

Sixty years of psychology journals in Colombia*

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In 1956, Mateo Mankeliunas founded, in Universidad Nacional de Colombia, the first specialized publication of the discipline: *Revista de psicología*. Since then, sixty years of scientific and academic production in psychology in our country have elapsed. Hence, we have dedicated this Editorial to the projects which have marked and shaped the history of scientific publications of psychology in Colombia. We will commence by characterizing the historical path of the editorial projects of Colombian psychology in order to reach a tension field where we display that these projects -60 years later- have been left in limbo.

Three major periods in the history of Publications in Colombia

Emergency period (1956-1976). This period represents the foundations of editorials in Colombian psychology. A couple of years following the first edition of *Revista de Psicología*, four more journals emerged: *Archivos de Estudios Psicoanalíticos y de Psicología Médica* (1964), *Revista Latinoamericana de psicología* (1969), *Revista de la Sociedad Colombiana de Psicoanálisis* (1976) and *Cuadernos de Psicología* (1976).¹ While this implied a prompt step into a successful academic production period in the publication of Colombian psychology; the publications during this period were characterized for having an irregular periodicity with precarious levels of scientific and editorial quality according to the minimum requirements of a scientific publication (Cano, 1995).

Transitional period (1977-1996). During this period, multiple editorial projects emerged. A major part of them were created to disclose the products of the new research groups (endogamic production). 17 journals were created but only 6 of them have survived. The journals

which ceased to exist did not reach more than five years of academic and scientific distribution in the discipline (Jaraba-Barrios, et al., 2011).

Settlement period (1997-2016). This period, was not just a time in which the emerging editorial projects maintained a constant academic distribution from the moment of its creation to present time, but also a time in which the practices, the assessment and measuring policies of serial publications in the country² were known. A time when we recognize the improvement of the criterium of editorial and scientific quality of academic publications. The most significant challenge will be to undertake the development of the editorial practices according to the internationalization, visibility and impact of the academic production. Undoubtedly, this has influenced and given the academic production of Colombian psychology a significant visibility in national and international academic communities in the last twenty years. Although the subsequent editorial projects benefited from a greater systematicity, we cannot ignore that these had the benefits of technology and the internet to expose their products. Other elements which determined the transition period were the Ley 100 of higher education as well as the research policies of Colciencias. These factors –among others- marked the development of the scientific production redounding in the strengthening of the discipline in the academic community of psychologists in Colombia. Thus, in the last twenty years is where we specify a formalized work which has contributed to a greater exposure of the Colombian scientific production in the national and international academic communities (Cudina & Ossa, 2016).

What do we currently have in Colombia?

We can observe sixty years of editorial work in Colombia in the following classification table of Publindex,

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1. Currently the *Revista Latinoamericana de Psicología*, founded by Rubén Ardila, is the only journal which survived this period.
2. At the end of 1996, Colciencias –through Publindex– carried out the first calling directed to scientific journal editors in the country aiming to gather the information to classify the journals and to establish an evaluation practice until now.

a system which determined the editorial and scientific quality of the journal with its own criterium (see Table 1).

Table 1
Classification of Colombian psychology journals by the permanent information system of Publindex 2015

Category	No. Of Journals	Percentage
A1	8	29,6%
A2	4	14,8%
B	3	11,1%
C	7	25,9%
--	5	18,5%
Total	27	100%

Source: Model of scientific journal classification (Publindex, 2015)

According to Publindex category A includes the journals have reached a high editorial and scientific quality; among them we can find that eight journals have achieved the highest classification (A1 = 29,6%) and four others were classified in A2 (14.8%). Categories B and C include journals which made an effort to improve their editorial quality, in this group we find three category B journals (11.1%) and seven category C journals (25.9%). According to this classification, only 5 journals (18.5%) have not managed to be indexed in Publindex.

The new era of Colombian scientific journals and loss of autonomy for Publindex

With the new measuring and assessment model for the indexation of scientific journals in Colombia, the history of serial publications in psychology shifts into a new era. According to this new model, it is no longer sufficient to sustain editorial and scientific quality but it is also required to demonstrate the impact of serial publications. This new period is placed starting from the phenomenon, explained below, which we have denominated as *the narcissistic wound in psychology journals*.

The previous classification illusion vanishes due to the fact that neither of the journals A1 and A2 will be able to sustain their classification because journal classification –since 2016- is determined taking into consideration their position in the quartiles (Q1, Q2, Q3 y Q4) of the Journal Citation Report (JCR). The loss of autonomy of Publindex –whose fundamental purpose is the fusion of journals- has automatically placed A1 and A2 journals in B and C categories. The journals which are not indexed in Scopus or WoS will need to struggle for a classification (B or C) according to the H5 index with the results provided by Google Scholar (a somewhat arbitrary index

because of the heterogeneity of the results given by it and the arbitrary definition of a 5-year period). In Table 2 we show the categorization of the journals according to the new assessment model of Publindex.

Table 2
Summary of the new journal measuring categorization model

Category	Publindex 2015	New Publindex	Position in quartiles
A1	8	-	Q1 (JCR)
A2	4	-	Q2 (JCR)
B	3	4	Q3 (JCR) o Q1 (H5)
C	7	3	Q4 (JCR) o Q2 (H5)
-	5	20*	

*Twenty academic publications of Colombian psychology are not included in the Journal Citation Report index. For these, the impact will be determined from H5 provided by Google Scholar and, thus, Publindex has fixed some thresholds which will determine the corresponding quartiles for each discipline. Nevertheless, we do not currently know the thresholds of the new model.

The problem of this new model does not only concern Colombia but the whole Latin American region (even Europe) since journals with a higher impact factor are focused in the US and the United Kingdom. The editorial industry –currently- produces higher revenues than the automotive industry (Ordóñez-Matamoros, Cozzens & García-Luque, 2011). The industry has been dominated by two large editorial companies: Elsevier and Springer. A Q1 publication ranges from \$1350 dollars (PlosOne) to \$2400 dollars (Frontiers); and researchers (and some institutions) pay this for their publications not only because they assume that the impact factor is transferred –by defect- to their publication but also because the educative system has been seduced by the visibility and high impact of their products offered in the displays of the international editorial market. We can observe in Table 3 how these revenues are distributed geographically.

Table 3
Classification by quartiles of psychology journals in JCR

Country	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Percentage
Latin America		1	13	24	38	3,6%
USA	169	127	106	56	459	43,4%
England	81	93	62	29	267	25,2%
Rest of the World	25	36	85	151	295	28%
General Total	275	257	266	260	1058	100%

Source: JCR - 2016

The demand generated by the scientific company requires broader discussion, even more, in a time in which change processes and academic production dynamics are transforming in Colombia. The alarming thing is to support it on an asymmetric measuring model to deter-

mine the editorial quality of the academic productions of a country which does not have the economic structures nor the institutions which support its growth.

The logical evaluations determined in the impact of the international indexes of citation show us a widely unseen local and regional academic production. Thus, the responsibility of Colciencias through Publindex must not be postponed: Guaranteeing the visibility of our scientific production of the academic communities and guaranteeing an editorial structure which permits the support in the indexation of the serial publications in WoS and Scopus (Aguilar, 2016). All of this without neglecting the value and commitment in emerging journals committed to the visibility and impact of the local, regional, and national academic production.

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