

AN EDITORIAL ADVENTURE: SOCIAL SCIENCES FROM THE NORTHERN EXTREME OF CHILE

A Special Issue of *Interciencia* dedicated to research in the field of the social sciences represents a special challenge for the journal. As a characteristic feature of the multidisciplinary nature that the journal has maintained since its beginnings, 43 years ago, 'hard' science areas have predominated in its contents, with a clear bias, however, towards agriculture and food sciences, ecology and the environment, as a clear reflection of the prevailing tendencies of research in Latin America, besides biomedical sciences.

In accordance with such 'multidisciplinarity' *Interciencia* has accepted and published papers in the sphere of the social sciences over time, but in a small amount. The pronounced differences in the publication tradition, in the respective audiences and in the manner of presentation of papers between 'soft' and 'hard' sciences lead to a segregation tendency regarding their publications and their academic evaluation. Our intention is to erase the existing differences, inasmuch as this is possible.

The *Universidad de Tarapacá*, within its spirit of academic collaboration, displayed efforts in order to submit to the standards of evaluation of *Interciencia* a group of papers addressed to strengthen the multi- and inter-disciplinary research work, with the aim to contribute to the creation of advanced knowledge. At the same time, with this special issue the publication of research papers in the social areas is being stimulated with the idea of sharing with the community part of the work carried out by students and academics, among whom there are researchers with different trajectories and level of recognition, participating in the groups and the networks formed in different lines of research.

As a result of such initiative, this issue of *Interciencia* includes papers that approach contingent themes aligned with the mission of the university in the Andean macro-zone. They cover from health policies, the psychology of emergency and the reaction to disasters up to aspects of social dominance and national identity. To a large extent they focus on the study of migration, frontier and society of the extreme north of Chile, the area of natural interest and influence of UTA, but their interests surpass the local sphere and reach the national one and, in several cases, they are of a clear regional interest.

The study of the families and the care of the dependent elders in the view of the caretakers, as well as the evaluation of the quality of life of the elder, indigenous or not, are themes added to the study of interventions aimed at the improvement of job satisfaction and organizational climate. Similarly, in the sphere of applied psychology are incorporated papers that explore the predictive capacity of post-traumatic symptoms in adolescents depending on poly-victimization experiences, and the adaptation and validation of scales used to evaluate experiences in school children.

The condition of the northern region of Chile, being an area bordering with Peru and Bolivia, a natural zone of distribution of the Aymara population, is reflected in the interest for social psychology and the study of the exogroup evaluation amongst the different nationalities and the comparative analysis of the quality of life of the Aymara population, as well as the health policies applied to aborigine peoples. In a context of national interest are found papers relative to the feeding habits of Chileans, the national image and imaginary, and the dominance of elites in the country. Finally, in a context that exceeds the national interest, are the use of tweeter in a case of disaster, the study of the exogroupal menace in Latin American immigrants in Spain, and the role of cognition in the evaluation of the quality of life.

This special issue is published in a moment of great inspiration for the social sciences in the country and in the world. The task of our school grows and feeds itself in view to consolidate the research in social sciences with a universalist approach as well as an applied one, being at the service of the country, the communities, the families and the individuals through the institution.

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