

“The Fabricated File” as Object of Study. Limits and Opportunities for Investigative Journalism in a New Democracy

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Abstract: *The present article analyzes journalistic investigations to observe the difference between investigative journalism as an ideal type of professionalism and other unprofessional practices in the field, such as investigations that do not meet professional standards regarding information verification and are not initiated by the journalist. The research intends to examine the design of the "prefabricated dossier" in investigative journalism to understand if and how the media is instrumentalized. The hypothesis underlying this work is that, despite the efforts to professionalize the occupation, including investigative journalism, in Romania in recent decades, it is still characterized by weaknesses related to the manipulation of the press by external factors outside the system.*

Keywords: *investigative journalism; "prefabricated dossier"; media manipulation; public interest; journalistic investigation;*