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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**

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**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

## Outline:

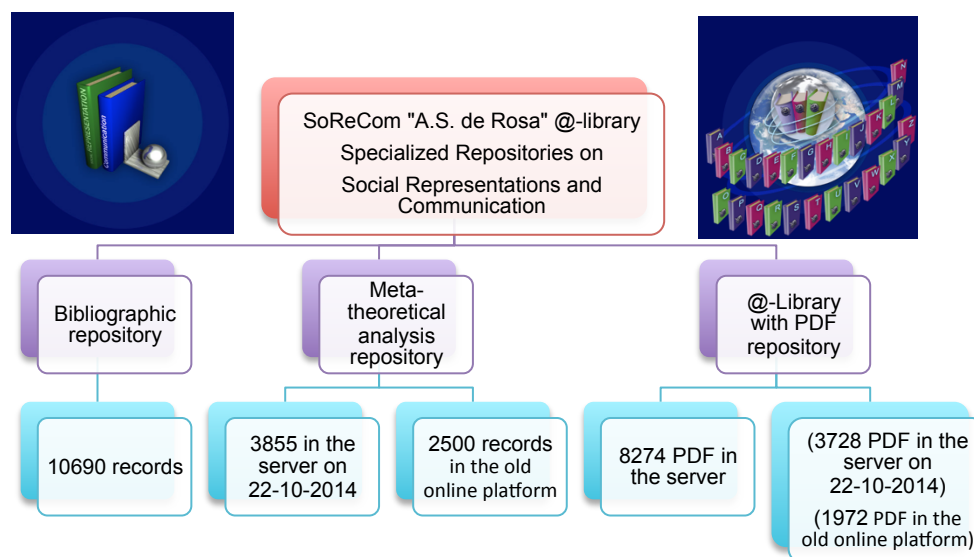
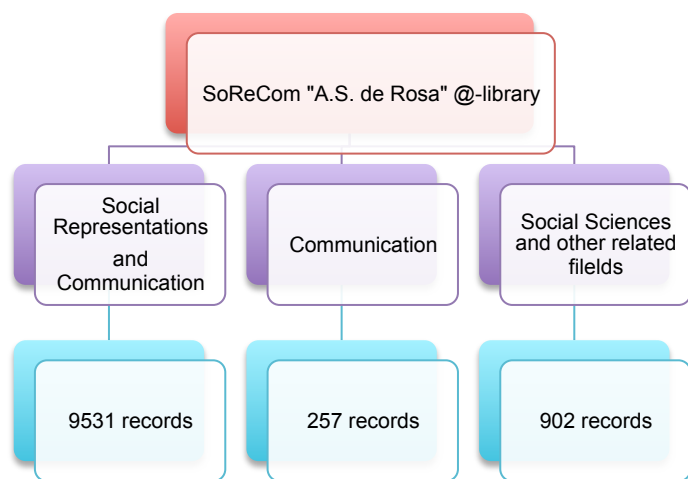
1. Overall Research Project institutional background
2. Specific Research Focus:
  - Research tool
  - Sources for the overall project and one of its 13 specific foci
  - Descriptive analyses for the Worldwide dissemination of the literature on **Social Representations and Politics: multidimensional 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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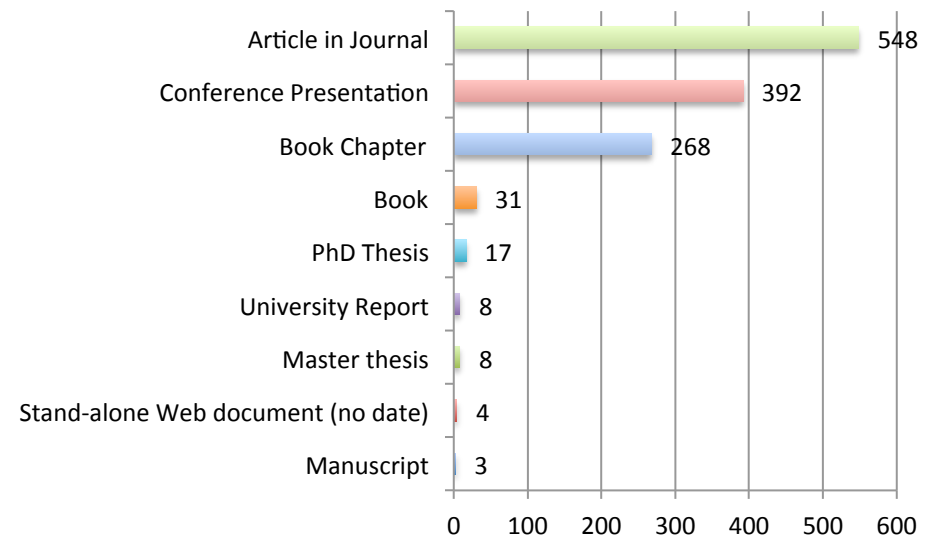
# Source of the big-data and meta-data

- 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



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 articles in Journals (of 548 ) presenting empirical studies



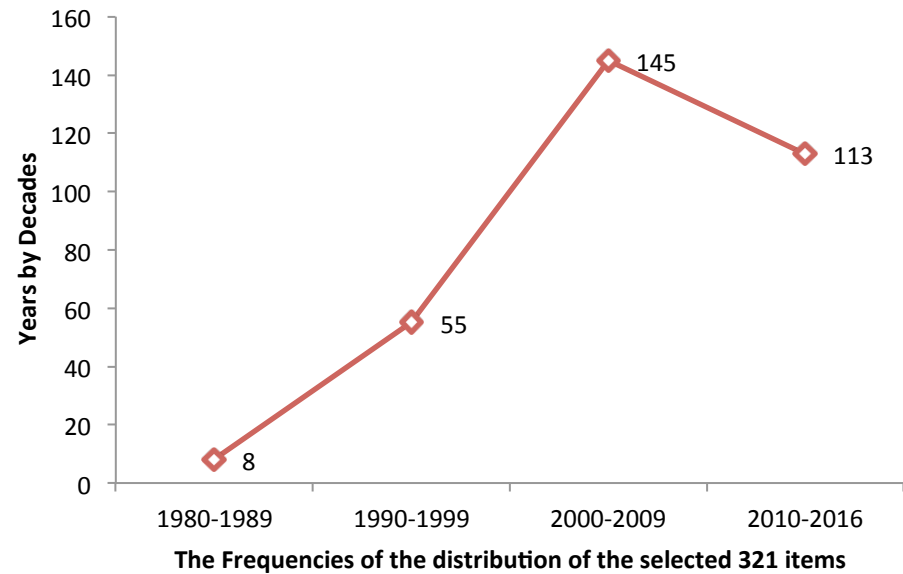
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## SELECTED VARIABLES:

- **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

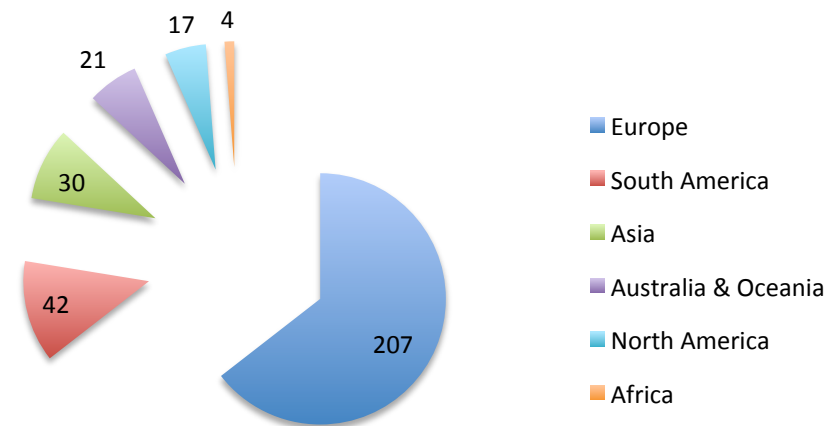
The frequencies distribution of the selected 321 items related to  
**“Social Representations and Politics:**  
**multidimensional identity, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities”**  
 filed in the repositories of the SoReCom “A.S. de Rosa” @-Library  
 by **“Year of Publication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

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



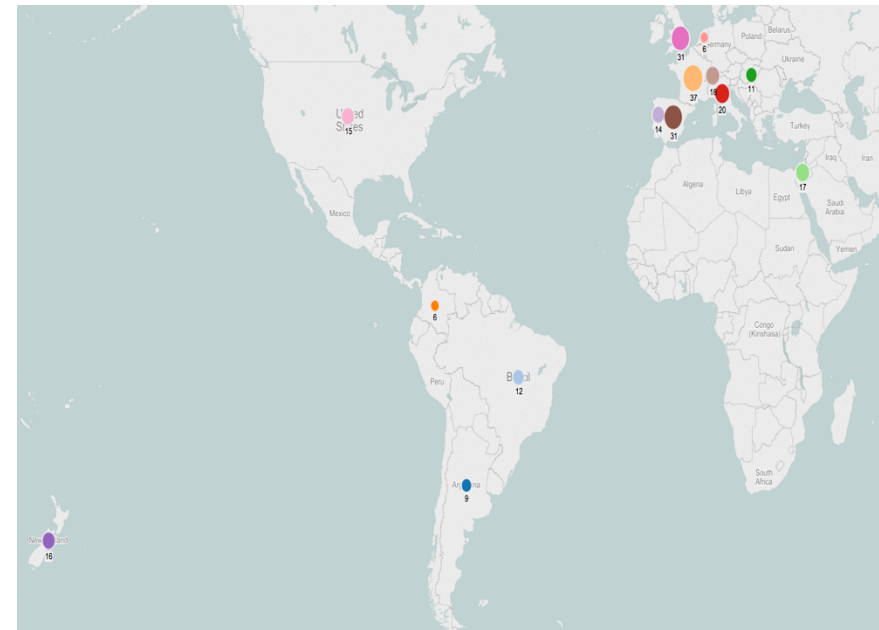
The frequencies distribution of the selected 321 items related to  
**“Social Representations and Politics:  
 multidimensional identity, intergroup relations, social movements and active minorities”**  
 filed in the repositories of the SoReCom “A.S. de Rosa” @-Library  
 by the **“Author’s Institution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



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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>100,0%</b>



The frequencies distribution of 321 selected items related to

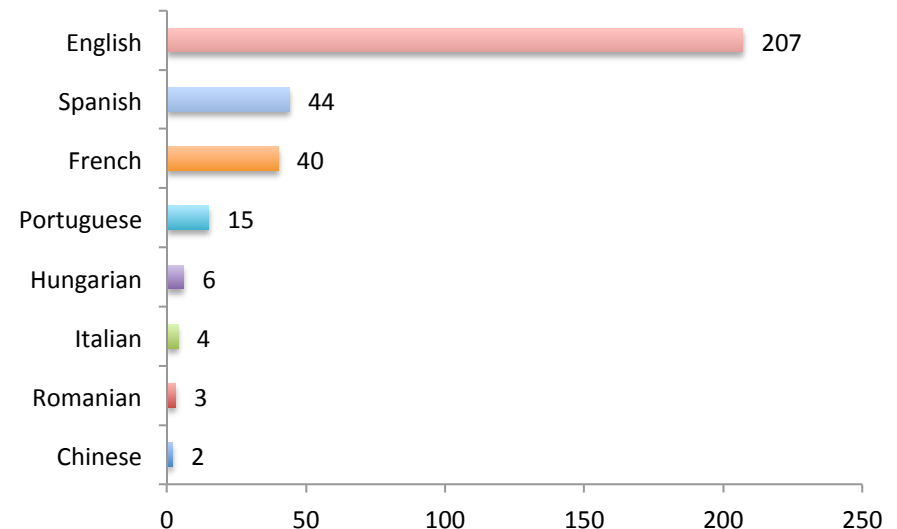
“Social Representations and Politics:

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)

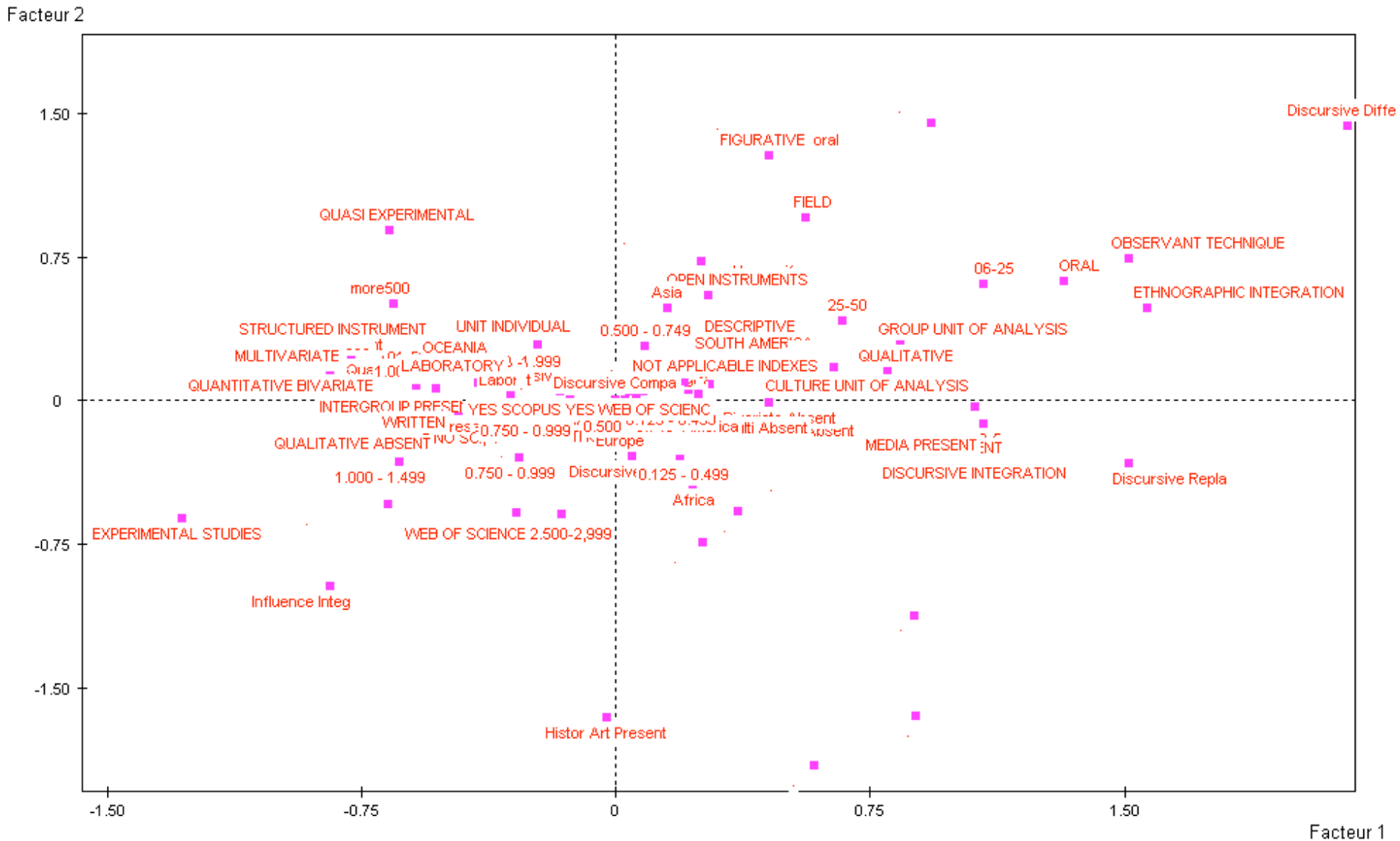
Journal Title	Absolute Frequency	Frequency %
Papers on Social Representations	29	9.03%
European Journal of Social Psychology	21	6.54%
Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology	13	4.05%
Psihologia Socială	9	2.80%
British Journal of Social Psychology	7	2.18%
Culture and Psychology	7	2.18%
Political 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

## 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 Technique	+	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 **counties** 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**

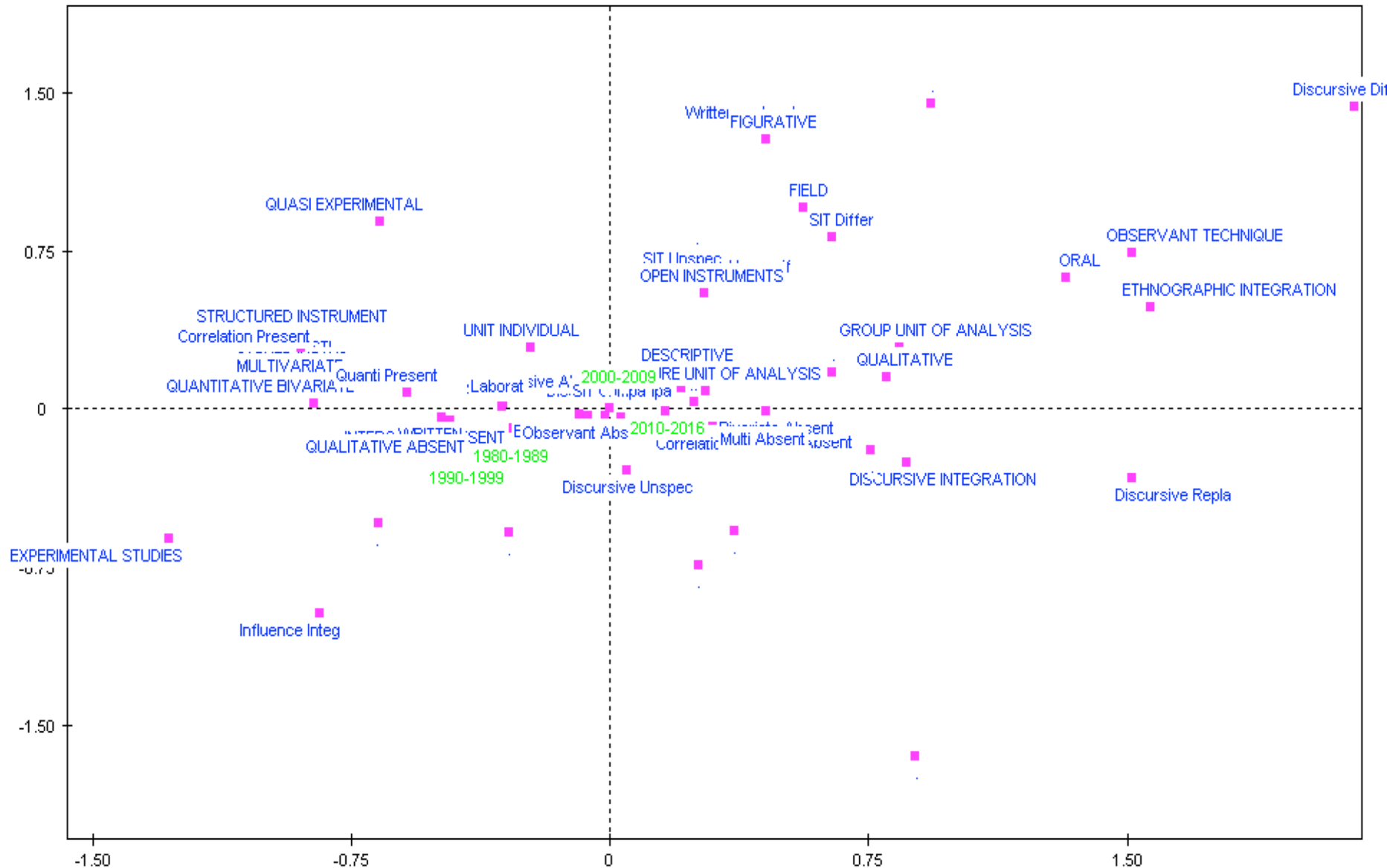
Significant role of the “**ILLUSTRATIVE variables**” is played by:

- **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

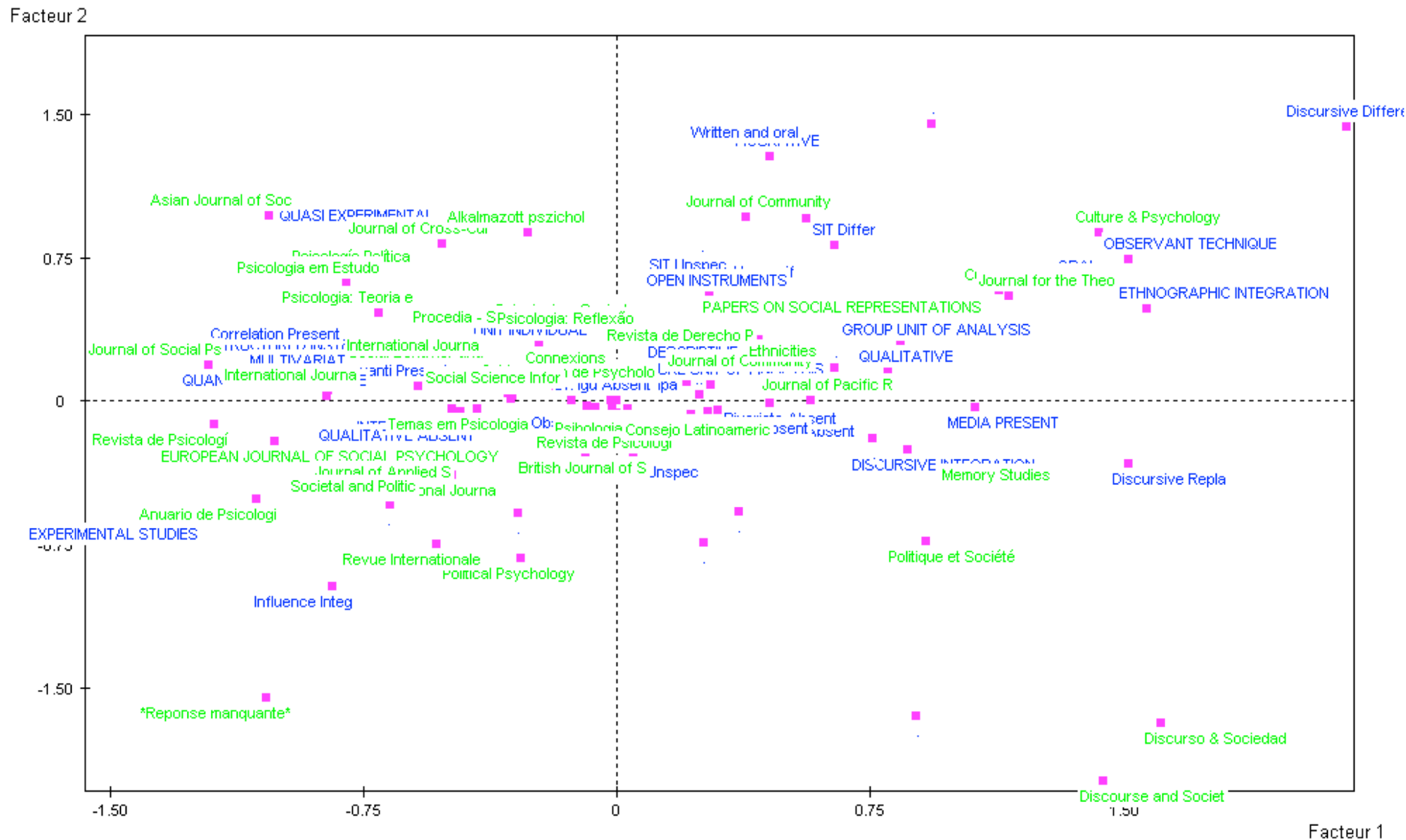


# Key Results

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**

## Focus on “Journal” as illustrative variable



# 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**

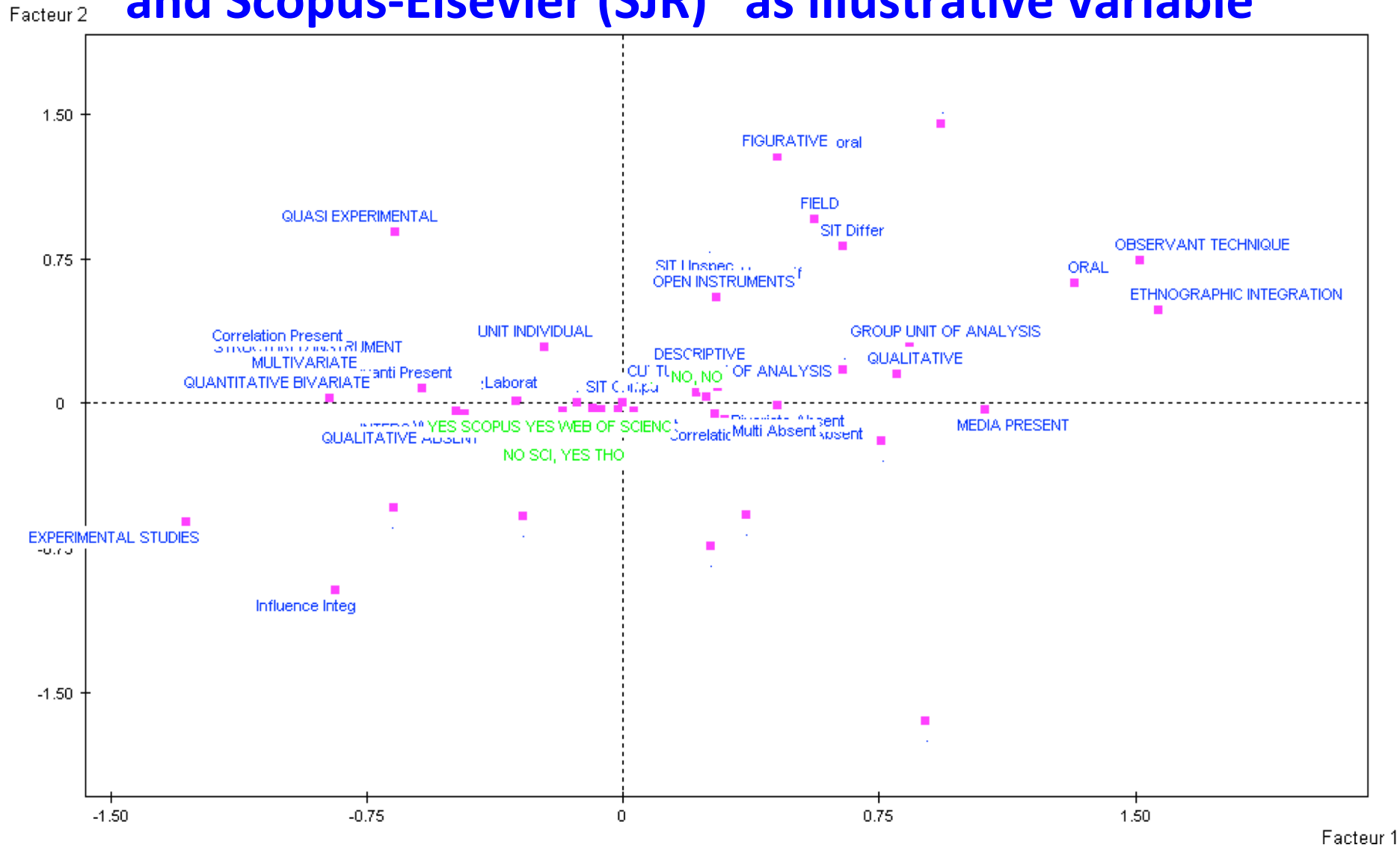
# Key Results

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 Société

# 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**

# Concluding remarks

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**

# Concluding remarks

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.

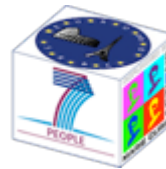
The paradigmatic and methodological **distinct options** are **also anchored into specific geo-cultural contexts**, identified with the country and continents associated to the authors' institutional affiliation, **over different decades** and **publishing editorial sources**, opposing the journals included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

# Concluding remarks

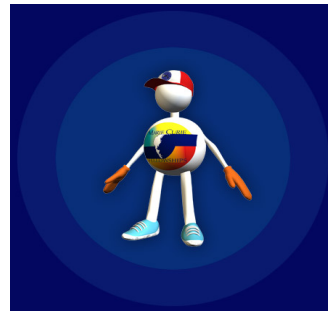
Coherently with the “**modeling approach to Social Representation**” (de Rosa, 2013), we hope that – **honoring the complexity of the Social Representation theory and challenging the researchers to rethink the subject of the Political Psychology** (Elcheroth, G. Doise, W. Reicher, S. 2011; Starklé, C. 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!

