
EDITORIAL

Women in psychological scientific production: a topic in need of visibilization

In the last few years, the participation of women in science has been increasingly debated. It is likely, as suggested by many studies, that the role of women in science has been made invisible and even erased altogether sometimes. In Colombia and in our region, we have very few studies showing the dynamics of women's roles in the production of scientific and psychological discourse.

Psychology in Colombia has foundational myths related to women, such as the foundation of the Psychotechnics Institute by Mercedes Rodrigo, and it is evident that most psychologists are females in Colombia - about eight of every 10, and the rates are nearly the same in the student body. This makes Psychology a "female" profession, and surely, some speculate that the caring role of women in our societies has led to this professional takeover of Psychology by women. However, it is clear that women are not only changing professional practices in Psychology, but also contributing significantly to psychological knowledge and increasing their professional leadership - nowadays, we know that 50% of the heads of training programmes are women. However, we still need to characterise the role of women in professional, academic, community, political and social settings. And then make those roles visible in the scientific, professional, and community contexts.

Conducting quantitative and qualitative studies of the role of women in the academic production in Colombia is urgent, in order to learn about sociodemographic characteristics, profiles, and of course the difficulties that they find - including multiple roles, patriarchal practices and unequal remuneration. Gender studies have systematically shown that the many roles that women have are critical in the understanding of gender equality: besides the traditional childrearing and psycho-socio-emotional family support roles, women are also expected to fulfil obligations in the professional world, which makes it very important to study the role of women in the academic world.

In this sense, some figures will help read the situation. According to the UN, only 18% of women graduate from college, 8% from a master's programme and a meagre 2% finish a doctoral programme. This is in stark contrast with the corresponding 37%, 18% and 6% for males. The chair of the National University of Colombia, Ignacio Mantilla, has commented on OECD data (2017) by stating that female researchers still have low rates of participation in scientific knowledge: in OECD countries, except for Portugal and Estonia, they are lower than 40% - and even in those countries, they do not reach 50%. Japan and South Korea show the lowest levels (lower than 20%). This speaks to a large gender gap in scientific knowledge, despite the reduction required by the Millennium Goals. In any case, initiatives

such as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (11 February) work towards reducing this gap. We wanted to use this page to call our readers' attention to identify and highlight the role of women in academia and scientific production in Psychology.

María Constanza Aguilar Bustamante, Editor