
Introduction

Jesús Martin Barbero is the guest author for the 35th edition [vol. XIII (2)] of the QUADERNS DEL CAC, this time devoted entirely to the new dimensions of television and their potential to serve proximity or local communication, entitled "Proximity and distance on television".

Martin Barbero, a Colombian researcher and international pioneer in studying the cultural mediations of contemporary television, provides a broad reflection, from Latin America, on the complexity of the new television experiences ("Television: a question of spaces between proximities and distances"). Together with his remarkable paper on communicative democratisation, he believes that television is redefining its place in the threefold space "of networks, territories and heterotopias".

Given the relevant role of local television's different experiences and developments historically in Catalonia, we start this edition with a documented account by **Josep Àngel Guimerà** ("Policies for television, technological change and proximity in Catalonia") of the far-reaching transformation resulting from the roll-out of local DTT. For his part, **Àngel Badillo** provides a detailed map, by autonomous community, of the decisions and outcomes of digitalisation at a regional level ("Competition, crisis, digitalisation and the reorganisation of local television in Spain"). **Matilde Delgado** presents an overview of this area in the United States ("Public access television: television within reach"), examining the tradition and prospects of citizen participation channels under the central concept of public access. From Quebec, **Jean-Paul Lafrance** tackles the transformation in television under pressure from the internet ("Quebec's new television in the internet revolution"), highlighting features such as the focus on people's domestic and personal problems and commitment to the culture of immediacy. **Reinald Besalú** and **Frederic Guerrero-Solé** present a case study of the syndicated model of production employed by local television networks in Catalonia and distributed via the new IP architecture ("IP Syndication: Syndication and the new content distribution model in Catalan local TV networks"). And the monograph ends with a summary of the conclusions and operational goals of the fieldwork entitled "Diagnosis of local digital terrestrial television in Catalonia", carried out by commission by the Catalan Audiovisual Council during the months of September and October 2009.

The "Observatory" section includes articles by **Juana Gallego** and **Joaquim Capdevila**. Gallego presents the initial findings from her research into how paid sex is represented in the cinema by analysing the figure of the prostitute in over 200 films ("Cinema and prostitution: how prostitution is interpreted in cinematographic fiction"), while Capdevila's essay proposes and explains an approach to interpret television's impact on contemporary culture, rooted in the nature and tradition of the carnivalesque in social life ("Hypermodernity and the carnivalesque. Reality humour in television of change in the 20th and 21st centuries. Study proposal").

Finally, the QUADERNS DEL CAC has enhanced its review section in this edition by including reviews of seven new books.

Josep Gifreu
Director