The staging of female influencers' expertise in nutrition: The case of the "What I eat in a day" videos

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Abstract

• Objective

The objective of this research is to understand how influencers stage their expertise to become authority figures in the food domain.

Methodology

A netnography was carried out from a corpus of 86 YouTube videos, belonging to the concept of "what I eat in a day", illustrating the daily food. The corpus was also subjected to a nutritional analysis of the proposed dishes.

• Results

The results underline that expertise is linked to the mastery of three main dimensions: digital, thematic and social. The sharing of lived experiences concerning food is privileged and participates in the transmission of knowledge. A particular vision of healthy eating is disseminated, often moving away from what is recommended by health institutions.

• Managerial / societal implications

This research provides leads in terms of public health, inviting public authorities to rethink communication campaigns related to healthy eating.

Originality

This work draws its originality from the methodology used, combining both management sciences and nutrition.

• Keywords: YouTube influencers, expertise, healthy food, netnography.

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