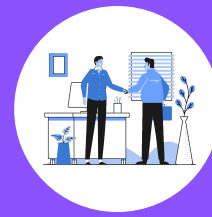
INTRODUCTION



Role conceptions, in journalism, are the individual ideals, the professional attitudes that define and justify the role of the journalist in society.



The Spanish media system is identified by a weak professionalization and high political and instrumental similarity causing role conflicts in the press communicators.



Journalistic work is subject to negotiation, influenced by organizational and political factors and, subject to the ups and downs that autonomy is subject to professional journalist.

METHODOLOGY

The variables indicate that the action of journalists in Spain is prone to conflict of professional roles:

- The gap between ideals and practice within different contexts.
- Professional roles in Spain: from their conceptualisation to their materialization.
- Context prone to «role conflict».



The following hypothesis is made

H1: The perceived gap between role conception and perceived role enactment would be wider in those roles related to detachment from power, such as the watchdog, status quo promoter and civic roles

RESULTS

Tabla 2. Differences between role conception and perceived role enactment	M	SD
Interventionist role conception	2.94	.65
Interventionist perceived role enactment	2.87	.82
Gap in the interventionist role (t=0.906; p≤ .367)	.069	.71
Disseminator role conception	4.05	1.16
Disseminator perceived role enactment	3.46	1.29
Gap in the disseminator role (t=4.078; p≤ .000)	.588	1.30
Watchdog role conception	4.60	.62
Watchdog perceived role enactment	3.37	1.10
Gap in the watchdog role (t=10.779; p≤ .000)	1.23	1.06
Loyal-facilitator role conception	1.72	.73
Loyal-facilitator perceived role enactment	1.96	1.03
Gap in the Loyal-facilitator role (t=-2.477; p≤ .015)	-.235	.87
Service role conception	3.76	1.14
Service perceived role enactment	3.30	1.08
Gap in the service role (t=3.33; p≤ .001)	.453	1.26
Infotainment role conception	2.48	1.18
Infotainment perceived role enactment	2.85	1.30
Gap in the infotainment role (t=-2.596; p≤ .011)	-.368	1.32
Civic role conception	3.47	.75
Civic perceived role enactment	2.96	.83
Gap in the civic role (t=6.950; p≤ .000)	.504	.50

They approve of the hypothesis. Role conflicts are resolved in favor of the interests of those in power and against the ideals of journalists.

CONCLUSIONS



The Polarized Pluralist media system is an environment where journalists accumulate little power compared to media organizations, which are in financial debt and dependent on political and economic powers



Empirical tests support the assertion that the Spanish press system, as a prototypical case of the Polarised Pluralist media system, is prone to creating professional role conflicts between journalists and the newspapers for which they work, especially within a context of political and financial crisis

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