



journal of alternative and community media

SPECIAL ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS

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Ethnic Minority Media: Between Hegemony and Resistance

The emergence of minority media addressed to ethnic and migrant minorities can now be considered a worldwide phenomenon. Like many other minorities, migrants' voices have been "out of the mainstream" (Gross, 2001) for a long time, but new technologies and media practices have given rise to a plethora of specific media, both digital and traditional, addressed to this mobile public. Migrant and ethnic minority media are here considered agents which have an important participation in the public sphere, where social and political issues are articulated and negotiated (Habermas, 2001), and struggles over hegemonic meanings take place.

In opposition to the biased discourse on immigration present in the mainstream media, migrant and ethnic minority media offer a different representation of migrant minorities, who become active in the creation of the multiethnic public sphere (Husband, 2000). The potential of minority media as platforms for the expression, discussion and exchange of generally marginalised collectives must be recognized. Minority media can have an empowering effect for minorities. As Echevarría *et al* (2015: 99) state, "such media discourses bring about changes in the way in which the public sphere is understood and in the role that migrants play in it. They contribute to its enlargement, amplifying the issues that can be debated, negotiated and struggled for, [...] beyond the possibilities offered by the mainstream media".

However, a more thorough analysis of minority media compels us to be prudent. Their contents, modes of production, working routines, and discourses on topics such as gender and identity must be analysed in depth (Retis, 2008). Studies have shown that modes of production and working routines in the media can limit their democratising potential, due to a lack of journalists and a routine that limits their capacity to research and contrast reliable sources (Ferrández Ferrer, 2012; Saitta, 2015). Funding can also limit their potential, especially in a time when an economic and financial crisis has made them even more dependent on private funding. A tendency to publish soft information and to avoid tough topics, together with self-censorship, have appeared in order to satisfy private backers and to maintain advertising (Ferrández Ferrer, 2014).

When analysing minority media discourses, we must depart from uncritical celebrations of minority media as being 'alternative'. Georgiou has asked: "Do alternative and community media challenge hegemonic discourses of ethnic and gender stratification?" (2012: 792). This encourages us to analyse the discourses and images present in these media without assuming that entering the media sphere entails an immediate counterhegemonic nature. Echevarría *et al* (2015) show that, although migrant minority media include alternative discourses on topics such as citizenship rights and political participation by immigrants, other issues, such as gender hegemonic representations remain unchallenged.

A critical perspective on ethnic and migrant minority media would show the complexity of media production in the transnational field and reject simplistic approaches that assume that the production of minority media automatically means a challenge to hegemonic discourses and practices (Retis, 2014). This complexity is consistent with the idea of the media as active agents in the negotiations and struggles that take place in the public sphere; multiple, contradictory, overlapping and changing interests are always part of such negotiations.

We invite articles with practical, theoretical, national or international perspectives that critically examine how ethnic and minority media counteract or not hegemony, including, but not limited to issues such as:

- Media consumption: how ethnic and migrant minorities use specific minority media to counteract hegemonic discourses.
- Production of ethnic and minority media: funding and economics, soft information, censorship and the reinforcement of hegemonic discourses.
- Journalists and media professionals: the role of migrant and ethnic journalists in challenging hegemonic discourses and structures in the host countries
- Content and discourse analysis:
 - Hegemonic discourses on migration, ethnic minorities, refugees, etc. and how they are challenged by ethnic and minority media.
 - Hegemonic and alternative discourses about gender, identity and citizenship, in the ethnic and minority media.
 - Politics of representation of minorities within ethnic and migrant minorities (indigenous groups, LGBTQ, ethnic minorities, religious minorities, etc.)
- Journalistic field: elements that might limit the democratising potential of ethnic and minority media.
- Public space: ethnic and migrant minority media as spaces for construction of multiethnic public spaces.

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Submission Guidelines:

Authors should send abstracts by 15 November to **both** Guest Editors, including:

- Article title and abstract of 500 words (including justification, methodology, and main results)
- Authors' affiliation and contact information
- Short biography (100 words)

Full articles (6,000 to 8,000 words including notes and references) will be required to meet authors' guidelines published on the Journal of Alternative and Community Media website at <https://joacm.org/index.php/JOACM/pages/view/authors>.

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