

ABSTRACTS

Martine MESPOULET: *Las estadísticas por sondeo en Rusia (1885-1924)*

This paper shows the several ways of development of surveys in Russia between 1885 and 1924, the year of the publication of Kovalevskii's treatise on optimal sample allocation (ten years before J. Neyman's publication about the same subject in USA). Firstly, it is related the ways of adaptation of surveys to public administration requirements. Then, it is analysed the evolution of the sampling techniques, illustrated by the several types of applications used by Russian public administration. Finally, Kovalevskii's mathematical treatment of optimal sample allocation is set out. Kovalevskii's work is an outcome of the Russians statisticians' important theoretical reflections on polls since the turn of the 20th Century. That thinking is located at the intersection between the introduction of the theory of probability and the contributions of the poll praxis among the *zemstva's* staticians.

Alejandro BAER y Francisco SÁNCHEZ: *La metodología biográfica audiovisual: El proyecto «Survivors of the Shoah»*

This article deals with the fundamental methodological questions regarding registry or production of autobiographical narratives of the Holocaust through videotaped oral history. Our case study is based on the experience of Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, the project established by Steven Spielberg to videotape Holocaust survivor testimonies around the world. Through a reflexive approach to the methodologies used by the project we will explore systematically the complex process of audiovisual production of autobiographical testimonies, considering the multiple elements (human and technological organization, technical and methodological guidelines, project goals) that mediate in the generation of these narratives.

Victor STOCZKOWSKI: *Razón narrativa. De las virtudes cognitivas del relato comparadas con las del modelo*

In this paper, it is called the cognitive autonomy of discourses into question, that is the supposed originality of the narratives. The interpretative-explanatory hypothesis

transmitted by a narrative text can —and should— be assessed under epistemological criteria that must be widespread in the scientific field. It also questions that modelling is in itself a warranty of scientificity and even that modelling gives us a better cognitive efficiency than that of the discourse. In their search for knowledge, social sciences have not a reason to choose between discourse and modelling.

Jesús GUTIÉRREZ: *El método de investigación psicoanalítico y el proceso conversacional en la investigación social cualitativa*

This work relates the psychoanalytical investigation method to the qualitative approach in social research. The objective is to improve the comprehension and practical application of the qualitative techniques as the focus groups and the not structured interview. This objective is approached through psychoanalytical dialogue and its application to the communicative situation developed.

Fernando CONDE: *El papel de la comparación como dispositivo de paso de la dimensión cualitativa a la dimensión cuantitativa en los discursos sociales*

Comparisons between objects, people and types of phenomena in the everyday language are common practice. It's in fact one of the figures of speech, one of its most widespread and used grammatical forms. This article expounds a reflection on the use of this «figure» of speech and points out how «comparison» is an element of colloquial speech that enables us to «homogenize», tend towards, make «comparable», as the name of the figure itself suggests, «objects», social phenomena with very different qualities. From this point of view, comparison takes the shape of a mechanism that enables, from speech, to smooth the path, to convert what is «qualitative» into «quantitative». Firstly, the reflection focuses on pointing out two basic dimensions of «comparison»: one dimension more «qualitative» and one more «quantitative» which, through expression, would look distinguishable. Dimensions implicit in current comparison which some author, such as Le Guern, traces back to a difference in Latin, which has become so taken for granted that it has been forgotten, between «similitudo» (more qualitative) and «comparatio» (more quantitative). Secondly, the reflection points out how to formalize comparison by turning to mathematical speech and «order relations», and how such mathematical relations also support such qualitative/ quantitative ambivalence, how such order relations take the shape of a formal mechanism on the borderline between topology (more qualitative) and arithmetic (more quantitative). Finally, it points out how the analyses called «non metric» or of «multidimensional scales» enable this step to operate in polls themselves and quantitative researches.

J. M. DE MIGUEL, B. SARABIA, E. G. VAQUERA y H. AMIRAH: *¿Sobran o faltan doctores?*

This paper studies, for the first time in Spain, the need of doctorates (Doctor in Spanish, equivalent to PhD), looking at the evolution of rates during the last decade, and comparing to other countries, especially United States. In Spain the rates of doctoral students and of new doctorates are high, contrary what low R+D statistics suggest. All Spanish universities —both public and private— have doctoral programs, as well as the

majority of Departments. The system is self controlled, more at the production of doctoral degrees conferred than at the incoming classes, but imperfectly. The proportion of drop outs, or students than never get the doctoral degrees, is quite high: more than 75%. Doctorate in Spain is mainly a training program for teachers within the same university. The numbers of doctorates without employment as teachers or researchers in an educational institution is growing. Regional differences are also high. The Spanish university system lacks a doctoral policy. The lack of reliable data is the first problem to be resolved. This paper was undertaken as a special collaborative effort of the GRS (Sociological Research Group, at the University of Barcelona) between professor Jesús M. de Miguel (University of Barcelona, Spain), professor Bernabé Sarabia Heydrich (Public University of Navarre, Spain), Elizabeth G. Vaquera (The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, United States), y Haizam Amirah (Elcano Royal Institute for Strategic and International Studies, Madrid).