ISPP
International Society
of Political Psychology

Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology
July 13-16, 2016 – Warsaw, Poland
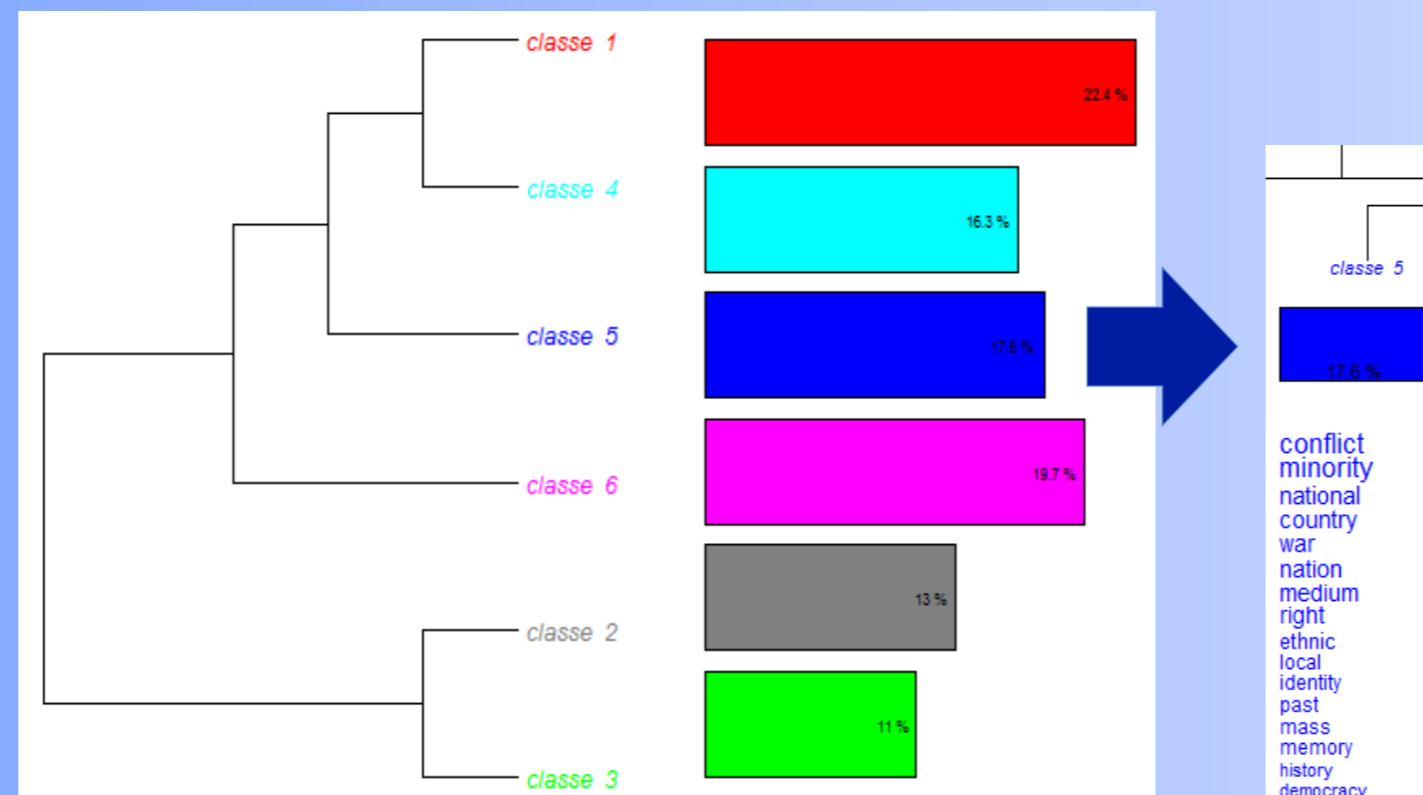
What is known in the process of knowing?
Exploring the global dissemination of the Social Representations Theory in the thematic field of
"Politics, Multidimensional identities, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities"

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Objectives

- The empirical data presented in this contribution address the diversification of the contents of the social representations literature gained worldwide in more than 50 years of its development, by identifying the main thematic areas in which this scientific domain is articulated.
- In particular we focus on the thematic field related to:
  "Social Representations & Politics: multidimensional identities, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities".

Sources

- The bibliographic sources of the empirical data used for our analyses were extracted from a larger number of 10050 bibliographic references, filed in the repositories of the SoReCom"A.S. de Rosa"@-Library as of May 13, 2015.
- We take into account "meta-data" – used as "illustrative variables" and based on the first part of the grid for the meta-theoretical analysis relevant to the "Resource Type", the "Author's institutional affiliation Country-Continents", the "Language of publication", the "Year of publication" – and "data" useful for detecting most relevant elements concerning the "Thematic Areas" coming from the Abstracts and the Keywords.

Research tools

The grid for meta-theoretical analysis of literature on Social Representations (de Rosa 1994, last revised version February 2014) is organized in two main parts:

- 1st Part: **Bibliographic Item**, that includes - besides the classical information, such as Author/s, Year of publication, Title of publication, Publisher, Journal/Book Title, Abstract, Keywords etc.

- 2nd Part **Meta-theoretical Analysis** organized into **five main areas**:

- Theoretical reference to Social Representations constructs;
- Theoretical reference to other constructs and theories
- Thematic analysis
- Methodological profile of each study
- Paradigmatic coherence

The focus of this contribution is on **THEMATIC ANALYSIS**, detected using the Abstracts and the Keywords of the sources subject to meta-theoretical analysis

Data Analysis and Selection of Results

Descending Hierarchical Cluster Analysis performed by Iramuteq software of extracted from 9660 texts strictly related to Social Representations and Communication filed in one of the repositories of the SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library

Zipf Diagram (stability of analysis)

In order to have a stable analysis,
- the number of the Forms should be less than 50% (in this corpus after the lemmatisation it is 43,24%)
- the number of the occurrences less than 20% (in our corpus after the lemmatisation it is 0,80%).
In this case the results are stable.

Main Statistics of the Descending Hierarchical Cluster Analysis

CHD × Profiles CA

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Number of texts: 9660
Number of text segments: 42319
Number of forms: 32382
Number of occurrences: 1410465
Number of lemmas: 25943
Number of active forms: 9592
Number of supplementary forms: 472
Number of active forms with a frequency >= 16: 2853
Mean of forms by segment: 33.329356
Number of clusters: 6
41527 segments classified on 42319 (98.13%)

Descending Hierarchical Cluster Analysis of article's abstracts and keywords (performed by IRAMUTEQ)
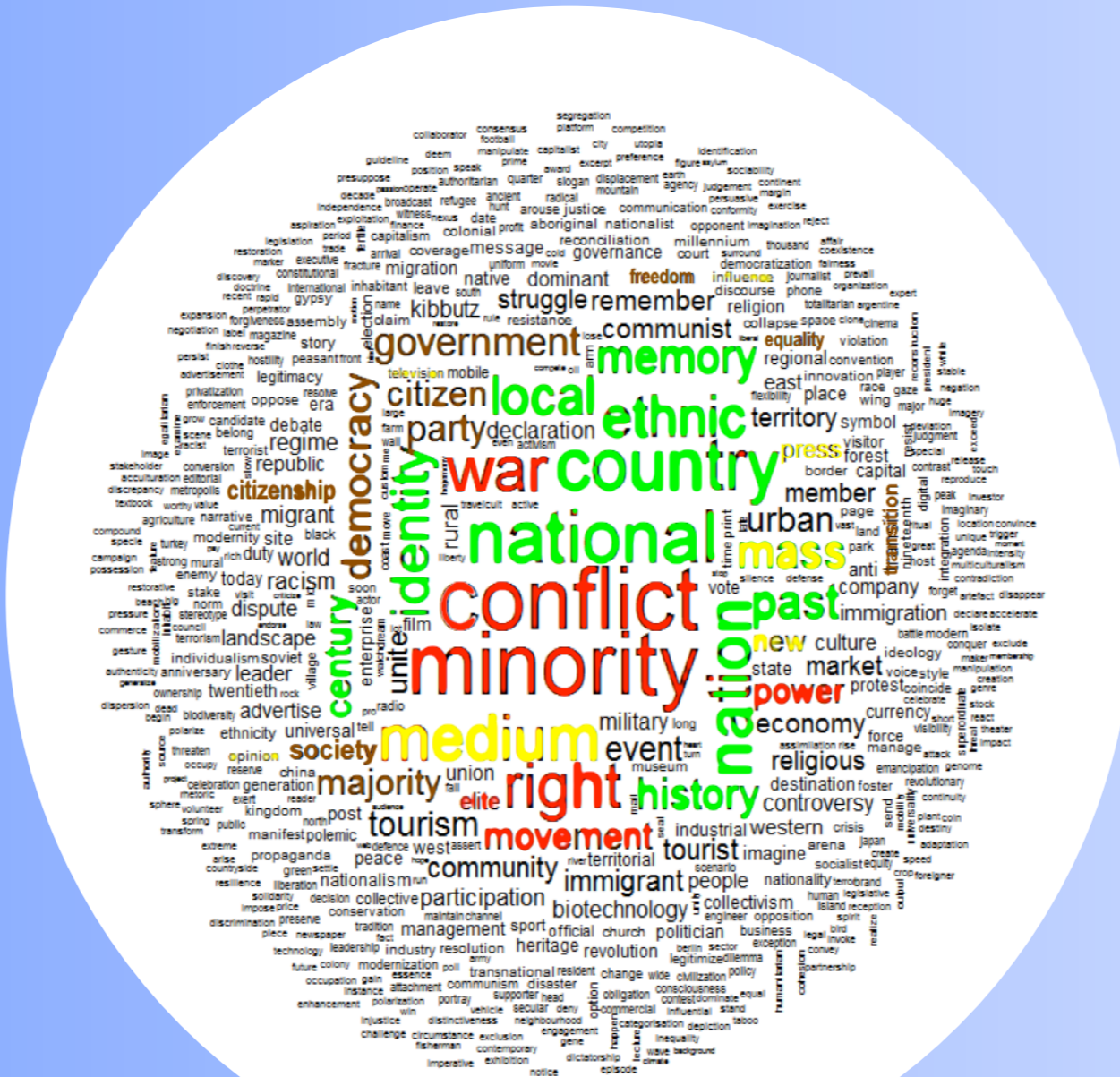

Cluster Analysis: Initial dendrogram

Class 5, which accounts for 17.6% of the entire corpus, is specifically dedicated to the thematic field of "Social Representations & Politics: Multidimensional identities, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities". It can be further divided into the following four dimensional interpretative categories (A, B, C, D), in the order of importance: according to the Chi2 value associated to the most significant words: defining the semantic space of each category.

A. CONFLICT AND AGENTS OF CHANGE: crucial challenge in political psychology, centred on "conflict" (chi2=913.41), its historical dimensions associated with "war" (chi2=642.87) and agents of change, often the voice of "minority" (chi2= 905.37) and "movements" (chi2=337.35) claiming for "rights" (chi2=627.73), but also of the "elite" (chi2=174.31) and "power" (chi2=305.95);

B. IDENTITY AND SOCIAL MEMORY: "identity" (chi2=518.41) can be related to "national" (chi2=744.54) context as political or geographical entities ("Nation": chi2=641.61; "country": chi2=725.17) or related to "local" (chi2=518.89) or "ethnic" (chi2=580.96) issues. Identity dimension appears as rooted in the "past" (chi2=467.7), referring to a "mass" (chi2=458.31) and its "memory" (chi2=455.14), related to the "history" (chi2=398.09), and "century" (chi2=341.08);

C. GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL POLITICAL DIMENSION: "democracy" (chi2=380.93) is a form of "government" (chi2=378.81) with political "party" (chi2=333.87), in a meaningful semantic space where "citizenship" (chi2=190.40) and "citizens" (chi2=313.92) are relevant actors. Democracy is significantly related to "value" (chi2=14.24), "freedom" (chi2=113.46), "equality" (chi2=105.61), "transition" (chi2=147.57) and to "society" (chi2=219.10);

D. MEDIUM AND COMMUNICATION: as a transversal dimension crossing all the above three categories, being a relevant factor of construction, influence and disseminations of social representations in general and in particular about the thematic cluster related to "Politics and Minority". Core sematic elements are: "medium" (chi2=638.6) and "communication" (chi2=42.97), strongly connected at the level of "mass" communication (chi2=458.31) through "newspaper" (chi2=18.16), "television" (chi2=57.51) "press" (chi2=3.93), acting in the "public" (chi2=295.95), "space" (chi2=49.33), as arena for "opinion" (chi2=73.41) and "decision" (chi2=33.35) and tools for "influence" (chi2=20.33) and innovation ("new": chi2=247.37).

Word Cloud Analysis of Cluster 5 "Politics and Minority"

Word Graphs of selected forms of Cluster 5 "Politics and Minority"

CONFLICT (F tot. = 678; F class =417; % = 61,5; chi2= 913,41; p= <0,0001)
A

IDENTITY (F tot. = 2332; F class =660; % = 28,3; chi2= 367,28; p= <0,0001)
B

DEMOCRACY (F tot. = 259; F class =165; % = 63,71; chi2= 380,93; p= <0,0001)
C

MEDIUM (F tot. = 1141; F class =522; % = 45,75; chi2= 638,6; p= <0,0001)
D

Conclusions:

The empirical data presented in this contribution - addressing the diversification of the contents gained by the social representations literature worldwide in more than 50 years of its development - show that one of the main thematic areas in which this scientific domain is articulated is related to:
"Social Representations & Politics:
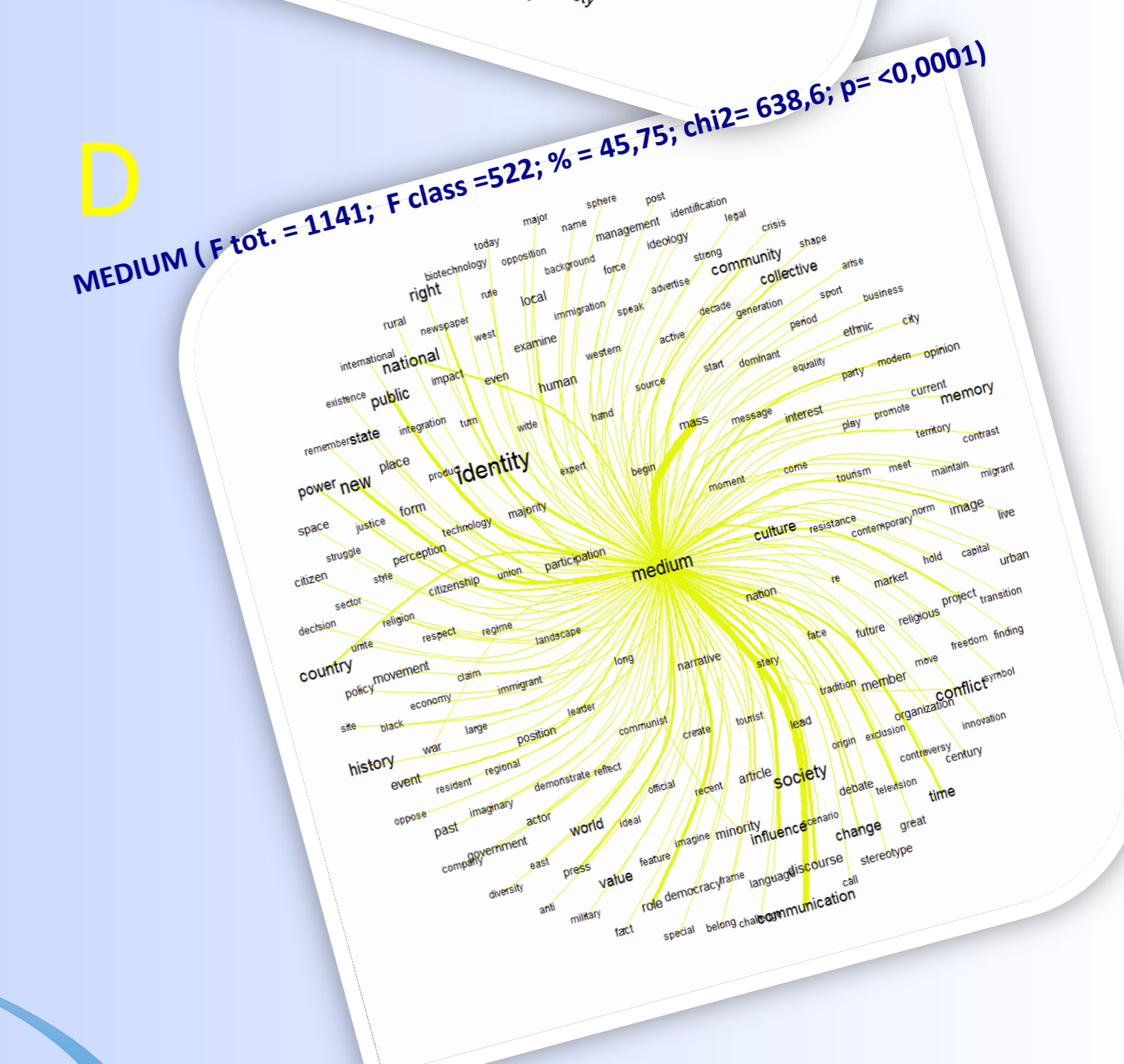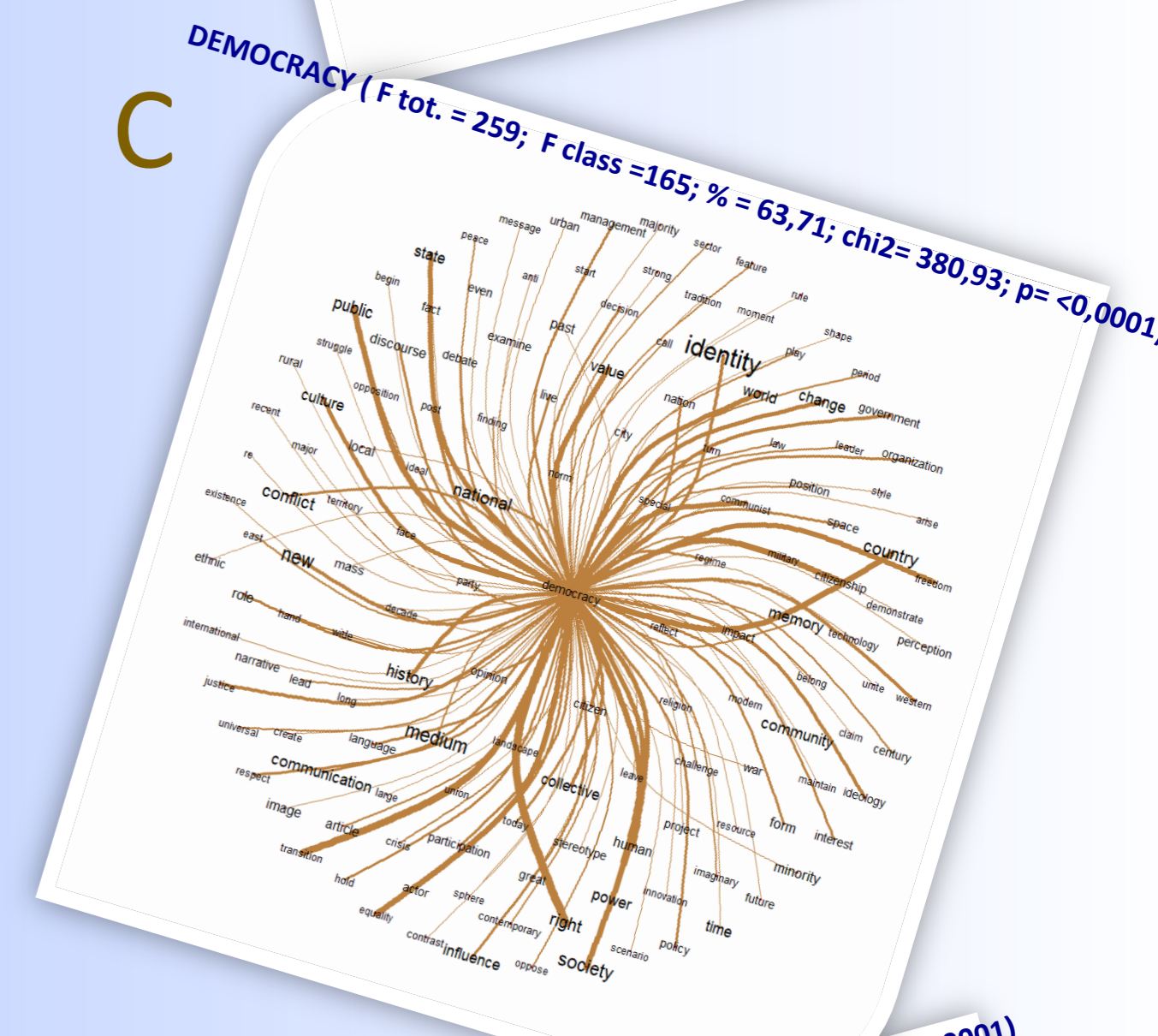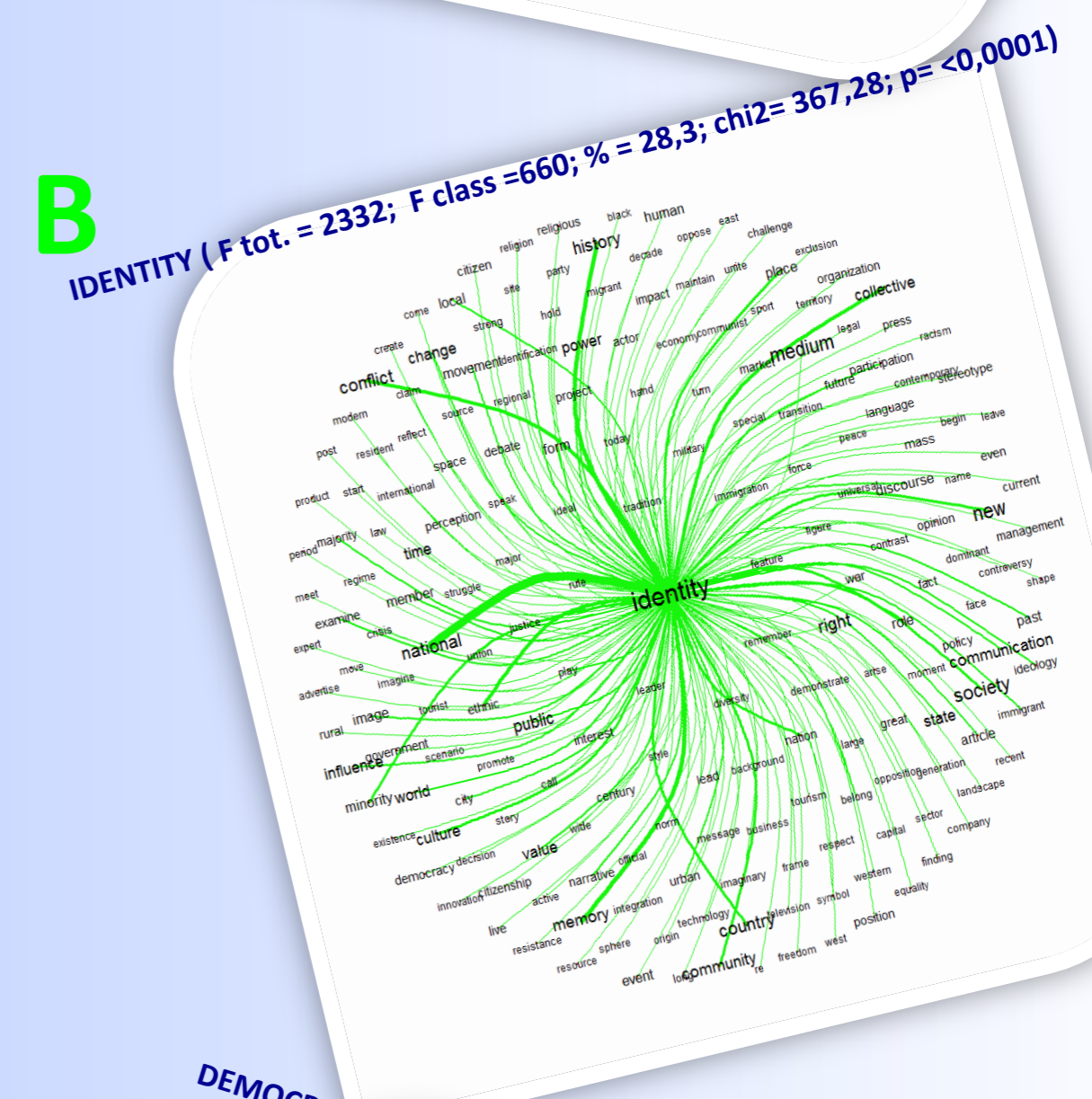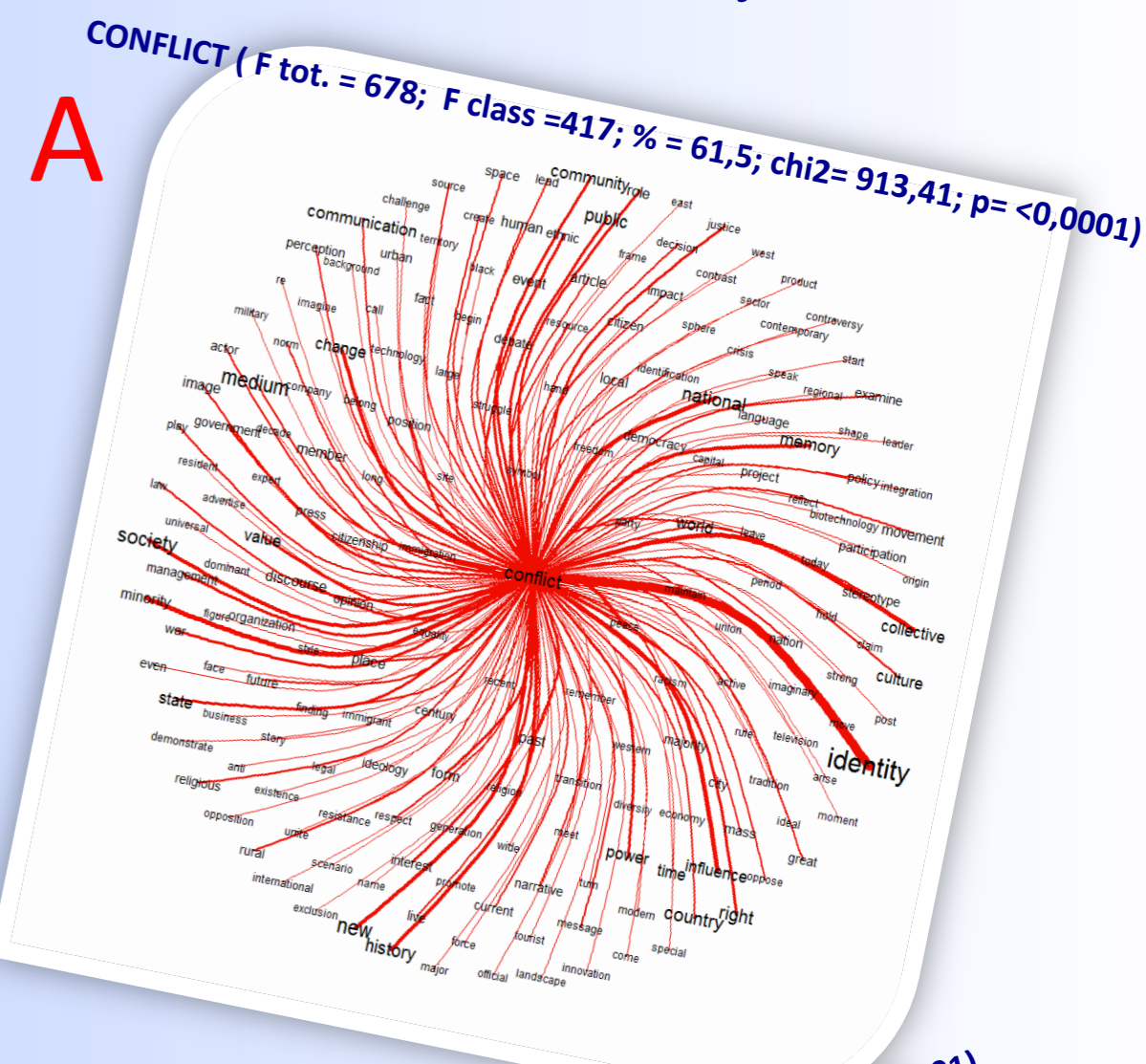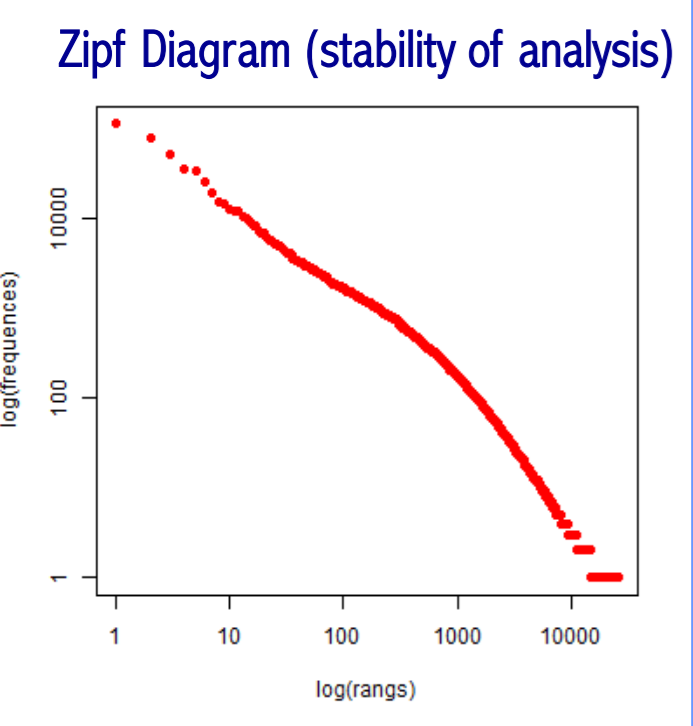multidimensional identities, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities".

This thematic field originates the fifth cluster, that is marked by the presence of four interpretative categorical dimensions, as above identified (A, B, C, D) referring to "conflict", "minority", "national", "country", "war" and "nation" (Chi2 above 640), among others.
The main illustrative variables - (Chi2 above 100) - associated to this 5th class are:
- "English" as publication's language,
- "Asia", "Europe" and "Australia and Oceania" concerning the first author's institution continent,
- "Israel", "Indonesia" and "New Zealand" related to the first author's institution country.
An explanation of the role plaid in the literature by these significant illustrative variables can be found in the 2nd part of the grid of the meta-theoretical analysis concerning the attraction of this theory of other theories (such as "identities theories", "minority influence theory" among others), other constructs, (such as "social and collective memory"), other disciplines (such as "history", "political sciences" or "media and communication studies", among others).

Significant Illustrative Variables associated with cluster 5

- **Annamaria Silvana de Rosa** is the project leader and scientist in charge of the **So.Re.Com. Joint-IDP** (http://www.europhd.eu/SoReComJointIDP)
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