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Health & Community: Meta-theoretical Analysis of the literature inspired by the Social Representations Theory

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<http://www.europhd.eu/SoReComJointIDP>

- This research was built on an on-going project led since 22 years by the director Annamaria de Rosa of the ***European PhD on Social Representations and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab***
- She has designed ***specific web-tools*** (the on-line ***grid for the meta-theoretical analysis*** and the related ***web-inventories***) for the purpose of conducting an empirical meta-theoretical analysis of the literature on Social Representations.
- The specific project aim ***is to take stock of the scientific field developed in more than 50 years by conducting an empirical meta-theoretical analysis of the literature on Social representations***, mapping its development, the related research methods, the thematic areas and their impact on the various applied fields within the multi-generational community of scientists and across different geo-cultural contexts.

- Health and community have been focus of interest, application and development for the Social Representations Theory (SRT) from its birth (Herzlich, 1969; Jodelet, 1976, 1991; de Rosa, 1987; Campbell and Jovchelovitch, 2000).
- The social sciences has connected and addressed these two thematic domains from different approaches, that has generated different research areas in order to cope with collective health (Campbell and Jovchelovitch, 2000; Howarth, 2001).
- The increasing publications in this field have created the need for a review and systematization of the literature, as well as a critical analysis of the development of the SRT

AIMS OF THIS CONTRIBUTION

First

to present a geo-mapping of the development of literature framed within the SRT in different areas of health and community

Second

to identify the different topics and their relevance to the SRT in different geo-cultural contexts.

We conducted this research in two phases:

Big-data

A database of almost 10.000 bibliographic sources related to SRT and communication *

- **A systematic review of 1577 references** specifically related to SRT, *Health and Community*.
- From **1961 until 2014**
- Of different authors, disciplines, institutions, continents and cultural backgrounds

Meta-data

We conducted a meta-theoretical analysis of a sub-corpus*

- **Geo-mapping by Tableau software:** Including **927** complete references: articles, books, books chapters, conferences presentations, master theses, PhD thesis, other reports.
- **Multidimensional analysis by Iramuteq software:** Including **477** texts (based on abstracts and keywords in English)

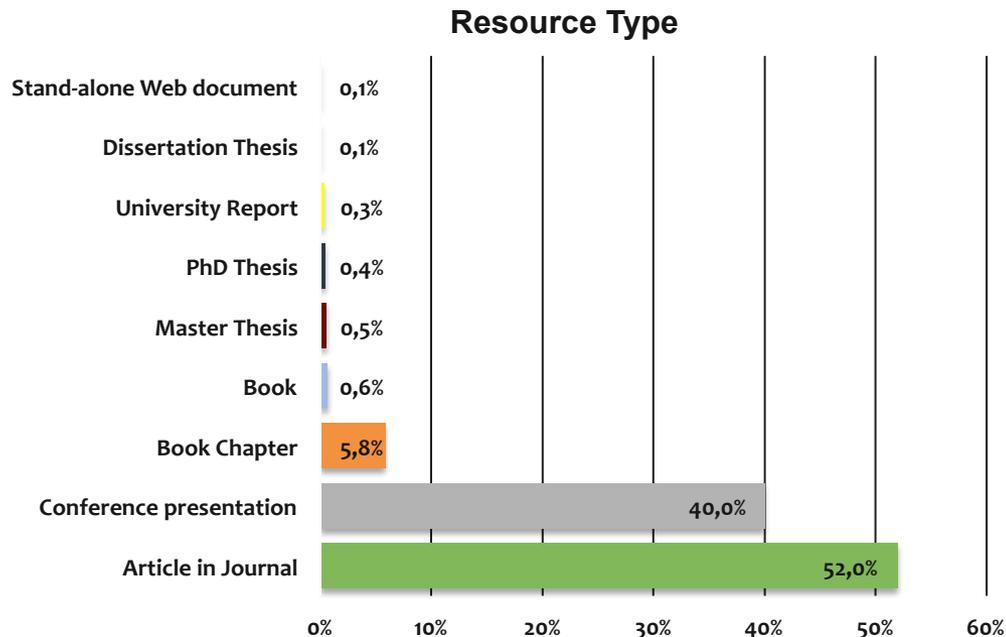
*These references included in the repository of the SoReCom "AS de Rosa" @-Library

SOURCES:

- 927 complete references

SELECTED VARIABLES META-DATA :

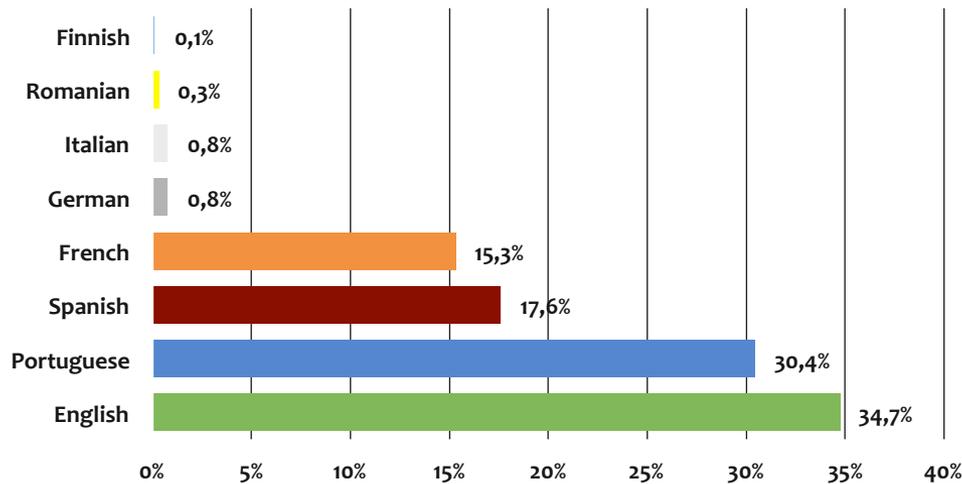
- Resource Type
- Year of Publication
- Language of publication
- Author's institutional affiliation Country-Continents



Resource Type	Absolute Frequency	Frequency %
Article in Journal	482	52%
Conference presentation	371	40%
Book Chapter	54	5,8%
Book	6	0,6%
Master Thesis	5	0,5%
PhD Thesis	4	0,4%
University Report	3	0,3%
Dissertation Thesis	1	0,1%
Stand-alone Web document	1	0,1%
Total	927	100%

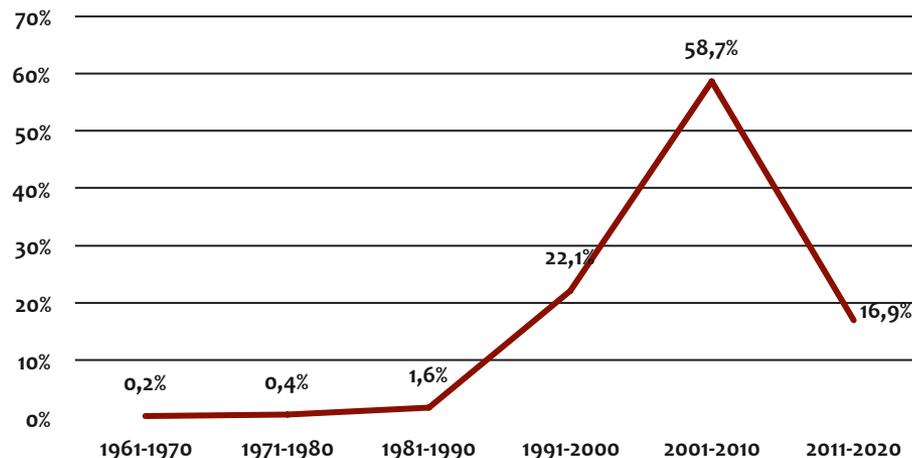
RESULTS FROM THE GEO-MAPPING

Language of publication



Language of publication	Absolute Frequency	Frequency %
English	322	34,7%
Portuguese	282	30,4%
Spanish	163	17,6%
French	142	15,3%
German	7	0,8%
Italian	7	0,8%
Romanian	3	0,3%
Finnish	1	0,1%
Total	927	100%

Year of Publication (Decade)



Year (decade)	Absolute Frequency	Frequency %
1961-1970	2	0,2%
1971-1980	4	0,4%
1981-1990	15	1,6%
1991-2000	205	22,1%
2001-2010	544	58,7%
2011-2020	157	16,9%
Total	927	100%

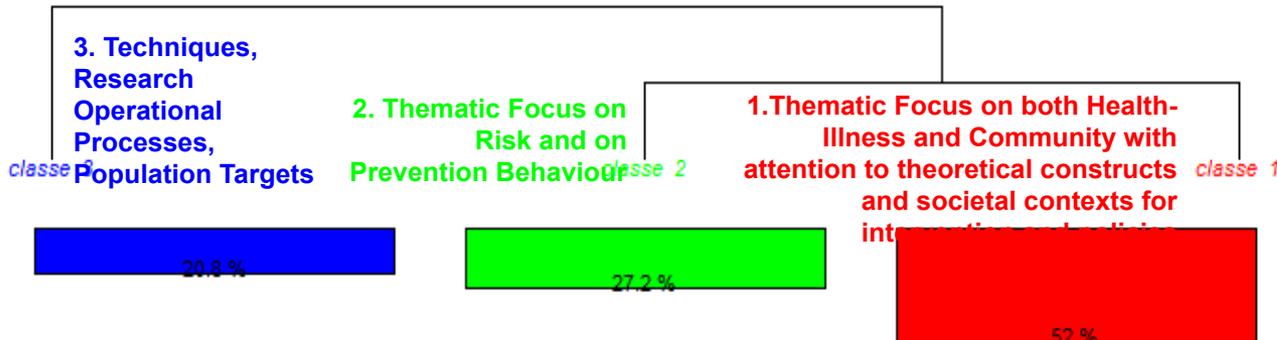
SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS, COMMUNITY AND HEALTH ACROSS THE WORLD

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DHC Dendrogram

SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS, COMMUNITY & HEALTH



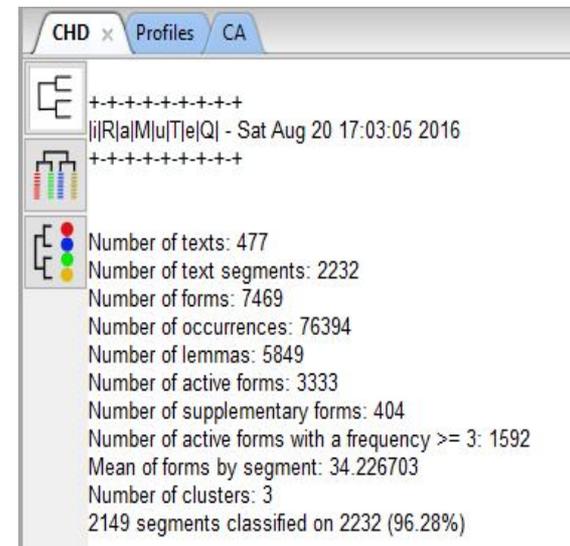
interview
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content
perform
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open
age
carry

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attitude
behavior
prevention
fear
adolescent
disease
female
negative
parent
death
sex
child
high
partner
drug
control
aggression
vulnerability
contagion
transmission
male
cause
infection
alcohol
believe
young
prejudice

health
social
community
participation
illness
challenge
identity
communication
context
process
highlight
perspective
concept
care
professional
contribution
drug
world
movement
intervention
common
public
culture
theory
definition
dominant
discuss
position
system

STRUCTURAL CORPUS 477 TEXTS
on Social Representations and C&H

ANALYSIS CARRIED OUT BY IRAMUTEQ DELETING:



Cluster 1 refers to Thematic Focus on both Health-Illness and Community with attention to :

- 
- theoretical constructs (practice, identity, communication, central and peripheral elements, discourse, narratives)

- 
- relevant for both physical and mental diseases

- 
- societal contexts for intervention and policies (social, community, challenge, participation, movement, contribution, context, culture, system, dominant, health education, psychiatric reform, deinstitutionalization, politicians, popular practices to face illness and care, disadvantaged urban community...).

The significant positioning on the cluster 1 of the illustrative variables shows the relevance of the scientific production:

- 
- mainly in English and French languages

- 
- since the seminal contributions published in the early decade 1970-1979 to the last decade since 2010s

- 
- by Authors belonging to institutions in Europe and in particular from United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey but also disseminated in Asia (China), North America (Canada) and Latin America (Cuba, Costarica)

- 
- through Web documents as resource type.

Cluster 2 refers to Thematic Focus on Risk (both on Community and Health domains) and on Prevention Behaviour and it is clearly dominated by the:

- 
- emphasis on Risk connected to fear, disease, death, sex, drug, aggression, vulnerability, contagion, transmission, cause, infection, alcohol , virus , immunodeficiency, damage, hazard, anxiety, insecurity, solitude,

- 
- its social agents or victims (adolescent, child, female, parent, partner, male, young, boy, women)

- 
- And on attitude and other constructs of social psychology like prejudice, discrimination, and prevention behaviour (aid, preventive, preservative, contraceptive, abortion, awareness, profession, authority, education).

Thematic Focus on Risk and on Prevention Behaviour

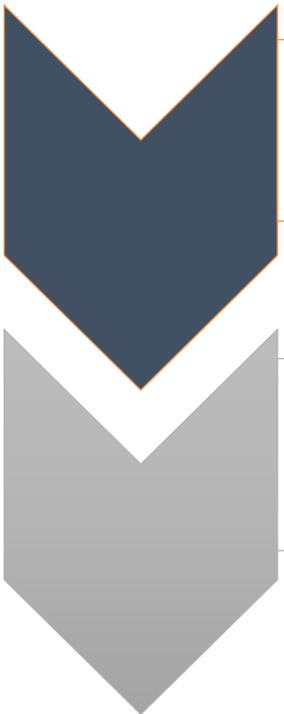
The significant positioning on the cluster 2 of the illustrative variables shows

- 
- the relevance of the scientific literature produced in the decade 1990-1999
 - with significant contribution of PhD Thesis as resource type and publications indexed in SCImago-Scopus
 - by authors from Brazil and Colombia, but also from Greece.

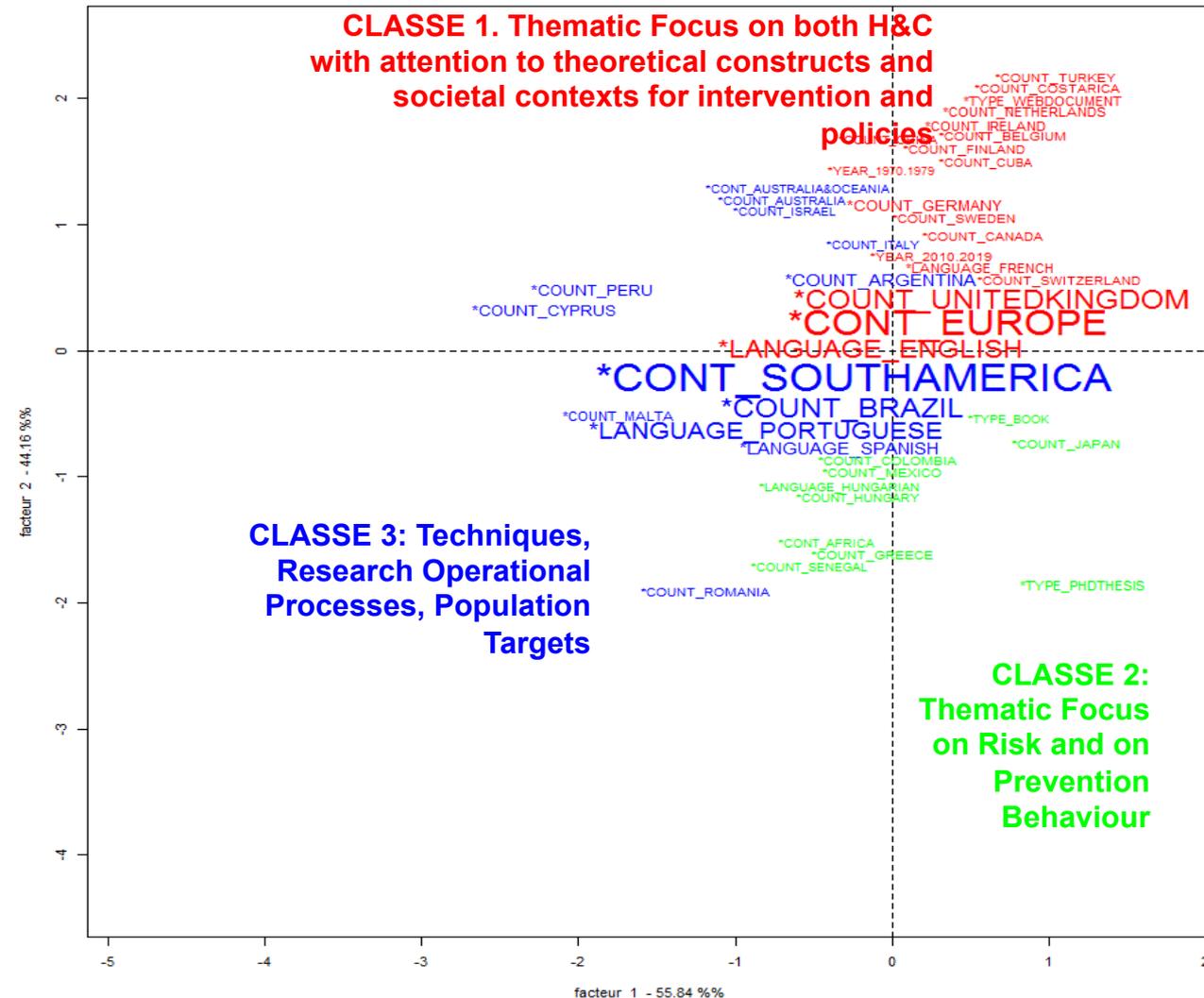
Cluster 3 refers to Techniques, Research Operational Processes, Population Targets showing the relevance of:

- 
- verbal techniques (interview, word association, questionnaire, also mentioning the modalities free and semi-structured, test, content analysis, survey)
 - research operational processes and data analysis techniques (to analyse, datum, collect, conduct, perform, correspondence analysis, factorial....)
 - population target (sample, year, age, student, city, resident, elderly, pupil, adults).

The significant positioning on the cluster 3 of the illustrative variables shows the relevance of the scientific production:

- 
- disseminated in particular through resource type like conference presentations, in Portuguese and Spanish
 - by authors from Continent Latin America (in particular from Brazil, Argentina, Peru), but also from Cyprus and Malta.

RESULTS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE FACTORIAL ANALYSIS



Classes' distribution
And Illustrative variables

CONCLUSIONS

The topic health and community has represented one of the most fertile areas for the SRT during his development in the last decades (de Rosa, A.S. and d'Ambrosio, M., 2003; de Rosa, 2008, 2013a, 2013b).

As a result of the diffusion of the TRS in these areas, new topics and cross-thematic, inter-disciplinary and intersectoral approaches contribute continuous advancement of the theory, mainly in Europe and Latin America, where not only academics, but also many practitioners and professionals contribute to the investigation in these areas.