



50 YEARS OF AWARENESS AND EXPERIENCE: A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE INTERAMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY

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In March of 1967, the *Interamerican Journal of Psychology* was published for the first time, giving way to a new era of collaboration among the countries of the Americas in terms of shared knowledge in the field of psychology. In commemoration of the 50 years of the journal's existence, in this first issue of the year, I would like to provide a general review of the achievements of the *Interamerican Journal of Psychology*. The last issue of the year will be a special number commemorating the 50 years of the journal and will have at least two articles that analyze the content and bibliometrics of the journal in these 50 years. In this editorial comment I will also briefly introduce the articles of this issue.

The *Interamerican Journal of Psychology* (RIP / IJP) is one of the main vehicles for achieving some of the objectives of the Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP). In particular, the journal's mission is the diffusion of new knowledge without the constraints and limitations of a single worldview, in other words, the journal understands that there is diversity in the way we gain and define knowledge (Grayshield & Mihecoby, 2010; Garrett 2017), particularly in Interamerican societies. This is why the journal believes that it is necessary to provide the means, whenever possible, to help others understand the meaning of new knowledge and how it can be used to improve the quality of life of the Interamerican community (Torres Rivera, 2013). It is also important to clarify that when we talk about the Interamerican community we talk about the Americas from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego in Argentina, so it is important to visualize the American continent in a holistic way, with all its complexity and richness.

Some of the objectives set forth by previous editors (The journal has had seven editors: Carl F. Hereford, Luis F. Natalicio, Horacio JP Rimoldi, Gordon E. Finley, Luis Laosa, José M. Salazar, Irma Serrano -Garcia and Silvia Koller), included to: (1) Reflect the developments in the field of psychology from both a theoretical and an applied and professional perspective; (2) Promote the development of psychology in the Western Hemisphere (the Americas) through professional communication and collaboration; and (3) Decrease the scientific and professional isolation of those who integrate the discipline.

These goals in addition to the values instilled by Paulo Freire of reflection -> critical thinking -> action, motivates us to rediscover knowledge that has been dispersed or to create new knowledge since the goal of psychological research is to discover new knowledge that will inform the practice of psychology in an effective and socially just manner. Moreover, the Interamerican psychology is complex, and uses a meta-approach to find and recognize knowledge that is based on multiple experiences, histories and theories, valuing the new and the old. It recognizes that the theories, research methodologies and knowledge of psychology developed in the Western world and the indigenous models of non-Western cultures are not inherently right or wrong, good or bad (Torres Rivera, 2013). In this way, it is important to maintain the independence of the Interamerican psychology and to respect Western and non-Western values without one method being considered superior to the other.

In the next paragraphs, I will be presenting some details about the journal. The *Interamerican*

Journal of Psychology, while officially launched in 1967 (see figure 1), was unofficially started in 1962. Prominent figures in the field such as Rubén Ardila, Fals Bordas, Gerardo Marín, Ignacio Martín Baro, Irma Serrano-García, and Maritza Montero, just to mention a few were some of the scholars who had a relationship with the journal during those first days, many of them still remain related to the RIP / IJP (<https://journal.sipsych.org/index.php/IJP/issue/archive>).

The journal is published in four languages (Spanish, French, English and Portuguese), three times a year. In addition, the SIP Board decided in 2013 to operate under the guidelines of the various open access agreements including Budapest, Berlin, and Bethesda (Suber, 2012) and to provide open access to the journal and the authors submitting and publishing their work for free.

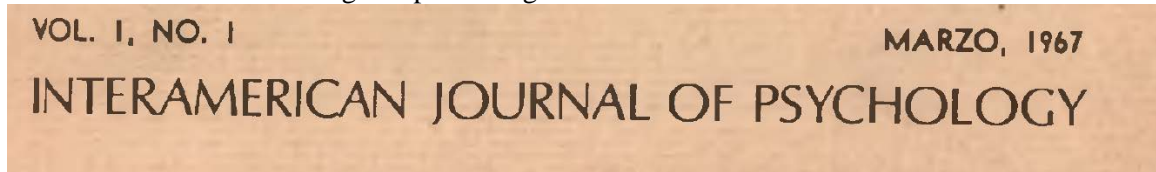


Figure 1. First heading of the first issue of the RIP / IJP

According to data provided by Google Analytics, the journal is visited and downloaded in 40 countries, the top 10 countries include: (1) Colombia, (2) Mexico, (3) Peru, (4) Brazil, (5) United States, (6) Spain, (7) Argentina, (8) Chile, (9) Ecuador, and (10) Puerto Rico. In addition, 1,299 people visit the page of the journal daily, of those 34.6% are returning users and 65.4% are new users. The journal is indexed in international indexing organizations, as well as APA, Redalyc, Pepsic, DOAJ, SCOPUS.

The journal has an h-index of 39 and a g-index of 60 according to the program of *Harzing's Publish or Perish* (Harzing, 2007). The journal has published 553 articles since 2001; this does not include reviews, editorials, or special comments. Figure 2 illustrates the number of articles from 2005 to 2014. This figure does not include the 88 articles that were published from 2001 to 2004.

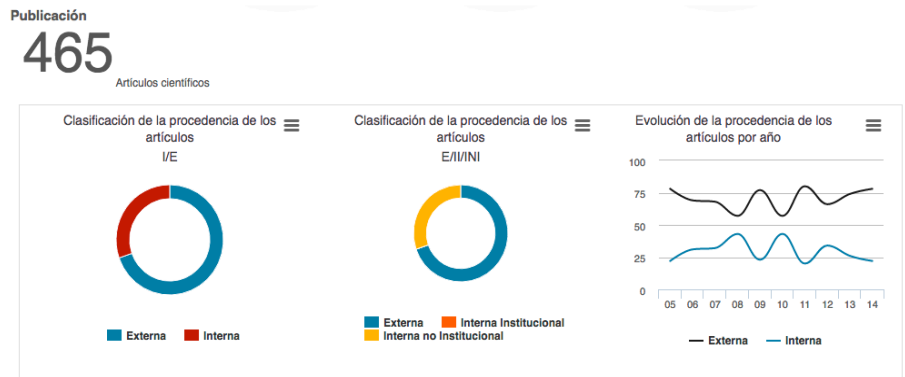


Figure 2. Number of articles published from 2005 to 2014

Languages and Themes

Using the data from Redalyc, Spanish is still the language in which most authors publish, followed by Portuguese, and English. French continues to be the language in which it is least published (see Table 1). The themes of the publications continue to be varied with special editions on the history of psychology, Caribbean psychology, and the psychology of Guatemala. What is certain is that topics such as violence, trauma, and globalization are themes that appear very rarely since 2005. There is also an increase in submissions in general, although Table 1 only illustrates submissions until 2015. The number of submissions at the time of publishing this number is 30% higher than in 2106.



Table 1
Distribution of Articles by Languages (1977-2000; 2005-2015).

Languages	Years		Total
	1977-2000	2005-2015	
Spanish	183	257	440
Portuguese	21	126	147
English	120	50	120
French	0	3	3
Total	324	436	760

As the data indicates, with the increase in submissions, there is also the need to increase the number of reviewers. Currently, the journal has 293 reviewers listed in the system of which 169 appear on the main page under the title of "Editorial Review Board or Scientific Publishing Committee". In 2016, the journal received 342 submissions, 80% were published after one or two reviews, and 20% were rejected for reasons of style and methodology. Currently, we have 718 people registered in the system and so far in 2017 we have received more than 115 manuscripts. We still have more manuscripts in Spanish and Portuguese than in English and of course we have not received one in French in 2017. Table 2 presents the distribution of countries and languages represented in the Editorial Review Board. It should also note that many reviewers are bilingual and that many Brazilian authors prefer to submit their work in English and review them in English.

In conclusion, the journal continues to have an impact in the Americas as we can see with the number of submissions from all corners of the American continent and beyond, with contributions of some European countries. However, the presence of the American countries is palpable and more present than ever.

Table 2

Distribution of countries and languages represented in the Editorial Review Board

Country	Language	Total of Reviewers
Brazil	Portuguese	40
USA	English	24
Mexico	Spanish	18
Argentina	Spanish	15
Chile	Spanish	10
Puerto Rico	Spanish Ingles	10
Peru	Spanish	9
Portugal	Portuguese	8
Spain	Spanish	5
Colombia	Spanish	4
Venezuela	Spanish	3
Barbados	English	3
Bolivia	Spanish	2
Paraguay	Spanish	2
Mona	English	2
Trinidad	English	2
United Kingdom	English	2
Uruguay	Spanish	2
Granada	English	1
Jamaica	English	1
Haiti	English	1
Cuba	Spanish	1
British Colombia	English	1
Guatemala	Spanish	1
Bahamas	English	1
Virgin Islands	English	1
Totals: Countries – 26	Languages: Spanish - 82; Portuguese - 48; English - 39	Reviewers - 169

First Number of the Year

Finally, it is important to talk about the articles included in this issue. The articles are very varied and integral, starting with themes of family, sexuality, poverty, psychometrics, theory, immigration, and adolescence, all this followed by a review about psychology in Argentina. I would like to emphasize the article by Hipólito-Delgado, Estrada, and García because, looking at the trends of what has been published in the journal in the last eight years, this is the first time and article on Counselor Education and Supervision is published in the journal. Although this discipline is widely known in the United States it is not in other parts of the Americas; thus, I would like to know how the Interamerican audience will receive this article. The article argues that although most programs in the US have an aggressive policy of recruiting ethnic minorities in their graduate programs, students belonging to ethnic minority groups feel isolated and lonely. The results of the study indicate that students prefer more diversification in the counseling profession, more familiarity with established professional counselors, and better placement of the graduate program in geographic terms. This is in line with the RIP/IJP tradition of extending boundaries and exposing knowledge beyond the traditional epistolary of what knowledge is and how it is obtained.



Conclusions

The RIP/IJP has increased its contributions to psychology with steady and conscious efforts to fulfill the need for knowledge in the field. With the growth on technology and open access, the RIP/IJP audience has also grown since it is not only the countries of the Americas that can see the work presented in the RIP/IJP, but individuals from other parts of the world. Although the demands for financial gains continue to rise, the journal has been able to maintain its commitment to the psychological community with the support of the Interamerican Society of Psychology.

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