SOLUTION JOURNALISM - NEW TRENDS IN THE CURRENT STYLE OF REPORTING PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The world of journalism is constantly evolving, with emerging practices and research trends. The purpose of this article is to learn about the birth and analyze the role of constructivist journalism in society and current trends in research and practice. Recently, many press agencies have noticed a trend in reporting style and redirected their efforts to change it. This new style is called solution journalism or constructive journalism.

Method: This article systematically investigates the genesis, evolution, role, and emergent development trends of tectonic journalism, contextualizing it within the broader landscape of contemporary journalism research, practices, and development prospects. In doing so, it sheds light on how tectonic journalism is reshaping the field of journalism, and how it can be used to address the complex challenges facing journalism today.

Results and discussion: Many journalism practice agencies and academic researchers have been studying and practicing this approach. For example, a 2017 report by the Solutions Journalism Network found that over 3,000 journalists have received formal training in solutions journalism. Therefore, they are making it an increasingly popular and influential movement in the industry.

Originality: This article is a vanguard for diversifying constructivist journalism research and promoting scientifically sound practices. It provides a much-needed platform for emerging voices and perspectives, and it challenges the status quo with rigor and evidence.

Keywords: solution journalism, constructive journalism, negative news.

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SOLUTION JOURNALISM - NOVAS TENDÊNCIAS NO ESTILO ATUAL DE PRÁTICAS DE RELATÓRIOS

RESUMO

Propósito: O mundo do jornalismo está em constante evolução, com práticas emergentes e tendências de pesquisa. O objetivo deste artigo é aprender sobre o nascimento e analisar o...
papel do jornalismo construtivista na sociedade e as tendências atuais em pesquisa e prática. Recentemente, muitas agências de imprensa perceberam uma tendência no estilo de reportagem e redirecionaram seus esforços para mudá-lo. Esse novo estilo é chamado de jornalismo de solução ou jornalismo construtivo.

**Método:** Este artigo investiga sistematicamente a gênese, evolução, papel e tendências de desenvolvimento emergentes do jornalismo tectônico, contextualizando-o dentro da paisagem mais ampla da pesquisa jornalística contemporânea, práticas e perspectivas de desenvolvimento. Ao fazer isso, ele lança luz sobre como o jornalismo tectônico está remodelando o campo do jornalismo, e como ele pode ser usado para lidar com os complexos desafios que o jornalismo enfrenta hoje.

**Resultados e discussão:** muitas agências de prática de jornalismo e pesquisadores acadêmicos vêm estudando e praticando essa abordagem. Por exemplo, um relatório de 2017 da Rede de Jornalismo de Soluções constatou que mais de 3 mil jornalistas receberam treinamento formal em jornalismo de soluções. Portanto, eles estão tornando-se um movimento cada vez mais popular e influente na indústria.

**Originalidade:** Este artigo é uma vanguarda para diversificar a pesquisa de jornalismo construtivista e promover práticas cientificamente sólidas. Ela fornece uma plataforma muito necessária para vozes e perspectivas emergentes, e desafia o status quo com rigor e evidência.

**Palavras-chave:** jornalismo de solução, jornalismo construtivo, notícias negativas.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The world of journalism is constantly evolving, with emerging practices and research trends. Recently, many press agencies have noticed a trend in reporting style and redirected their efforts to change it. This new style is called solution journalism or constructive journalism. Solution journalism has emerged as a powerful tool to counter the negative news cycle that dominates the media landscape. It is a new approach to journalism that focuses on solutions and not just problems. The idea is to highlight the positive work done in communities worldwide that make a real difference. This type of reporting helps to inspire people to take action and make positive changes in their lives. The birth of solution journalism is a welcome change in a world where negative news seems to be the norm. This approach focuses on positive ideas, stories, and images that can help solve problems and create a future-oriented society rather than just focusing on the negative. It is believed that negative news media can cause fear and insecurity in the public's hearts. While social media may be utilized for purposes such as information gathering, interaction, fashion, entertainment, and education, it can also, for instance, negatively affect value judgments (Gbadeyan, B. T. And Bayrakktar, U. A. 2023). Solution journalism gives people hope and shows that good things are happening. As more journalists embrace this new approach, we can expect to see more stories of hope.
and positivity that will help make the world better. Many journalism practice agencies and academic researchers have been studying and practicing this approach. For example, a 2017 report by the Solutions Journalism Network found that over 3,000 journalists have received formal training in solutions journalism. Therefore, they are making it an increasingly popular and influential movement in the industry. The article will briefly introduce the birth and concept of solution journalism with current research trends, practices, and development prospects.

2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Western media often focuses more on negative than positive information (Soroka, 2014), and this trend is increasing (Van der Meer et al., 2019). Moreover, in some Western countries, the public often diverts and avoids news when it makes them feel negative, and they do not trust the media (Newman et al., 2019). So the term Solution journalism or constructive journalism was born.

Solution journalism is also known as constructive journalism because it has the main prominent aspects of the constructive or solution-oriented role, which focuses on promoting and solving social problems for social progress. Because the media contributes to shaping society, when choosing to report on problems in society, the press needs to look more positively or focus on solutions rather than a negative approach like many news agencies have carried out in the past.

The term "constructive journalism" did not initially come from literary journalism but initially emerged as a strategic term of a reformist movement. According to Kruger (2017), "constructive journalism " comes from the New York-based news service operation in 1948 called Good News Bulletin. This service focuses on successful projects, positive methods, and ways to focus on that issue. In 1959, the term "Constructive journalism" appeared for the second time with the publication of "The muckrakers and the Growth of corporate power: A Study in constructive journalism" by David Chalmers.

By the 2010s, constructivist journalism re-emerged, especially in North America and Western Europe. The solution press, the constructive press, has received special attention from organizations such as the University of Science and Technology. For example, the Windesheim School of Applied Sciences (Netherlands) has integrated constructivist journalism courses into its curriculum since late 2015. Alternatively, the European Broadcasting Union (European Broadcasting) Union - EBU) has been training
courses on constructive journalism since 2014. Constructive Journalism Network (in 2017), or The Institute for Constructivism at Aarhus University (Denmark), was founded by Ulrik Haagerup in 2017 with the aim of "changing the global news culture - helping journalism support democracy" or Solution Journalism network was established in the US by David Bornstein and Tina Rosenberg in 2013, the Constructive Journalism project, was established in London (UK) in 2014.

Therefore, solution journalism or constructive journalism aims to create knowledge to solve societal problems by understanding. The "traditional" press is suitable for pointing out the wrong and harmful, with the hope that the public will correct it, but the Solution press points out the right problems in the hope that people can imitate them. Therefore, constructive journalism will push newsrooms to move away from sensational, adverse, and extreme news with solutions to solve social problems. At that time, the press, in general, will contribute to social construction; the public will better understand an issue in society.

The journalism solution is expected to help improve the quality of journalism, encourage the participation of communities, and promote the vigorous development of groups. Information community through introducing social groups that are doing well in solving social problems. Solution journalism also has a public-oriented view and is considered by many journalism researchers; they aim to orient the public and seek to provide implementation and future-oriented solutions to current societal issues. Therefore, journalists have a vital role because they convey news to the public and influence the public. Therefore, solution journalism requires journalists to deeply understand the problem to lead and create knowledge with the public to solve the problem. In addition, solution journalism also contributes to reducing bias, bringing more positive emotions in journalists' reporting when describing existing events, events, or problems. Besides, the solution journalism is also a necessary and urgent change because the degeneration of event-driven journalism will cause many consequences for society, fear of deviations in social perception. Society and the public have gradually become "bored" with press news.

3 METHODOLOGY

To answer this question, we used the same methodology presented in another article with a similar objective. The first step was to collect comments on posts about the
basic theme of the research and then carry out their content analysis (Pedro Brentan Pimenta de Souza, 2023).

This article systematically investigates the genesis, evolution, role, and emergent development trends of tectonic journalism, contextualizing it within the broader landscape of contemporary journalism research, practices, and development prospects. In doing so, it sheds light on how tectonic journalism is reshaping the field of journalism, and how it can be used to address the complex challenges facing journalism today.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
4.1 RESEARCH AND PRACTICE TRENDS

Recent studies show a decline in public interest in traditional news outlets like newspapers and television, possibly due to the constant exposure to negative stories that can lead to compassion fatigue. However, a new trend known as solution journalism or constructive journalism is emerging in reporting practices. McIntyre and Sobel (2017) describe constructive journalism as "actively promoting social welfare." As a constructive role, the primary purpose of journalism is to create a path to a better society by providing solutions to ongoing problems.

Alternatively, coherent, compelling coverage includes positive and solution-focused elements to empower audiences and present a fuller picture of the truth while maintaining functions and core ethics of journalism (Tanja Aitamurto & Anita Varma, 2018). By shifting towards a more constructive approach, journalists can reduce bias and bring positive emotions to their reporting. This approach requires journalists to deeply understand the issues and work with the public to create knowledge and solve these problems. The basic idea of constructive journalism is to solve problems and to inspire the public. Therefore, journalism is becoming increasingly important to prevent a decline in public interest in news and ensure that the public remains engaged and informed.

Recent studies show a decline in public interest in traditional news outlets like newspapers and television, possibly due to the constant exposure to negative stories that can lead to compassion fatigue. However, a new trend known as solution journalism or constructive journalism is emerging in reporting practices. McIntyre and Sobel (2017) describe constructive journalism as "an active participant in promoting social welfare." As a constructive role, the primary purpose of journalism is to create a path to a better society by providing solutions to ongoing problems. Alternatively, "Coherent, compelling
coverage includes positive and solution-focused elements to empower audiences and present a fuller picture of the truth while maintaining functions and core ethics of journalism” (Tanja Aitamurto & Anita Varma, 2018). By shifting towards a more constructive approach, journalists can reduce bias and bring positive emotions to their reporting. This approach requires journalists to deeply understand the issues and work with the public to create knowledge and solve these problems. The basic idea of constructive journalism is to solve problems and to inspire the public. It is becoming increasingly important in journalism to prevent a decline in public interest in news and ensure that the public remains engaged and informed. According to the survey results of several media agencies in Germany, including editors-in-chief and journalists by authors Uwe Krüger, Markus Beiler & et al., the field of constructivist journalism in Germany is relatively new. When asked what year journalists began to report constructive news, more than half said it was after 2010. Although the survey above The implementation is relatively small in scope and relatively new in the field of journalism in Germany but is diverse in age, high level of education...

Regarding the orientation of the role of journalists with solution journalism, the level of implementation is relatively small. The level of understanding about the role of solution journalism still needs to be higher among journalists who need to learn or learn about solution journalism. Journalists with knowledge of solution journalism and constructive journalism clearly show a strong desire to practice reporting more constructively than journalists who do not know about constructive journalism. Because solution journalism, constructive journalism acts as a watchdog for the political and business elites, motivating people to participate and contribute to progressive social change. Still, Solutions Journalism Network says: Solution journalism is Accurate reporting of reactions to social problems (Walth et al., 2019). Solution journalism has a theoretical background in psychology. Solution journalism or constructive journalism, in particular, and journalism, in general, are all related to applying psychological techniques to news production processes to create efficiency and bring compelling news while remaining true to the core function of journalism.

Journalists must always strive to uphold social responsibility and ensure that our reporting is in the best interest of society. Therefore, it is essential to consider whether the journalists act in society's best interest during the reporting process. This question
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requires a thorough and complete examination to understand journalism's impact on our society.

Ough & McInty (2018) conducted a study to examine the position of journalists regarding solution journalism in their practices and news production habits. The authors interviewed 14 journalists to gain insights into their perception of solution journalism and how it has influenced their thinking and news production habits. The survey results indicate that journalists are open to incorporating solutions into their reporting, but only when there are social reactions. They believe that solution journalism is a topical issue but faces the same challenges that journalism faces. The study found that adopting a solution approach changes their thought processes, but their reporting habits remain unchanged. The authors conclude that editorial staff plays a significant role in enabling or obstructing the application of solutions to journalism. To make journalistic solutions a goal worth pursuing, journalists must think more ab.

Cai Wen (2021) looked from a historical perspective to analyze the Chinese press as a constructivist and how it has changed with the development of media and technological progress. Research results show that the "constructive" nature of the Chinese press is reflected in the following issues: directly participates in public governance by cooperating with the government; Monitor public power and aims to find solutions to problems; Actively intervenes and helps solve people's livelihood problems; mobilize and organize the public with constantly updated strategies and methods; and established consulting organizations to expand services. From there, the authorities and the public can choose appropriate solutions to overcome their problems. Moreover, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit Africa, it was a sign of despair in finding and using information. Out of that need for access to information, many African media have attempted to respond to the public's information needs by covering a variety of stories that occurred during the pandemic. Cajetan et al. (2021) argue that, in Nigeria, broadcasting media campaigns have caused much panic for 85% of Imo state residents while within the survey scope. However, this medium remains a natural platform for authorities to educate the public about COVID-19.

Mohammed Abdullateef was surveyed in 2022 to assess the need for solutions journalism in crisis management in the public sector. The study focused on media coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa, specifically in four regions: Nigeria, Kenya, Sudan, and South Africa. The survey examined the media's reporting from 2020
to 2021, focusing on the Social Responsibility of Mass Communication theory. Research findings indicate that while the media in Africa provided updates on the pandemic to increase health protection practices, they often overlooked the role of social responsibility in reporting on solutions to social problems. Instead, they focused on sensational stories, which can create confusion and discord and harm society.

The study sheds some light on the fact that some African media organizations still need to adequately deliver the news stories requested by the public on issues as crucial as the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, they mainly treat Covid-19 stories as daily news and occasionally report them sensationaly. The results of a study of surveyed African media show that these communicators mainly present general information about the pandemic, some of which have been identified as causing panic and panic. As a result, it can make the public indifferent to recent stories about the covid-19 pandemic and lead to a loss of public trust in the media.

The press plays a crucial role in society, especially during times of crisis. The press can become a constructive force that promotes equality and positivity by highlighting solutions and positive developments. This has been particularly evident during the pandemic, as the press has played a citizen-oriented role in fighting the virus and promoting effective solutions. Solution journalism is a powerful tool that can help us communicate more effectively during epidemics and crises, and it must be studied and utilized on a large scale. Ultimately, the press is responsible for informing and inspiring, and by prioritizing solutions, we can build a better, more resilient society.

Karen McIntyre and Cathrine Gyldensted in Constructive Journalism: Applying Positive Psychology Techniques to News Production⁴ (2017) states that most agencies and news agencies are dominated by how they convey opposing and conflicting information. Because negative information can have a more substantial, longer-lasting impact on the individual's emotions and psychology. At the same time, journalists attract the public with negative information that can harm the public, such as humanity, tolerance to help people diminished towards strangers, personal feelings affect the psychological state, People losing trust in the country's leaders, Sketching a society full of evil, danger...

According to Geri Weis-Corbley, a former TV reporter and founder of the online newspaper Good News Network Positive, news can improve our lives by bringing

⁴ The Journal of Media Innovations, pp 20-34
emotional happiness, health, and even prosperity.\(^5\) As the public constantly criticizes the media for conveying too much negative news, Karen Elizabeth McIntyre & Rhonda Gibson (2016) surveyed to examine the impact of story value. Positive and negative, Optimism affects how much interest is in the story, thoughts about happiness, and intentions to share. The survey was conducted with 307 workers in the US, including 65\% male and 74\% white (9\% Asian and 8\% African-American). The average age is 32, although there is a high variation in age 18 to 72. Workers are spread across the United States, with about a quarter from the Northeast, Southeast, and West. They are well-educated: 38\% have a bachelor's degree, 29\% attend some college, 13\% graduate from high school, 10\% have a college degree, and 9\% complete a graduate program. The survey results show that positive value is essential to reader influence, in which positive news makes readers feel better. In addition, the findings suggest that a critical story highlighting the positive outcome of an adverse event helps the media reap the emotional benefits of the company. They are about positive news.

I found exciting research by Karen McIntyre and Rhonda Gibson (2016) on why people enjoy reading positive news stories. However, their study only exposed participants to a single news story, limiting our understanding of the impact of receiving positive and negative news over time. While their study does explore the pleasure and influence of positive versus negative news, it does not touch on how media evaluation can affect readers' access to news. Additionally, a more recent study by Karen McIntyre and Cathrine Gyldensted in 2017 shows that news agencies and newspapers tend to disseminate opposing and conflicting information. Negative information tends to have a more powerful and lasting impact on people's emotions and psychology. Unfortunately, journalists often attract readers with negative information that can harm society in many ways, such as diminishing humanity, tolerance, and trust towards strangers, affecting people's psychological state, and eroding trust in the country's leaders.

Karen McIntyre and Cathrine Gyldensted (2017) have proposed the application of psychology to reporting techniques for children. Solutions journalism to make news articles more effective but still retain the core function of journalism. Karen McIntyre and Cathrine Gyldensted suggest redirecting news coverage by creating better, more exciting

stories to attract readers rather than negative, pessimistic news, although reporting negative warnings is necessary. In this article, the above two authors have proposed five positive psychology techniques that can be applied in the news production process of journalism solutions to create effective, attractive communication products. Lead into the whole story context to influence the public, such as: Applying the psychological model of happiness in positive psychology to the news production process; Evoke positive emotions in the news even if it is negative; using constructive, constructive interview techniques; Focusing on solutions to social problems...

It is believed that negative news media can cause fear and insecurity in the public's hearts. So, solution journalism focuses on positive ideas, stories, and images that can help solve problems and create a future-oriented society rather than just focusing on the negative.

4.2 DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS OF SOLUTION JOURNALISM

Lough & McInty (2018), which discusses the concept of solution journalism. According to them, this type of journalism is similar to investigative reporting but with an added step of finding existing solutions. They also suggest that journalists find this type of journalism appealing for covering a wide range of topics. Finally, the authors argue that solution journalism has a crucial role in shaping the future of journalism, as it can create news that is not only informative but also compassionate and engaging to readers.

As per Soroka's (2014) research, Western media usually tends to focus on negative news more than positive news, which is on the rise, as per Van der Meer et al. (2019). However, according to Hermans & Prins (2020), the public has a "preference" for constructive news over negative news. Given the context of an overwhelming amount of sensational and negative information, the public prioritizes positive news. This is where solution and constructive journalism come in, as they seek to offer solutions and promote social change, making it the preferred choice of the public.

The research and practice of solution journalism and constructive journalism will still depend heavily on the strategy of changing the reporting style of many newsrooms. However, solution journalism and constructive journalism will probably be the preferred choice in the trend of reporting practices of many newsrooms to meet the information needs of readers and create a society in the coming time. Therefore, solutions or
constructivist journalism has gained a foothold in many news agencies worldwide, such as *The Christian Science Monitor*, which created the "Let us take action" section combining journalism and social mobilization. This news agency's motto is "Beyond fear, beyond anger. Real news, real hope ". Still, The US online news site *Huffington Post* with a column "Life" or the US online news site *Good news network* also specializes in publishing positive news with an encouraging trend. Moreover, solution journalism has received special attention from organizations such as Constructive Journalism Network (in 2017) and Architectural Institute of Aarhus University in Denmark, also established in 2017 with the aim of the goal of "changing the global news culture – helping journalism to support democracy" or Constructive Journalism project, was founded in London (UK) in 2014, the Solution Journalism network was founded by David Bornstein, and Tina Rosenberg founded in the US in 2013.

Solution journalism is a method under development in which journalists not only seek and report on a problem but also seek solutions and solve those problems. It is a method of finding, analyzing, and reporting on the effectiveness of solutions to solve societal problems such as poverty, migration, epidemics, corruption, etc. On the other hand, constructive media /journalism focuses on information about issues. It conveys messages about people, communities, agencies, and organizations taking practical actions and jobs to solve that problem. Solution journalism or Constructive journalism aims to provide readers with a holistic view of a problem and encourage them to participate and support solutions others work on.

5 CONCLUSION

Lately, solution journalism has changed how we consume news. Solution journalism focuses on stories that offer solutions to problems rather than just reporting on the issues themselves. This is a promising development in the world of journalism. Readers can be easy to get bogged down in all the negativity and despair dominating the news cycle. However, by highlighting stories of real people making a difference in their communities or finding innovative solutions to complex problems, solution journalism can help inspire and motivate readers to get involved and make a positive impact. Of course, like any new approach, there are bound to be challenges and obstacles to overcome.
For one thing, solution journalism requires a different set of skills and resources than traditional reporting. Journalists need to be able to identify and research stories that offer solutions, and they need to be able to tell those stories compellingly and engagingly. At the same time, there is also the risk of oversimplifying complex issues or glossing over important details to pursue a feel-good story. Solution journalism should not be a way to ignore or minimize the real challenges and struggles people face. Solution journalism can change how we consume news and inspire us to take action and make a positive difference in the world.
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