

Editorial

This special issue is dedicated entirely to Spanish research trends from 1989 to 1998. The purpose is to provide, as objectively and clearly as possible, the state of the art of recent and emerging work in Spain, corresponding to tenured psychology professors. The articles in this issue will be published simultaneously in three of the currently most prevalent languages: Spanish (*Papeles del Psicólogo*), English (*The Spanish Journal of Psychology*), and French (*Bulletin de Psychologie*). We owe the notion of preparing a special issue on contemporary Spanish psychology to the Editor of the French journal, Marcel Turbiaux. The original idea was to prepare the articles only for this journal. However, as the works advanced, we began to consider the appropriateness of publishing them in the three above-mentioned journals. The idea met with the approval of the French editor, so the work began. Now the work is over and only one issue is pending: the copyright. We decided the three journals would hold the joint copyright of the articles, each journal in the respective language.

We would like to highlight several characteristics of this special issue. First, the difficulties inherent to this kind of work. The databases, both national and international, that we used to search for the scientific production of faculty members are currently far from perfect. Their criteria for inclusion of papers are not always clear, either for journals or for articles, and some factors having little to do with scientific rigor seem to be present in all the databases (bias of persons responsible for the databases concerning language, the country of origin, habits and preferences, etc.). Because of this, the final result could present inclusion or exclusion biases in some research trends, unless corrective measures were taken. In order to mitigate this difficulty as much as possible, we decided to send a letter to each and every tenured psychology professor (from the beginning, this was the selected population), in which they were asked to ratify or rectify the data that had been extracted from the databases. This was an essential part of the procedure agreed upon by all the participants who write about the research trends, as is described in the first article, which is an introduction to the rest. Nevertheless, each author could be flexible when carrying out the appropriate modifications as a function of the specificity of his or her area, as long as these changes were mentioned in the study.

Second, we must refer to the limitations. No doubt, the general aim had to be considered taking into account a priori conditions: Only one decade was covered, that immediately preceding the beginning of this work (1999). In addition, we agreed on the need to find five papers on the same topic, in specific databases, in order to consider them as a research trend. Both these decisions are susceptible to criticism, but we found no antidote for this situation. In addition to these general decisions, specific decisions were to be taken by the authors: What is considered "the same topic" in each area? To what extent should the papers be related to each other in order to be considered a research trend? Here also, we could not find a perfect solution that would prevent possible involuntary biases.

Third, the review process of the manuscripts was the customary one for this type of solicited papers. The Editor, Associate Editors, collaborators, and other researchers made comments, but the authors are ultimately responsible for the content of their respective articles. We herewith acknowledge their determination and constant dedication, without which the original idea of this special issue would have been impossible.

Lastly, in view of all the articles, we can state that, in general, psychological research in Spain is becoming progressively more international, and that the number of Spanish authors who publish in journals of acknowledged quality and great impact (*Science*, *Nature*, *Annual Review of Psychology*, *Psychological Bulletin*, etc.) is increasing. However, to date, the international impact is relatively unsatisfactory for the Spanish scientific production, although certain differences can be observed among areas. We hope that the diffusion of these research trends in three languages will offer a good opportunity to increase our colleagues' awareness of the research that is being carried out in Spain, and thus, facilitate this desired international impact.

Although with this special number *The Spanish Journal of Psychology* goes from being annual to biannual (May and November), we would like to point out that, in the future, the journal will carry on with its usual format of "articles and research trend" in each of its two issues. — Juan Fernández, *Editor*.