
The Historical Dictionary of Catalan Journalists

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The *Diccionari històric de periodistes catalans* (Historical Dictionary of Catalan Journalists) is the research programme underway since 2016, when the Philosophy and Social Sciences Section of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC) approved my initial proposal entitled *Bases d'un diccionari de periodistes i articulistes, generalistes i especialitzats, en els territoris de llengua i cultura catalanes* (Foundations for a dictionary of journalists and columnists, both general and specialised, in the Catalan language and culture territories).

During the second phase of this project, the study of the materials has progressed parallel to the research programme led by Dr Jaume Guillamet Lloveras, a member emeritus of the IEC and full professor emeritus of the UPF, as part of the calls for applications of the Scientific Secretariat of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans. This project is complementary, from the Catalan perspective, to the studies currently or previously conducted by researchers from other geographic and cultural settings with whom we maintain academic exchanges or who have contributed to this project: Dr José Ignacio Armentia (Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea/Universidad del País Vasco), Dr Mercedes Roman (Universidade de Vigo), Dr Fernando Martínez Vallvey (Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca), Dr Concha Edo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) and Dr Fernando López Pan (Universidad de Navarra).

This research project has also had occasional expert contributions from other scholars who are members of the Section, including Dr Joan Egea, full member of the Law area; Dr Carles Gasòliba, member emeritus of the Economics area; and the corresponding IEC member Dr Josep Maria Murià, an expert in Catalan journalism in exile and emigration to Mexico. Professor Claudio Avendaño has also contributed on Catalan journalism in exile and emigration to Chile.

1. Development

This is an open project that is currently ongoing which aims to further the studies already conducted in order to implement the changes and improvements determined and to contribute new results to the *Diccionari històric de periodistes catalans*, which is published digitally by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans.

This online project has been available open-access since 16 September 2020 and was presented in the plenary session of the Philosophy and Social Sciences Section of the IEC held on 8 November 2020. Based on the indexes developed in previous years, the project director and coordinator commission studies which materialise in personal articles-entries on each author written by experts in each period or genre, including the coordinator and project director of the aforementioned digital dictionary.

New phases in the project are planned in 2022 in order to expand the current body of the *Diccionari històric de periodistes catalans* to 50 biographies. If financing is received, this project may well lead to printed editions of two books, which would include the results written with both scholarly and general-readership criteria, which would provide and transfer new knowledge and information to society: 1) a historical biographic dictionary of general and specialised journalists in the Catalan language and culture areas; 2) a historical anthology of journalistic texts from the Catalan language and culture areas, compared to journalistic texts from other linguistic and cultural areas that refer to Catalonia and to current journalistic texts. The conception of this second book would support one of basic intellectual pursuits of comparative literature: to study all literary textual objects by comparing them with other elements constitutive of a culture or cultures (Chevrel, 1982).

The current applied research project, whose complete title is *Diccionari històric de periodistes generalistes i especialitzats de l'àmbit dels territoris de llengua i cultura catalanes* (Historical Dictionary of General and Specialised Journalists in the Catalan Language and Culture Areas), and which is now in its sixth phase, is based on the results of the Research Assistance award entitled *Classificació temàtica i anàlisi històrica d'obra periodística catalana especialitzada en ciències socials i experimentals* (Thematic classification and historical analysis of Catalan journalistic works specialised in the social and experimental sciences), which was awarded to this project in the 2016 call for applications issued by the Philosophy and Social Sciences Section of the IEC. It is also based on the results of the Research Assistance award entitled *Bases d'un diccionari de periodistes i articulistes, generalistes i especialitzats, en els territoris de llengua i cultura catalanes (segona fase)* (Foundations for a dictionary of journalists and columnists, both general and specialised, in the Catalan language and culture territories [Second phase]), which was awarded to this project in the 2017 call for applications issued by the Philosophy and Social Sciences Section of the IEC.

The substantive and documentary contributions from this research project from 2016 and subsequent years appear in the documents attached to the reports on results which were submitted to the Philosophy and Social Sciences Section of the IEC in January 2017, January 2018 and January 2019. As a whole, and with constant additions, they comprise a specific, essential database which materialises the first six phases in the project with the work from 2016 to 2021.

It should be noted that the academic conception of the project is complementary to and was conducted in coordination with the research directed by Dr Jaume Guillaumet as part of the annual calls for applications from the Scientific Secretariat of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans.

2. Research team

Regarding the previous research and publications of the team in research in the field of Catalan journalism, I have been publishing the results of their fieldwork on the evolution and critical history of genres and authors in books and articles in journals and newspapers since 1996, after extensive research experience in analytical hemerography since 1972 (*Ideologia y análisis de medios*, Dopesa, four reissues until 1998) and in journalism theory since 1981 (*La premsa actual. Introducció als models de diari*, co-authored with Xavier Roig, Edicions 62, Xarxa d'Assaig Award, 1980).

With regard to the concrete, specific topic, I have published the following works: *El periodisme a Catalunya* (Plaza & Janés, 1988); *Periodisme que ha fet història* (Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya, 1991); *Periodística catalana comparada* (Pòrtic. Barcelona, 1993); *Artículos que dejaron huella* (Ariel. Barcelona, 1994); *Periodisme català que ha fet història* (Proa. Barcelona 1996); *Artículos que dejaron huella* (Ariel. Second expanded edition, Barcelona, 1998); and *Crònica d'un país. 15 articles imprescindibles* (Dèria. Barcelona, 2011).

Dr Josep Francesc Salgado de Dios from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, who has a PhD in journalism and a bachelor's in philosophy and education, is a researcher serving as the coordinator of the research project team, who is responsible for processing the data and executing the online work in terms of statistics and computer applications. Dr Salgado is the editor of the three volumes of the complete journalistic works of Manuel Vázquez Montalban (Debate, 2010, 2011, 2012), the scientific director of the second volume of the *Història del periodisme de Catalunya* (Sàpiens Publicacions, 2016) and the former coordinator of the XV Congrés d'Història de Barcelona, whose 2017 edition focused on the press.

Because Dr Salgado has a university degree in education, his work as the coordinator and qualified researcher enhances the interdisciplinary nature of the objectives of the research into general and specialised Catalan journalism in both the social and experimental sciences.

In addition to Francesc Salgado as the director and coordinator, the academic research and dissemination team is comprised of professors Esther Lázaro, Lluís Costa, Josep Maria Figueres and Jaume Guillamet.

This is an independent IEC project and therefore is not part of any project being carried out at IEC-affiliated universities or research centres. However, the programme is enriched within the Section by contributions from the other fields, such as philosophy and the human and social sciences, as well as from other sections within the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, an organisation which already offers the *Diccionari d'historiadors de l'art català, valencià i balear* (2013-2021) in digital format, a platform similar to this *Diccionari històric de periodistes catalans* (2020-2022).

3. Theoretical framework

In the field of Catalan literature, specifically in specific dictionaries of writers and journalists, there was an early contribution from scholars in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, namely a project to create a dictionary of Catalan authors by Ignasi Torres and Amat de Palou. Its draft—with information on more than 1,000 writers—was collected and completed by the brother of the former, Fèlix Torres, and Amat de Palou in *Memorias para ayudar a formar un diccionario crítico de los escritores catalanes y dar alguna idea de la antigua y moderna literatura de Cataluña* (Barcelona, 1836). This book was the outcome of a lengthy process in which materials converged from a range of catalogues (Bosc, Nicolás Antonio, Marcillo, Serra i Postius and others), along with notes from Pau Ignasi de Dalmases i Ros, which were expanded by Josep Finesres from the Universitat de Cervera and compiled by Josep de Vega i Sentmenat. However, the most substantive early contribution was the handwritten bibliographic repertoire by Jaume Caresmar and Josep Martí. According to Pep Valsalobre, 'the specific creation of the *Memorias*—as it was initially entitled—had been undertaken by Ignasi Torres and Amat de Palou in 1798, based on the collection of the Biblioteca Pública Episcopal de Barcelona' (Valsalobre, 2008).

These forerunners of historical scientific literature in the fields of registral, historical and descriptive hemerography, subsequent to the 1836 work by Fèlix Torres and Amat de Palou, include other scholars published in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who made noteworthy or substantial specialised contributions, such as Juan Corminas with the *Suplemento a las memorias para ayudar a formar un diccionario crítico de los escritores catalanes y dar alguna idea de la antigua y moderna literatura de Cataluña que en 1836 publicó el Excmo. e Ilmo. Señor Don Félix Torres Amat* (Burgos, 1849), Josep Pella i Forgas with *Periodisme. Estudis històrics del de Catalunya* (Barcelona, 1879), Enric Claudi Girbal with *El periodismo en Gerona* (Girona, 1894), Antonio Elías de Molins with *El periodisme en Cataluña desde mediados del siglo XVII* (Madrid, 1899), Joan Givanel i Mas with *Bibliografia catalana. Premsa* (Barcelona, 1931-1937) and Joan Torrent and Rafael Tasis with *Història de la Premsa Catalana* (Barcelona, 1966).

In the literature on the journalistic genres and authors, biographical journalism and general anthologies on journalists within the Catalan and Spanish linguistic domains, referents in the conception of the *Diccionari històric de periodistes catalans* project or its database include the classic works *Ensayo de un catálogo de periodistas españoles del siglo XIX* by Manuel Ossorio y Bernard (Madrid, 1903-1904); *Estudis i crítica de Periodisme* by Josep Alemany i Borràs (Barcelona, 1917); *Antología de Literatura Periodística Española* by Nicolás González Ruiz (Madrid, 1934); *La premsa catalana del vuit-cents* by Josep Maria Miquel i Vergés (Barcelona, 1937); *Periodismo y Literatura* by José Acosta Montoro (Madrid, 1973); *Catálogo de periodistas españoles del siglo XX* by Antonio López de Zuazo Algar (Madrid, 1980-1981); and the *Diccionari de la Literatura Catalana*, with Àlex Broch as the academic editor (Barcelona, 2008).

Within this same theoretical framework but in the contemporary British and Anglo-American linguistic domains, referents include William Emrys Williams with *A Book of English Essays* (London, 1948-1951), Tom Wolfe and E. W. Johnson with *The New Journalism* (London, 1975) and Lauren Kessler with *The Dissident Press. Alternative Journalism in American History* (London, 1984).

4. Research methodology

The methods used in this research are associated with an updated positivist tradition in the humanities and social sciences, specifically journalism studies grounded in different branches of hemerography (historical, analytical, registral, descriptive and comparative) and in journalistic practices, with a particular stress on reception studies within the German constructivist current (Schmidt, 1979).

With regard to comparative studies, the methods inherent to journalistic hemerography and precepts are complemented with the consolidated methods used in the field of comparative literature, a specialisation which has many affinities with comparative journalism because of its nature and subject of study.

In 2022, the working plan was bolstered by adapting the results of the database from the first through fourth phases to the formats designed specifically for the *Diccionari històric de periodistes generalistes i especialitzats de l'àmbit dels territoris de llengua i cultura catalanes*.

To further the work from the previous phases in order to complete the changes and improvements determined, the fieldwork in periodicals libraries in Catalonia and Spain continued throughout 2022 with the collaboration of the aforementioned researchers from a variety of Spanish universities and exchanges of specific information at conferences. This research was also conducted in the collections of two Latin American countries with large press output from the Catalan diaspora and exiles: Mexico and Chile.

The planning and work calendar for 2022 have been implemented throughout the year, including the update and expansion of the historical inventory of authors and the operative index of the *Diccionari històric de periodistes catalans*, and my daily publication of the results of the basic research conducted in conventional and digital periodicals libraries in the newspaper *ARA*, to fulfil the academic duty to transfer knowledge to society—in this case constantly, every day and immediately.

Once the entire database was designed in Excel—which can be transformed into any other format—inclusion criteria were drawn up, which in this project have tentatively taken into consideration journalists who died prior to 31 December 2017 or were born before 1940, and those born in Catalonia or who have worked much of their career (at least three years) in the regions falling within this study. In certain cases, we have also included important work done outside Catalonia.

The *Diccionari històric de periodistes catalans* currently includes 208 entries in article form, 156 of which cover men and 52 women. Regarding the taxonomy of sections and specialisations, although there are journalists who have worked in more than one area or section, society—including customs—dominates with 100 references, followed by politics (85), opinion (72), culture (51), local news (48), international news (19), show business or the performing arts (10), sport (8), miscellaneous (5), science (4), economics (2) and design (1).

5. Future continuity of the research and the project

Regarding the future calendar of the project, which encompasses 2022 and 2023, there are plans to write more entries in the guise of articles for each of the authors chosen and to prepare a possible printed edition of the systematically described dictionary and the anthology. It goes without saying that fulfilment of the objectives and calendar is subject to the budget availability and the allocation of resources in the forthcoming calls for applications for research projects in the Philosophy and Social Sciences Section of the IEC.

Because of the budget limitations and cuts in the previous annual phases of this project, it has not been possible to completely meet all the goals outlined in the forms corresponding to the successive calls for applications for research assistance financed by the IEC. However, progress continues to be made in the hemerographic research and in the data exchange and collaboration formulas which facilitate participation in international journalism conferences organised by the Sociedad Española de Periodística.

In this vein, the 2022 calendar has included the project director's participation in the XXVIII Congreso Internacional de la Sociedad Española de Periodística (SEP), which met in Valencia

on 9 and 10 June 2022. Just as in previous editions, attendance at this event made it possible to compare and complement this Catalan research with what is being done by researchers from universities in the Basque Country, Vigo, Navarra, the Universidad Pontificia of Salamanca and the Universidad Complutense of Madrid, some of whom we have already mentioned.

For 2023 and 2024, there are plans to embark on new phases in the project which could lead to progress in the digital and printed edition of the two aforementioned books based on the results, using criteria that are both academic and aimed at a general readership, which will provide new knowledge and information in an exercise that will reinforce the goal of fulfilling the essential scholarly duty to transfer knowledge to society: 1) Historical biographical dictionary of general and specialised journalists in the Catalan language and culture territories; 2) Historical anthology of journalistic texts from the Catalan language and culture territories, compared to journalistic texts from other linguistic and cultural areas which refer to Catalonia and to current journalistic texts.

See bibliographic references in the Catalan version of the article.