

Marielle, Present!

The Complexity Of Ethics Between Politics And Everyday Life

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Abstract:

This article seeks resources to reflect on the hatred of Brazilian society that claims to be anti-racist, but shows a marked dispute between the right and the left. It looks at events like the death of Marielle to understand the relations with the society's ethics; it searches for news in major national and regional newspapers capable of promoting thoughts deeply rooted in the current system, which even affects interactions among peers, either bringing them closer or driving them apart. Based on the thoughts of authors who discuss ethics, particularly Vasquez, Morin, and Boff, the article seeks to understand the complexity of the perception crisis. Furthermore, the perspectives of these authors will serve as a foundation to demonstrate how neoliberal society entangles ecological thinking and disrupts the path to a sustainable society. In conclusion, this study reflects on new directions and the need for change to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, which dictate actions for well-being.

Keywords - Prevailing system; crisis of perception; sustainable society.

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I. Introduction

To reflect on the hatred that looms over Brazilian society, we need to place it in the context of a globalized society and within the framework of traditional media that report the interests of Brazilian capital investors. The text is based on authors who address ethics, such as the revolutionary Spinoza. Although he lived between 1632 and 1677, his philosophy is current, stating that humans are neither the cause nor the center of the world; they are merely part of a network of causality and implications that affect them directly and indirectly, interconnected - humans, animals, and the environment, each with their own singularity (SAWAIA, 2006, p. 81).

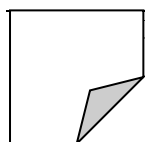
In Brazil, from the beginning of the 21st century, there have been aberrations that contradict this premise. Adverse situations demonstrate arrogance among humans, between humans and nature, oppression with a lack of democracy, respect, from which emerges a hatred that Boff (2018) claims comes from the era of slavery, from the bosses who subjected beautiful black slaves to sexual abuse, provoking "a silent rancor and deep hatred" from husbands and sons. On the other hand, the hatred of the bosses punished disobedient slaves with whippings.

Thus, according to Boff's thinking, from the coup of 2015, all past hatred was channeled. The path of anger began with the elections of 2003, then a feeling of deep aversion intensified after the 2014 election, which served as an obstacle to politicians who see themselves as the cause and center of the world. From there, contrary to Spinoza's philosophy, neo-fascism and anti-democratic actions emerge.

The news disseminated in newscasts and traditional media with a right-wing bias, capable of encouraging thoughts rooted in the current system, even affect the interaction among peers. Analogies are sought in authors with speeches on ethics to understand the complexity of the perception crisis. With the aim of reflecting on the hatred of Brazilian society, which claims to be anti-racist but presents a notorious dispute between right and left, this work seeks in this sentiment, relationships with the ethics of society.

It is in this context that we seek to collect news published in national and regional newspapers about the Marielle case and verify similarities or differences with the thinking of authors who discuss ethics, especially Vasquez (1968, 2006), Morin (2005), and Boff (2009), to understand the complexity of the perception crisis.

The argument presented in this article is related to the theme of the sentiment, commonly aroused in contemporary Brazilian society to understand the spread of such an arrogant feeling of hatred and anger in a country described as peaceful, docile, anti-racist, and joyful. Thus, developing a reflection in the form of self-



criticism of Brazilian society. Because Morin (2005) points out self-criticism to reach the ethics of tolerance, which presupposes a reconnection with the best of the human side that leads to understanding reality. He affirms that only by recognizing the other can one have the human capacity to improve as individuals and citizens.

This work is structured into five sections, including this introduction. The second section deals with the theoretical framework. Here, the conflicts of a rational capitalist society, highly consumerist and individualistic, which imposes problems, trivializes them, and fails to solve them, are linked to theories of ethics. Following that, there is an account of some historical events reported in the media that occur in Brazilian society, to confirm the hatred that the bourgeois and conservative right-wing class pours on people from the left, of all social classes. The third section describes the research methodology. In the fourth, the description and analysis of the data are presented. Finally, the fifth section is dedicated to considerations and recommendations.

II. Methodological Procedures

There's no magic formula for research, just as there's no perfect research, since it's a human product (RICHARDSON, 1999). It's not neutral, as it's imbued with the authors' experiences and perspectives. However, there are indeed paths that can be followed.

Based on the objectives outlined in the first section, as well as the concepts discussed in the theoretical framework, news reports from national and regional newspapers about the Marielle case are collected. The aim is to assess the alignment or divergence with ethics through the perspectives of authors Vasquez (1968, 2005), Morin (2005), and Boff (2009), in order to understand the complexity of the perception crisis. This section describes the trajectory taken and the procedures adopted in the research.

Thus, to study and gain a deeper understanding of the news about the tragic events involving Marielle, disseminated in newspapers, an exploratory, descriptive research with a qualitative-quantitative approach was conducted, utilizing content analysis.

In relation to the proposed objective, this research has an exploratory-descriptive nature, as highlighted by Triviños (1987), allowing for an in-depth study by the researcher, seeking antecedents to subsequently plan a descriptive or experimental research. In descriptive research, according to the author, the main focus is to understand the specificities of a community and accurately describe reality, phenomena, and facts, requiring the researcher to collect numerous information related to the object of study. In this article, the object of study consists of the printed newspapers *Folha de São Paulo* (FSP) and *Zero Hora* (ZH).

The former has a national circulation with a daily circulation of 301,206 newspapers (print and digital) (FSP, 2018), and the latter circulates in the southern region of Brazil, with a daily circulation of 100,900 newspapers (ZH, 2018). The period analyzed for the news reports was between March 15 and 21, 2018, covering 7 days after the deaths of Marielle Franco and Anderson Pedro Gomes.

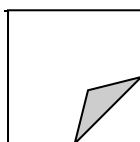
Regarding the procedures, the guidance of Cervo and Bervian (1983) was followed regarding the need to conduct a literature review to justify its limits and contributions, based on the cited authors Vasquez, Morin, and Boff.

Regarding the problem approach, the research is based on both quantitative and qualitative methods. According to Richardson et al (1989), quantitative research involves the use of quantification techniques ranging from simple techniques like percentages and averages to more complex ones. Studies employing qualitative methodology aim to describe and analyze problems experienced by social groups to contribute to the process of change.

By using content analysis, the aim was to follow Moraes' (1999) guidelines in seeking the authors' worldview linked to a certain social construction, and also that this practice necessarily implies questioning our own ways of making sense of things.

From the material collected in the aforementioned newspapers, analysis tables were developed, and based on their contents and their relationship with the research objectives, the analysis categories were constructed, namely: a) Political Terms; b) Proposing Agenda; c) Community Engagement; d) Objectivity Break; e) Public as Citizen; and f) Journalist as Participant. These categories were based on Cruz and Mattos' (2017) research, as follows:

- The category 'Political Terms' relates to articles containing words or expressions commonly used to give a political-party character to the report;
- The 'Proposing Agenda' category relates to articles that aim to present subjects proposing social well-being;
- Materials classified as 'Community Engagement' are those that had engagement with a specific social group: feminism, black, favela resident, mother, etc.;
- News classified as 'Objectivity Break' are those where the texts did not start with their specific themes;
- The 'Public as Citizen' category encompasses news that seeks to guide, inform, and explain more deeply, aiming to educate the reader;
- And finally, the 'Journalist as Participant' category includes articles in which the author offers their own opinion.



III. Result

This section intends to present the results of the study regarding the news coverage of the Marielle case in the newspapers FSP - Folha de São Paulo, with national circulation, and ZH - Zero Hora, with regional circulation, during the seven days following her death.

• Day 1 – March 15th (Thursday)

FSP: Published 1 article about the accident resulting in the death of councilwoman Marielle Franco and driver Anderson Pedro Gomes. For the purpose of this study, the news was categorized under "Political Terms". With a small headline "PSOL Councilwoman Shot Dead in North Zone of Rio," written by Rangel, Vettorazzo, and Franco, the case was reported to the readers in an insensitive manner, both politically and journalistically. The newspaper's detachment from communities and popular demonstrations, as shown in the news, was addressed three days later by the responsible ombudsman, Paula Cesarino Costa, as "timid, without temperature, excessively valuing the palace aspect, without dissecting the events before and after the crime."

ZH: Did not publish any news about the assassination.

• Day 2 – March 16th (Friday)

FSP: Presented 1 news article titled "Assassination of councilwoman in Rio impresses federal intervenors," authored by Marina Dias. It was categorized under "Political Terms," "Community Engagement," "Objectivity Break," and "Public as Citizen". The SHOTS that killed councilwoman Marielle Franco and driver Anderson Gomes took a while to awaken Folha. [...] The newspaper seemed unaware of the importance of the episode. [...] Folha took until Friday's edition to produce better quality material, offering readers in Rio (who receive the closed edition earlier) a newspaper with nothing more than what they had already read the day before. (COSTA, 2018).

ZH: Two days after the event, unlike FSP, ZH perceived the extent of the crime and published 11 news articles characterizing it as a political crime, with headlines like Limit; Shots silence Marielle, but voices spread; Assassination pressures for results; Jungmann says the action never aimed "to do magic"; Tributes and protests in Brazil and abroad; Attack on democracy and human rights; Brazil is not Colombia. But it needs to prove it; Barbarism without limits; Resist to exist; and, The path of barbarism. The news articles were categorized under "Political Terms", with 64% of the news articles (7) seeking to characterize Marielle by offering "Community Engagement". Three articles sought to explain the case in greater depth and educate the reader about violence, social movements, and human rights, as well as relate the murder to the harsh criticisms of the councilwoman regarding the federal intervention in Rio de Janeiro.

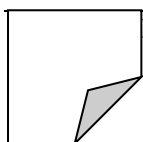
• Day 3 – March 17th (Saturday)

FSP: Only after the worldwide repercussion that the case brought, FSP published 7 articles covering details such as political crime, with titles like "Ammunition links Marielle's death in Rio to massacre in Osasco," "Threatened Democracy?", "Who killed, who ordered it?", "We failed," "Marielle Franco," "Bullets used in attack on councilwoman are from 2006 batch of Federal Police," and "Portuguese parliament condemns Marielle's murder." All the news in this edition of FSP had "Political Terms"; 71% of the news articles (5) sought to educate the reader about the case (origin of the ammunition used), democracy, social movements, and human rights, thus being classified as "Public as Citizen".

ZH: The weekend edition (March 17th and 18th) brought 4 news articles with the following headlines: "Councilwoman killed by bullets stolen from Federal Police," "Back to the streets," "The awakening," and "Marielle's deaths." All the articles were categorized under "Political Terms". The news articles "Back to the streets" by Carolina Bahia and "Marielle's deaths" by David Coimbra, although classified as "Objectivity Break" between the headline and the beginning of the text, sought to provide other evidence to the reader. Marielle was not a defender of criminals, nor did she die for it. On the contrary, she was so against criminals that they killed her. Who are these criminals? From the police? From the drug trade? It doesn't matter: they are criminals. If Marielle exaggerated in her criticism of the police, that is a secondary issue. The fundamental point is that she was a victim of criminals, and not by chance. It wasn't a robbery or a crime of passion: it was an execution carried out by professionals who probably did the job on order (COIMBRA, 2018).

• Day 4 – March 18th (Sunday)

FSP: Published 8 articles with titles like "Assassin Messages," "they buried a seed," "The bangs on the streets," "So many Edsons and Marielles," "Marielle, Manoel Fiel, and Riocentro," "Journey through the river of deaths," "Marielle, Carmem Miranda, 9mm," and "Country ranks among leaders in activist deaths." All the articles were categorized under "Political Terms." The report "The bangs on the streets" by Paula Cesarino Costa was characterized in all analysis categories. Thus, her text outlined the readers' opinion regarding the newspaper's



detachment from communities, in her words, "the newspaper needs to be more connected with what is happening on the streets, on social networks, outside formal and traditional institutions."

• Day 5 – March 19th (Monday)

FSP: Published 9 news articles in various sections. Titles included "At home," "The future of intervention," "The enemies of the people," "Those without bullet balls," "Temer, the Tropical Erdogan," "Tribute in salary could fund intervention," "The bullets that killed Marielle," "Marielle was a rare combination of social and political representation," and "Marielle." All the articles were categorized under "Political Terms."

ZH: Published only 2 news articles: "PSOL goes to court against fake news about Marielle" and "The Marielle effect," both classified under "Political Terms." The article "PSOL goes to court against fake news about Marielle," authored by Juliana Bublitz, questioned the news circulated on social media and indiscriminately shared by WhatsApp groups. The text mentioned *Veja* magazine's report: "Judge says Marielle was engaged with criminals" and the mention that the councilwoman "was elected by the Red Command," as well as Twitter posts claiming that Marielle was "Marcinho VP's ex-wife (Rio trafficker)" to address the false news that emerged from the case and the legal action that will be taken. Trying to mask a structural problem of Brazilian society with the victim's particular problems.

• Day 6 – March 20th (Tuesday)

FSP: Published 3 articles discussing "Killings outside the shop window," "More than a death," and "Magistrate says she 'rushed' to talk about Marielle."

ZH: Published 3 articles with the headlines "Jungmann gives new version on ammunition that killed councilwoman," "Judge retracts after disclosing lie about Marielle," and "Marielle, Luiz Octávio, and all of us." All categorized under "Political Terms." The last article, authored by Fábio Bernardi, was also classified under the categories "Approach with the Community," "Objectivity Break," "Public as Citizen," and "Journalist as Participant," as it brought relevant data on crime in Rio de Janeiro, the locations where Marielle received the most votes. Furthermore, the author puts criminals and police officers as hostages to violence, "When it makes no difference to be afraid of the criminal or the police, we are already condemned." Marielle did not die because she was from the favela, black, a woman, or a councilwoman. She died because of her confrontation, for revealing the transformative power of education, for doing politics with courage and joy. Her smile was challenging. With her died a bit of the determination, idealism, and integrity of a country that needs to understand that ideas can be the reason for a life, but never for a death (BERNARDI, 2018).

• Day 7 – March 21st (Wednesday)

FSP: Published 3 articles with titles: "Masterstroke?"; "Why does the population accept boys walking with rifles?"; and "The whining and the no-no."

ZH: Published 2 articles with headlines "The bankruptcy of a left-wing discourse" and "CNJ opens process to evaluate accusations against judge." All categorized under "Political Terms." The articles criticize the intervention in Rio de Janeiro, especially the texts "Masterstroke?" and "Why does the population accept boys walking with rifles?" The latter brought an interview conducted by Fernanda Mena with security expert anthropologist Alba Zaluar, who mentioned that any group threatened by federal intervention could be behind the crime, "corrupt police officers and rights violators, militias, and even factions" (ZALUAR, 2018).

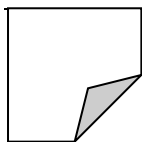
In summary, in the first seven days after Marielle's death, FSP aired 32 news articles written by 34 authors, yielding 1 cover and 6 different sections.

It can be noted that 100% of FSP's news were classified under the category "Political Terms" because they contained expressions of a political-party nature. In the category "Public as Citizen," which seeks to educate and guide the reader beyond reporting the facts, 46.88% of the reports (15) were classified.

As for "Approach with the Community," 14 articles were scored, representing 43.75%, by mentioning characteristics of Marielle's profile that bring her closer to social groups: feminism, black, from the favela, mother, etc. "Objectivity Break" was observed in 11 news articles (34.38%) since the texts did not start directly with the themes announced in the headlines.

Classified as "Journalist as Participant," where the author expresses an opinion on the fact, 10 articles were found (31.25%). With "Proposed Agenda" aiming to present proposals for social improvement, only 4 articles were found (12.50%).

In total, 54 news articles were published in FSP and ZH about Marielle's murder in the seven days following her death. All were classified under the category "Political Terms" for containing expressions giving a political-party character to the report. The category "Approach with the Community" obtained 26 agendas, with articles that related Marielle to social groups: feminism, black, from the favela, mother, etc. The category responsible for enumerating the contributions that justified treating the "public as citizens" instead of news consumers was present in 22 reports. The "Objectivity Break" category, which was contrary to the criterion of



objectivity in journalism, included 17 news articles. In the category "Journalist as Participant," in which they acted as political actors in the story, there were 16 classifications. And, finally, only 8 reports aimed to present propositional subjects for social well-being based on the councilwoman's murder.

IV. Conclusion

The research conducted on the FSP and ZH newspapers revealed that 100% of the news articles were categorized under "Political Terms" due to containing expressions of a political-party nature. The mere mention of the party acronym or the word 'councilwoman' categorized the news in the political realm in this study. Thus, it was observed that the content did not always match the categorization.

Little was read like in the interview with Congressman Marcelo Freixo, from PSOL: "The crime against Marielle is a crime against democracy, we have no doubt about that" (G1, 2018).

Initially, FSP apparently incorporated a deflation of political content, using the neglect of the news to obscure the seriousness of the fact. It only gave a bit more political consistency to the news after the third day, following Costa's (2018) call, the Ombudsman, when the crime had gained worldwide attention and encouraged the newspaper to give importance to the episode, citing that "it took too long to wake up." Unlike ZH, which took the lead and exposed the political fact before FSP. This might suggest that FSP had no interest in deepening the news.

Even so, none of the news articles brought real content that showed that the objective of the murder was to silence a woman seeking democracy, better social conditions, a woman who spoke for more than 40,000 people, her constituents. In many news articles, the structural problems of society that she fought against such as racism, inequality, dictatorship, homophobia, misogyny, violence were turned into individual problems, with the spread of fake news like "Judge says the councilwoman was engaged with criminals" and "councilwoman elected by the Red Command." With exceptions, the aforementioned journalist Bernardi, from ZH, stated on the sixth day after the murder, that Marielle "died for her confrontation, for revealing the transformative power of education."

It is thus observed that quantitative research counts, quantifies, but lacks the subtlety of qualitative research that perceives the complexity of the situation behind the numbers. Marielle's death revealed the fragility and uncertainty of ethics as in Morin's thought (2005) with the crime and the news that did not connect the death to the message sent to women, homosexuals, the poor, blacks, and favela dwellers, and to the Brazilian left that intended the return of democracy, even if tender, in 2018. Subjectivity here, undoubtedly, is political.

As in Morin's examples (2005) in the course of Brazilian daily life, the news shows intolerance to Marielle's cries, who called for peace and humanity. The response was barbarism and totalitarianism - death, to oppress and silence.

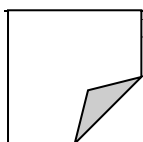
Brazilian power is on the sidelines, considering the morality of the universal level, as "historical-social progress creates the necessary conditions for moral progress" (VASQUEZ, 2006, p. 43). Until 2023, Brazilian progress was not social progress since it brought negative consequences to society.

In the face of the hegemony of hatred, from 2013 to 2023, the Marielle case remains unsolved. Although the Minister of Justice and Security requested, in 2023, the opening of an investigation by the Federal Police (PF) to investigate both murders.

What was perceived in this research is the need for a paradigm shift so that the Brazilian nation can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, which determine actions for the well-being of all.

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