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What works, when works?

Worldwide dissemination of the literature on Social Representations and Politics: multidimensional identity, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities and Intersection between Methodological Profiles and Bibliometric Impact

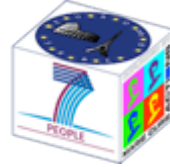
**Prof. Annamaria Silvana de Rosa, Filomena Berardi,
Dr. Laura Dryjanska, Dr. Elena Bocci**

**European/International Joint Ph.D. on Social Representations and Communication
Research Centre and Multimedia Lab,**

Sapienza University of Rome, ITALY (<http://www.europhd.eu>)



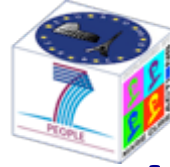
**SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA**



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Outline:

1. Overall Research Project institutional background
2. Specific Research Focus:
 - Research tool
 - Sources for the overall project and one of its 13 specific foci
 - Descriptive analyses for the Worldwide dissemination of the literature on **Social Representations and Politics: multidimensional identity, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities**
3. Intersection between Methodological Profiles of the Journal Articles and their Bibliometric Impact
4. Concluding Remarks



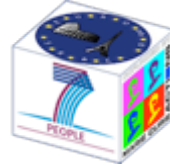
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Unified research framework

The aim of the **multi-year research program – that I launched in 1994** - 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:**

- **the development of different paradigms,**
- **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.**



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13 research lines and the specific focus of this contribution

The **unified research project framework** have been **articulated into 13** precise objectives concerning the **specific research lines** to be developed by each ESR

The specific research line developed in this contribution is related to:

- the overview of empirical contributions published in scientific journals applied to the thematic field of ***“Social Representations & Politics: Multidimensional identities, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities”***
- the dynamics of the knowledge epidemiology via the analysis of the **diversification of different publishing opportunities with different bibliometric impact** gained worldwide by the social representation literature.

Research tool (de Rosa, last version 2014)



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The **grid for meta-theoretical analysis of literature on Social Representations** is organized in two main parts:

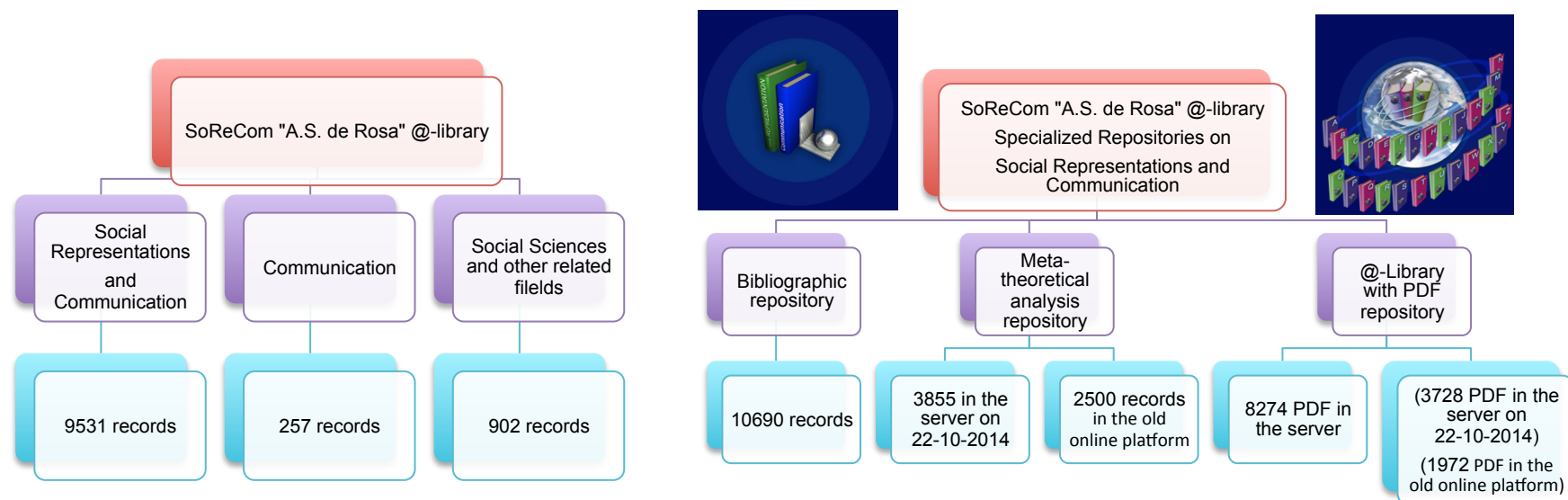
1. bibliographic item;
2. meta-theoretical analysis articulated into **five main areas**:
 - **Theoretical reference to Social Representations constructs** monitors whether a publication refers to Social Representations Theory in a very generic way or addresses specific paradigmatic elements of the theory (i.e. the genesis, processes, functions, structure, transmission, and transformation of Social Representations) 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 related to Social Representation as well as the focus of the reference: integration, differentiation, comparison, replacement;
 - **Thematic analysis** categorizes the contents of empirical contributions by identifying the general thematic areas (i.e. health, environment, politics etc.) and the specific object of each study (i.e. AIDS, Pollution, Active Minorities etc.), as well the specific typology (closed-hegemonic, open-emancipated, polemic-controversial) of the Social Representations;
 - **Methodological profile of each study** (its research design, its location, its nature, instruments for data collection, channels used as source of information, techniques for data analysis) and characteristics of the selected population (size of sample, variables considered, unit of analysis);
 - **Paradigmatic coherence** between the theoretical assumptions and the methodological research design.

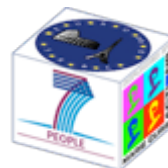


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Source of the big-data and meta-data

- As of July 2016, the total of **10,690 records**
- Total of **9301 publications** present in the **So.Re.Com "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library** that refer to social representations and communication
- Based on the selected information concerning the bibliographic item
- Destined to grow as a result of our collaborative team work in the future

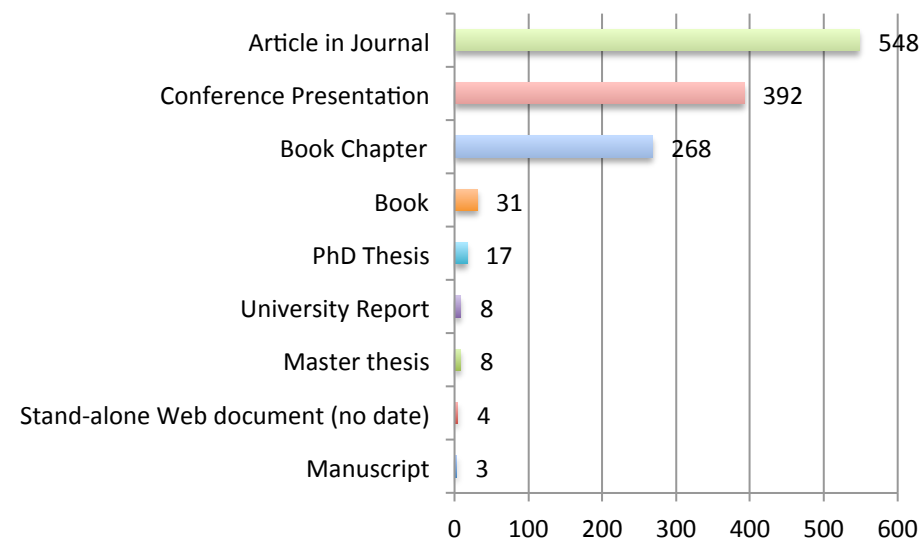




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The frequencies distribution of the 1279 bibliographic items related to
**“Social Representations and Politics:
 multidimensional identity, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities”**
 filed in the repositories of the SoReCom “A.S. de Rosa” @-Library
 by **”Type of publication”**

| Resource type | Frequency | Frequency % |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Article in Journal | 548 | 42,85% |
| Conference Presentation | 392 | 30,65% |
| Book Chapter | 268 | 20,95% |
| Book | 31 | 2,42% |
| PhD Thesis | 17 | 1,33% |
| Master thesis | 8 | 0,63% |
| University Report | 8 | 0,63% |
| Stand-alone Web document (no date) | 4 | 0,31% |
| Manuscript | 3 | 0,23% |
| Total | 1279 | 100,00% |



SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES:

321 bibliographic items (of 548 articles in Journals)



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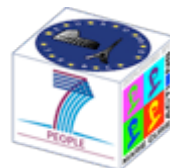
SELECTED VARIABLES:

- **META-DATA**, used as “**illustrative variables**” based on the first part of the Grid

- * ***Year of Publication***,
- * **Author’s institutional affiliation Country-Continents**,
- * ***Language of publication***,
- * ***Bibliometric Indexes***: the **journals’ “impact factor values”** (IF from Web of Science -Thomson Reuters) and the **“SJR indexes”** (Scopus-Elsevier)

- **DATA**, used as “**active variables**”, detected by the second part of the **Grid** for the meta-theoretical analysis and in particular its sections:

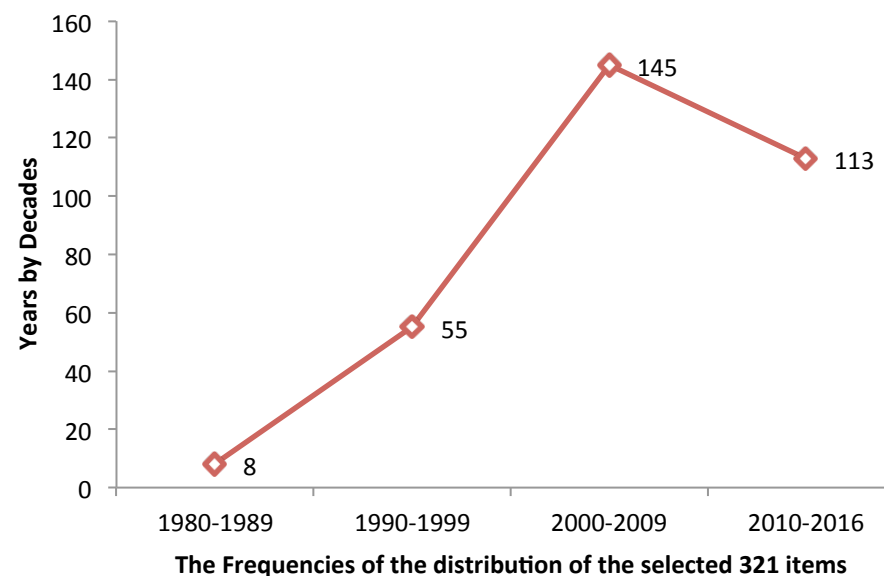
- * **Theoretical reference to other constructs and theories**
- * **Methodological profile of each study:**
 - research design
 - research location
 - study nature
 - instruments for data collection
 - channels used as source of information,
 - characteristics of the selected population (size of sample, variables considered, unit of analysis)
 - techniques for data analysis

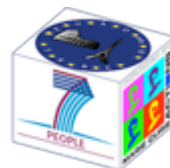


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The frequencies distribution of the selected 321 items related to
“Social Representations and Politics:
multidimensional identity, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities”
filed in the repositories of the SoReCom “A.S. de Rosa” @-Library
by “Year of Publication re-grouped by DECADE”

| Year (Decade) | Absolute Frequency | Frequency % |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1980-1989 | 8 | 2.49% |
| 1990-1999 | 55 | 17.13% |
| 2000-2009 | 145 | 45.17% |
| 2010-2016 | 133 | 35.20% |
| Total | 321 | 100% |

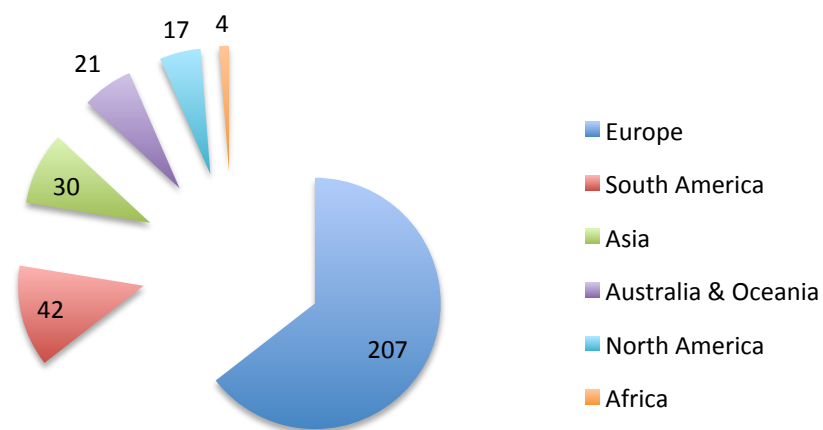


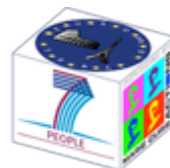


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The frequencies distribution of the selected 321 items related to
“Social Representations and Politics:
multidimensional identity, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities”
filed in the repositories of the SoReCom “A.S. de Rosa” @-Library
by the “Author’s Institution Continent and geo-cultural context”

| Author 1 Institution Continent | Frequency | Frequency % |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Europe | 207 | 64.49% |
| Latin America | 42 | 13.08% |
| Asia | 30 | 9.35% |
| Oceania | 21 | 6.54% |
| North America | 17 | 5.30% |
| Africa | 4 | 1.25% |
| Total | | 100,0% |

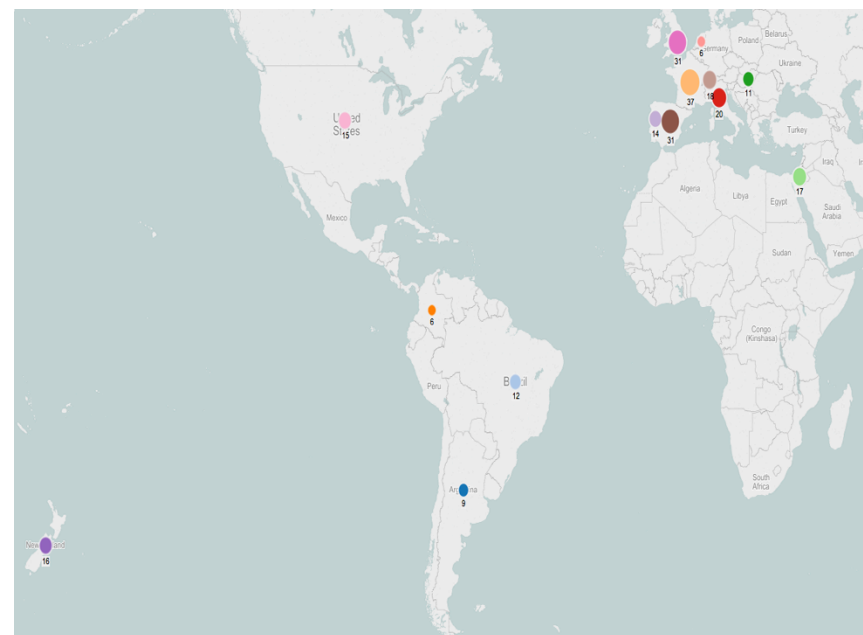


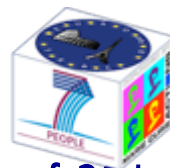


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The frequencies distribution of the selected 321 items related to
**“Social Representations and Politics:
 multidimensional identity, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities”**
 filed in the repositories of the SoReCom “A.S. de Rosa” @-Library
 by the **“Author’s institution COUNTRY”**

| Country Name | Absolute Frequency | Frequency % |
|--|--------------------|---------------|
| France | 37 | 11.49% |
| Spain | 31 | 9.63% |
| United Kingdom | 31 | 9.63% |
| Italy | 20 | 6.21% |
| Switzerland | 18 | 5.59% |
| Israel | 17 | 5.28% |
| New Zealand | 16 | 4.97% |
| United States | 15 | 4.66% |
| Portugal | 14 | 4.35% |
| Brazil | 12 | 3.73% |
| Hungary | 11 | 3.42% |
| Argentina | 9 | 2.80% |
| Colombia | 6 | 1.86% |
| Netherlands | 6 | 1.86% |
| Other author 's country with frequency less than 6 | 78 | 24.30% |
| Total | 321 | 100,0% |





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The frequencies distribution of 321 selected items related to

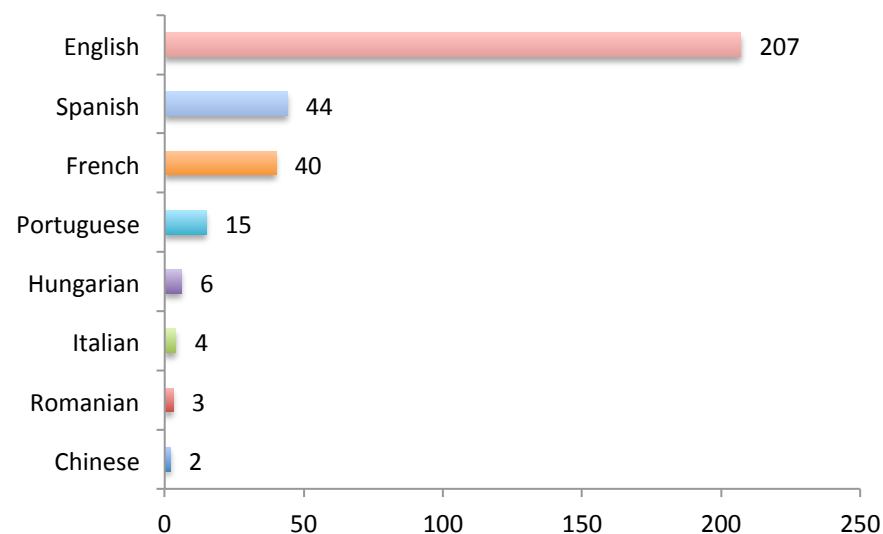
“Social Representations and Politics:

multidimensional identity, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities”

filed in the repositories of the SoReCom “A.S. de Rosa” @-Library by the

“Language of Publication”

| Language | Frequency | Frequency % |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| English | 207 | 64.49% |
| Spanish | 44 | 13.71% |
| French | 40 | 12.46% |
| Portuguese | 15 | 4.67% |
| Hungarian | 6 | 1.87% |
| Italian | 4 | 1.25% |
| Romanian | 3 | 0.93% |
| Chinese | 2 | 0.62% |
| Total | 321 | 100% |



The frequencies distribution of the selected 321 items related to
 “Social Representations and Politics: multidimensional identity, intergroup relations,
 social movements and active minorities filed in the repositories
 of the SoReCom “A.S. de Rosa” @-Library

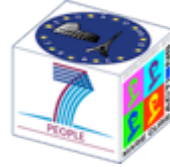


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by the “Journal Title” (on 165 journals) by “bibliometric indexes” (IF and SJR)

| Journal Title | Absolute Frequency | Frequency % |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| Papers on Social Representations | 29 | 9.03% |
| European Journal of Social Psychology | 21 | 6.54% |
| Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology | 13 | 4.05% |
| Psihologia Socială | 9 | 2.80% |
| British Journal of Social Psychology | 7 | 2.18% |
| Culture and Psychology | 7 | 2.18% |
| Political Psychology | 7 | 2.18% |
| Revista de Psicología Social | 7 | 2.18% |
| Cahiers Internationaux de Psychologie Sociale | 6 | 1.87% |
| Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology | 6 | 1.87% |
| Bulletin de Psychologie | 5 | 1.56% |
| International Journal of Intercultural Relations | 5 | 1.56% |
| Revue Internationale de Psychologie Sociale | 5 | 1.56% |
| Asian Journal of Social Psychology | 4 | 1.25% |
| Psicologia e Sociedade | 4 | 1.25% |
| Other journals with frequency lower than 4 | 150 | 57.94% |
| Total Journals | 165 | 100% |

| Journal Title | Impact Factor | SJR |
|--|---------------|-------|
| Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin | 2.383 | 1.995 |
| Journal of Social Issues | 2.361 | 1.432 |
| Journal of Research in Personality | 2.011 | 1.783 |
| Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology | 1.857 | 1.222 |
| Journal of Marriage and Family | 1.763 | 1.875 |
| British Journal of Social Psychology | 1.468 | 1.047 |
| Food Quality and Preference | 1.365 | 0.725 |
| International Journal of Psychology | 1.338 | 0.375 |
| Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology | 1.247 | 0.537 |
| Journal of Constructivist Psychology | 1.138 | 0.561 |
| Culture and Psychology | 1.113 | 0.515 |
| Political Psychology | 1.058 | 1.008 |
| Swiss Journal of Psychology | 1.024 | 0.472 |

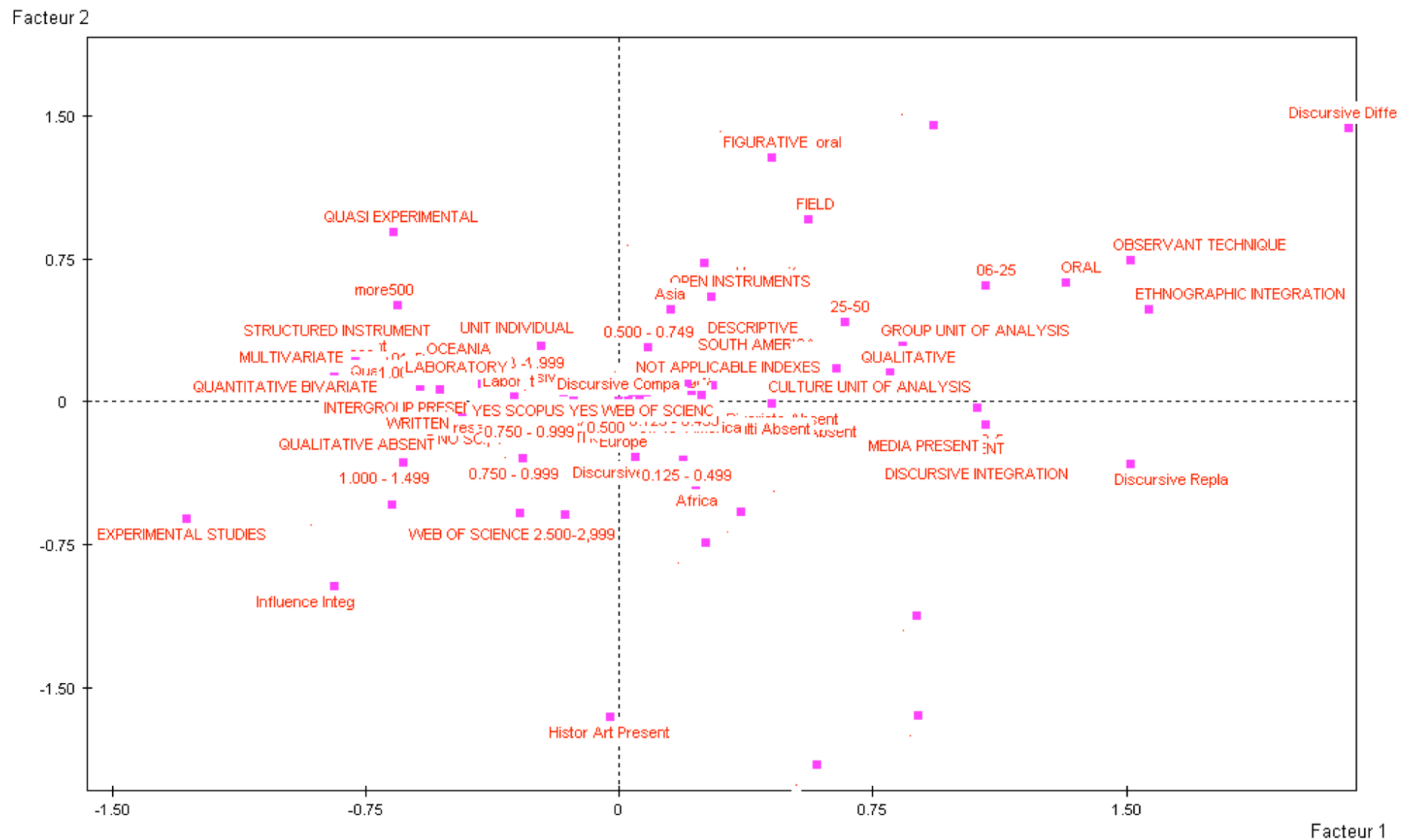


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Outline:

3. Intersection between Methodological Profiles of the Journal Articles and their Bibliometric Impact

Crossing first and second factorial axes extracted by M.C.A.



Results based on Multiple Correspondence Analysis: Contributions of Factor 1 on positive and negative semi-axis

| Variable: Modalities | + | Absolute Contribution | Relative Contribution |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Discursive Psychology: Integration | + | 2.3 | 0.14 |
| Ethnographic Approach: Integration | + | 2.5 | 0.14 |
| Number of Subject (6-25) | + | 1.5 | 0.08 |
| No subjects | + | 2.7 | 0.16 |
| Unit of Analysis (Culture) | + | 2.2 | 0.16 |
| Structured Absent | + | 5.7 | 0.59 |
| Observant Tecnique | + | 1.8 | 0.10 |
| Oral Channels | + | 4.0 | 0.23 |
| Media Present | + | 2.5 | 0.14 |
| Qualitative Present | + | 5.2 | 0.45 |
| Quantitative Descriptive Absent | + | 2.9 | 0.31 |
| Quantitative Bivariate Present | + | 2.7 | 0.39 |
| Quantitative Multivariate Absent | + | 2.3 | 0.35 |

Illustrative Variables:

Year: 2010- 2013,

Journals:

Papers,
Culture and Psychology
Culture & Psychology
Discourse and Society
Discurso & Sociedad
Consejo Latinoamerica

SCImago& Thomson: No SCImago-No Thomson

Country:

Mexico
Other Countries

Continent:

South America

| Variable: Modalities | - | Absolute Contribution | Relative Contribution |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Descriptive Absent | - | 2.1 | 0.14 |
| Experimental Present | - | 4.5 | 0.27 |
| Laboratory | - | (1.0) | 0.12 |
| Numb of subject (101 - 500) | - | 2.3 | 0.19 |
| Numb of subject (more than 500) | - | 1.3 | 0.18 |
| Structured Present | - | 5.9 | 0.59 |
| Written Channels | - | 2.6 | 0.30 |
| Quantitative Present | - | 3.2 | 0.31 |
| Qualitative Absent | - | 3.7 | 0.45 |
| Quantitative Descriptive Present | - | 3.2 | 0.31 |
| Quantitative Bivariate Present | - | 5.0 | 0.39 |
| Quantitative Multivariate Present | - | 4.6 | 0.35 |

Illustrative Variables:

Year: 1990-1999

Journals:

European Journal of Social Psychology
Revista de Psicologia
Asian Journal of Social Psychology

SCImago& Thomson: Yes SCImago-Yes Thomson

Scimago Values: 1.000 - 1.499

Thomson Values: 1.000 - 1.499

Country:

Spain
New Zealand
Belgium
Greece

Continent:

Oceania

Key Results

A clear opposition on the **Factor 1** is evident contrasting the two semi- axes:

On the **RIGHT horizontal semi-axis**, “**ACTIVE variables**” are clearly identified with:

- **Qualitative FIELD and MEDIA studies**, based on
- **Discursive and Ethnographic approaches** recurring to:
 - **Observant techniques**
 - **Oral channels**
 - **Media**
- Significant **Absence of Structured Instruments and of Quantitative Descriptive and Multivariate Statistics**
- “**Culture**” (no Subjects) is adopted as “unit of analysis” and, when present, **few subjects (6-25) for in-depth interview or observant techniques**

Significant role of the “**ILLUSTRATIVE variables**” is played by:

- **More recent years of publications: 2010-2013**
- **Journals open to cultural psychology and discursive approaches:**
 - *Papers on SR; Cultural & Psychology; Discourse and Society, Discurso & Sociedad; Consejo LatinAmerica*
- **Articles not included neither in Web of Science (IF) nor in Scopus-Elsevier (SJR) and therefore not indexed**
- Authors belonging to institutions in **Latin America** and especially in **Mexico**

Key Results

On the **LEFT horizontal semi-axis**, “**ACTIVE variables**” are clearly identified with:

- **Experimental studies**, based on
- **Laboratory context** recurring to:
 - **Structured techniques**
 - **Written channels**
- **Significant Adoption of Descriptive, Bivariate and Multivariate Quantitative Statistics** and **Significant Absence of Qualitative approach**
- The **number of Subjects** is comprised **between 101-500** and **even more than 500**

Significant role of the “**ILLUSTRATIVE variables**” is played by:

- **Less recent years of publications:** 1990-1999
- **Journals anchored into mainstream social psychology:** *European journal of Social Psychology, Revista de Psicología, Asian Journal of Social Psychology*
- **Articles included in Web of Science (IF) and in Scopus-Elsevier (SJR)** and therefore **indexed with a range value comprised between 1.000 and 1.4999**
- Authors belonging to institutions from **Countries** like **Spain, New Zealand, Belgium and Greece**, with the significant presence of **Oceania** among **Continents**

Results of the Analysis Based on Analysis of Multiple Correspondence Analysis: Contributions of Factor 2 on high and low semi-axis

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----|------|
| Cultural Theory Unspecified | | 2.2 | 0.06 |
| Quasi Experimental | | 1.5 | 0.04 |
| Location: Field | | 5.2 | 0.15 |
| Research Type Not Applicable | | 2.0 | 0.08 |
| Num of Subject more than 500 | | 1.4 | 0.04 |
| Unit of Analysis Individual | | 2.6 | 0.29 |
| Open Instrument: Present | | 6.2 | 0.32 |
| Figurative Graphic Technique Present | | 1.6 | 0.04 |
| Oral Channel | | 1.8 | 0.05 |
| Written and Oral | | 5.2 | 0.14 |

Journals:

Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology
Asian Journal of Soc

Language:

English

Country:

Israel
Colombia

Continent:

Asia

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------|------|
| Social Influence: Integration | | 1.9 | 0.05 |
| Descriptive Absent | | 2.8 | 0.09 |
| Experimental Present | | 2.1 | 0.06 |
| Location Unkown | | 5.4 | 0.18 |
| Not subjects | | 8.8 | 0.26 |
| Unit of Analysis Other | | 15.8 | 0.46 |
| Open Instrument Absent | | 6.6 | 0.32 |
| Channels Other | | 3.5 | 0.12 |
| Historic Artistic Present | | 7.5 | 0.20 |

Journals:

Political Psychology
Discurse & Society
Discurso and Sociedad

Language:

(Hungary)

Country:

Hungary
Mexico

Continent:

Europe

Key Results

A clear opposition on the **Factor 2** is also evident contrasting the two semi- axes:

On the **HIGH semi-axis “ACTIVE variables”** clearly identified with:

- **Quasi Experimental** researches and studies open to **“Cultural theory”** based on
- **Field context** recurring to **multiple- techniques and channels**
 - **Open Instruments**
 - **Figurative Graphic Techniques**
 - **Oral channels**
 - **Oral and Written channels**

Large research population includes as **number of Subjects** significantly **more than 500**.

However the **unit of Analysis** remains the **“Individual”**

Significant role of the **“ILLUSTRATIVE variables”** is played by:

- **Journals open to cross-cultural psychology** : *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, Asian Journal of Social Psychology*
- **Language** is significantly **English**
- Authors belonging to institutions from **countries** like **Israel and Colombia**, with the significant presence of **Asia** among **Continents**

Key Results

On the **LOW semi-axis “ACTIVE variables”** clearly identified with:

- **Studies** open to the integration of “**Social Influence**” theories, where:
- **Experimental approach** is significantly present (but not clearly identified in laboratory context)
- and **MEDIA STUDIES** recurring as stimulus to:
 - **Historic Textual documents**
- Significant **Absence of Open Instruments and Descriptive Statistics**

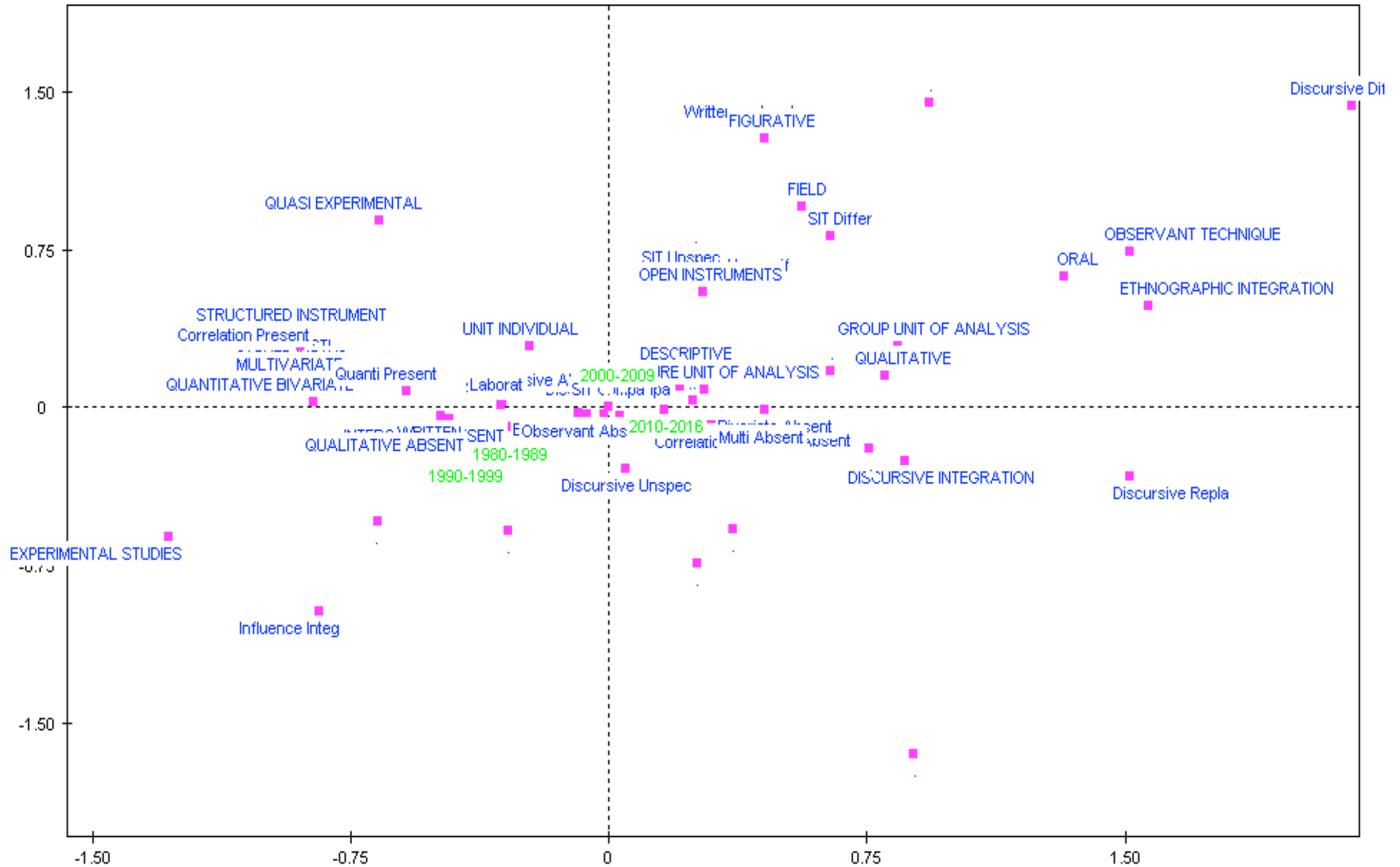
Significant role of the “**ILLUSTRATIVE variables**” is played by:

- **Journals open to political and societal issues like:** *Political Psychology; Discourse and Society, Discurso & Sociedad*
- **Language:** *Hungarian*
- Authors belonging to institutions in **Hungary** and **Mexico**
- **and to Europe** among the significant continents

Crossing first and second factorial axes extracted by M.C.A.

Focus on “Year” as illustrative variable

Facteur 2



Key Results

The Key Results obtained crossing first and second factorial axes extracted by M.C.A. with the **Focus on “Year” of publication as illustrative variable** “ show that:

- there is a **temporal evolution from previous decades 1980-1989 and 1990-1999 significantly associated to studies based on Experimental approach** open to the integration of “**Social Influence**” theories,
- **towards more recent decades 2000-2009 and 2010-2016 significantly associated to researches based on Field and Ethnographic Studies** or more recently to **Media studies** based on the integration of **Discursive approach**

Key Results

The key results obtained crossing first and second factorial axes extracted by M.C.A. with the **Focus on “JOURNAL” as illustrative variable** show that:

- **Experimental** studies open to the integration of **Influence Theories** are significantly associated in the factorial space with **Journals open to mainstream social psychology**, like:
 - » *European journal of Social Psychology,*
 - » *Revista de Psicologia,*
 - » *Journal of Applied Sociology,*
 - » *Temas en Psicologia,*
 - » *Political Psychology,*
 - » *British Journal of Social Psychology,*
 - » *Consejo LatinoAmericano*

Key Results

The Key Results obtained crossing first and second factorial axes extracted by M.C.A. with the **Focus on “JOURNAL” as illustrative variable** show that:

- ***Quasi Experimental*** studies and researches based on ***correlational analyses*** are significantly associated in the factorial space with **Journals open to social and political studies in cross-cultural contexts**, like:
 - ***Asian Journal of Social Psychology***
 - ***Journal of Cross-cultural Psychology***
- ***Studies open to Ethnographic approach and Observant techniques*** are significantly associated in the factorial space with **Journals open to social and political studies in cultural contexts and engaged in theoretical debates**, like:
 - **Culture and Psychology**
 - **Journal for the theory and Social Behavior**

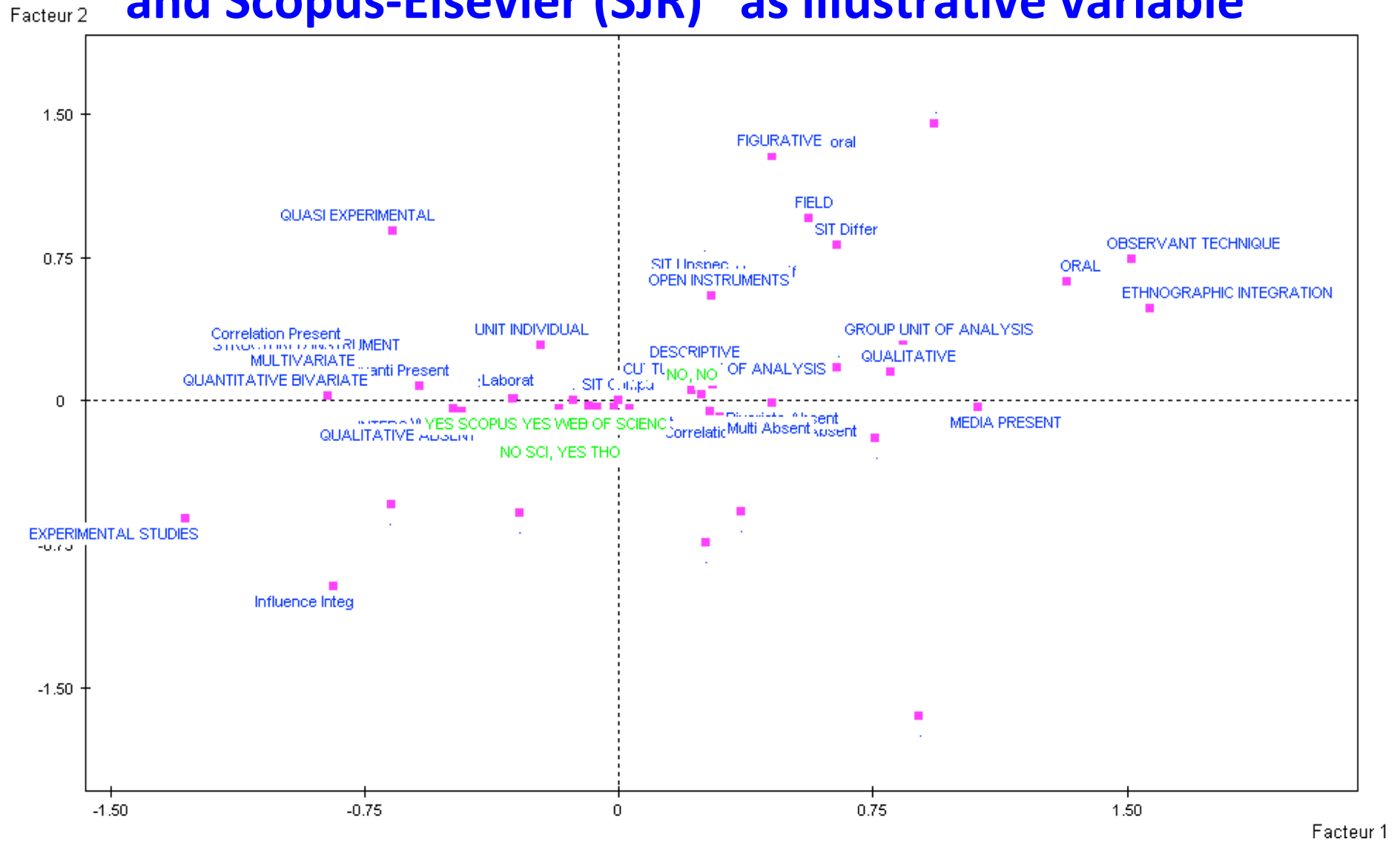
Key Results

The Key Results obtained crossing first and second factorial axes extracted by M.C.A. with the **Focus on “JOURNAL” as illustrative variable** show that:

- ***Field Studies open to Multi-method approach and Open instruments*** are significantly associated in the factorial space with **Journals open to multiple societal contexts and studies of applied and community relevance**, like:
 - **Papers on Social Representations**
 - **Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology**
- ***Media Studies open to Discursive approach*** are significantly associated in the factorial space with **Journals like**:
 - **Discurso & Sociedad**
 - **Discourse and Society**
 - **Memory Studies**
 - **Politique et Societé**

Crossing first and second factorial axes extracted by M.C.A.

Focus on Journals indexed or not in “Web of Science (IF) and Scopus-Elsevier (SJR)” as illustrative variable



Key Results

The Key Results obtained crossing first and second factorial axes extracted by M.C.A. with the focus on JOURNALS indexed or not in “Web of Science (IF) and Scopus-Elsevier (SJR)” as illustrative variable show that:

- **Experimental** studies open to the integration of **Influence Theories** are significantly associated in the factorial space with **Journals included in both bibliometric data bases “Web of Science (IF)” and “Scopus-Elsevier (SJR)” or only in “Web of Science (IF) Thompson and Reuters”**
- **Field Studies open to Multi-method approach and Observant techniques** are significantly associated in the factorial space with **Journals not included in none of the two bibliometric data bases**

Conclusions

Coherently with the **two main goals**, the meta-theoretical study here presented has provided empirical evidence of:

- **from one side**, the **development over the decades** and the **dissemination across continents and countries of the literature focused on Social Representations and Politics**;
- **from the other side**, the significant **Intersection between the Methodological Profiles of the studies and the Bibliometric Impact of the Journals chosen by the authors, depending on their theoretical and methodological options**

Conclusions

In particular the results based on the Multiple Analysis of Correspondence (performed by SPAD software) have offered an empirical evidence of a **sort of “methodological polytheism”** (Moscovici, 1988).

The paradigmatic and methodological geo-mapping of the literature on Social Representations and Politics shows the **INCLUSION** of all the approaches (experimental, quasi-experimental, field, ethnographic and media studies), but also **OPPOSE** them in the semantic factorial space.

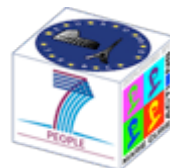
The paradigmatic and methodological **distinct options** are also anchored into **specific geo-cultural contexts**, identified with the country and continents associated to the authors' institutional affiliation, **over different decades** and **publishing editorial sources**, opposing the journals included or not in the bibliometric databases.

Conclusions

Coherently with the “**modeling approach to Social Representation**” (de Rosa, 2013), we hope that – **honoring the complexity of the Social Representation theory and challenging the researchers to rethink the subject of the Political Psychology** (Elcheroth, G. Doise, W. Reicher, S. 2011; Starklé, C. Clémence, A. Spini, D., 2011) – **future directions of researches will consider the multi-level concurrent integration (rather than opposition) of the multiple constructs, paradigmatic and methodological approaches.**

A genuine integration is possible at the condition that **each methodological option** will be **theoretically justified** in complex **integrated research designs** (rather than in **subsequent linearly juxtaposed studies number 1, 2,3....**).

Thus it will contribute to **innovate also the editorial format of journals**, too often working as **normative regulatory standard**, inducing the **thinking format and conformist scientific writing practices**, just cloned by the authors.



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Thank you for your attention!

