

Parallel Session 10: Science communicator, is it a good profession?

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALISM AND CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

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Abstract

Journalism is a gender of knowledge, a way to understand the world and to make the life better. We study this knowledge like as professional work for improve the citizenship rights (see C. Abramo).

When the scientific journalist works to improve the population health, he has to make choices. He is a citizen (see T. Marshall), he has values (see A. Heller), knows how to be journalist. His knowledge has to be specific and his ethical values it can be the opposite of others knowledge, for example the medical. In this way, journalist work for human's health rights, he must know what is the science and its economic values in the capitalism.

Key words: journalism, citizen participation, health and medicine.

Text

Context: Journalism is a way of making new concepts of life. Many scientific journalists works only for business, but it could be different. The press has a hard mission to improve the best knowledge. And also the press has a mission to improve a new ethics and new values for the health for all people.

Objective: It must build a new concept of scientific journalism, an independent journalism with specific rules and special knowledge. How we can do it in scientific journalism?

Methods: This is a interdisciplinary research with history (cf. A. Heller), ethics and journalism (cf. C. Abramo) and citizenship (cf. Marshall). History is a construction of values (cf. Heller). The citizenship rights are values, but it is a work in progress, during more than two hundred years (cf. Marshall, Bobbio, Gentili, Hirschmann). We see this situation in some cases studies about citizenship and scientific journalism (cf. M.O.Bocchini; M. Siqueira). The historical and cultural background is a way to study brazilian press and its news about hormonal therapy for women.

Results: The alternative texts what were written against the majority press, were critical about hormonal therapy for women. (cf. site Observatorio da Imprensa).The majority of critical news and articles about hormonal therapy were written by feminists: doctors, like Fátima de Oliveira (cf. REPOSIÇÃO HORMONAL - A imolação de mulheres na busca da eterna juventude (HORMONAL THERAPY – the women sacrifice for eternal youth); or presswomen at a non governmental organization, SOF – Sempre viva

Organização Feminista (cf. Mulher e Saúde (Women and Health), March, 2002, no. 28).

Conclusions: Journalism depends on historical and cultural conditions. Some conditions are: an ethical basis of citizenship and knowledge about science and journalism. We can say an independent scientific journalism is possible.

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b) Media

Mulher e Saúde (Woman and Health), SOF (Sempreviva Organização Feminista), São Paulo, march, 2002, no. 28.

OLIVEIRA, Fátima. REPOSIÇÃO HORMONAL - A imolação de mulheres na busca da eterna juventude (HORMONAL THERAPY – the women sacrifice for eternal youth), In Observatório da Imprensa, www.observatoriodaimprensa.com.br, July 24, 2002, no.182

c) Sites:

<http://www.sof.org.br>, a feminist NGO: SOF (Sempreviva Organização Feminista)

<http://www.observatoriodaimprensa.com.br>, site of media watchtower: Observatório da Imprensa

