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"A systematic review of constructive and solutions journalism research"

Excited to share this important new pub with [@kmcintyre3](https://twitter.com/kmcintyre3) where we take pause to evaluate what everyone has done and where the field needs to go!

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/14648849211044559> (findings discussed below)

We carried out a systematic review of 94 peer-reviewed journal publications, theses and dissertations, 2011-2020, that had solutions journalism and/or constructive journalism as a focus.

In short, we see the need for:

- 1) further internationalization, especially outside of US and Western Europe contexts
- 2) clear distinction in definitions of the two approaches
- 3) much more attention to theoretical/conceptual approaches and theory-building

**Key finding:** Bulk of the current focus is in the US and western Europe.

**Our recommendation:** Support further internationalization, including comparative studies. We included non-English publications but more can be done to address the English-language barrier of science.

**Key finding:** While solutions journalism is often placed under the umbrella of constructive journalism, the two are also frequently conflated.

**Our recommendation:** Alleviate confusion by sticking to the umbrella definition and highlight the distinctions between the two practices.

**Key finding:** A great mix of qualitative and quantitative methodological approaches

**Our recommendation:** We see room for more specific studies that look at news topics or news processes, as well as more theoretical/conceptual approaches.

Key finding: No clear front-runner in theoretical constructs, and often more of a theory review than theory testing/incorporation

Our recommendation: We need more theory-building and conceptual work. Peter Bro's Journalistic Compass framework offers a useful start.

We also list out all the journals that have published papers on constructive and/or solutions journalism, so if you're looking for a place to submit here is a great list!

**Table 1. Journals (multiple articles listed in parentheses)**

Journalism (15)  
Journalism Practice (15)  
Journalism Studies (4)  
Asian Journal of Communication (2)  
Digital Journalism (2)  
Electronic News (2)  
Journal of African Media Studies (2)  
Journal of Communication (2)  
African Journalism Studies  
Brazilian Journalism Research  
Cahiers du Journalisme  
Communication

We hope this paper serves as a useful guide for the growing number of scholars interrogating journalism through solutions and constructive frameworks! And that this snapshot shows how far we've come in such a short time.

As always, DM or email us if you are having trouble accessing the paper or don't have institutional access and PLEASE share your comments and questions!

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