

International Conferences
as Interactive Scientific Media Channels:
The History of the Social Representations Theory
through the Eight Editions of the ICSR
from Ravello (1992) to Rome (2006)

by *Annamaria Silvana de Rosa**, *Marialibera d'Ambrosio**

The bi-annual International Conferences on Social Representations represent an interesting phenomenon in terms of «epidemiology of knowledge diffusion». This article was inspired by the general scope of the meta-theoretical analysis of the complete *corpus* of Social Representations (ICSR) literature launched by Annamaria de Rosa in 1994. The analysis has as its goal to provide an organic, comprehensive understanding of the direction that research in Social Representations is taking and of the overall development of the theory over time and across continents. It is based on the methodology and previous results of research conducted in the framework of a meta-theoretical analysis (cf. de Rosa, 1994a; 2001a; 2001b; 2002a) and its aim was to update the contribution presented at the 6th International Conference on Social Representations in Stirling (cf. de Rosa, 2002b; de Rosa, d'Ambrosio, 2002; 2003). The analysis units used were the abstracts of all conference literature currently available in both electronic and traditional printed format. Content analysis was carried out on these materials using a reduced version of the "Grid for Meta-Analysis of SR literature" (de Rosa, 1994a). This is a powerful heuristic tool for assessing the development of the theory, the related research field and the core of the large on-line specialised inventory on Social Representations installed on the web site of the European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication website, currently in the copyright process. After classification, the data were analysed using tools provided by HUDAP, SPAD-N, and SPSS statistical packages to develop a "facet analysis" and Analyse des Correspondences Multiples.

Key words: *meta-theoretical analysis, social representation conferences, knowledge diffusion.*

* Sapienza - University of Rome. The first author is the creator and coordinator of the research programme including its theoretical, methodological and technical tools. Its goal is the meta-theoretical analysis of the whole *corpus* of the literature on Social Representations. The second author's contribution is mainly related to statistical analysis.

I Introduction

This article focuses on literature presented during the 8th International Conference on Social Representations (ICSR), the primary institutional context in which members of the scientific community inspired by the Social Representation Theory (SRT) interact with each other and disseminate research in the field and which are considered a kind of scientific media channel. They are a mirror of the scientific community's dynamics and have chronologically accompanied the SRT's institutionalisation process.

Almost five decades after Serge Moscovici (1961) introduced into the discipline both a new construct, the Social Representation (SR), and a new perspective for observing and understanding social reality, the Social Representations Theory is today a conceptual tool with a pre-eminent role in the theoretical framework of social psychology.

The liveliness of the debate outside the SRT is in symmetry with the richness of the dialogue between the different schools of thought that over the years have emerged within it¹. In addition to the conferences some of the channels for this internal dialogue include the specialised professional journals, "Papers on SR" (<http://www.psr.jku.at/>) and "Pensée et société", which respectively published their 16th and 9th issues respectively in 2007 and in 2006.

2 Research Issues

This study is a part of a wider research conducted in the framework of a meta-theoretical analysis of the complete body of SR literature launched by Annamaria de Rosa in 1994. It is inspired by the goal to provide an organic, comprehensive understanding of the overall development of this theory over time and across continents (cf. de Rosa, 1994a; 1994b; 2001a; 2001b; 2002a).

Some of the main objectives of this project are to:

- map the theory and its application over time and around the world;
- bring some clarity to the SR galaxy, by analytically reconstructing the complexity of its various theoretical and methodological approaches.

In reviewing the complete body of literature on SR and Communication, the *Open Distant Learning network programme for co-operative international research*, coordinated by de Rosa (2001a; 2001b), features an online database of the literature. Input is done by young researchers and undergraduate students, who insert the data via the website, which is periodically updated after a double quality control filter.

One of the main outputs of the So.Re.Com. THEMATIC NETWORK of excel-

lence approved by the European Commission DG Education and Culture (<http://www.europhi.eu/SoReComTHEMATICNETWORK>) is a comprehensive bibliographical inventory of the literature (journal and conference papers, books, special issues, doctoral and masters theses, unpublished reports) on SR and C. and its related paradigms that will be completed in the near future. It makes possible to conduct searches for all traditional bibliographic information. Designed by the coordinator of the So.Re.Com THEMATIC NETWORK, this full bibliographic inventory in the multidisciplinary field of Social Representations and Communication aims to acquire the complete database of literature on Social Representations and Communication. Via the So.Re.Com. THEMATIC NETWORK, this co-operative scientific enterprise will contribute to continuously enriching the on-line database, receiving input not only from young research trainees enrolled in the programme, but the entire scientific community, who will contribute new articles that will disseminate knowledge as well as acquiring visibility. It is updated periodically after a double quality control filter and validated by an authoritative source under the supervision of the designer and producer of the inventory. According to E. C. contractual policy, once the comprehensive bibliographical inventory is protected by a copyright and the intellectual property of its creator, designer and developer recognised, the modalities on how professors, researchers, or students working on Social Representations and Communication can consult it will be examined and implemented. Users will gain access by a password after registering and payment of a registration fee. Using a standard Web browser, researchers and interested parties will, with a simple search, be able to access systematically organized multidisciplinary research in the social sciences inspired by the Social Representations Theory.

The databases consist of two different inventories:

a) The *first database* contains a *complete bibliographical inventory of the literature* on SR and C. and its related paradigm, including *classic bibliographic information*.

b) The *second database* contains a *meta-analysed inventory* of the literature on SR, analysed according to the grid developed by A. S. de Rosa (1994a). Its main goal is to develop the *meta-theoretical* analysis of the whole body of the theoretical and empirical literature of this specialised field. The grid is organised in 5 main areas:

- *theoretical reference to SR constructs* monitors whether a publication refers to SRT in a very generic way or addresses specific paradigmatic elements of the theory (i.e., the genesis, processes, functions, structure, transmission, and transformation of SR) or whether the contribution refers to the theory itself as an object of critical analysis (meta-theory);

- *theoretical reference to other constructs and theories* identifies whether the publication refers to other constructs, concepts and theories in relation to SR as well as the aim of the reference: integration, differentiation, comparison, replacement;
- *thematic analysis* categorises the contents of empirical contributions by identifying the general *thematic areas* (i.e. health) and the *specific object* of each study (i.e. AIDS), as well the specific typology (closed, open, polemic) of the SR;
- the last area identifies the *methodological profile* of each study and the *characteristics of the selected population*.

In accordance with output six of the So.Re.Com THEMATIC NETWORK project, the next steps in this international research program are:

- the further expansion of the co-operative network to the entire scientific community both as *users* and *co-developers* of the database (<http://www.euophd.net/cgi-bin/WebObjects/euophd.woa/wa/biblio>);
- the major upgrading of the *Intelligent Virtual Library on Social Representation and Communication* which will be integrated with the physical Social Representations library at the European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab. It will also be linked to the complete bibliographic inventory and meta-analysed *corpus*. It will also be enriched with an advanced search engine in the database, using the criteria designed for the meta-analysis grid (http://www.euophd.net/html/_onda02/06/00.00.00.00.shtml). Users will be allowed to download text files in PDF format and to print out scientific materials, with authors' and publishers' permission when applicable. Otherwise, they can read material on the screen.

3

Definition and Area of Field of Inquiry: Why the 8th International Conference on SR?

It is an empirical fact that during the last five decades the SRT has become a multicultural, multi-lingual, and multi-generational enterprise that has spread across all the continents. The vitality of the SRT is demonstrated by its internal debate and the growing number of meetings, workshops and other gatherings. In the time line found below, we have listed only a few of the opportunities for meeting and discussion that occurred before and between the Biannual International Conferences that were selected as the scope of the present study.

Timeline of scientific events dedicated to Social Representations

- 1982 International Round Table on Social Representations, Lyon, France – Symposium dedicated to SR.
- 1983 International Symposium on SR: “Le SR: campi di indagine teorica ed empirica”, Bologna, Italy.
- 1985 International Colloquium on Social Representations, Paris, France.
- 1985 Methodological Workshop: “Implications méthodologiques des études sur les SR”, Naples, Italy.
- 1986 8th International Congress of Cross-cultural Psychology, Istanbul, Turkey. Symposium: “The SR of mental illness: theoretical, methodological and empirical contributions in a cross-cultural perspective”.
- 1986 International Colloquium: “La Représentation Sociale de la Maladie Mentale”, Naples, Italy.
- 1987 Methodological Workshop: “Empirical Approach to Social Representations”, University of Surrey, UK.
- 1987 International Colloquium: “Représentations Sociales et Idéologies”, Paris, France.
- 1988 International Symposium: “Questions d'épistémologie autour des Représentations Sociales”, Natal, Brazil.
- 1991 Annual Conference of the of BPS – Developmental Psychology Section, Cambridge, UK – Symposium dedicated to SR.
- 1992 XXV International Congress of Psychology, Brussels, Belgium – Symposium: “Theoretical aspects of SR”.
- 1992 *First International Conference on SR, Ravello, Italy.*
- 1992 V European Conference of Developmental Psychology, Seville, Spain – Symposium: “Cognitive and SR in childhood acquisition and development”.
- 1993 EAESP General Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal – Symposium dedicated to SR.
- 1994 *2nd International Conference on SR: “Advances in theory and research”, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*
- 1994 Annual Conference of the of BPS – Social Psychology Section, Cambridge, UK – Workshop dedicated to SR.
- 1994 5th Congress ARIC Sarrebrücken, Germany – Key lecture dedicated to SR.
- 1995 International Symposium: “Social Representations in the Northern Context”, Mustlio, Finland.
- 1995 International Methodological Workshop: “Théories et méthodes des Représentations Sociales”, Daidalos – Goteborg-Sweden.
- 1995 Workshop on SR, Naples, Italy.
- 1995 Colloquium: “L'application des études des SR aux problèmes sociaux”, Athens, Greece.
- 1996 *3rd International Conference on SR, Aix-en-Provence, France.*
- 1996 Nags Head Conference on Social Representations, Socially Shared Cognitions, and Public Opinion, Highland Beach, Florida, USA.
- 1996 Special Day on: “Exclusion et Insertion. Approches Socio-cognitives”, Aix-en-Provence, France.
- 1996 11th General Meeting of the EAESP, Gmunden, Austria – Symposium: “Controversial SR of and around advertising: how to sell pullovers by provoking discussion on social issues”.

- 1997 VI National Congress of Social Psychology, João Pessoa, Brazil: Workshop Dedicated to SR.
- 1997 2nd Conference in the Northern Context: "SR and Communicative Processes", Jonkoping, Sweden.
- 1998 4th International Conference on SR: "La Era de la Psicología Social", Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1998 1st International Conference on SR in USA: "SR: Introductions and Explorations", New York, USA.
- 1998 I Jornada Internacional sobre Representações Sociais (JIRS): "Teoria e Campos de Aplicação", Natal, Brazil.
- 1998 Workshop: "Comunicación, Opinión y Representación Social Teoría y Método", H. Puebla de Z., México.
- 1998 Workshop: "Exclusão social e saúde: estudos de representasão social", São Paulo e Ribeirão Preto, Brazil.
- 1999 ADRIPS Congress, Aix-en-Provence, France – Symposium and papers dedicated to SR.
- 1999 International Colloquium: "La pensée sociale: questions vives", Montreal, Canada.
- 1999 5th Alps-Adria Psychology Conference, Pecs, Hungary – Symposium dedicated to SR.
- 2000 5th International Conference on SR "Représentations sociales: constructions nouvelles", Montreal, Canada.
- 2001 II Jornada Internacional sobre Representações Sociais (JIRS), Florianapolis, Brazil.
- 2001 International Meeting on Focus Group and SR, Maison Suger, Paris, France.
- 2001 Symposium on SR and Media studies, Maison Suger, Paris, France.
- 2002 6th International Conference on SR "Thinking Societies: Common Sense and Communication", Stirling, UK.
- 2002 6th Alpe-Adria Congress of Psychology, Pecs, Hungary – Symposium dedicated to SR.
- 2002 4th International Congress of Social Psychology in french language – ADRIPS – Athens, Greece – Symposium dedicated to SR.
- 2002 13th General Meeting of the EAESP, San Sebastian, Spain – Symposium: "Social Memory and emotional impact towards traumatic collective events: the 11th September".
- 2003 3rd Jornada Internacional sobre Representações Sociais (JIRS) and First Brazilian Conference on Social Representations, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2003 1st Day on Social Representations, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2003 I International Congress on Studies of the Imaginary and Social Representations, Cuernavaca, Mexico.
- 2003 V International Graduated Conference on Social Psychology, Cambridge, UK – Symposium dedicated to SR.
- 2004 7th International Conference on SR "Social Representations and Interaction Forms: groups, community, social movements", Guadalajara, Mexico.
- 2004 International Meeting on Collective Memory and Shared Representations in France, Aix-en-Provence, France.
- 2005 XXX InterAmerican Congress, Buenos Aires, Argentina – Symposium: "Social Representations, Construction and Social Practices".
- 2005 IV Jornada Internacional sobre Representações Sociais (JIRS), João Pessoa, Brazil.

- 2006 8th International Conference on SR "Media and Society", Rome, Italy.
- 2007 V Jornada Internacional sobre Representações Sociais (JIRS) e III Conferencia Brasileira sobre Representações Sociais, Brasília, Brazil.
- 2007 II National Day on Social Representations: "Representaciones Sociales, minorias activas y memoria social", Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2007 VIII National AIP Congress – Social Psychology Section – Symposium: "Le Rappresentazioni del Sociale", Cesena, Italy.

In examining this time line, some initial reflections emerge:

- specialised meetings dedicated to SR began in 1982, more than 20 years after the introduction of the SR construct in 1961;
- the organisation of the 1st International Conference on SR (Ravello, 1992) marked the passage towards the institutionalisation of contacts within the scientific community inspired by the SRT;
- the progressive enlargement to non-European cultural contexts is indicated by the organisation of conferences on other continents: i.e. the Americas, where conferences were held in Latin America, Canada and the US and the recent decision taken during the 8th ICSR in Rome to hold the 9th ICSR in Indonesia. This is the first bi-annual conference to be held in Asia;
- 1992 has particular significance in the institutional history of this theory. In the same year, the European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication was launched as a new curriculum within the Erasmus programme coordinated by the Sapienza - University of Rome².

The enormous quantity of literature produced during the various kinds of meetings (small workshops, symposia, conferences etc.) makes it impossible to do a comprehensive treatment of the subject in this article.

For the purpose of this study, it was necessary to circumscribe the field of inquiry to focus attention only on the 6th International Biannual Conferences on SR.

In fact, as one of this scientific community's fundamental institutional contexts for the dissemination and development of related research areas, we believe that the Biannual International Conferences on SR are significant places for «the contagion of ideas from neighbour to neighbour», according to Dan Sperber's *epidemiology of ideas* (Sperber, 1990).

Graumann's important work (1998) in reconstructing the process of defining the scientific identity of EAESP via the contacts, dedication and passion of a series of protagonists in the history of social psychology comes to mind, as well as what Tapia says in his *Colloques et sociétés* (1980) on the theme of the difference between meetings and congresses. In terms of characteristics and procedures, these emerge as two extremes along the institutional/informal continuum and have a cascade of consequences in the area of content and function.

In line with Sperber's *epidemiology of ideas*, the intent is not so much

geared towards the construction of an “all-inclusive” theory on the transmission, combination and “becoming” of ideas, but rather towards providing more questions. In the case in point, the questions, among others, include:

- does the kind of scientific production elaborated in the SRT field, along with the variable *Type of Communication* (with theoretical/empirical modalities) as well as the variable *Type of Reference* to SRT, change in relation to the geographic dimension (variable Author’s institution Country)?
- is it possible to produce a *chart of thematic interests* in relation to the *geographic/cultural dimension*?
- in the process of charting these interests, is it possible to point out the eventual effects of an additional variable, the *temporal dimension*?

4 Research Sources: Abstracts from the Biannual International Conferences on SR

The sources of our study are the papers presented during the 8th International Conference on SR. More precisely, as the units of analysis we have only used the abstracts of papers presented in the languages formally accepted for the conferences (English, French, Spanish). Specifically, the following abstracts were retrieved and analysed:

TABLE I
Sources for the meta-theoretical analysis – Paper abstracts presented to the Biannual International Conferences on SR

Variables	Year	Conferences Location and Country	N. of papers presented	N. of abstracts analysed	% of abstracts analysed
Conferences	1992	I st ICSR – Ravello, Italy	63 participants	30* retrievable to date	1.8
	1994	II nd ICSR – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	114	114	7
	1996	III rd ICSR – Aix-en-Provence, France	200	163	10
	1998	IV th ICSR – Mexico City, Mexico	233	231	14.2
	2000	V th ICSR – Montreal, Canada	256	249	15.3
	2002	VI th ICSR – Stirling, UK	271	269	16.5
	2004	VII th ICSR – Guadalajara, Mexico	266	266	16.3
	2006	VIII th ICSR – Rome, Italy	328	307	18.8
<i>Total</i>			<i>1.731</i>	<i>1.629</i>	<i>100</i>
Years	1992-1997		377	307	18.8
	1998-2002		760	749	46
	2004-2006		594	573	35.2
<i>Total</i>			<i>1.731</i>	<i>1.629</i>	<i>100</i>

* From the Ravello Conference program we know that there were 63 participants. However, we do not know how many papers were presented by each. Therefore, we cannot quantify the total contributions presented nor the proportion that we cover with the abstracts that are available.

No sampling was done on this *corpus* of texts. Instead, we analysed the total number of abstracts in the language requested by the conference’s organizers and retrievable to date. Abstracts in Portuguese or in Italian were not included in our *corpus*. Therefore 1.629 abstracts were meta-analysed out of the 1.731 abstracts submitted.

The international recognition gained by meta-theoretical analysis project was the basis for obtaining the crucial co-operation of the organisers of the conferences under study, to whom we are very grateful³.

5 Presentation of Data Collection and Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was carried out on various levels and with different goals:

1. first, a rather general descriptive review based on the exploratory analysis of frequencies and cross-frequencies;
2. then, a much deeper descriptive analysis on the statistical/conceptual structure of the reality of our study’s object, conducted thanks to the HUDAP software package (version 1995-98) and an Analysis of Multiple Correspondences (ACM) performed with SPAD-N (version 4.3).

The logic of analysis of the structure from several perspectives has multiple purposes:

- the possibility of integrating, strengthening, clarifying or reorganising what emerges concerning the object of our study from analyses in various perspectives;
- and, last, but not least, identifying the points of continuity or divergence of the two different qualitative *data analysis approaches*;
- exploring the potential of the HUDAP software package for meta-theoretical analysis of SR literature;
- bringing acquisitions obtained thanks to this program’s procedures to the ACM, even if only as a comparison.

6 The HUDAP Statistical Software Package

HUDAP (Hebrew University Data Analysis Package) is a multi-purpose software package that contains programmes that carry out descriptive statistical studies and contain methods developed by Guttman, that are, even if often unsystematically, widely used in the social sciences such as monotonicity coefficient or facet analysis (Amar, Toledano, 1994). The HUDAP methods we used were:

- FREQ., MULTABS, CRST sections in the preliminary phase. Because of this we calculated percentage, crossing frequencies and the Chi2 tests for the intersections of some interesting variables.

– MONCO section, to obtain the matrices of Guttman's monotonicity coefficients, to be analysed and utilised as input for successive analyses.

– WSSAI (Weighted Smallest Space Analysis). This is the procedure we used the most. It provides a graphic representation of the relationships between variables in a set of "n" objects. In fact, given a matrix {Rij} that contains coefficients of similarity between pairs within a given set of variables, the WSSAI section enables us to study the matrix via its principal output, namely the Space Diagram. It represents each V_i as a point inside the dimension chosen by the researcher as the smallest possible distance from another V_j . Thus, the points are located in the space in a way that best satisfies the condition of monotonicity⁴ and it is possible to show which kinds of variables result closer each other, and therefore more closely correlated.

The accuracy of such a representation is valuable thanks to other outputs of the same section: the *Alienation Coefficient* and the *Shepard Diagram*.

THE FACET ANALYSIS is based on the Facet Theory (Canter, 1985). Starting from the Space Diagram, it is possible to obtain a Facet Diagram. This allows the graphic visualisation of the correspondence in specific regions of the space between the empirical distribution of data relative to the variables and the definition of their *facets*. Each facet expresses its own domain, an area of the universe of content. Its definition will be provided by the set of variables and their modalities (concept subsets), which in the researchers' hypotheses are tied to that domain and therefore *go together*.

The spatial arrangement of those regional correspondences implies an interpretation as much in respect to the verification of the expected co-occurrences as to the relationships between the various facets.

7

Principal Results by Frequencies Distribution Analysis

First of all, according to the table 1, during the time span from the 1st Conference (Ravello, 1992) to the latest International Conference (Rome, 2006), one notes a numerical growth in participation that we do not hesitate to define as exponential. As the data clearly demonstrates, this growth included diversification not only in the content, but also in the range of geographic/cultural origins and theoretical and methodological interests.

The pace of this impressive growth does not slow down until 2006.

What emerges in relation to the variable *Years* is the result of this situation. It shows frequencies of 18.61% for the period 1992-97, 45.39% for the period 1998-2002 and 36% for the period 2003-06. The decreasing percentage for the third period 2003-06 is simply due to the categorisation effect related to the

lower number of ICSR included in this period (only the VII and VIII ICSR, compared to the previous periods including three conferences each).

TABLE 2

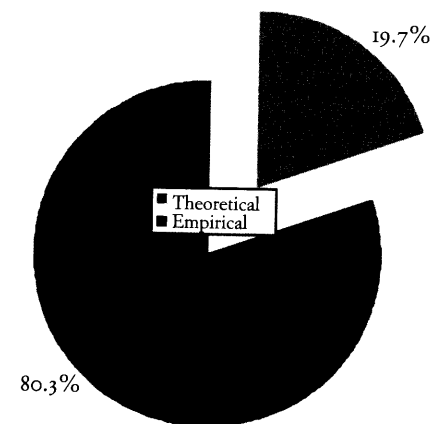
Language distribution in the 8th International Biannual Conferences on SR

Language	I ICSR Italy	II ICSR Brazil	III ICSR France	IV ICSR Mexico	V ICSR Canada	VI ICSR UK	VII ICSR Mexico	VIII ICSR Italy
English	26	114	64	68	58	128	42	171
French	4	0	99	65	145	94	60	91
Spanish	0	0	0	97	46	47	172	45

We would also like to highlight the increase registered in the number of abstracts presented in the three languages (English, French and Spanish) beginning with the Mexico City conference (1998), and the relations between the choice of the language for the abstract and the ICSR country's location, with dominance of French for the conferences organised in Aix-en-Provence, France (III ICSR) and in Montreal, Canada (V ICSR), and of Spanish for the two conferences held in Mexico (IV and VII ICSR), while the choice of English for the abstracts submission has been dominant in the ICSR.s organised in Italy (I and VIII ICSR) and UK (VI ICSR).

FIGURE I

Distribution of frequencies the variable "Type of Communication"

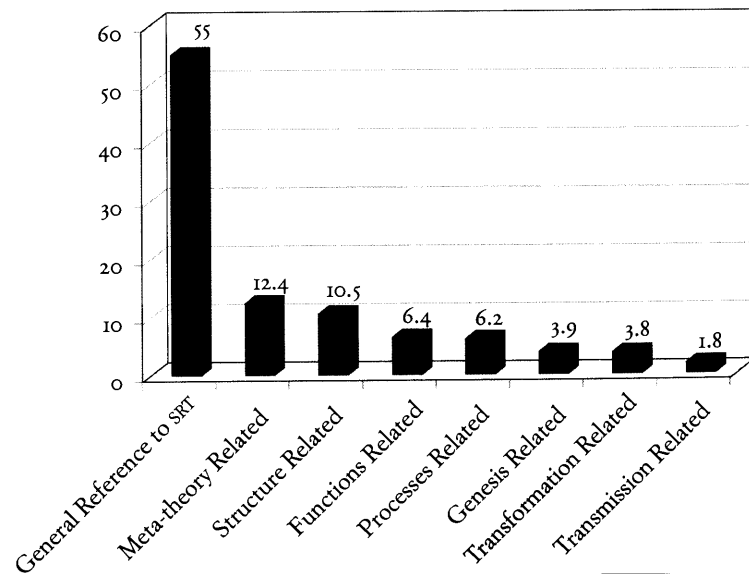


The variable *Type of Communication* specifies the nature of the papers whose abstracts were analysed. As seen in figure 1, the two modalities appear rather weighted towards the empirical rather than the theoretical. In the *corpus* of research composed of 1.629 abstracts, only 19.7% of papers result theoretical, against 80.3% empirical.

Given that conferences are opportunities for presentation and exchange of experiences concerning interests and research pursued contingently, and the limits laid down by the conference environment (i.e. theoretical papers are mainly by invitation, as well as key lectures and symposia introductions), we do not interpret this data as evidence of a lack of theoretical interest, but rather as an indicator of a prevalent practice in conference organisation for many social science fields and in most areas of social psychology. It will be more interesting to compare this data with the results that emerge from the meta-theoretical analysis of the complete body of SR literature concerning the same variable. This will help us understand if the approach to SRT is used as a general framework of reference for empirical investigation or as both theory driven and a tool for research programs.

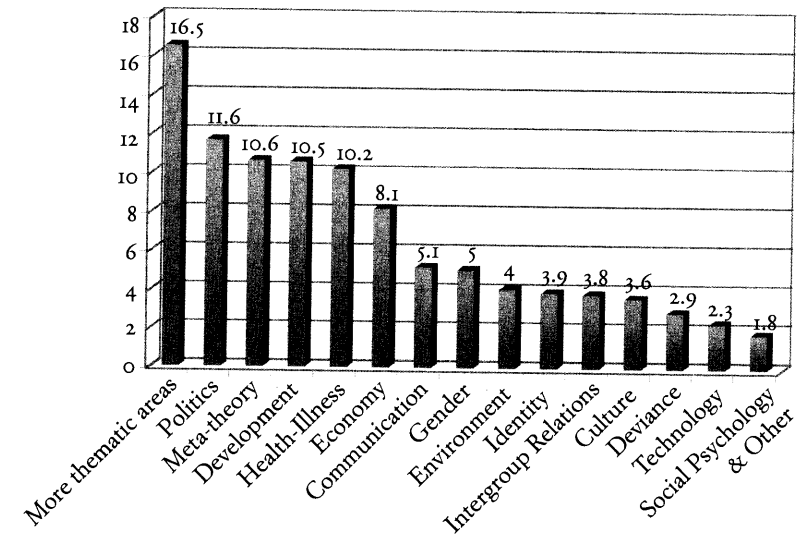
As the various types of reference to the SRT are not mutually exclusive, we had to treat them as a body of dichotomic variables with present/absent modalities. In figure 2 we provide a comparison between percentages for the "present" modality of these 8 variables.

FIGURE 2
Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Type of Reference to SRT" (in percentage)



What emerges from the percentages is a disproportional weight for *General references to the SRT* (55%). Among the more frequent specific references, the highest values are for both *Meta-theory Related* (12.4%) and *Structure Related* (10.5%). This is not surprising if we look at it in the context of the phase of meta-theoretical reflection that has begun in recent years (de Rosa, 1994a) and the widespread diffusion of the Central Nucleus Theory (Abric, 1976).

FIGURE 3
Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Thematic Areas" (in percentage)



The *Thematic Areas* (FIG. 3) are distributed in two large, relatively homogenous groups across our *corpus*.

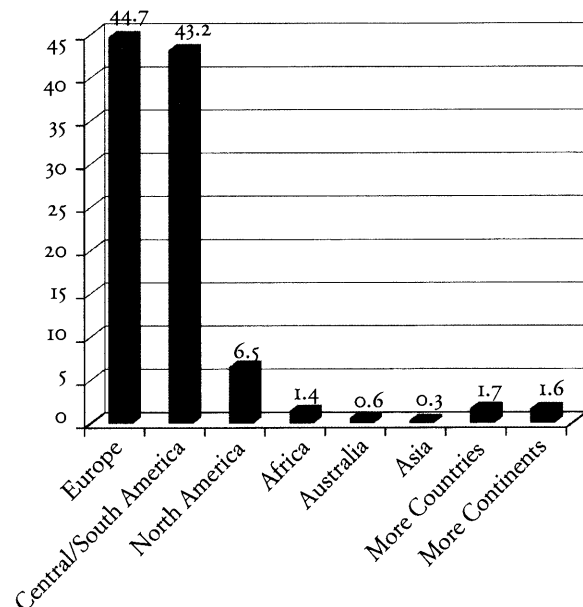
The first group, with more elevated frequencies, contains: *Politics and Ideology* (11.6%), *Theory, Meta-theory and Methodological Issues* (10.6%), *Development and Education* (10.5%), *Health/Illness* (10.2%), *Economics-Work-Organization* (8.1%).

The second group, with lower frequencies, consists of: *Communication and multimedia* (5.1%), *Gender* (5%), *Environment* (4%), *Identity* (3.9%), *Interpersonal and Inter-group Relationships* (3.8%), *Culture* (3.6%), *Deviance* (2.9%), *Technology* (2.3%), and *Social psychology and other* (1.8%).

The modality *More than one thematic area* represents, in any case, 16.5% of the entire *corpus* under analysis, showing the highest tendency of research programmes focused on an interrelated approach to more than one thematic area (for example health and environment or development and gender).

Some interesting results also emerged concerning the distribution of the variable “nationality”.

FIGURE 4
Distribution of frequencies for the variable “Continent of Authors’ Institution”* (in percentage)



* We decided to differentiate the Continent America into two cultural areas related to North (US and Canada) and Central/South America (all the Latin American Countries) due to the different epistemological traditions in Social Psychology (cf. Moscovici, Markova, 2006).

Following the European contribution (44.7%) the strong Latin American participation in the International Conferences immediately stands out with its frequency of 43.2% of the total of papers presented in the entire series of the ICSR. Three of them were held in Latin American countries, i.e. Brazil and Mexico. In addition to the North American contributors (6.5%), also appears the participation of authors coming from other continents, like Africa, Australia and Asia, where there has as yet not held an ICSR.

Looking more in detail at individual country participation, we note that France is the most active with 17.3%.

Besides these two exceptional cases, we can identify three fundamentally homogenous groups.

The first group is composed of the United Kingdom, Canada and Italy, with 6.8%, 6.8% and 5.3% respectively. Portugal, with 2.9%, and Eastern Eu-

rope, with 2.7%, represent an intermediate level between the first and the second group, which is composed of Switzerland (1.5%), Northern European Countries (1.4%), Belgium (1.1%), the United States (1.2%), Greece (0.8%), Spain (1.9%) and the Middle East (1.3%). The third group, whose frequency threshold is (1%), includes Germany (0.6%), Austria (0.7%), Australia (0.6%), India (0.2%) and Africa and Japan (0.1%). Finally, the frequencies of international and intercontinental collaborations are respectively 1.7% and 1.6%, showing collaborative research programmes and co-authorships at the cross-country and cross-continental level.

8

Comparison between Profiles Presented by European, Latin American and North American Papers for Chosen Indicators

Given a hypothesis of differentiation on the basis of geographic/cultural origin (relative to, at least, three areas: Europe, Latin America and North America) and according to the previous literature on the subject (i.e. de Rosa, 2002a; de Rosa, d'Ambrosio, 2003), we think it is consistent to perform a very close examination (“zoom”) of the data related to each of these three areas and then compare them. For reasons of space, we decided to present only the figures related to the main indicators of the literature’s general profile.

The first indicator under consideration was participation in the conferences.

We are not surprised by what figures 5, 6 and 7 highlight in terms of the number of papers presented at each conference. In the framework of a continuous general growth in participation, each of the three areas have particularly significant peaks corresponding to the conferences held in places more easily accessible in terms of distance. These are, for Europe, the 1st, 3rd, 6th and especially the 8th conferences held respectively in Ravello, Aix-en-Provence, Stirling and Rome. For Latin America, these are the 2nd, the 4th and the 7th, held respectively in Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City and Guadalajara. For North America it is the 5th, held in Montreal. Despite the presence of some researchers from Latin America and North America, the 1st International Conference on SR in Ravello saw significant participation only by Europeans. We think this is not because of the geographical distance, but mainly because contacts started to be established later on, thanks in part to the “snow ball” effect of the international conferences in promoting scientific relations among the SRT inspired community on both sides of the Atlantic.

FIGURE 5
Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Participation to Conferences" in the European Literature

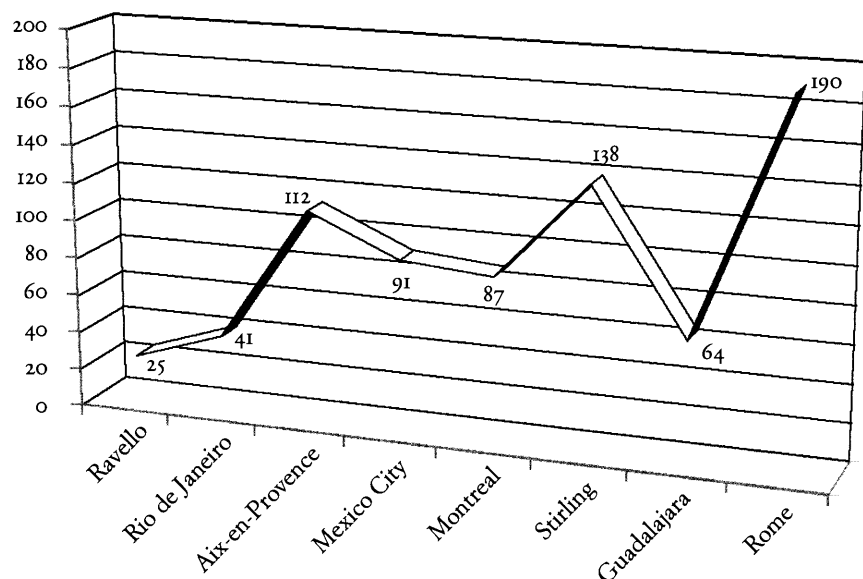


FIGURE 6
Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Participation to Conferences" in the Latin American Literature

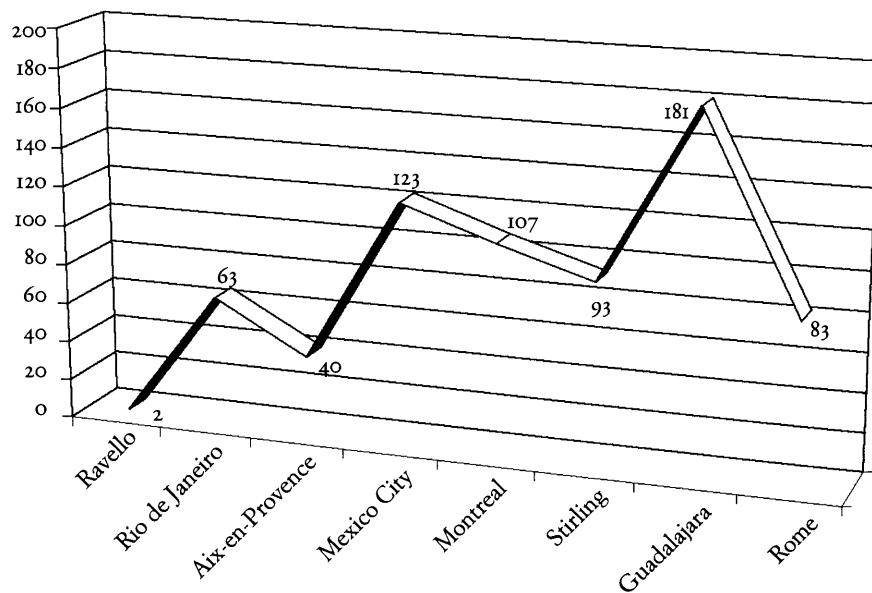
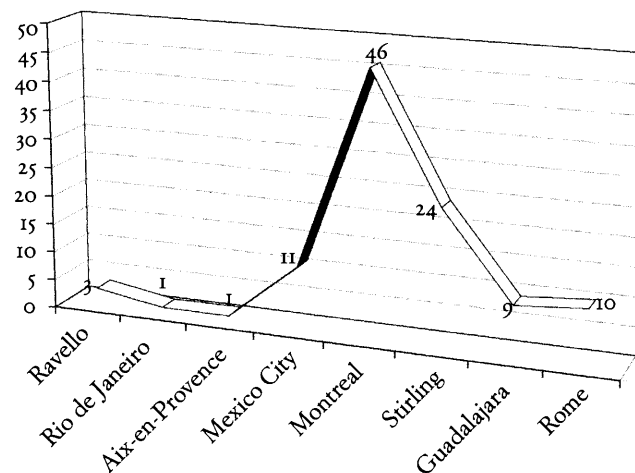


FIGURE 7
Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Participation to Conferences" in the North American Literature



In the "macro areas" groupings, we also found it interesting to try and understand what were the effective contributions of the individual countries that make up the groups. For example, in Europe, the prominent role played by France (38.8%) is clear, as its production represents a third of European papers under consideration. In decreasing order, the other significant contributions were those of the United Kingdom (15.3%), Italy (15.2%), Portugal (6.5%) and Eastern European Countries (6.1%).

FIGURE 8
Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Participation to Conferences by Country" in the European Literature (in percentage)

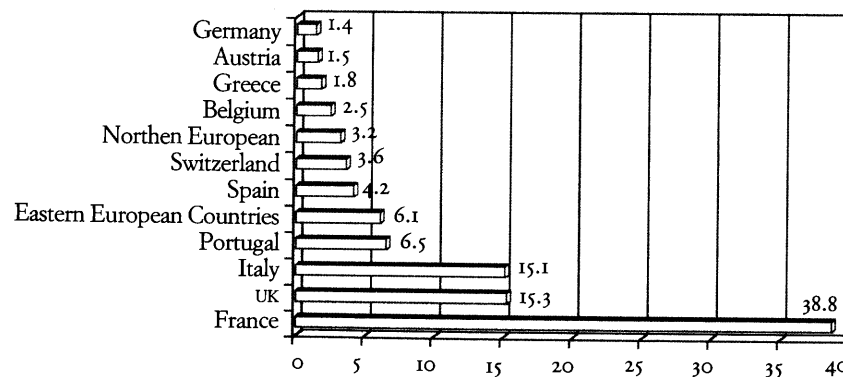
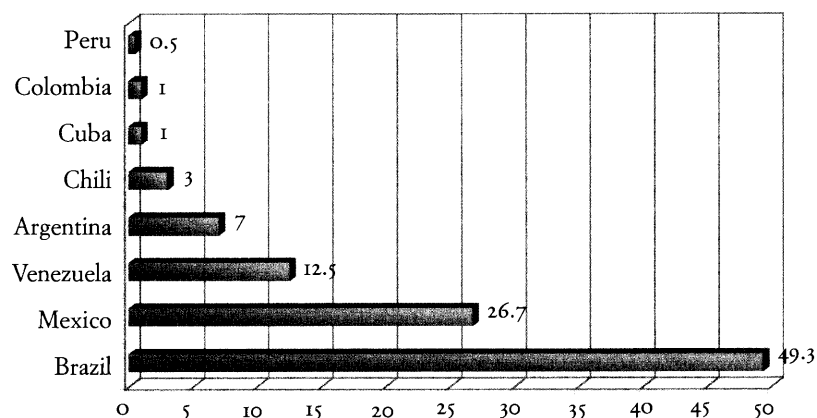
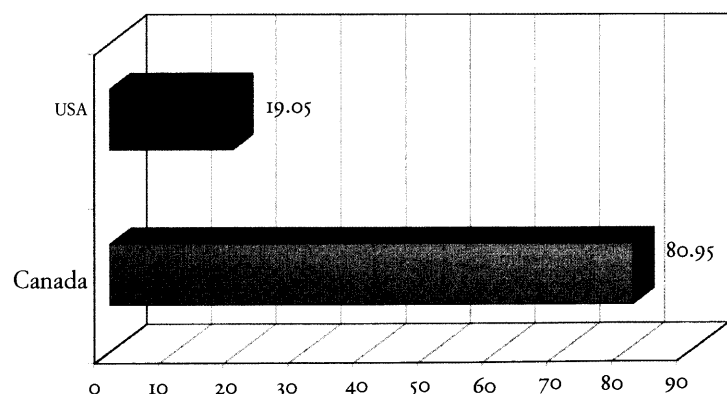


FIGURE 9
Distribution of cross frequencies for the variable "Participation to Conferences by Country" in the Latin American Literature (in percentage)



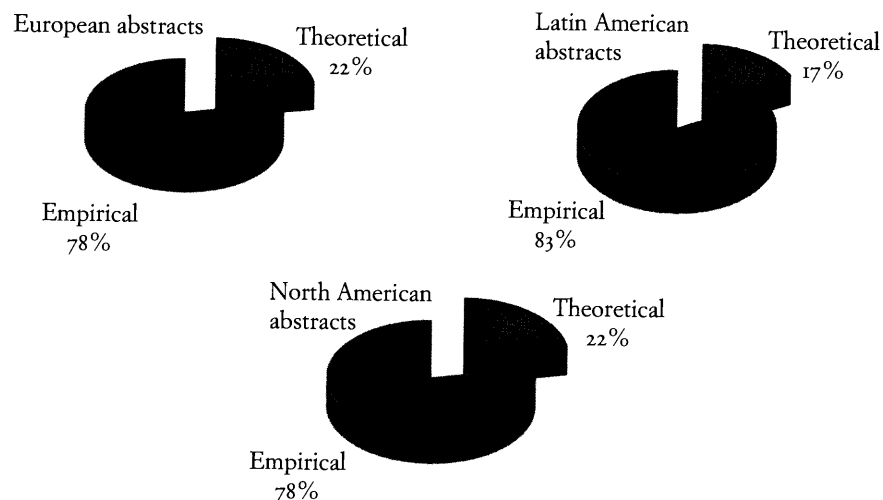
Concerning Latin America, it is interesting to note the role of Brazilian researchers (49.3%). In the North American context, the predominance of Canadian papers is even more overwhelming: 80.95% compared to the United States' production of 19.5%.

FIGURE 10
Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Participation to Conferences by Country" in the North American Literature (in percentage)



To deepen our cross-cultural comparison, as far as the variable *Type of Paper* is concerned, we find a certain distance between Europe and North America on one hand, which, although not even reaching 25% of the *theoretical* papers produced, still shows a certain interest for this type of approach. On the other hand, Latin America definitely seems more oriented towards a more *empirical* production.

FIGURE 11
Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Type of Papers" in the European, in the North American, in the Latin American Literature



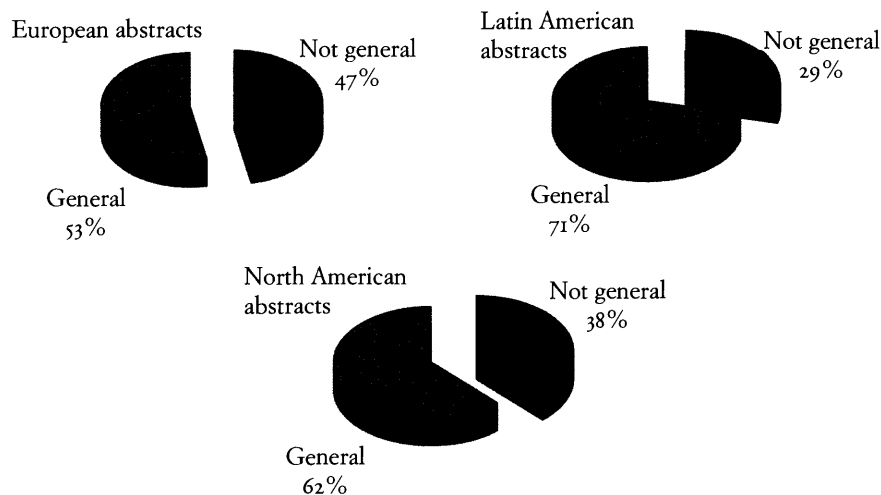
The same kind of dynamic seems to surface again concerning the variable *General Reference to the SRT* (present/absent), even if, in this case, some differences arise between the European and North American literature. In fact, in this case the reference to the SRT is specifically linked to *paradigmatic* aspects with more frequency in the European case (47% in European literature vs. 38% in North American literature).

Therefore, it is clear from the above that a pattern is developing.

Compared with European literature production (more *theoretical* in style and oriented towards the development of the SRT via studies exploring certain paradigmatic aspects), we find that Latin American literature, being prevalently *empirical* and referring in a *general* way to the SRT, seems more interested in the applications of the theory as a tool to interpret social phenomena. Therefore, there is a two-sided debate between two different ways to do research in Social Psychology.

FIGURE 12

Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Type of Reference to SRT" in European, North American, and Latin American Literature



But how does North America fit into this line of reasoning?

North America presents the highest value of *theoretical communications* among the three areas. Concerning the second variable *General Reference to SRT*, with 55% of papers referring to the SRT in a rather *general* way, North America is placed in an intermediate position in relation to the other two areas.

The first explanation that comes to mind is that the North American literature pays more attention to real or potential relationships with other theories and constructs than to paradigmatic references to SRT. Unfortunately, the peculiar limits of our unit of analysis (the conferences' abstracts) do not allow us to explore this path. For the moment, we raise this question in the hope that we will later be able to find a proper response, comparing these results with those emerging from the meta-theoretical analysis of all the papers.

Let us turn now to the *Thematic Areas*. This is, perhaps, the aspect in which the geographic/cultural context has the most influence. Let us not forget that Social Representations are defined as a "product-process" which is elaborated in respect to socially significant objects. It would make no sense to study the SR of an object that is not salient for the community of reference.

FIGURE 13

Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Distribution of Thematic Areas" in European Literature (in percentage)

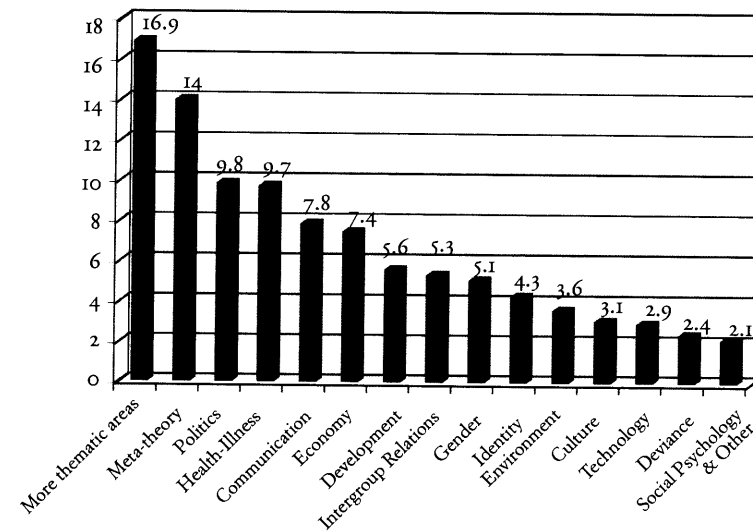


FIGURE 14

Distribution of frequencies for the variable "Distribution of Thematic Areas" in Latin American Literature (in percentage)

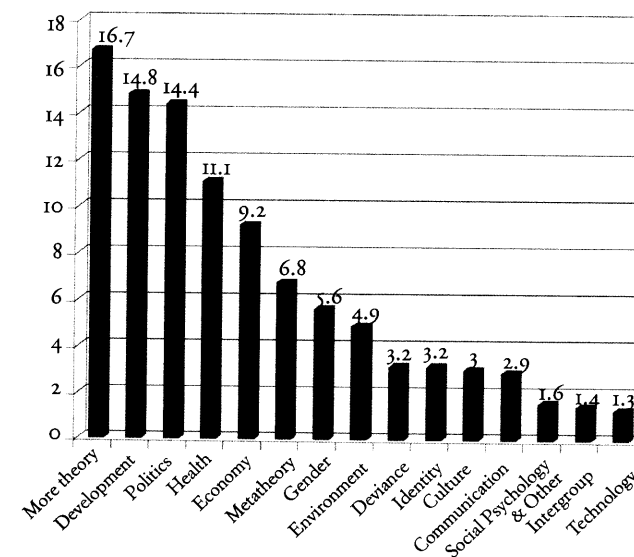
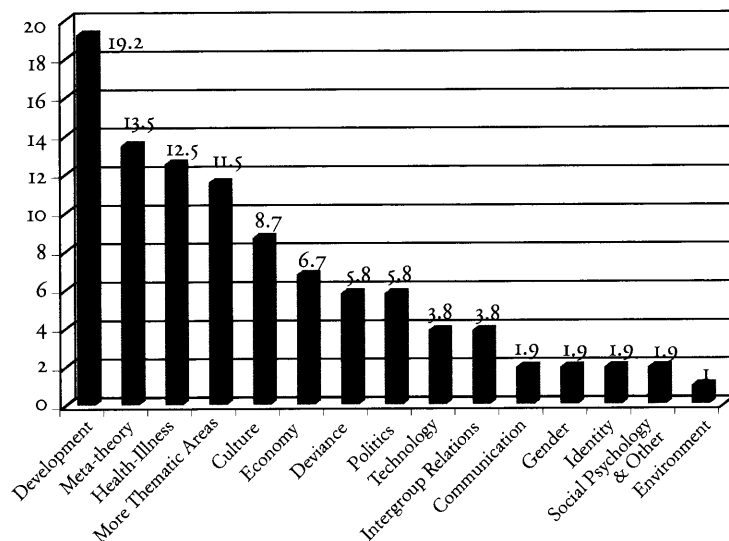


FIGURE 15
Distribution of frequencies for the variable “Distribution of Thematic Areas” in North American Literature (in percentage)



The strength of the link between the actual social/cultural/economic context and the choice of subject of inquiry clearly emerges from a simple observation. The thematic areas most covered in Latin America are *Development and education* (14.8%), together with *Politics and ideology* (14.4%). In Europe it is *Meta-theory* (14%) and in North America, *Development and education* (19.2%). *Health/illness* as a thematic area is relatively equally distributed, with high percentages in all the conferences.

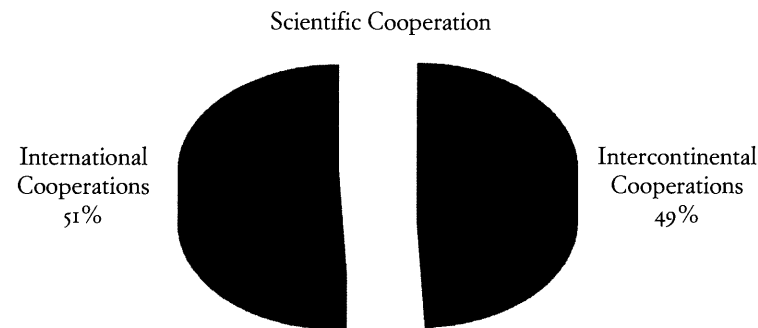
This result is also visible in relation to the different significance of the various thematic areas of the papers for each conference (TABLE 3). It is true that in certain countries, certain themes are more salient in SR research than in others. Therefore, where those countries are more present, we find that in the debate, these thematic areas are more central than others. This is again the case of issues such as *Politics and ideology*, that are very important for the countries of Latin America and take on a certain amount of importance in the second and fourth conferences. *Development and education*, in the forefront of Canadian interests, is very important in the fifth Conference.

Concerning the methodological aspect, we note the prevalence of *descriptive designs* in all contexts. Despite this, however, some differences exist. Probably thanks to the papers from the Aix-en-Provence School and more in gen-

eral to the influence of the EAESP, in European there is a presence of *experimental* and *quasi-experimental designs*. In Latin American and, surprisingly, also in North American (mainly Canadian) contributions we notice a strong prevalence of descriptive designs. However, a presence for quasi-experimental and experimental research designs in all three categories is maintained, even if only minimally.

Before moving on to other analyses, a final result that we would like to highlight is the distribution of studies conducted with the collaboration of more than one nation. While not having particularly high frequencies and only 19 in number, they assume a particular significance in the framework of this analysis.

FIGURE 16
Distribution of frequencies for the variable “International and Intercontinental co-operations”



In contrast with previous results based on the analysis of the Biannual International Conferences from Ravello (1992) to Stirling (2002) (cf. de Rosa, d’Ambrosio, 2003), here international cooperation (50.9%) is slightly increased, as compared to intercontinental collaboration efforts (49.1%).

Looking more closely, we note how more than half of intercontinental collaborative research programs are between France and Brazil. Less than a quarter involves other nations, specifically in two cases: the first case is the United Kingdom, Austria and India and the second, Switzerland, Mexico and Canada (Quebec). We wish to further specify that of the seven France/Brazil collaborative trans-cultural research projects, three were led by Paris academic circles and four by Aix-en-Provence. At this point, an observation emerges: when a reference to the *structure* of Social Representations appears – most often cited in Latin American paper abstracts – it is actually related to the Aix-en-Provence

structuralist approach. As Aix has participated in many collaborative research programs with Brazil, we interpret these results both as a sign of that famous "neighbour to neighbour contagion effect" that Sperber speaks about and as a consequence of the multiplying role played by the increasing mobility between France and Brazil of professors, researchers and even doctoral research trainees.

9 Cross Frequencies and Chiz Test Results Analysis

From the cross frequencies tables, it is clear how thematic areas are treated in different ways in relation to the external variables *Type of Communication* and *Conference*.

Furthermore, these differences in the distribution of the cross frequencies have undergone the Chiz test in order to verify their non-randomness.

Table 3 shows that the most frequent thematic area for papers from the 1st International Conference on SR (Ravello, 1992) was *Theory, Meta-theory and methodological Issues*. It was the subject of 11 out of 30 papers.

The other thematic area central to this Conference was *Health/Illness* (6 papers out of 30). On the other hand, *Health/Illness* shows relevant frequencies in every international conference, especially the ones held in *Rio de Janeiro* (1994) and *Aix-en-Provence* (1996), where it represented the most important thematic area with, respectively, percentages of 16.66% and 14.72%.

Also taking into account that its frequencies are still high in the more recent conferences, we can consider *Health/Illness* as a topical category for research in SR. In the Mexico City corpus it actually represented 9.87%, in Montreal 12.9%, in Stirling 14.87%, in Guadalajara 4.9% and in Rome 4.22%.

The 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Conferences show instead the highest frequencies for *Politics and ideology* (Mexico City, 15.45%, Stirling 15.24% and Guadalajara 10.41%) and *Development and education* (Montreal, 14.16% and Guadalajara 10.78%).

Finally, the last conference, held in Rome, shows the highest frequencies for *Communication and Multimedia* (10.6%), consistent with the title chosen for the conference. As de Rosa (2006b) pointed out, in the organisation of a conference there are, in fact,

at least two decisions [...] particularly interesting to take: the choice of the main theme (and therefore of the title) and the place, for the event venue, respectively corresponding to the conceptual and the physical *topos*, both related to the conference symbolic space to convene the participants. The choice of the main theme of the 2006 conference, Social Representations Media and Society, was guided by the desire to stress the importance of developing the research area in the field of Social Representation with a strong connection with the Communication studies.

TABLE 3
Distribution of cross-frequencies for the variables "Thematic Areas" by "Conference"

	Ravello	Rio	Aix	Mexico City	Montreal	Stirling	Guadalajara	Rome
Communication	3.6%	3.6%	4.3%	3.6%	3.3%	6.4%	4.9%	18.3%
Culture	0.0%	1.8%	1.9%	2.7%	5.0%	6.4%	3.1%	8.3%
Deviance	0.0%	1.8%	1.9%	3.1%	5.4%	3.4%	5.6%	2.4%
Development	3.6%	6.3%	11.2%	9.8%	15.3%	12.4%	17.9%	14.8%
Gender	3.6%	6.3%	8.7%	7.6%	6.6%	6.0%	4.9%	1.8%
Economy	3.6%	15.3%	11.2%	12.9%	8.7%	6.8%	8.6%	8.9%
Environment	0.0%	12.6%	5.0%	4.0%	2.1%	3.0%	6.2%	7.1%
Health/Illness	21.4%	17.1%	14.9%	10.2%	12.4%	15.0%	6.8%	7.7%
Identity	10.7%	2.7%	1.2%	4.0%	3.7%	5.6%	8.0%	5.3%
Technology	0.0%	4.5%	5.0%	2.7%	4.1%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Intergroup Relations	3.6%	2.7%	6.8%	5.3%	4.1%	4.1%	6.2%	2.4%
Politic	7.1%	14.4%	13.0%	16.0%	13.6%	15.4%	17.3%	7.7%
Social Psychology & Other Disciplines	3.6%	0.9%	3.1%	2.7%	2.9%	0.4%	1.9%	3.0%
Meta-theory	39.3%	9.9%	11.8%	15.6%	12.8%	11.7%	8.6%	12.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

It articulated a variety of societal issues, which were mediated and constructed via interactions in a multi-media communication system.

Examining the eight scientific events, *Politics and ideology* appears as a sensitive thematic area in all conferences except the 1st (Ravello, 1992) and the 8th ICSR (Rome, 2006). It is the second most relevant thematic area at the 3rd, the 5th and the 7th ICSR and the third at the 2nd ICSR (after *Economy-work-organization*).

In addition, we would like to note two relatively «new increasing» thematic areas, namely *Culture* and *Deviance*, beginning with the 5th ICSR (Montreal, 2000).

As far as our data shows, both of these did not exist at the Ravello Conference, but they show a significant growth in later conferences.

We note an inversion of their positions during the last two conferences, where *Deviance* decreases to 3.35% in the 7th ICSR (Guadalajara, 2004) and to just 1.30% in the 8th ICSR (Rome, 2006) and *Culture*, that represented just 1.86% in the Guadalajara corpus, reaches 4.55% in Rome.

Another area that has not been dealt with since the Rio conference is *Technology*. It seems that it represented an interesting research topic in the second half of 90's, but it is completely absent in the Guadalajara and Rome corpus, where the topic of *Technology* – when present – was also treated as an element of the more complex *Communication and Multi-media system*.

Another thematic area *Environment*, which was mostly dealt with in Rio, also shows a negative trend.

One important thing to note is the role of the 2nd ICSR (Rio de Janeiro, 1994) as the most productive scientific focal point for the development of new thematic areas. Also, for the 3rd ICSR (Aix-en-Provence, 1996), it is possible to see a quantitative jump in many thematic areas that were beginning to show uniform or growing frequencies. This is true for thematic areas such as: *Development and education* which, showing a growth trend, went from 6.14% of papers at Rio to 9% at Aix; *Gender*, from 6.14% to 8%; and *Inter-personal and inter-group relationships* from 2.63% to 6.50%. Both showed proportionally stable trends in subsequent conferences. The same is true for *Social Psychology and other disciplines*.

Cross frequencies and Chiz appear to highlight the association between *Thematic areas* and *Conferences* (Communication and Multimedia by Conferences Chiz = 22.994; d.f. = 7; p = 0.002; Culture by Conferences Chiz = 14.16; d.f. = 7; p = 0.048).

In the following sections, we are going to deal with some of the most interesting correlations between external variables (type of paper) and a few internal ones, namely, *References to the SRT*.

As far as the section *References to the SRT* is concerned, the results show the

importance of the relations between the *General Reference SRT* and the *Type of Paper: Empirical*. 87% of the communications showing a general reference to SRT are *empirical*, and 30% of the communications with a specific paradigmatic reference to SR are *theoretical*. Such a strong association is also confirmed by the Chiz results (Chiz = 67.3; d.f. = 1; p = 0.01).

In addition, if we look at the percentages of both these variables in our population (cf. FIG. 1), we realize how important this relationship is. If we consider the dimension *Type of paper*, the modality *Empirical* scores reach 80.3% of the entire sample and the variable *General Reference to SRT* is present in 61.7% of the cases.

From a closer analysis of the cross frequencies of the variables *Type of Paper* with the specific references to SRT we notice first a general figure of particularly low frequencies (except in the case of *Meta-theory* and *Structure related*) and a lesser importance for empirical papers focusing on main aspects of SRT. This is particularly true in the case of *Genesis related*, *Transmission*, *Functions related* and *Meta-theory related*.

The cross frequencies between *Type of Communications* and *Meta-theory related* show, for the very first time, a major proportion of theoretical communications. This is not surprising. On the contrary, we intuitively would have expected an even larger theoretical dimension for this variable. We explain this result as due to the prospective and retrospective reconsideration of interest for theoretical issues in relation to the critical debate that has emerged in certain areas of research, as well as to the methodological inquiry that is encompassed in our definition of meta-theoretical reference *vis-à-vis* the theory in the last decades (for example, the radical discourse analysis position: cf. de Rosa, 2006a).

Furthermore, the high percentage (12.4%) that this variable has in the population partially reassesses the reported figure for the variable *Type of Paper*, although most of the communication is empirical, it seems that this does not entail a lack of interest for theoretical and meta-theoretical issues.

10

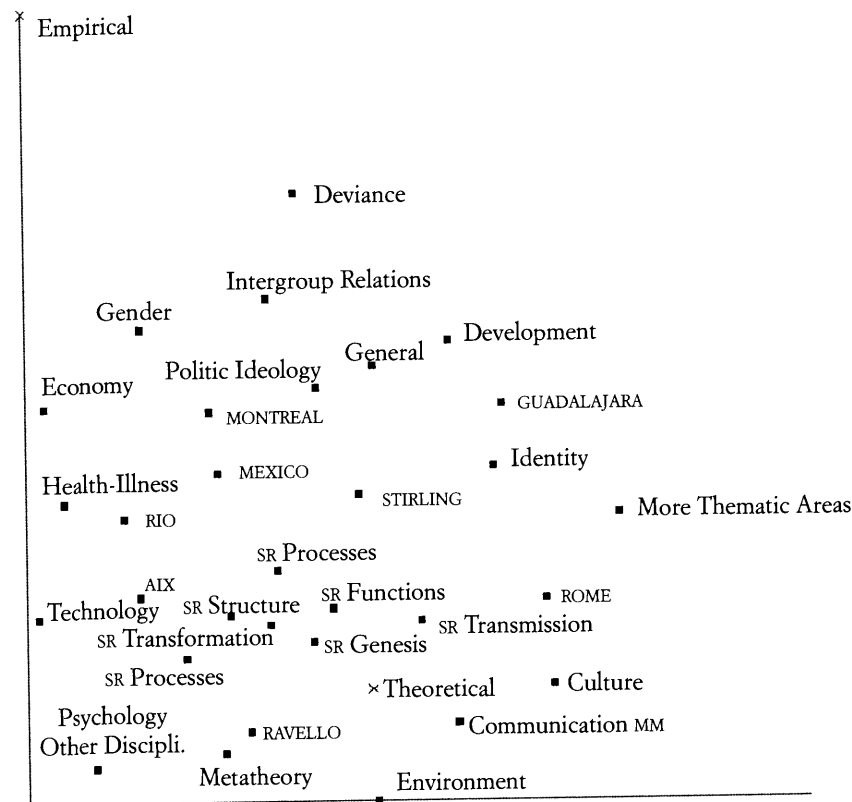
Structural Analysis Based on the Results of the Weighted Smallest Space Analysis and Facet Analysis

The results deriving from the statistical analysis based on the Facet Theory are even more interesting, given the structural view of the data. Figure 17 is a Space Diagram, the output of the Weighted Smallest Space Analysis (WSSA)⁵. In this figure, the product of all the correlations between all the internal variables, taken with their sign and intensity, is expressed in spatial terms. The underlying assumption is that each variable in the conceptual space “object of study”

(represented as a statistical space) assumes a certain position as a function of the importance of its correlation with all others. This position will be influenced by the stronger relationships as well as by their direction.

Given that each internal variable interacts not only with one other, but with all others, the relationships verified via "bivariate" analyses will not necessarily be maintained in their entirety. In the comprehensive group dynamic they can be reinforced, weakened or modified by the influence of other variables.

FIGURE 17
WSSAI Related to Internal variables: Thematic Areas Session and Reference to SRT Session and to External variables: Empirical and Theoretical



In Space Diagram 17, the internal variables are organised in a *modular circular structure* where a central nucleus represents the point of intersection of all the correlations taking place and clarifies the more general and shared characteristics of our "concept-space". All the other variables are arranged around the

cloud of central variables, concentrically and in relation to the variables with which they are most correlated.

These have less shared characters but, in a way, define the meaning of the central variables.

Not surprisingly, in our figure the central variables are all the conferences except the first. Ravello is off-centre because of the distinctly theoretical and meta-theoretical character of the papers presented there, little correlated with other aspects specified by the external sector in its zone of influence (the thematic areas *Meta-theory* and *Social Psychology and Other Disciplines*).

In the external sector next to the 2nd ICSR (Rio de Janeiro, 1994), the 3rd ICSR (Aix-en-Provence, 1996) and the 4th ICSR (Mexico City, 1998) as well as Montreal, the thematic area *Health/illness* is found in an intermediate position between these four conferences, since it played an important role in all of them. Meanwhile, it sits on the opposite side of the 8th ICSR (Rome, 2006) and the 7th ICSR (Guadalajara, 2004), consistent with the decrease in interest registered during these last two conferences.

Near the 7th ICSR (Guadalajara, 2004), the 5th ICSR (Montreal, 2000), the 4th ICSR (Mexico City, 1998) and the 6th ICSR (Stirling, 2002), we have *General Reference to SRT*, from which all the other *thematic areas* radiate out to a more external sector. These are close to the conferences in which they found the most space: *Development* between the 5th ICSR (Montreal, 2000) and the 7th ICSR (Guadalajara, 2004), *Politics and Ideology* between the 4th ICSR (Mexico City, 1998) and the 7th ICSR (Guadalajara, 2004), *Economy* between the 2nd ICSR (Rio de Janeiro, 1994) and the 4th ICSR (Mexico City, 1998), *Identity* between the 6th ICSR (Stirling, 2002) and the 7th ICSR (Guadalajara, 2004), and *Technology* near the 3rd ICSR (Aix-en-Provence, 1996).

The central position of the variable *General Reference to SRT* in reference to most of the thematic areas and three of the four conferences held in the Americas (Guadalajara, Mexico City, Montreal) highlights the contrast between this side of the data structure and the region embedded between the four conferences held in Europe (Ravello, Aix-en-Provence, Rome and Stirling). Here we find all specific *References to the Paradigmatic Aspects of SR*: *SR Structure* and *Transformation* closer to the 3rd ICSR (Aix-en-Provence, 1996), *SR Processes* closer to the 6th ICSR (Stirling, 2002), *SR Transmission* closer to the 8th ICSR (Rome, 2006), and *Meta-theory related* closer to the 1st ICSR (Ravello, 1992). *SR Functions* and *Genesis* are located at the very centre of this region.

Further out, in a more external layer, we find the thematic areas *Social Psychology and Other Disciplines* and *Meta-theory* close to the 1st ICSR (Ravello, 1992) and *Communications and Multimedia*, as well as *Culture*, close to the 8th ICSR (Rome, 2006). This is consistent with the cross frequencies showing high

values of these thematic areas during the 1st and the 8th international conferences (respectively Ravello and Rome, both in Italy).

This structure leads us to expect some sort of differentiation between the conferences held in the Americas (Rio de Janeiro, 1994; Mexico City, 1998; Montreal, 2000 and Guadalajara, 2004) which can be characterised as having more “applied” interests, and those held in Europe (Ravello, 1992; Aix-en-Provence, 1996; Stirling, 2002 and Rome, 2008) that seem more tied to interest in the theory’s paradigmatic aspects. The conference held in Stirling plays an intermediate role, located between the two regions.

Examining the positions of the external variables *Theoretical papers* and *Empirical papers* that projected onto this structure can provide a new perspective that corroborates the interpretation we have given so far.

In fact, the external variables are distributed in a clearly antithetic and bipolar way. Namely, the variable *Empirical paper (Empirical)*, is outside the cloud of variables, while *Theoretical paper (Theoretical)* is inside, even if not in a central position. At first glance, this position is surprising, if we take into account the high frequency reported for empirical papers within the study population as well as the fact that most conferences confirmed the prevalence of empirical papers.

On closer examination, however, we notice that the variable *Theoretical papers* assumes a special position. It is projected exactly in the centre of the region for *Meta-theoretical* and *Specific References to Paradigmatic Aspects of SRT* delimited by the four conferences held in Europe (Ravello, Aix-en-Provence, Stirling and Rome) and by the thematic areas associated to these conferences (respectively *Meta-theory* and *Social Psychology and Other Disciplines*, for Ravello and *Culture* and *Communication and Multi-Media*, for Rome).

We can find an explanation for this result by looking at the cross frequencies distributions for the variables *Type of Paper* and *Type of Reference to SRT*. Here we notice that the most *Theoretical Papers* (total 18.70%) are also papers presenting a *Not General Reference to SRT* (11.50%). Therefore, these are papers dealing with specific Paradigmatic Aspects of SRT.

Meanwhile, the total number of papers with Not General References to SRT is much lower than the sum of papers dealing with all Paradigmatic Aspects of SRT, since the latter are not mutually exclusive variables. On the contrary, a lot of papers discussing a given paradigmatic aspect also take into account the others.

This is why the structure of our data is organised around a very cohesive “theoretical” region that avoids a division into theoretical and empirical sides.

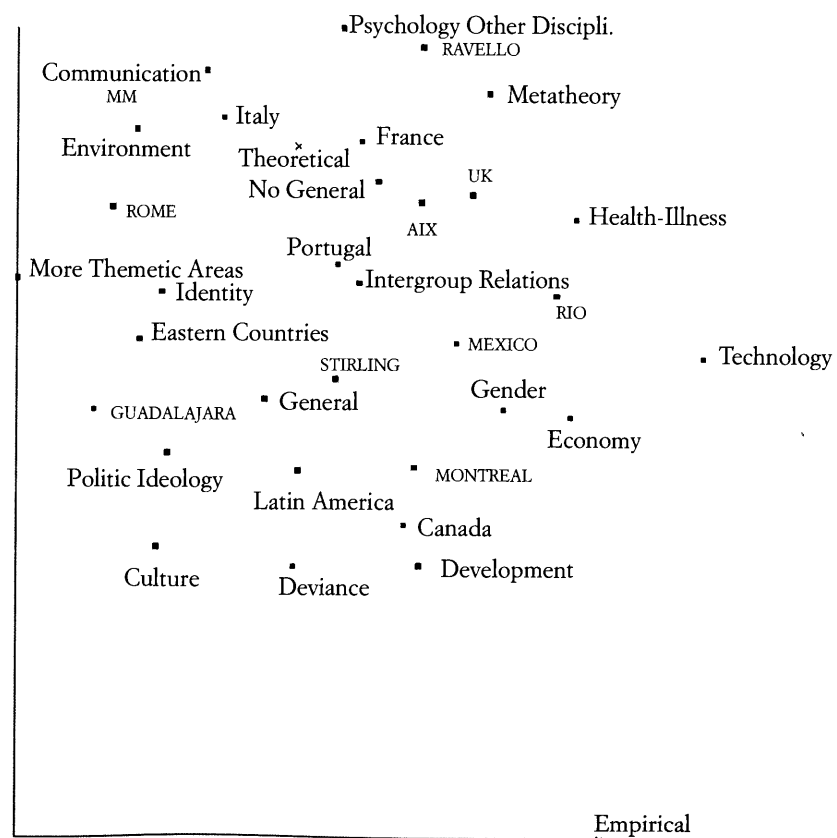
Therefore, the variables Thematic areas and the variable *General Reference to SRT* are distributed in the most external layer of the cloud, in the sector con-

cerning the four conferences held in the Americas that even while maintaining a central position in the cloud, are distributed in the form of a semicircle in the opposite half of the cloud.

The accuracy of this graphic data representation is confirmed by the Shepard curve.

Given that figure 17 demonstrates our concept’s structure (*corpus* of papers presented at the biannual international conferences) and considers as internal only the variables related to the *Thematic Areas* and *Specific References to SRT* section, we can ask: how does this structure change if we substitute the variables related to Specific References to SRT section with the Countries of Authors’ Institution? The answer is given in Space Diagram 18.

FIGURE 18
WSSAI Related to External variables: Empirical vs. Theoretical Papers and to Internal variables Thematic Areas and Country of Authors’ Institution



Even if the position of the external variables is the same (i.e. polarised with *Theoretical* inside the cloud and *Empirical* outside), the distribution of the different thematic areas results rather differently. We notice how strong the links are between different countries and thematic areas.

It would seem that the structure of our conceptual universe doesn't change so greatly. Again we find a modular sequential structure, where we can point out a theoretical region embedded between the four conferences held in Europe and the four conferences held in the Americas, together with the thematic areas with higher frequencies for each one of them radiating all around this first region.

The first region surrounds the variable *No General Reference to SRT* (an area where abstracts taking into account the paradigmatic aspects of SRT are found). Here we find thematic areas like *Meta-theory, Social psychology and Other disciplines, Communication, Inter-Personal and Inter-Group Relationships, Identity and Environment* as well as countries like *France, Italy, UK, Portugal and Eastern European Countries*.

The variable *General Reference to SRT* is located in an intermediate area between the first region and the more external sector.

In this latter sector are located thematic areas like *Health/Illness, Technology, Economy, Gender, Development, Deviance, Culture, Politics-Ideology*, as well as countries like *Latin America and Canada*.

France, the UK, Canada and also Latin America are in the centre of the cloud. As they are the countries that present the highest frequencies, they probably were active in a larger number of thematic areas and participated in all the conferences.

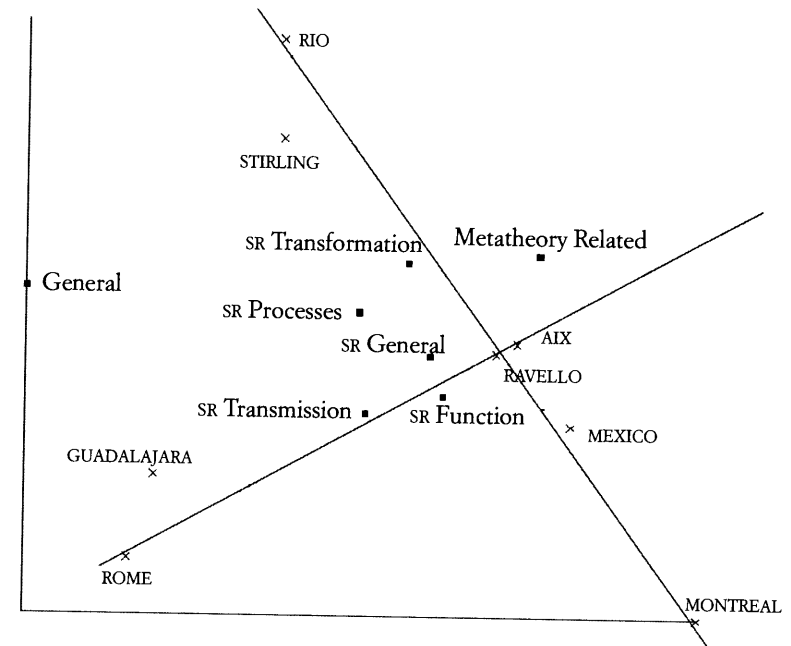
The alienation coefficient, assumed as an indicator of the fitness of the model, for this graph is 0,24788.

In figure 19, using as internal variables "references to SRT" and as external variables the eight ICSR.s, we find a structure already seen in figure 17, even if here it is more marked. Namely, we find a concentration of References to Paradigmatic Aspects of SRT all around the 1st ICSR (Ravello, 1992) in contrast with the General Reference to SRT that is outside of the cloud of internal variables and has the 2nd, the 6th, the 7th and the 8th conferences sitting in a borderline position. This is evidence of the increasing trend of scientific production on SR with a more applied and general perspective.

If, instead we examine the paradigmatic references to SRT, we find that the two axes that pass through the central Ravello conference, link the four conferences located at the extremities of the data (Rio de Janeiro, Montreal and Rome, Aix-en-Provence) and indicate four regions in this space:

- a first region embedded between the 5th ICSR (Montreal, 2000), the 1st ICSR (Ravello, 1992) and the 8th ICSR (Rome, 2006) represents the literature taking into account the *functional aspects* of SR;

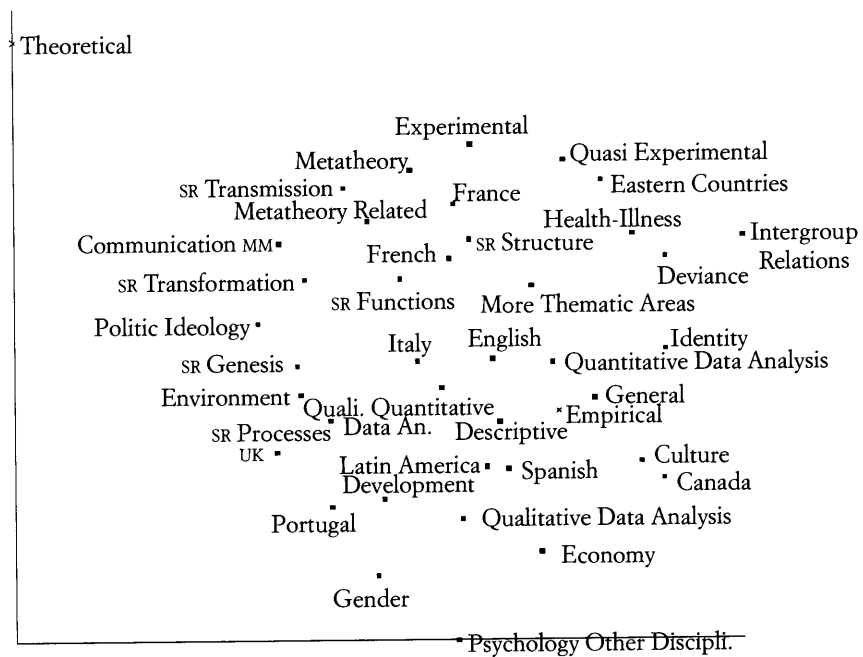
FIGURE 19
WSSAI Diagram Related to Internal variables: the Session "References to SRT" variables and to External variables: Ravello, Rio, Aix, Mexico, Montreal, Stirling, Guadalajara, Rome



- in contrast to the first region we find the area defined by the 2nd ICSR (Rio de Janeiro, 1994), the 1st ICSR (Ravello, 1992) and the 3rd ICSR (Aix-en-Provence, 1996), where we find a literature concentrating more on the *structural aspects* of SR (consistent with the peculiar interest that the Aix-en-Provence School gives to these aspects);
- in the third region, located between the 2nd ICSR (Rio de Janeiro, 1994), the 1st ICSR (Ravello, 1992) and the 8th ICSR (Rome, 2006) we find all the *dynamic aspects* of SR with reference to the *Transformation of SR* that represents almost an overlapping between this region and the structural one. This is consistent with the importance that the Aix-en-Provence structuralist approach attaches to the theoretical elaboration on SR Transformation (Flament, 1987), but, also, with the importance that the dynamic processes of SR acquire in research focused on Communication and Meta-theoretical studies, the central theme of the 8th ICSR (Rome, 2006);
- the last region, defined by Aix-en-Provence, Ravello and Montreal, is an empty space where the only the external variable projected is Mexico City, which is, in any case, very close to the boundaries of the functional area.

FIGURE 20

WSSAI Diagram Related to the 8th ICSR – Internal variables: the “References to SRT” variables, the “Thematic Areas” variables, the “Methodological Profile”; External variables: Theoretical vs. Empirical



Related to the data of the 8th ICSR (Rome, 2006), the Space Diagram 20 shows the well-known circular modular structure, but there is a reversed balance between the external variables *Theoretical* and *Empirical*. Here the variable *Empirical* is placed at the centre of the structure while the variable *Theoretical* is located outside. What is new here is that at the centre of this structure we observe some applied research features, such as the choice to use *Qualitative* and *Quali-Quantitative Data Analysis* and the focus on research objects related with intertwined Thematic Areas. This result can be understood as the beginning of a new approach to psycho-social applied research, one that is more oriented towards taking into consideration the complexity of social phenomena both in the integrated poly-thematic dimension and the methodological dimension (with increasing multi-method research approaches). On the external layer in the direction of the external variable *Theoretical* we find the thematic areas *Communication* and *Theory, Meta-theory and Methodological Issues*, together

with some Reference to Paradigmatic Aspects of SRT such as *SR Transmission* and *Meta-theory related* and *France* as an Author Institution Country.

II

Results of the Analysis Based on Analysis of Multiple Correspondences

In order to have a deeper understanding of the factors organizing the structure of our data, using the SPAD-N statistical package (version 5.0), we carried out, a Multiple Correspondence Analysis (ACM) from which we obtained the following histogram concerning the variance explained by each factor:

FIGURE 21

Histogram of Factors Eigenvalues extracted via Multiple Correspondence Analysis

VALEURS PROPRES			
APERÇU DE LA PRÉCISION DES CALCULS : TRACE AVANT DIAGONALISATION ..			1.0000
SOMME DES VALEURS PROPRES			1.0000
HISTOGRAMME DES 59 PREMIERS VALEURS PROPRES			
NUMERO	VALEUR PROPRE	POURCENT.	POURCENT. CUMULE
1	0.0853	8.53	8.53
2	0.0493	4.93	13.46
3	0.0394	3.94	17.40
4	0.0317	3.17	20.57
5	0.0289	2.89	23.46
6	0.0288	2.88	26.34
7	0.0284	2.84	29.18
8	0.0250	2.50	31.68
9	0.0240	2.40	33.88
10	0.0238	2.38	36.26
11	0.0229	2.29	38.55
12	0.0221	2.21	40.76
13	0.0215	2.15	42.91
14	0.0212	2.12	45.02
15	0.0205	2.05	47.08
16	0.0201	2.01	49.09
17	0.0197	1.97	51.05
18	0.0194	1.94	52.99
19	0.0189	1.89	54.88
20	0.0188	1.88	56.77
21	0.0182	1.82	58.59
22	0.0177	1.77	60.36
23	0.0176	1.76	62.13
24	0.0174	1.74	63.87
25	0.0170	1.70	65.57
26	0.0167	1.67	67.24
27	0.0163	1.63	68.86
28	0.0159	1.59	70.46
29	0.0159	1.59	72.05
30	0.0156	1.56	73.61
31	0.0154	1.54	75.15
32	0.0151	1.51	76.66
33	0.0147	1.47	78.13
34	0.0144	1.44	79.57
35	0.0142	1.42	80.99
36	0.0138	1.38	82.37
37	0.0135	1.35	83.72
38	0.0133	1.33	85.05
39	0.0131	1.31	86.36
40	0.0127	1.27	87.63
41	0.0123	1.23	88.86
42	0.0121	1.21	90.07
43	0.0116	1.16	91.23
44	0.0113	1.13	92.36
45	0.0108	1.08	93.45
46	0.0106	1.06	94.51
47	0.0088	0.88	95.39
48	0.0081	0.81	96.20
49	0.0077	0.77	96.97
50	0.0066	0.66	97.63
51	0.0053	0.53	98.16
52	0.0045	0.45	98.62
53	0.0039	0.39	99.01
54	0.0035	0.35	99.36
55	0.0033	0.33	99.69
56	0.0027	0.27	99.95
57	0.0004	0.04	99.99
58	0.0000	0.00	100.00
59	0.0000	0.00	100.00

Description and Interpretation of Factorial Axes

In describing and interpreting the factors and their intersections, we will pay more attention to the first two factors. In fact, according to the values obtained after re-evaluation via Benzecri's Optimization Formula, the first two factors, alone, explain more than 96% of the variance.

The figure 22 shows the intersection between the first axis (abscissa) and the second (ordinate).

12.1. The First Factor. Interpreted as the Opposition between *Empirical* vs. *Theoretical*

The positive semi-axis of the first factor picks up the variables associated to empirical papers. This is why the modality present for *Descriptive Research* is located along this semi-axis. Descriptive research appears to be the most employed modality in the application of the SRT and, according to the global data, descriptive research designs are in an overwhelming majority.

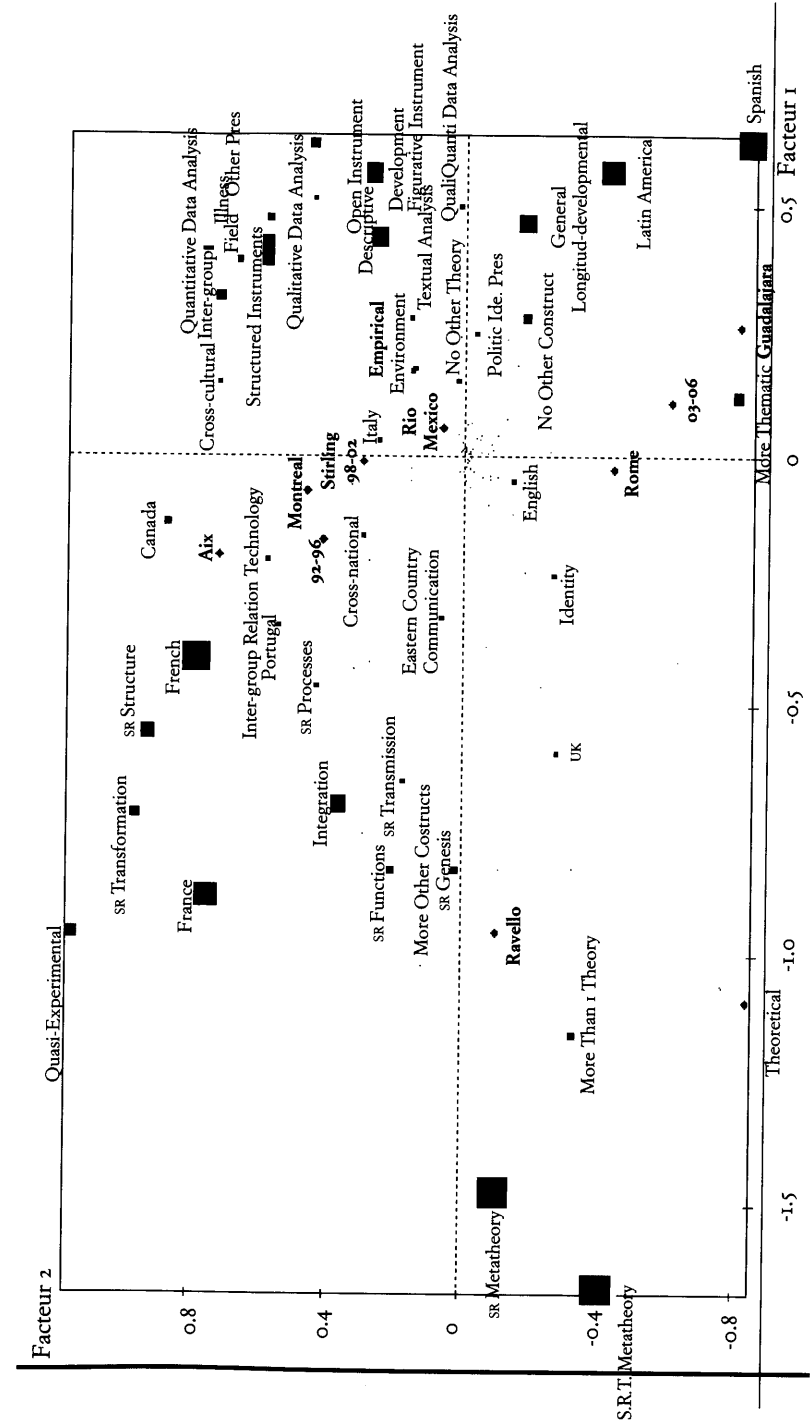
After the variables *Open Instruments of Data Collection*, *Qualitative Data Analyses* and *General Reference to SRT*, this variable is the one that most orientates the axis, presenting the highest absolute contributions.

According to a decreasing order of test-values, within the illustrative variables that in their present modality are projected onto this semi-axis we find - *Empirical papers*, *Guadalajara* (8th ICSR), the period *2003-2006*, *Rio* (2nd ICSR) and *Mexico City* (4th ICSR). These contrast with the variables *Theoretical papers*, *1992-1997*, *Ravello* (1st ICSR), *Aix* (3rd ICSR), *Montreal* (5th ICSR), *Rome* (8th ICSR) and *Stirling* (6th ICSR) on the negative semi-axis, partially confirming the main WSAT results that show the different kind of literature presented at the conferences held in Europe and those held in the Americas.

Mirroring the positive semi-axis, on the negative semi-axis we find variables like *Reference to Meta-theory* and the thematic area *Meta-theory that strongly orient the semi-axis*.

On the negative semi-axis there is also the variables *More than one Construct*, *SR Genesis*, *SR Functions*, *SR transmission* and *France* which have great orientation strength on the axis, indicating that papers located on this semi-axis deal with the theoretical and meta-theoretical level of analysis for the SRT.

FIGURE 22
Crossing First and Second Factorial Axes extracted with the AC



12.2. The Second Factor. Interpreted as the Opposition between European and North American Literature vs. Latin American Literature

The second factor extracted expresses the difference in cultural contexts and its influence on literary production in various countries. This result is in agreement with the comparison of descriptive statistics, already discussed above and reflects the polarity expressed by the axis between the literature of European and North American origin and Latin American literature.

Such a polarity is immediately highlighted by its location at the extremity of the negative semi-axis of the present modality of the variable *Spanish language* and right after *Latin America, General Reference to SRT* (that on this axis presents the highest absolute value) and *No constructs and concepts, More Thematic Areas, Politics and Ideology, Identity*.

This combination of modalities and variables leads us to believe that:

- this refers to the Latin American literature semi-axis;
- on the level of paradigmatic development of SRT and of comparison with other theories and constructs, the type of papers outlined here is rather free of specific paradigmatic references to the SRT.

The modality *General Reference to SR* present on the same semi-axis reinforces this reasoning. Based on the comparative statistics, in fact, this variable characterises Latin American papers.

The discussion is reversed if we take into consideration the positive semi-axis. Here the highest absolute contributions are associated to the variables *France, French Canada* and, along with a specific reference to almost all the paradigmatic aspects of the SRT as well as other theories and constructs, and frequency of the thematic area “meta-theory”. Also, the variable *Integration* has a high absolute contribution on this semi-axis, consistent with the empirical evidence that among the possible types of reference to other theories, those that sustain the possibility of integration among the theories represent the majority.

As illustrative variables, the variables *Aix* (3rd ICSR), *Montreal* (5th ICSR) and the period *1992-1997* are projected onto the positive semi-axis while *Guadalajara* (7th ICSR), the period *2003-2006* and *Rome* (8th ICSR) onto the negative.

Taking into account the four quadrants of the factorial plan individually, we can identify four different kinds of literature on SR presented during the 14 years from the 1st to the 8th ICSR:

- in the first quadrant (positive semi-axis for both the first and second factor) we find literature based on applied research with *descriptive* research designs and dealing with a large range of methodological options, *cross-cultural* and *inter-group researches* adopting *open* and/or *structured instruments of data collection* and carrying out different kinds of *qualitative, quantitative* or

quali-quantitative data analysis. This kind of literature was presented at the second and fourth conferences held in Latin America (respectively *Rio de Janeiro* in 1994 and *Mexico City* in 1998) and focuses on study objects related to the *Health-Illness* and *Development and Education* thematic areas;

- in the second quadrant (positive semi-axis for the first factor and negative semi-axis for the second) we find Latin American literature that again seems to have an applied character, presenting papers based more on *longitudinal-developmental* studies, mostly on issues related to Political and Ideological topics linked with *more thematic areas* with a *general reference to SRT*. In addition, the SRT, is assumed to be the only theoretical framework, and does not take into account specific relationships with other psychosocial constructs. This kind of literature is predominantly represented in the 7th ICSR held in *Guadalajara* (2004);

- in the third quadrant (negative semi-axis for both the first and second factor) we find *meta-theory* oriented literature, that concentrates on studying the relationships between the SRT and *other psychosocial theories*, with a thematic focus on *identity* issues. This scientific production is mainly represented by *English* and *English language* papers in the first and in the last international conference, held respectively in *Ravello* in 1992 and *Rome* in 2006;

- in contrast with the second quadrant, in the fourth quadrant (negative semi-axis for the first factor and positive semi-axis for the second) we find the *French, Canadian* and *French language* literature on SR, much more oriented towards contributing to the paradigmatic development of the SRT, especially concerning structure and transformation aspects, but also *SR Processes, Functions, Transmission* and *Genesis*. This literature is mainly associated with study objects related to *Inter-personal and Inter-group Relations, Technology* and *Communication* and, even if it does have a strong theoretical interest, it is not necessarily represented by theoretical papers but by theoretically driven empirical research. Here we also find the contribution to the development of the theory provided by *experimental* studies or *cross-national* research. This kind of literature was principally represented in the 3rd ICSR (Aix-en-Provence, 1996) and the 5th ICSR (Montreal, 2000), while the 6th ICSR (Stirling, 2002) was located in a bridge position between this and the first quadrant.

13

Concluding Remarks

Consistent with Carl Graumann's reasoning on the production of knowledge and diffusion of ideas (Graumann, 1998), from the first International Conference on Social Representations (Ravello, 1992) to the 8th ICSR (Rome, 2006), the constant growth in participants coming from an ever increasing number of

countries is an indicator that the SRT has become established as a point of reference for a large cross-disciplinary network of researchers not only in Social Psychology but also in other social sciences (Sociology, Anthropology, Media Studies etc.).

We have also highlighted some *specificities* related to the *socio-cultural context* in the phenomenon of the SRT's diffusion such as the strong relation between conference location and language options for the papers presented at the ICSR. Contrary to the tradition of the history of Social Psychology which is based on the analysis of textbooks where «when the names of scholars, whether typical or not, who marked the history of social psychology are associated with spaces (countries, cities or institutions), the latter are considered as mere labels» (Kalampalikis, Delouvé, Pétard, 2006, p. 37). Here the socio-cultural context – considered both in terms of the conference's "location", and with regards to the "authors' institution Country" – shows a set of significant results that allow us to assign more value to "place" than simply a physical location. Places here are considered in terms of individual and collective scientific activities associated with institutions and their location in a country or on a continent and go beyond the traditional approach of «history argued for a conception of scientific work and of science as independent of any geographic, historical, economical etc., context [...]» where «the history of social psychology is in its essence a history of scholars, who are very often disconnected from their workplaces, from their colleagues, from the socio-political conditions in which they worked, published and theorized the psychological and the social» (*ibid.*, p. 39).

Taking into consideration only the first six ICSR, in a previous analysis by de Rosa and d'Ambrosio (2003) the results of the comparison between both WSSAI and ACM structural analyses identified three profiles of scientific contributions based on authors' institution countries (European, Latin American and North American). This mainly concerned the criteria of "thematic areas" and the "empirical vs. theoretical" character of the scientific production. Based on the analysis of the abstracts from the entire series of eight ICSR.s, the results presented here show a new bipolar pattern focusing on the differences between Latin American and European literature. This is also probably due to the decrease in participation of North American researchers during more recent conferences.

European origin papers are the most heterogeneous. Their common feature is an interest in the application of the theory, with a focus on the development and articulation of paradigmatic aspects of the theory and meta-theoretical interests.

The numerous Latin American papers are strictly empirical, favour an "applied" perspective with no interest in the development of the theory *per se*, but

see it as a tool for understanding phenomena of social reality significant to their community (i.e., democracy, social inequality, and socio-economic problems, health etc.).

Besides the differences, a shared trend emerges from our results in relation to both transversal thematic areas (i.e., Health-Illness), and the influence of the temporal dimension.

The structural change shown by the Space Diagrams (also confirmed by the ACM results) provides evidence of a transformation in the papers of the last international conference compared to previous ones.

Two clear patterns can be highlighted:

- the last decade seems to be characterized by a reduced distance between interest in the meta-theoretical questions and empirical approaches inspired by the SRT, which also appears to make its assumption more critical in relation to other theoretical constructs and paradigms such as Social Cognition, Discourse Analysis etc. (cf. de Rosa, 2006a);
- there is still an important presence of general rather than paradigmatic reference to SR.

Here, some questions arise.

Given the cross-disciplinary expansion of SR literature and the new scenarios projected by the future location of the 9th ICSR: in Asia, how is it possible to correlate the "diffusion" of the theory and its researchers' increasingly massive production with its "development" in relation to social psychology?

To what extent and how did the impact of Latin American and/or Canadian scientific production bring about a reaction or influence on the European model and vice versa?

Which are the resistance factors in the paradigmatic development of the theory?

SRT diffusion, obviously, was not a case of reproduction without change in the various new cultural and scientific contexts.

For an example, in the *corpus* of Latin American papers (mostly from Brazil), when a paradigmatic reference appears, the *Structure of SR* is what is most relevant. As collaborative studies conducted by French and Brazilian researchers constitute the majority of intercultural collaborations, it is possible to go back and examine the flow of contacts and exchanges between these two scientific environments. According to Sperber, it is a situation of «groups of (exchanged cultural) representations that are mutually advantageous to one another» (Sperber, 1990).

To conclude, a detailed reconstruction of the flow of researchers between the various scientific centres now seems necessary. Also, to avoid easy conclusions, according to the research plan created by de Rosa (1994b), it will be necessary to integrate and compare the results obtained from the meta-analysis

based on the paper abstracts presented at conferences with the wider research programme aimed at meta-analysing the complete *corpus* of the literature inspired by the SR paradigm, including Ph.D. dissertations, books and articles currently under examination.

Notes

¹ Over the years, several schools and approaches have been developed and have grown in the field of Social Representations. These include: *a*) the *Structural Approach* developed by the *Aix-en-Provence School*, inspired by Flament and diffused beginning with Abric's 1976 seminal work on the structure of SR. Several generations of researchers have contributed to the development of this approach including: Abric (1993; 2001; 2003b); Deschamps, Guimelli (2004); Flament (1987; 1994a; 1994b); Guimelli (1988; 1993); Guimelli, Rouquette (1992); Moliner (1992; 1995; 2001); Tafani, Audin, Apostolidis (2001); *b*) the *Socio-dynamic Approach*, the so called *Geneva School* – built on Doise's work (1986; 1988; 2002a; 2002b; 2004a; 2004b) and including contributions from Doise, Clémence, Lorenzi-Cioldi (1992; 1994); Staerklé, Clémence (2004); Staerklé, Spini (2004); *c*) the *Anthropological Approach* – basically inspired by Jodelet's perspective on SR (Jodelet, 1984; 1989a; 1989b; 2003) and developed by Haas (2002; 2004; 2006), Haas, Masson (2006), and Kalampalikis (2007); *d*) the *Narrative Approach*, see: Harré (1989); Laszlo (2002); Contarello, Volpato (2002); Jovchelovitch (2002) and Purkhardt (2002); *e*) the *Integrating and Differentiating Approach* developed by de Rosa (1987; 1990, 1992; 1993; 1994a; 1994b; 2002a; 2006a; 2006b) inspired by both the integration and the differentiation of several theoretical paradigms and methodological approaches on the basis of their epistemic principles' compatibility.

² The European Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication has a long institutional history of recognition obtained via programmes approved by the EU-DGs for Research and Education and Culture, Ministries, the prestigious European University Associations (like the EUA and UNICA). The institutional network of 13 European universities in eight European Countries aimed at training a new generation of researchers, and the annual International Summer Schools, is described on the Euro Ph.D. website at www.europhd.eu and in an article available on line (de Rosa, 2004: <http://www.mariecurie.org/annals/index.html>) currently developed in a forthcoming book (de Rosa, 2008).

³ For the data collection related to the 7th and the 8th ICSR our gratitude goes to Joana Suta.

⁴ $d_{ij} < d_{kl}$ each time that the observed data indicates that $R_{ij} > R_{kl}$.

⁵ For more details about WSSAI and HUDAP in the theoretical and methodological perspective of the Facet Theory see, among others: Canter (1985); Amar, Toledano (1994); Buschini (2002).

Bibliographic References

- Abric J. C. (1976), *Jeux, conflits et représentations sociales*. Thèse de doctorat d'État, Université de Provence, Aix-en-Provence.
- Id. (1992), *Système central, système périphérique: leur fonction et leur rôle dans la dynamique des représentations sociales*. Invited paper presented at the 1st International Conference on Social Representations (3rd-5th October, Ravello, Italy).
- Id. (1993), Central System, peripheral system: their functions and roles in the dynamics of social representation. *Papers on Social Representations*, 2, 2, pp. 75-8.
- Id. (1994), L'organisation interne des représentations sociales: système central et sys-

- tème périphérique. In C. Guimelli (éd.), *Structure et transformation des représentations sociales*. Delachaux et Niestlé, Paris, pp. 73-84.
- Id. (2001), L'approche structurale des représentations sociales: développements récents. *Psychologie et société*, 2, 4, pp. 81-104.
- Id. (2003a), *Méthodes d'étude des représentations sociales*. Erès, Saint Agne.
- Id. (2003b), La recherche du noyau central et de la zone muette des représentations sociales. In J. C. Abric (éd.), *Méthodes d'études des représentations sociales*. Erès, Saint Agne, pp. 119-43.
- Id. (2003c), L'analyse structurale des représentations sociales. In S. Moscovici, F. Buschini (éds.), *Les méthodes des sciences humaines*. PUF, Paris, pp. 375-92.
- Amar R., Toledano S. (1994), *HUDAP manual with mathematics*. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Computing Center, Jerusalem.
- Bauer M. W., Gaskell G. (2000), *Qualitative researching with text, image and sound*. Sage, London-Thousand Oaks-New Delhi.
- Buschini F. (2002), *A comparison between HUDAP and correspondence analysis*. Invited Paper presented during the 8th Summer School of the European Ph.D. on SR & C – held at the Colonna Castle in Genazzano, Italy, June 1-9. The paper is available on the European Ph.D. on SR & C. web site at the address: <http://www.europhd.net>
- Buschini F., Kalampalikis N. (2001), *Penser la vie, le social, la nature. Mélange en l'honneur de Serge Moscovici*. Éditions de la Maison des sciences de l'homme, Paris.
- Canter D. (1985), *Facet theory: approaches to social research*. Springer-Verlag, New York.
- Clémence A., Doise W., Lorenzi-Cioldi F. (1994), Prises de position et principes organisateurs des représentations sociales. In C. Guimelli (éd.), *Structures et transformations des représentations sociales*. Delachaux et Niestlé, Neufchâtel, pp. 119-52.
- Contarello A., Volpato C. (2002), Social representations, narrative and literary texts. In J. Laszlo, W. Stainton Rogers (eds.), *Narrative approaches in social psychology*. New Mandate, Budapest, pp. 74-87.
- de Rosa A. S. (1987), Différents niveaux d'analyse du concept de représentation sociale en relation aux méthodes utilisées. In G. Bellelli (a cura di), *La représentation sociale de la maladie mentale*. Liguori, Napoli, pp. 46-64.
- Ead. (1990), Per un approccio multi-metodo allo studio delle Rappresentazioni Sociali. *Rassegna di Psicologia*, 3, pp. 101-52.
- Ead. (1992), Thematic perspectives and epistemic principles in developmental social cognition and social representation. The meaning of a developmental approach to the investigation of SR. In M. von Cranach, W. Doise, G. Mugny (eds.), *Social representations and the social bases of knowledge*. Hogrofe & Huber Publishers, Lewiston (NY), pp. 120-43.
- Ead. (1993), Social representations and attitudes: problems of coherence between the theoretical definition and the procedure of research. *Papers on Social Representations*, 2, 3, pp. 178-92.
- Ead. (1994a), *The end justifies the means, but... the means might modify the end*. Invited paper presented at the Methodological Perspectives on Social Representations Round Table, 2nd International Conference on Social Representations (August the 29th-September the 1st 1994, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

- Ead. (1994b), From theory to meta-theory in SR: the lines of argument of a theoretical-methodological debate. *Social Science Information*, 33, 2, pp. 273-304.
- Ead. (2001a), *Distance training of European doctoral students in meta-theoretical analysis of fully-researched bibliographic corpus, the Wanderstudent 2000. The Wanderstudent of 1425 revived in virtual reality in 2000?*. Towards a European Virtual University (20th-21st October 2000, Leuven, Belgium).
- Ead. (2001b), Sistema di co-operazione e formazione a distanza implementato sul sito web dell'European doctoral programme on social representations and communication: verso l'attivazione di una "intelligent virtual library". In M. Olivetti Belardinelli (a cura di), *Atti del Valentini Day della Facoltà di Psicologia, Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" (12th January 2001, Rome, Italy)*. Edizioni Kappa, Roma, pp. 378-87.
- Ead. (2002a), Le besoin d'une "théorie de la méthode". In C. Garnier (éd.), *Les formes de la pensée sociale*. PUF, Paris, pp. 151-87.
- Ead. (2002b), *Social memory and emotional impact towards traumatic collective events: the 11th September 2001*. Symposium organised at the 13th General Meeting of the EAESP, June 26-29, San Sebastian, Spain.
- Ead. (2004), An idea that became an institution: the European doctorate on social representations and communication. *Marie Curie Fellowship Association Annals*, vol. III [invited paper] [<http://www.mariecurie.org/annals/index.html>].
- Ead. (2006a), The boomerang effect of radicalism in discursive psychology: a critical overview of the controversy with the social representations theory. *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, 36, 2, pp. 161-201.
- Ead. (2006b), Looking at the history of social psychology from the two sides of the Atlantic. *8th International Conference on Social Representations: Media and Society*. Grand Atelier – Thematic area: social representations and history of the discipline: theoretical and meta-theoretical perspectives (*Proceedings*, p. 191) (Rome, 28th August-1st September).
- Ead. (2008), New forms of international cooperation in doctoral training: internationalization and international doctorate: one goal, two distinct models. *CEPES' Journal "Higher Education in Europe"*.
- de Rosa A. S., d'Ambrosio M. (2002), *Diffusion of the Social Representations Theory through the Institutional Context of Scientific Communication: International Conferences on Social Representations*. 6th International Conference on Social Representations "Thinking societies: common sense and communication" (27th August-1st September 2002, Stirling, Scotland).
- Idd. (2003), An empirical example of the comparison between multiple correspondence analysis and space analysis: the diffusion of the social representations theory through the institutional context of scientific communication. In S. Levy, D. Elizur (eds.), *Facet theory. Towards a cumulative social science*. Faculty of Arts, Center for Educational Development, Ljubljana, pp. 73-86.
- de Rosa A. S., d'Ambrosio M., Cohen E. (2005), Modeling social representations through facet theory methodological approach: facets of social representation of the European nations and European union. In W. Bilsky, D. Elizur (eds.), *Facet theory: design, analysis and applications*. Agentura Action M, Prague, pp. 49-56.
- de Rosa A. S., d'Ambrosio M., Suta J. (2006), International conferences as interactive scientific media channels: the history of the social representations theory through the eight editions of ICSR from Ravello (1992) to Rome (2006). *8th International Conference on Social Representations: Media and Society*. Grand Atelier – Social representations and history of the discipline: theoretical and meta-theoretical perspectives (28th August-1st September, Rome, Italy) [*Proceedings*, p. 198].
- Deschamps J. C., Guimelli C. (2004), L'organisation interne des représentations sociales de la sécurité/insécurité et hypothèse de la "zone muette". In J. L. Beauvois, R. V. Joule, J. M. Montreil (éds.), *Perspectives cognitives et conduites sociales*. Presses Universitaires de Rennes, Rennes, t. IX, pp. 300-23.
- Di Giacomo J. P. (1981), Aspects méthodologiques de l'analyse des représentations sociales. *Cahiers de psychologie cognitive*, 1, pp. 397-422.
- Doise W. (1986), Les représentations sociales: définition d'un concept. In W. Doise, A. Palmonari (éds.), *L'étude des représentations sociales*. Delachaux and Niestlé, Neuchatel, pp. 81-94.
- Id. (1988), Les représentations sociales: un label de qualité. *Connexions*, 51, pp. 99-113.
- Id. (2002a), *Human rights as social representations*. Routledge, London.
- Id. (2002b), Da psicologia social à psicologia societal. *Psicologia: Teoria e Pesquisa*, 18, 1, pp. 27-35.
- Id. (2004a), Welcoming complexity. A book review. *European Bulletin of Social Psychology*, 16, 2, pp. 27-30.
- Id. (2004b), L'endroit et l'envers des droits de l'homme. *Revue internationale de psychosociologie*, x, 23, pp. 25-37.
- Doise W., Clémence A., Lorenzi-Cioldi F. (1992), *Représentations sociales et analyses des données*. Presses Universitaires de Grenoble, Grenoble.
- Idd. (1993), *The quantitative analysis of social representations*. Harvester Wheatsheaf, Hemel Hempstead.
- Idd. (1994), Le charme discret des attitudes. *Papers on Social Representations*, 3, pp. 26-8.
- Ercolani A. P., Areni A., Mannetti L. (1990), *La ricerca in psicologia. Modelli di indagine e di analisi dei dati*. La Nuova Italia Scientifica, Roma.
- Farr R. M., Moscovici S. (1984), *Social representations*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Flament C. (1987), Pratiques et représentations sociales. In J. L. Beauvois, R. V. Joule, J. M. Montreil (éds.), *Perspectives cognitives et conduites sociales*. Cousset, Delval.
- Id. (1989), Structure et dynamique des représentations sociales. In D. Jodelet (éd.), *Les représentations sociales*. PUF, Paris.
- Id. (1994a), Structure, dynamique et transformation des représentations sociales. In J. C. Abric (éd.), *Pratiques sociales et représentations*. Erès, Saint-Agne, pp. 37-58.
- Id. (1994b), La représentation sociale comme système normative. *Psychologie et société*, 1, pp. 29-54.
- Graumann C. (1998), Social psychology in Europe: the role of the European association of experimental social psychology. *EAESP profile*.
- Guimelli C. (1988), *Agression idéologique, pratiques nouvelles et transformation progres-*

- sive d'une représentation sociale. Thèse de Doctorat non publiée, Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille 1.
- Id. (1993), Locating the central core of social representations: towards a method. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 23, 5, pp. 555-9.
- Guimelli C., Deschamps J. C. (2000), Effet des contextes sur la production d'associations verbales. Le cas des représentations sociales des Gitanes. *Les cahiers internationaux de psychologie sociale*, 47, pp. 44-54.
- Guimelli C., Rouquette M. L. (1992), Contribution du modèle associatif des schèmes cognitifs de base à l'analyse structurale des représentations sociales. *Bulletin de psychologie*, XLV, 405, pp. 196-202.
- Haas V. (2002), Approche psychosociale d'une reconstruction historique. Le cas vichyssois. *Les cahiers internationaux de psychologie sociale*, 53, pp. 32-45.
- Id. (2004), Les cartes cognitives: un outil pour étudier la ville sous ses dimensions socio-historiques et affectives. *Bulletin de psychologie*, 474, pp. 621-33.
- Id. (éd.) (2006), *Les savoirs du quotidien. Transmissions, appropriations, représentations*. Presses Universitaires de Rennes, Rennes.
- Haas V., Masson E. (2006), La relation à l'autre comme condition à l'entretien. *Les cahiers internationaux de psychologie sociale*, 71, pp. 77-88.
- Harré R. (1989), Grammaire et lexique. Vecteurs des représentations sociales. In D. Jodelet (éd.), *Les représentations sociales*. PUF, Paris.
- Jodelet D. (1984), Représentation sociale: phénomènes, concept et théorie. In S. Moscovici (ed.), *Psychologie sociale*. PUF, Paris, pp. 357-79.
- Ead. (1989a), *Folies et représentations sociales*. PUF, Paris.
- Ead. (1989b), *Les représentations sociales*. PUF, Paris.
- Ead. (2003), Aperçu sur les méthodes qualitatives. In S. Moscovici, F. Buschini (éds.), *Les méthodes des sciences humaines*. Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, pp. 139-62.
- Jovchelovitch S. (2002), Social representations and narrative: stories of public life in Brazil. In J. Laszlo, W. Stainton Rogers (eds.), *Narrative approaches in social psychology*. New Mandate, Budapest.
- Kalampalikis N. (2007), *Les grecs et le mythe d'Alexandre. Étude psycho-sociale d'un conflit symbolique à propos de la Macédoine*. L'Harmattan, Paris.
- Kalampalikis N., Delouée S., Pétard J.-P. (2006), Historical spaces of social psychology. *History of the Human Sciences*, 19, 2, pp. 23-43.
- Laszlo J. (2002), Narrative organisation of social representations. In J. Laszlo, W. Stainton Rogers (eds.), *Narrative approaches in social psychology*. New Mandate, Budapest.
- Le Bouedec G. (1986), Implicazioni metodologiche degli studi sulle rappresentazioni sociali. *Psicologia e società*, 1, pp. 8-19.
- Moliner P. (1992), *La représentation sociale comme grille de lecture. Étude expérimentale de sa structure et aperçu sur ses processus de transformation*. Publications Université de Provence, Aix-en-Provence.
- Id. (1994), Les méthodes de repérage et d'identification du noyau des représentations. In C. Guimelli (éd.), *Structures et transformations des représentations sociales*. Delachaux et Niestlé, Paris.
- Id. (1995), Noyau central, principes organisateurs et modèle bidimensionnel des représentations sociales: vers une intégration théorique. *Cahiers internationaux de psychologie sociale*, 28, pp. 44-55.
- Id. (1996), *Images et représentations sociales. De la théorie des représentations à l'étude des images sociales*. Presses Universitaires de Grenoble, Grenoble.
- Id. (2001), *La dynamique des représentations sociales*. Presses Universitaires de Grenoble, Grenoble.
- Moscovici S. (1961), *La psychanalyse son image et son public*. PUF, Paris.
- Id. (1984), *Psychologie sociale*. PUF, Paris.
- Id. (2000), *Social representations. Explorations in social psychology*. Polity Press, Cambridge.
- Moscovici S., Buschini F. (2003), *Les méthodes des sciences humaines*. PUF, Paris.
- Moscovici S., Markova I. (2006), *The making of modern social psychology*. Polity Press, Cambridge.
- Mugny G., Tafani E., Falomir J. M., Layat C. (2000), Source credibility, social comparison, and social influence. *Revue internationale de psychologie sociale*, 15, 3, pp. 151-75.
- Purkhardt S. C. (2002), Stories that change the world: the role of narrative in transforming social representations. In J. Laszlo, W. Stainton Rogers (eds.), *Narrative approaches in social psychology*. New Mandate, Budapest, pp. 59-73.
- Sperber D. (1989), L'étude anthropologique des représentations: problèmes et perspectives. In D. Jodelet (éd.), *Les représentations sociales*. PUF, Paris, pp. 133-48.
- Id. (1990), The epidemiology of beliefs. In C. Fraser, G. Gaskell (eds.), *Widespread beliefs*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Staerklé C., Clémence A. (2004), Why people are committed to human rights and still tolerate their violation: A contextual analysis of the principle-application gap. *Social Justice Research*, 17, pp. 389-406.
- Staerklé C., Spini D. (2004), The eclectic legacy of Willem Doise: an introduction to the Festschrift. *New Review of Social Psychology*, 3, pp. 5-7.
- Tafani E., Audin S., Apostolidis T. (2001), Asymétries positionnelles, identité sociale et dynamique représentationnelle: une étude expérimentale sur la représentation sociale des droits de l'Homme. *Les cahiers internationaux de psychologie sociale*, 54, pp. 47-61.
- Tafani E., Bellon S., Apostolidis T. (2002), Théorie des champs sociaux et dynamique représentationnelle. *Revue internationale de psychologie sociale*, 14, pp. 7-29.
- Tapia C. (1980), *Colloques et société*. Publications de la Sorbonne, Paris.

Article received on 16-11-2007; revised on 17-12-2007.

Address for correspondence: Annamaria Silvana de Rosa, Sapienza - Università di Roma, Dip. 38, via dei Marsi 78, 00185 Roma, Italy; e-mail: annamaria.deRosa@uniroma1.it