



Between Epistemologies and Methods: The Urgency of a Methodology of Its Own for the Field of Journalism

Jéssica Gradin¹

State University of Ponta Grossa (UEPG)

Guilherme de Carvalho²

State University of Ponta Grossa (UEPG)

Resumo: This article analyzed research presented at the SBPJor National Meetings between 2021 and 2024, within the 'Theoretical Foundations of Journalism' track, with the goal of investigating methodological construction within the field of journalism. The results revealed that 75% (15 papers) employed methods imported from other fields, 10% (2 papers) proposed methods originating in journalistic practice, and 5.9% (1 paper) applied methods adapted to the field. Additionally, approximately 47% (8 papers) discussed methodologies applied to journalism. This predominance of external methods highlights the methodological heteronomy of the field, even as some studies begin to suggest the emergence of a distinct epistemology of journalism. The article argues for the urgent need to consolidate methods that engage directly with journalistic practices and routines, as a way to strengthen the scientific and epistemological foundations of the field.

Keywords: methodology, journalism, field, method, epistemology

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1. Introduction

The consolidation of journalism as an autonomous scientific field has been a process marked by epistemological and institutional disputes. Despite significant advances in knowledge production in the area, especially with the strengthening of associations such as SBPJor and the emergence of Journalism Studies, a methodological gap persists: the absence of methods that respond to the specificities of journalistic practice.

According to Strelow (2011), the field has not yet managed to establish a dialogue between academic research and the professional journalism market. There is no doubt that we are dealing with two distinct spaces of knowledge construction: the field of journalism research and the field of journalism itself (Strelow, 2011, p. 5).

This absence of field-specific methods directly affects the legitimacy of journalism as a discipline, leading to the adoption of methodologies from the social sciences, communication, and other areas—often insufficiently sensitive to the dynamics inherent to journalistic practice. It is within this context that the present article seeks to critically discuss the limits and possibilities of constructing methodologies specifically designed for the field of journalism.

Drawing on Pierre Bourdieu's field theory and the debates among authors such as Genro Filho, Meditsch, Lago, and Motta, we aim to reflect on how research methods may, or may not, express the singularities of journalism as both a practice and a field of knowledge.

Given the growth of scientific production on journalism in recent decades, it is observed that, despite the expansion of research in the field, methods imported from

other disciplines still predominate, often disconnected from the routines and symbolic meanings of journalistic practice. To investigate this scenario, this study analyzed the research presented at the National Meetings of SBPJor, more specifically, the papers published in the proceedings of the National Meetings of Journalism Researchers between 2021 and 2024, within the thematic track “Theoretical Foundations of Journalism.”

To this end, a mixed methodological approach was adopted, combining bibliometric analysis—aimed at identifying quantitative patterns in academic production—with qualitative content analysis, as proposed by Bardin (2011). The goal was to examine the research methods used in studies presented at SBPJor’s National Meetings over the past four years (2021–2024), focusing on methodological construction within the field of journalism.

2. Concept of Field

A field is a “theoretical instrument” (Bourdieu, 2005, p. 30) that can be used to analyze social and cultural phenomena. From this perspective, society can be seen as divided into partially autonomous fields—such as the political, economic, scientific, or academic fields. There is a certain correlation among these invisible structures, characterized by the struggle to conserve or transform these spaces.

The concept of the journalistic field in this research will be approached from Pierre Bourdieu’s understanding of the social field (Bourdieu, 1997, p. 57):

A field is a structured social space a field of forces (with dominant and dominated agents, and constant, enduring relations of inequality that operate within this space), which is also a field of struggles aimed at transforming or preserving that very field of forces. Each individual, within this universe, engages in competition with others using the (relative) power they possess, which defines their position in the field and, consequently, their strategies (Bourdieu, 1997).

The concept of field was first introduced by Bourdieu in the second half of the 1960s. However, it was in his article “*Une interprétation de la sociologie religieuse*” by Max Weber, published in the scientific journal *Archives Européennes de Sociologie* in 1971, that he presented the foundational principles that would later underpin his thesis (Dos Santos de Carvalho, 2017).

From this point, it becomes necessary to consider the properties of the journalistic field as a microcosm governed by its own laws, which both attract and repel other fields. “To say that it is autonomous, that it has its own law, means to say that what happens within it cannot be directly understood through external factors” (Bourdieu, 1997, p. 55).

The sociologist discusses the ambiguous autonomy and dual dependency of the journalistic field in relation to the economic and political fields, highlighting the “incessantly expanding” influence of journalism—constantly subjected to the pressures of commercial logic—over ordinary citizens, journalists themselves, and other social fields (Silva, 2009).

According to Bourdieu (1997, pp. 65–66), one of the main characteristics that explains the significance of the journalistic field is that it “holds a real monopoly over

the instruments of large-scale production and dissemination of information.” Through these instruments, agents gain access to citizens and other cultural producers—such as scientists, artists, and writers—thus reaching what is called the “public space” or the “field of large-scale production.” Against this monopoly, the sociologist observes, individuals, associations, or any groups seeking to widely disseminate information must struggle (Bourdieu, 1997).

In his analyses of the journalistic field, Bourdieu (2005) perceives it as increasingly heteronomous—that is, influenced by external forces, primarily economic ones—especially due to the power that television has acquired within this microcosm. This heteronomy, therefore, is imposed upon other fields as well.

I therefore believe that all fields of cultural production today are subject to the structural limitations of the journalistic field—not to those of any particular journalist or media executive, who themselves are overcome by the forces of the field. These limitations exert systematic effects that are largely equivalent across all fields. The journalistic field acts, as a field, upon other fields. In other words, a field increasingly dominated by commercial logic progressively imposes its constraints on other spheres (Bourdieu, 2005, p. 81).

Silva (2009) also highlights the distinction between the notions of the *scientific field* and the *academic field*.

As a scientific field, it encompasses the knowledge derived from the different productive logics of various institutions engaged in scientific research, whether governmental or corporate. The academic field, on the other hand, refers to the

production of knowledge within universities, particularly in the context of graduate studies and teaching (Silva, 2009, p. 199).

What Kant (2008) identified in 1798 as the “conflict of the faculties,” Bourdieu (2013) later recognized in his book *Homo Academicus* (2013), in which he detected two similar yet competing principles of organization and hierarchy: a social hierarchy—based on inherited, economic, and political capital—that opposes a specific hierarchy, based on scientific and intellectual authority (Fighetto, 2019).

In Bourdieu’s (2013) analysis, the academic field comprises two poles with competing principles of legitimation and organization. On one side is the “pole of knowledge” or the “scientific pole,” characterized by academic freedom, where agents possess greater intellectual and scientific capital; they dominate scientifically but are socially dominated. On the other side lies the “pole of power” or the “worldly pole,” which demands social responsibility from universities; agents in this pole hold greater social capital—they dominate socially but are scientifically dominated (Bourdieu, 2013).

Even the faculties closest to the “worldly pole” or the “pole of power” “are never entirely free from the specific requirements of a field officially oriented toward the production and reproduction of knowledge,” just as the faculties closest to the “pole of knowledge” or the “scientific pole” “are never exempt from the external necessities of social reproduction” (Bourdieu, 2013, p. 83).

Another observation made by Bourdieu is that the “conflict of the faculties” divides not only the academic field as a whole but also each faculty and each discipline within it (Bourdieu, 2013, p. 91):

[...] A oposição entre as duas faculdades, entre as competências científicas e a competência social, encontra-se também no centro de cada uma das faculdades temporalmente dominantes (e mesmo no centro da faculdade de letras e ciências humanas, que, desse ponto de vista, ocupa uma posição intermediária).

The “conflict of the faculties” also structures both the academic field of Communication and that of Journalism. This connection was drawn by Meditsch (2015) in his discussion about the position Communication should occupy within the academic field. Currently, Communication is classified as an Applied Social Science.

The Theory of Communication was also questioned by Adelmo Genro Filho. The theorist criticized the gap between journalistic practice and the theoretical reflections produced about it (Genro Filho, 2012). He introduced the debate on journalism as a form of knowledge in the second half of the 1980s, linking it to a “journalistic epistemology” that constituted journalism as its own scientific field, with its own theory—emphasizing journalism’s autonomy from the field of Communication. According to Anunciação (2019), this new institutional and theoretical configuration did not occur inadvertently; it is the result of the dispositions of agents and institutions within the field.

Evidently, the scientific field has expanded alongside the growing body of academic production about Journalism—known as Journalism Studies. The creation of the Brazilian Association of Journalism Researchers (SBPJor) in 2003, along with the consolidation of the National Forum of Journalism Professors (FNPJ) in 2004—now the Brazilian Association for Journalism Education—as well as the emergence of journals such as *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism*, *Journalism Studies*, and

Journalism Practice, and the establishment of divisions dedicated to Journalism within major international communication research associations such as the International Communication Association (ICA) and the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), all illustrate this process (Brasil, 2009).

In Silva's (2009) analysis, the visible strengthening of Journalism as a scientific and institutional field occurs simultaneously with, paradoxically, a distancing from the epistemological approach—an essential perspective for conceiving a true Theory of Journalism.

Há muito a ser feito para responder ao vazio da Teoria do Jornalismo, à sua precariedade conceitual e fragilidade teórica, à dificuldade de tratar uma relação de extrema intimidade da prática jornalística com o senso comum – antes mesmo de se pensar na “segunda ruptura epistemológica” de que fala Boaventura S. Santos para uma ciência pós-moderna – aquela que concebe o reencontro da ciência com o senso comum, dentro de uma nova “configuração cognitiva”, em que tanto uma quanto o outro se superem a si mesmos para dar lugar a outra forma de conhecimento (Santos, 1989: 34-45). (SILVA, 2009, p. 208).

However, the emergence of journals that place journalism as a central object—distinct from scientific publications that address the topic alongside other Communication disciplines—can also be considered a result of the consolidation of research in this field. Currently, some of the most prominent journals include *Estudos em Jornalismo e Mídia (EJM)*, published by the Graduate Program in Journalism at UFSC; *Pauta Geral*, organized by the Graduate Program in Journalism at UEPG; the *Revista Brasileira de Ensino de Jornalismo (Rebej)*, associated with ABEJ; the *Revista Latino-Americana de Jornalismo – ÂNCORA*, from the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB); and the *Brazilian Journalism Research (BJR)*, directed by SBPJor.

3. The Journalistic Field and the Urgency of Its Own Methods

The construction of specific methodologies within the field of journalism requires an understanding of the epistemological disputes that shape its consolidation as an autonomous area. In this sense, Pierre Bourdieu's field theory provides a solid foundation for understanding journalism as a space of knowledge production in dispute, endowed with specific forms of symbolic capital and internal rules of operation.

Authors such as Genro Filho (2012) have long warned—since the 1980s—about the distance between journalistic practice and traditional theorization, proposing a distinct epistemology of journalism based on its social function of mediation and knowledge production. This perspective was reinforced by researchers such as Eduardo Meditsch (2015), who advocate recognizing journalism as a form of knowledge and, therefore, deserving of its own investigative methods.

Furthermore, Lago and Benetti (2010) emphasize the importance of considering the singularity of the journalistic object in methodological choices, highlighting the need for approaches that engage with productive routines and processes of symbolic mediation. Motta (2005), in turn, differentiates between the sociocentric and mediacentric paradigms as key axes structuring the methodological debate in journalism research, revealing both fragmentation and the lack of a consolidated methodological core.

These authors contribute to the understanding that developing field-specific methods is not merely a technical task but also a political and epistemological one. It requires recognizing the specificity of the field and valuing professional practice as a legitimate source of knowledge. The present article aligns with this discussion, engaging

with these theoretical contributions to propose pathways for the methodological strengthening of journalism as a scientific field.

In this regard, as Elias Machado (2010) observes, the full institutionalization of journalism as a scientific discipline depends on the systematic production of manuals and requires a break from the research model centered on the simple importation of methodologies conceived in other disciplines. According to Machado (2011), journalism should avoid applying methodologies from other fields, since the specificity of the object constructed by researchers in each academic area demands the creation of its own methodological tools.

An analysis of recent academic production in journalism reveals a methodological landscape marked by ambivalence. On one hand, there is a growing effort to legitimize journalism as a scientific field, with the expansion of graduate programs, specialized publications, and academic events. On the other hand, there remains a dependence on methods imported from disciplines such as communication, sociology, and political science, often without adequate reflection on their suitability to the journalistic object. Nonetheless, in recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in discussions and proposals of methods specifically for the study of journalism as an object.

This situation reinforces the argument that the absence of field-specific methods is directly related to a broader epistemological tension involving journalism's position within the academic field. As Bourdieu (2013) and Meditsch (2015) point out, the academic field is crossed by symbolic hierarchies that hinder the recognition of journalism as a legitimate and autonomous form of knowledge.

By bringing these tensions to light, this article seeks to contribute to the collective reflection on building a distinct journalistic methodology—one capable of incorporating the field’s particularities and providing analytical tools more suited to its specificities. The discussion highlights the need to integrate the empirical knowledge of practice with the theoretical rigor of research, overcoming the traditional divide between academia and the newsroom.

In this sense, the methodological strengthening of the journalistic field depends not only on adopting new technical instruments but also on valuing professional practice as a legitimate source of knowledge and on constructing a distinct scientific ethos grounded in experience, mediation, and the social production of information.

Porém, pensar metodologicamente os objetos de determinado campo do saber, propor olhares, guias, as já referidas lentes de um microscópio mental, é relevante para a consolidação deste campo, para a construção do discurso científico e para a constante problematização de suas questões (Strelow, 2011, p.4).

Numerous contemporary researchers have emphasized the importance of developing specific methodologies aimed at studying the journalistic field. This demand is not resolved merely through the delimitation and consolidation of journalism as an autonomous area of knowledge but extends to a broader social function: fostering dialogue between theoretical production in the academic environment and the dynamics inherent to professional practice.

The development of methods grounded in the singularities and concrete demands of journalistic work contributes more effectively to overcoming the

longstanding dissociation between theory and practice—one of the central challenges faced by communication scholars in contemporary times.

4. Metodology

The methodological procedure adopted in this study is based on the qualitative mapping of academic works, focusing specifically on the analysis of methodologies employed in research that takes journalism as its central object. To this end, the content analysis technique, as established by Laurence Bardin (2011), was applied, allowing for the systematic categorization of methodological approaches used in the studies.

According to Bardin (2011), this technique combines statistical methods with material observation, alternating between qualitative analysis (specific deductions) and quantitative analysis (frequency of occurrence). Content analysis is justified as it enables an understanding of diverse scientific works. As Bardin (1977) states, it is an empirical method dependent on both the type of discourse being studied and the intended interpretation objective. “Analytical description operates according to systematic and objective procedures for describing message content” (Bardin, 1977, p. 34).

This proposal also follows the methodological reflections suggested by Lago and Benetti (2010), who emphasize the importance of recognizing the singularities of journalistic practice in research method selection. Accordingly, the categories of analysis were defined from four main axes:

- (a) methods imported from other disciplines;
- (b) methods adapted to the journalistic field;
- (c) methods originating in journalistic practice, derived from its routines, language, and

social function; and

(d) studies lacking methodological explanation.

Additionally, the theoretical framework draws on Luiz Gonzaga Motta (2005), who proposes a confrontation between the sociocentric and mediacentric paradigms as a way of interpreting patterns of methodological choice and their epistemological implications, and on Eduardo Meditsch (2015), who advocates for recognizing journalism as a form of knowledge and, therefore, a legitimate producer of its own methods.

The integration of these theoretical perspectives justifies the selection of a methodological procedure that not only describes the methods used but also interprets them in light of the epistemological and symbolic disputes that structure the journalistic field within the academic field (Bourdieu, 2013).

To investigate this scenario, this study analyzed papers presented at the National Meetings of SBPJor, more specifically, the articles published in the proceedings of the National Meetings of Journalism Researchers between 2021 and 2024, within the thematic track “*Theoretical Foundations of Journalism.*” Twenty papers were selected for analysis. This selection is justified because the event gathers national academic production in journalism, and this track focuses on theoretical studies in journalism. The four-year time frame allows for observing both recent and consolidated research trends in Brazilian journalism, especially during the post-pandemic period, when many methodological changes took place. Furthermore, 2021 was the first year in which research was categorized by thematic tracks, enabling this analysis.

Data organization was conducted using a spreadsheet containing variables such as *title, author, year, institution, theme, described method, type of method, techniques used, and analytical observations*. Bibliometric analysis was applied to quantify and visualize trends in the methods used in journalism research. According to Araújo (2006) and Vergueiro (2011), this technique enables the measurement of aspects such as the frequency of particular methods, temporal growth of production, and institutional distribution, thus identifying patterns and methodological gaps within the field.

In the next stage, a content analysis based on Bardin's (2011) framework was performed, allowing for the systematic coding and categorization of information. The recording units were extracted from the methodological sections of the analyzed works and classified into four major groups according to Bardin's (2011) thematic analysis criteria:

- (a) methods imported from other fields;
- (b) methods adapted to the specificities of journalism;
- (c) methods originating from journalistic practice, aiming to interpret how authors justify and apply their research procedures; and
- (d) studies without methodological explanation—those that relied on theoretical frameworks to support the research but did not specify the methodology used in the analysis.

This classification was interpreted through Motta's (2005) distinction between sociocentric and mediacentric paradigms, as well as Lago and Benetti's (2010) discussion of the need to recognize journalism's methodological singularity.

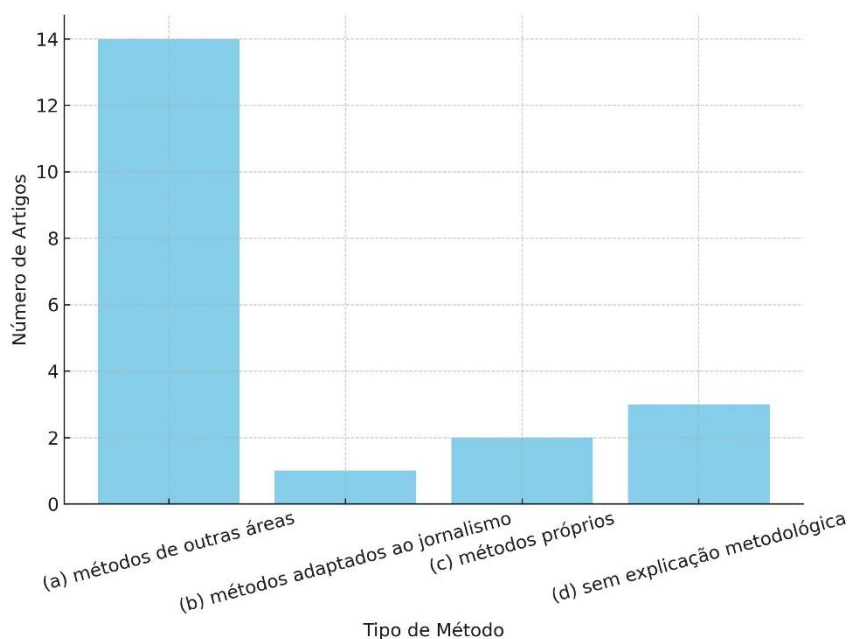
Furthermore, Meditsch's (2015) framework was employed to reflect on journalism as a

form of knowledge and a legitimate producer of its own methods. The articulation of these theoretical perspectives with the empirical data enabled reflection on the degree of methodological autonomy achieved by the journalistic field in Brazil.

5. Analysis and Discussion

The analyzed data reveal a strong dependence of the journalistic field on methods imported from other areas, particularly the social sciences, information science, and linguistic studies. Of the 20 studies analyzed, 15 were classified as “(a) imported methods,” demonstrating a trend of methodological heteronomy, as described in Bourdieu’s (2013) framework. Only two studies employed methods originating from journalistic practice, and just one showed some degree of methodological adaptation to the field (category b), indicating the limited construction of self-referential and field-specific approaches (Graphic 1).

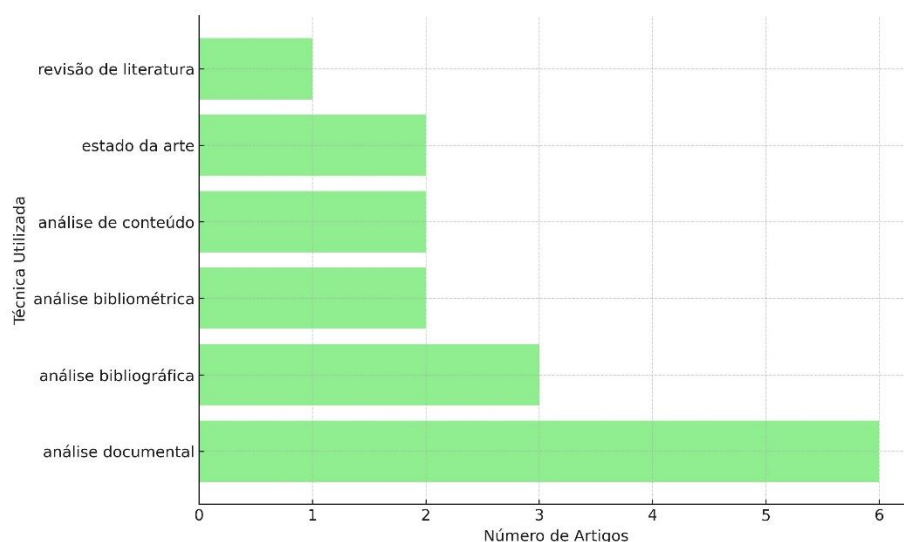
Graphic 1- Distribution of Method Types in the Analyzed Studies



Source: Author's elaboration / Gradin, 2025.

The diversity of techniques employed also reinforces this external orientation: predominant approaches include bibliometric analysis and documentary analysis as the main methodologies used. In addition, content analysis and discourse analysis were identified—all rooted in theoretical traditions developed outside journalism. The technique most frequently cited is bibliometric analysis, applied in mapping studies and reviews of academic production, followed by content analysis. This pattern demonstrates an interest in understanding the epistemological dynamics of the field, albeit still through the lens of exogenous theoretical models (Graphic 2).

Graphic 2- Main Methodologies Used in the Studies



Source: Author's elaboration / Gradin, 2025.

In a study conducted by Paula and Pozzobon (2022), which analyzed 112 articles published in the proceedings of the Intercom National Congress in its 2012 and 2013 editions, the authors emphasized the importance of methodology as a field of

knowledge, as its discussion reveals potential stagnations of prevailing paradigms. At that time, most of the analyzed papers employed well-established and widely used methods in the field of journalism: discourse analysis (DA) and content analysis (CA).

Despite this, an emerging movement of critical reflection on the methodologies applied to journalistic practices can be observed. Among the 20 papers analyzed, 8 presented discussions on methodologies in journalism studies. These include:

“What Is the Place of Emotion in Theories of Journalism” by Gabriela Bregolin Grillo (2021); “For the Crisis of Journalism, ‘Solutions Journalism’? Notes from the RBS Group Experience” by Felipe Moura de Oliveira, Carolina Monego Lins Pastl, and Isadora Smaniotto Garcia (2021); “Reporters’ Praxis: Perceptions on Citizenship and Human Rights in Journalistic Practice” by Criselli Maria Montipó (2021); “The Concept of Framing as an Analytical Operator in Journalism Research” by Márcio Barbosa Norberto (2021); “Contributions of Innovation Studies to Applied Journalism Research” by Carlos Eduardo Franciscato (2022); “Transparency in Journalism in 23 Years of Theses and Dissertations from CAPES and Future Research Perspectives” by Carolina Monego Lins Pastl (2023); “Assessments on Journalism X in Brazil: A Look at the Brazilian Journalism Research Between 2005 and 2022” by Lucas Santos Carmo Cabral and Leopoldo Pedro Neto (2023); and “Mapping Methodological Strategies Used in Studies on Reporting in Communication Congresses (2014–2023)” by Luan Pazzini Bittencourt (2024).

These works signal a gradual yet significant shift toward methodological self-awareness within journalism research, illustrating an ongoing effort to rethink the epistemological and analytical tools employed in the field.

Table 1 - Works raised by the research

Título	Método	Método
Jornalismo e quarto poder: origem e transformação de um ideal jornalístico	Análise documental; análise bibliográfica	a
A transparência no jornalismo em 23 anos de teses e dissertações da Capes e perspectivas futuras de estudos	Análise bibliométrica	a
Mapeamento de estratégias metodológicas utilizadas nos estudos sobre reportagem em Congressos na área da Comunicação (2014-2023)	Análise de conteúdo	a
Aferições sobre o Jornalismo X no Brasil: um olhar para a Brazilian Journalistic Research entre 2005 e 2022	Análise bibliométrica	a
Contribuições dos estudos de inovação para pensar a pesquisa aplicada em jornalismo	Análise bibliográfica	a
Inovação no jornalismo em estado da arte: mapeamento, eixos e conceitos	Estado da arte	a
Muito ou pouco? A recorrência de teses e dissertações sobre jornalismo alternativo	Estado da arte; análise documental	a
Photojournalism: explorando a pesquisa sobre o tema na plataforma web aberta Lens.org	Análise documental	a
Qual é o lugar da emoção nas teorias do jornalismo		d
Verificação como um valor do jornalismo na atualidade	Análise bibliográfica	a
Para a crise do jornalismo, “jornalismo de soluções”? Apontamentos a partir da experiência do Grupo RBS	Entrevista; análise de reportagem	b
Práxis de repórteres: percepções sobre cidadania e direitos humanos na atuação jornalística	Análise de entrevista; entrevista	c
Povos indígenas e tradução de mundos: a invenção de uma ética (im)possível ao jornalismo	Testagem ou incursão exploratória	c
O conceito de enquadramento como operador analítico na pesquisa em jornalismo	Análise de conteúdo	a
Jornalismo e imagens de si: valores e princípios jornalísticos observados na Carta do Editor, de Zero Hora e GaúchaZH	Revisão de literatura	a
Jornalismo e desinformação: uma revisão sistemática sobre a interface entre os temas nos anais do Intercom, SBPJor e Compós entre 2015 e 2020	Revisão de literatura	a
Fontes protagonistas e colaborativas como novas categorias no estudo do jornalismo		d
Domínios da crítica e deliberação nos veículos noticiosos alemães Die Zeit e Der Spiegel	Análise documental	a
Cobertura mediada e pandemia da covid-19: A atuação das assessorias de clubes paraibanos no agendamento da mídia esportiva	Análise documental	a

Abordagens sobre a participação no jornalismo em revistas científicas brasileiras	Análise documental	a
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Source: Author's elaboration / Gradin, 2025.

These studies, by questioning how journalism is studied, contribute to the debate on its epistemological autonomy, as suggested by authors such as Meditsch (2015) and Lago and Benetti (2010). Therefore, the data indicate that the Brazilian academic field of journalism remains methodologically dependent, shaped by symbolic disputes between the recognition of its object's singularity and the pursuit of scientific validation according to external criteria. However, there is a steady and growing evolution in discussions proposing new methods for the field.

Two of the analyzed works propose methodologies specifically designed for journalism: *"Reporters' Praxis: Perceptions on Citizenship and Human Rights in Journalistic Practice"* by Criselli Maria Montipó (2021), and *"The Concept of Framing as an Analytical Operator in Journalism Research"* by Márcio Barbosa Norberto (2021). Both articles are grounded in premises that value the everyday practice of journalism as a source of theoretical and methodological construction. This perspective distances itself from the dominant heteronomy and aligns with an epistemology rooted in journalistic practice.

In Norberto's (2021) article on the concept of framing, the author demonstrates that framing is not merely a theoretical tool derived from communication studies, but rather a practice embedded in the routines of journalistic production—intuitively mobilized by journalists when selecting angles, sources, and narratives. The method of analysis here stems from an empirical understanding of news structuring, aligning journalistic theory and practice.

Montipó's (2021) article on reporters' praxis adopts a methodological approach based on interviews with active journalists, seeking to understand how these professionals interpret their roles in light of human rights and citizenship. This constitutes a reflective analysis of professional practices and reporters' self-perception—that is, a method built upon testimony and concrete experience within the journalistic field.

In light of this, the importance of investing in field-specific methodological strategies is reaffirmed—ones grounded in the routines, practices, and language of journalism. Such an agenda aims not only to map but also to propose pathways for the epistemological emancipation of the field.

6. Final Considerations

The analysis of the methodologies employed in the studies presented in the “Theoretical Foundations of Journalism” track at SBPJor between 2021 and 2024 revealed a landscape still marked by the predominance of methods imported from other areas of knowledge. Approximately 75% of the analyzed works relied on frameworks from disciplines such as sociology, political science, linguistics, and communication in a broad sense, indicating that the journalistic field continues to operate under a strong influence of external theoretical matrices.

On the other hand, the presence of a group of studies proposing methodological approaches grounded in journalistic practice highlights the emergence of a movement toward valuing situated methods aligned with the internal logic of the field. These studies, classified as type (c), signal an effort by researchers to recognize journalism as a legitimate producer of knowledge, with the potential to consolidate its own

epistemology. In addition, some studies discuss methodological strengthening in journalism research as a necessary path for the consolidation of the field.

The low incidence of adapted methods (category b) is also noteworthy, suggesting that there is still limited concern with adjusting established approaches to the specificities of the journalistic object. This methodological gap reinforces the need for a critical and creative investment in developing field-specific approaches capable of articulating theory and practice in a more organic way.

In light of this, the importance of investing in journalism-specific methodological strategies is reaffirmed—ones grounded in the routines, practices, and language of the field. This research agenda aims not only to map but also to propose concrete paths toward the epistemological emancipation of journalism as a scientific field.

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