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Presents

The Reporting of Highly Relevant Political News in regulated and un-regulated newspapers: A Comparative Analysis between Ecuador and Argentina

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Media regulation in the South American context has been a widely discussed topic since the shift of some nations to left-wing governments in the early 2000s. These changes featured leaders who publicly criticised media outlets and accused them of creating a conflict of interest between the news media's watchdog role and their owners' financial interests. Consequently, several media laws were created across the region with the argument that they would foster more professional news and thereby benefit the audience. The Ecuadorian communication law stands out as the only one that included print media in its jurisdiction and raised journalistic ethical practices to a legal level.

This thesis employs mixed research methods in order to find differences in the reporting patterns found in two Ecuadorian newspapers and two Argentinean ones covering two similar political corruption scandals involving left-wing politicians; and provides possible explanations for these differences. Specifically, this study analyses whether regulated and unregulated content shows different characteristics, and carries out in-depth interviews in order to suggest whether and how these features are rooted in the legal requirements that journalists were required to follow. Finally, this thesis draws conclusions on whether and how the Ecuadorian communication law played a role in the reporting patterns found.

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