Introduction

We are pleased to present issue 48 of *Quaderns del CAC* which has devoted the monograph section to **Risk, Crisis, and Conflict Communication**. The exceptional circumstances of recent years comprising different types of events that have shaken the world, such as climate change, natural and industrial disasters, wars, political and social conflicts, pandemics, economic crises, and the forced displacement of people, amongst others, have aroused scientific interest from different disciplines in explaining the nature, origin, causes, and consequences of them.

Research on communication in this area has been extensive, especially in setting out what the role of communication is in these events. We live in a communication ecosystem in which the presence alongside each other of traditional, digital, and social media creates new dynamics and challenges for communication and culture, especially in terms of the management of crisis, risk, and conflict communication. In this issue we offer significant contributions that address various angles of the topics in question.

The Guest Writer article is from **Bernardo Diaz Nosty**, a journalist and researcher with an extensive career in academia at first the Complutense University of Madrid and then as a professor of journalism at the University of Malaga. He has devoted the last few years to a broad research project on female journalists in the Spanish Civil War. As a result of this project, he has recently published the book *Periodistas extranjeras en la Guerra Civil* [Foreign Female Journalists in the Civil War] (Renacimiento, 2022). This research has also delivered the article "Barcelona in the eyes of foreign journalists during the Spanish Civil War"**,** in which, as well as documenting the great number of these reporters, forgotten by historiography, who were active there, he analyses their work. The article shows how the work of female journalists differs from the stereotypes of the dominant narrative by also introducing the everyday suffering away from the front lines, descriptions of the bombardment of the civilian population, and war crimes which so resonate with us today. He centres his analysis on examining the works on Barcelona published by these journalists. Works that testify to this different manner of recounting events and trace the course of the city in the period prior to the end of the war.

Jordi Farré Coma offers an exceedingly timely conceptual systematisation at a time of blossoming interest in climate change, which demands close examination of the role of communication. In his article "Communicating climate change: from disaster to risk", he makes a transdisciplinary contribution that stresses the essential position of communication, whilst addressing the scope of the concepts of risk, crisis, disaster, and emergency in a comparison of the double issue of risk and communication in climate change. This work is an essential starting point for any research into risk communication, disaster communication, environmental communication, and climate change communication.

In "Is Peace Journalism Possible in Indian Journalism? Perceptions of a Select Few Indian Journalists", **C. S. H. N. Murthy** address the localisation of the concept of Peace Journalism in Indian journalism. The article contextualises the traditional practices of peace set out in ancient Indian spiritual texts and compares them with the views on peace journalism of a prominent group of journalists. The study highlights the differences in the Indian and Western concepts of Peace Journalism and asserts the impossibility of applying it in the Indian media ecosystem, despite the long tradition of peace and non-violence.

Jaume Doménech-Beltrán analyses the Spanish government's COVID-19 communication strategy from the perspective of crisis communication. In his article "Crisis communication and thematic transfer by the Spanish government during COVID-19", he analyses the content of the media appearances by the Technical Management Committee and the President of the Spanish Government in the early weeks of the State of Alarm. In comparing the results with the leading theories in risk communication he identifies deficiencies. The study also identifies the strong preference for certain themes over others and the differences between the range of topics covered by the Committee and the President. The work establishes that treating the pandemic as a war was one of the cornerstones of the Government's communication strategy.

Sergi Xaudiera studies the infodemic, the mass phenomenon of disinformation that was unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The article "Infodemic management in Catalonia during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic" focuses on the management of the problem in Catalonia where, as elsewhere around the world, it posed an added problem in the difficult fight against the virus. The article tracks the various aspects (detection, verification, response, and evaluation) that cause institutions objective difficulties in the fight against disinformation in the midst of a crisis of such magnitude.

Quaderns del CAC 48, vol. XXV - October 2022 (3-4)

3

Gemma Palà examines the role of journalists in the coverage of socio-political conflicts. In her article "The news production process in confluence with political and social conflicts. The case of TV3 journalists and Catalonia's pro-sovereignty process", she tackles the specific case of journalists in the Catalan public television broadcaster in relation to the pro-soverignty process using framing theory and production process theory. The article presents the findings gained from interviews with news directors and journalists on the different topics involved, such as access to sources, the plurality of actors, professional independence, the foregrounding of conflict, the criteria used for prioritisation, and narrative challenges.

The Articles section commences with the "Audiences and streamers on Twitch: consumption and production patterns in the Spanish-speaking world" study from **Adrián Padilla Molina and Celina Navarro.** Their article examines the impact of the Twitch platform which has become a highly efficient tool for capturing an audience using live user-generated content. The study analyses the activity of the Spanish-language streamer community and identifies penetration, consumption cycles, production cycles, and the differences between amateur and professional creators who garner the most interest from the public.

Joan Ferrés Prats, Alba Ambròs Pallarès, and Mònica Figueras Maz contribute to the field of media literacy in their article "EduMediaTest, a tool in the service of media competence. Project report, results and recommendations". The work presents a tool that has been designed to assess media literacy in students aged 14 to 18 and, additionally, is a training tool. The article collates results from seven European countries that validate the effectiveness of the tool. The piece also presents an in-depth look at the results from Catalonia and concludes with a series of recommendations for the European Commission.

Ariadna Santos, Marta Narberhaus, and Ariadna Fernández-Planells discuss the creation of Instagram content from a gender perspective in their article "Young People, Feminism and Self-representation on Instagram: challenges and recommendations". This piece analyses the self-representation practices of young women on Instagram whilst contrasting them with their feminist identity. The analysis reveals a series of contradictions between the feminist discourses of the young women in the study and the self-representation constructed by the content they create themselves.

The Articles section concludes with **Floriane Bardini**'s piece on the accessibility of audiovisual content. Her article "Audio description, subjectivity and film experience" presents the results from a reception study that assesses the effectiveness of three film audio description styles for people who have a visual impairment. The data certify that better results are achieved when interpretative audio description styles are used compared to the conventional audio description style.

Emili Prado i Pico
Director