

The Field of Local Journalism in Constanța: Profession as Metaphor

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Abstract: *The Romanian media sector was one of the first spheres of practice to go private after 1989, but as well one of the most hit by the economic crisis after 2008. In the early nineties, to be a journalist represented a great opportunity; to be a journalist now is at least problematic (Petre 2009; Surugiu 2013). The research aims to empirically analyse the journalistic field at the level of the city of Constanța, Romania in 2018-2019. The context of the local media is one of decline after a period of effervescence (Tocitu, 2019). The empirical evidence points to a rather limited professionalization of the field in terms of education. Most of decision-making positions are occupied by male journalists with unspecialised education, and most of entry positions by female journalists with specialised degrees. At the same time, the journalists under study are mainly under the age of fifty, thus not having had experienced communist newsrooms. The most important professional values, shared by most of those interviewed are objectivity and a good command of the Romanian language; while of less importance appear to be the sources of information. The internal fragmentation of the work conditions within the field of local media, with contracts ranging from permanent with no exclusivity clause, to copyright with exclusivity clause have the capacity to structure different power positions, and very different opportunities for action and professional autonomy*

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