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European / International Joint Ph.D. in
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Social Representations of a dictatorial past in Brazil

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Social Representations of the past

- Collective memories about socio-historic events are maintained by those who have lived it.
- These memories are passed to the younger generations through conversations, ceremonies, places of memory, formal education, etc.
- Younger generations construct SR of the past based on these sources.
- A society holds a narrative about its past in order to maintain its identity (Liu & Hilton, 2005).

Social representations of a dictatorial past in Brazil

- Dictatorship in Brazil: 1964-1985.
- A Truth Commission was carried out between 2012 to 2014 in order to clarify the facts occurred during this period.
- In December 2014 a report was published which generated a clash of SR about the dictatorship.
- Although the report has 4000 pages people were able to give an opinion about it immediately.

Social representations of a dictatorial past in Brazil

- Sample: 400 Brazilians from many cities around the country. Participants were between 18 and 85 years old.
- They are asked about their experiences, knowledge and feelings towards the dictatorial period and the Truth Commission.
- We conducted a free-association question with the inductor stimulus "military regime". Participants were asked to write down the three first words that came to their minds.

Social representations of a dictatorial past in Brazil

- We also analyzed news comments on internet about the Truth Commission report. The three most accessed news websites in Brazil were analyzed.
- We analyzed 323 comments generated during the 48 hours after the news had been published.

Social representations of a dictatorial past in Brazil

- We are analyzing data.
- We will conduct correlation and regression analyses to verify the relations between the knowledge, feelings and experiences towards dictatorship.
- We will conduct a structural analysis through IRAMUTEQ to verify the SR of the dictatorship.
- We will analyze the relations between political positioning, level of education and age and the SR of the dictatorship.
- We are analyzing news comments through a Lexical Analysis.

Thank you all!

Grazie a tutti!

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