

On newspapers in Italy

At present, most Italian daily newspapers with national circulation are run by men. Nevertheless, we can highlight the appointment, in 2019, of Ms Agnese Pini as editor-in-chief of the newspaper 'La Nazione', being the first woman to hold this position in the 160 years of the life of the Florentine newspaper¹.

Previously, we can point out the naming, in 2010, of Ms Norma Rangeri as editor-in-chief of the left-wing Roman newspaper "Il Manifesto".

Other examples in the past, at a lower geographic level, include Ms Pierangela Fiorani as editor-in-chief of Provincia Pavese (daily newspaper of Pavia) from 2006 to 2014 and from 2014 to 2016 of the four Venetian daily newspapers of Gruppo Espresso (now GEDI Gruppo Editoriale)², as well as Ms Lucia Serino, appointed editor-in-chief of "Il Quotidiano della Basilicata" for 4 years between 2011 and 2015, or Ms Anna Mossutto, who held the same position in "Corriere dell'Umbria" for 10 years after being nominated in 2009.

Historically, it is worth mentioning the case of Mrs Matilde Serao, the first Italian woman to found and run a newspaper, "Il Corriere di Roma", in 1885, an experience she repeated with other newspapers in the following years.

The genders of the chief editors among the seven largest Italian newspapers by circulation³ are shown in Table 1 below⁴:

TABLE 1

Newspaper	Average circulation ⁵ (April 2020) (ADS)	Political alignment	Publishing group	Gender editor-in-chief (name)
Corriere della Sera	256,564	Liberalism	RCS MediaGroup	Male (<i>Luciano Fontana</i>)
La Repubblica	201,645	Centre-Left	GEDI Gruppo Editoriale	Male (<i>Maurizio Molinari</i>)
La Stampa	150,387	Liberalism, centrism	GEDI Gruppo Editoriale	Male (<i>Massimo Giannini</i>)
QN – Il Resto del Carlino	105,397	Conservatism	Poligrafici Editoriale (Monrif Group)	Male (<i>Michele Brambilla</i>)

¹This has been published in newspapers such as "La Repubblica": "Agnese Pini new editor of 'La Nazione' https://firenze.repubblica.it/cronaca/2019/07/30/news/agnese_pini_direttore_la_nazione-232396718/ [Date consulted: July 6th, 2020]. However, it should be noted that "La Nazione" belongs to the newspaper consortium "QN Quotidiano Nazionale", whose "editorial director" is a man, Mr Michele Brambilla. In this regard, the news consulted point to the fact that Ms Pini will be supported by Mr Brambilla.

²"Mattino di Padova", "Nuova Venezia", "Tribuna di Treviso" and "Corriere delle Alpi".

³The data comes from the monthly data estimated by publishers ("DMS") conducted by Accertamenti Diffusione Stampa ("ADS") relating to April 2020. Further information on the survey can be found on the ADS website: <http://www.adsnotizie.it/>

⁴Sectoral newspapers (mainly relating to sports and business) have been excluded. Nevertheless, please note that among the most widely read newspapers in Italy there are three sports newspapers ("La Gazzetta dello Sport", "Corriere dello Sport" and "Tuttosport") and one business newspaper ("Il Sole 24 ore"), all of them with men editor-in-chief.

⁵Defined as the total number of copies printed in Italy and abroad excluding machine waste. The circulation includes copies circulated in Italy and abroad, copies made in Italy and abroad and copies intended for various uses.

Avvenire	114,116	Christian	Avvenire Nuova Editoriale SpA (Episcopal Conference of Italy)	Male (<i>Marco Tarquinio</i>)
Il Messaggero	83,854	Centrism	Il Messaggero SpA (Caltagirone Editore)	Male (<i>Massimo Martinelli</i>)
Il Giornale	83,723	Center-Right, Conservatism	Società Europea Di Edizioni	Male (<i>Alessandro Sallusti</i>)

Other relevant newspapers, not included in Table 1 above, that are currently run by women are indicated in Table 2 below:

TABLE 2

Newspaper	Average circulation (April 2020) (ADS)	Political alignment	Publishing group	Female editor-in-chief
QN - La Nazione	72,582	Conservatism	Poligrafici Editoriale (Monrif Group)	Agnese Pini
Il Manifesto	34,143	Communism	Il Nuovo Manifesto-Società Cooperativa Editrice	Norma Rangeri

In the light of the data contained in Tables 1 and 2 above, some facts can be inferred:

- 1) There are currently no women at the top of the 7 generalist newspapers with the highest circulation in Italy.
- 2) Among the rest of the most widely circulated Italian generalist newspapers, there are only two women at the head of them: Ms Pini at "La Nazione" and Ms Rangeri at "Il Manifesto", each with divergent political alignment.
- 3) With reference to the sports press, not included in the Tables 1 and 2 above but widely read in Italy, currently the 3 largest Italian sports newspapers ("La Gazzetta dello Sport", "Corriere dello Sport" and "Tuttosport") are headed by male editors-in-chief.
- 4) Similarly, Italy's leading economic and business newspaper, "Il Sole 24 Ore", is run by a man as editor-in-chief, Mr Fabio Tamburini.

Finally, it should be noted that in 2019 approximately 15,8 million Italian citizens read at least one physical or digital newspaper a day⁶. This figure represents 29.7% of the adult Italian population (14 years and older). Of these readers, 36.3% were of female gender. By contrast, the average television audience in prime time (08:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.) in Italy was 23,112,446 viewers for the same year⁷.

⁶ According to Audipress, a company that collects and publishes data on the reading of newspapers and magazines in Italy. Further information on the survey can be found on the Audipress website: <http://audipress.it/quotidiani/>

⁷ According to Auditel, which collects and publishes data on Italian television's share. Further information on the survey can be found on the Auditel website: <https://www.auditel.it/>