

An Analysis of the Creation of Journalism Courses in Brazil

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Introduction

According to Melo (1977), the first journalism course in Brazil, created in the 1940s, aimed to improve the salaries of public service journalist-editors through higher education. This context influenced journalism teaching and learning in the 1960s (Melo, 1977). Until the 1970s, research in the field depended on isolated initiatives without clear national articulation (Machado, 2004).

In this context, this article analyzes the expansion of Journalism courses in public and private higher education institutions and the geographical distribution among them. The objective is to understand the expansion of Journalism programs in Brazil in recent years. The present research is based on data from the Ministry of Education's digital platform (e-MEC). The proposed methodology involves data collection and a bibliographic review providing a brief overview of the history of journalism education.

Historical Context of Journalism Education in Brazil

In Brazil, the journalism profession was formally established in the 20th century. The first higher education course in journalism was founded at the Cásper Líbero School of Journalism in São Paulo in 1947 through an agreement between the Cásper Líbero Foundation and the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (Melo, 1991).

A few years later, in 1951, the first journalism school in southern Brazil was established, beginning operations the following year. This course became the foundation of

the Faculty of Social Communication (FAMECOS) at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUC-RS). In 1961, following the contribution of Luiz Beltrão, the Catholic University of Pernambuco created the first Journalism course in the North and Northeast regions of Brazil (Gadini, 2016).

According to a survey conducted by Danton Jobim (1992), by 1957 there were nine journalism courses—two in Rio de Janeiro, two in São Paulo, two in Rio Grande do Sul, one in Bahia, one in Minas Gerais, and one in Paraná. In the late 1980s, journalism programs expanded significantly across the country. According to this research, 26 programs were founded in the 1980s: eight in federal institutions, two in state, one in municipal, six in religious, and ten in private institutions. They were distributed across the Southeast (17), Northeast (4), Center-West (1), South (3), and North (1). The number of journalism programs tripled in the 1990s, with 67 new courses—25 of them in state capitals.

Analysis of Results

Journalism courses at public, private, and community universities are accredited under Article 19 of the Law of Guidelines and Bases of Education (Law No. 9.394/1996). From the 579 records found in the e-MEC system, filters using the keywords 'in-person teaching' and 'active' eliminated records of discontinued or inactive courses. After data refinement, 345 journalism courses were identified. Further analysis removed duplicate records, resulting in 277 programs. Most are concentrated in private institutions (216 courses), while the remaining are distributed among federal (40), state (13), and municipal (7) universities, as well as one special institution.

This distribution highlights an evident imbalance between public and private universities nationwide. Beyond this comparison, a growing trend in the number of journalism courses in Brazil can be observed over the past decades, as demonstrated by the data from the Ministry of Education (2022).

Final Considerations

The expansion of journalism programs in Brazil became most intense between the 1990s and 2010s. However, the 1970s already showed a reasonable increase with the establishment of 25 courses nationwide. It can be concluded that historical, geographic, and cultural conditions contributed to the environment in which these programs were created, as reflected in the analysis of governmental policies for higher education over several decades.

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