

Declaration on Citation Indices and Editorial Practices

Upon the initiative of the *Revista Chilena de Literatura*, published by the Universidad de Chile, the editors of various Latin-American journals came together on September 29, 2014 in Santiago, Chile to discuss common policies and means of support. Attendees agreed to express their discontent with the predominant forms of measuring the academic quality of publications. This discontent stems from two principal issues: firstly, these forms of measurement favor administrative and quantities criteria at the expense of content; secondly, they tend to ignore the academic practices of the humanities, which differ from those of the exact and applied sciences. Therefore, the decision was made to sign the following Declaration, which was drafted during the first half of 2015.

Background

Over the last few years, various Latin-American governments have adopted forms of measuring academic quality based on new public administration policies that favor indices and metrics over content and the scientific, social and cultural aspects inherent in academic work. Likewise, these policies have been assumed by some universities, which have become increasingly more attuned to the role of visibility and the impact factor within the framework of international rankings, in addition to the training of human capital in a manner that prizes economic development.

Generally speaking, the models used for measuring are drawn from the exact and applied sciences and thereby disregard the particularities characteristic of academic work in the human sciences. For the most part, the “paper” represents the standard format for academic production, overshadowing other forms of knowledge diffusion better suited to the humanities, such as the essay or book. Furthermore, these models restrict the utility of knowledge to practical application and the solution of concrete problems.

The human sciences, due to their reflexive and polemical nature, do not neatly fit into the categories established by these criteria, but that does not diminish their importance to society. The knowledge sought within the humanities is open and plural; it is not directed exclusively to academic communities. Instead, it belongs to the public domain. The humanities strengthen and foster the critical appropriation of culture and tradition, open new spaces for discussion and debate and enjoy a utopic dimension that goes beyond the mere solution of immediate problems. That is, the humanities do not easily adapt to quantitative criteria or standardized forms of academic production. In fact, adjusting to prevailing quality criteria

often spells trouble for the humanities: in so doing, they are forced to betray their nature, aims and social and cultural effects.

The journals endorsing the present document advocate the reformulation of criteria used for academic evaluation in the human sciences. The editorial committees signing below understand the need for evaluation, yet they oppose basing this need on quantitative principles and the immediate practical application of knowledge. In light of the different traditions and identities among the academic disciplines, the authors of this declaration propose that states and universities adopt distinctive models for measuring quality to account for the particularities of each discipline. Moreover, the development of such models must include meaningful participation from various academic communities. Only then can clear criteria be established for the adoption of public policies regarding academic research in the humanities—an area effectively contributing to the general welfare.

Some states and universities have adopted, unquestioningly, purely quantitative evaluation criteria in the form of citation indices, whose analyses and metrics are viewed as direct indicators of the quality of publications and their contents. In addition, the need to publish in journals or other media reported in these indices has essentially become public policy, an imperative for researchers that, in turn, affects the logic of academic production, the focus of research and the formats in which research is written, not to mention the nature of regional editorial projects. Together, the publishing demand and quantitative imperative cause problems for researchers, and not just within the humanities. Within the exact and natural sciences, critical voices have emerged in response to existing evaluative parameters and the excessive importance placed on citation indices and the impact factor. Quantitative evaluation, these critics point out, is just one component involved in the evaluation of academic quality; it is not the only nor even the most important one. In all areas, academic evaluation must be contextual. That is, it must account for the specific mission and projects of institutions, journals, disciplines of knowledge, research groups and individuals.

Cultural and socioeconomic context plays an important role in the consideration of the quality of an academic publication in any subject, but more so for the humanities and social sciences. Indicators, however, tend to favor publications in English, for they have higher citation indices, are published in developed countries and are often included in journals that purport to be core journals (i.e. publications forming a canon of the academic literature most relevant for each discipline). This ignores the reality of the human and social sciences: by virtue of their very nature, research in these areas is tied to specific regional and linguistic contexts, and these connections are fundamental in the consideration of the quality of academic products. This has been recognized, for example, in the document “*Bases para la Categorización de Publicaciones Periódicas en las Humanidades y las Ciencias Sociales*,” [“Bases for the Categorization of Periodical Literature in the Humanities and Social Sciences”] published

in June 2014 by Argentina's National Counsel on Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET per its Spanish acronym). In the aforementioned document, the impact factor is clearly shown not to have the same influence in the social sciences and humanities as it does in other disciplines. On another note, this document demonstrates the special value held by books, individually or collectively written, in terms of this field's scientific production, despite the fact that they are often left out of citation indices. What is more, the document argues that bibliometric criteria, such as the impact factor, should not be blindly applied to the evaluation of the quality of publications in the social science and humanities. It is also worth noting CONICET's decision to place international, regional and national indices all on the same plane in an effort to fortify regional production and champion the relevance of the Spanish language in knowledge creation and scientific diffusion in the humanities and social sciences.

Resolution on Editorial and Academic Practices

Given the aforementioned background, the editorial committees of the journals signing the present Declaration have formulated a series of basic accords to guide their editorial and academic practices:

- We hold that quality of our journals shall not be based on citation indices; rather, it rests on content. Thus, we do not utilize citation indices as a promotional tool. The evaluation of the articles received have as primary criteria originality and argumentative clarity, as well as contribution to the academic discussion on literary, aesthetic, historical and cultural problems. They do not account for those qualities or tendencies that may directly boost citation of any author or article, and, even less so, any journal as a whole.
- Our journals promote the reading of their contents and facilitate reader access, but they do not force authors to cite articles previously published in the same journal; rather, authors only cite what is pertinent for the objectives of their text in accordance with the recommendations made by peer reviewers. By the same token, our journals do not confine themselves exclusively to the format of the "paper" nor the typical structure of the scientific article (introduction, methods, results and discussion).
- For our journals, international citation indices and electronic libraries and directories are key elements in the circulation of content in that they facilitate the spread of information and academic dialogue among peers (which, in fact, represents the original goal of these indices). Nevertheless, the value of a journal that is not indexed in such systems, especially in those which measure citation, should not be discounted solely because of this fact.

- Our journals promote the free dissemination of their contents or their acquisition at reasonable prices for readers, for we consider knowledge, debate and argument to be public.
- Our journals do not and will not charge authors to publish in order to ensure free access to the journals' contents.

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We cordially invite other journals and academic editorials to endorse this Declaration and heed the principles established here. So far, this Declaration has been publicly supported by the following publications:

- *Aletria, Revista de Estudos Literários* (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brasil)
- *ALPHA* (Universidad de Los Lagos, Chile)
- *alter/ nativas: revistas de estudios culturales latinoamericanos* (Ohio State University, United States)
- *Ámbito de Encuentros* (Universidad del Este, Puerto Rico)
- *América, cahiers du Criccal* (Université de Sorbonne-Nouvelle, Paris 3, France)
- *Anclajes* (Universidad Nacional de La Pampa, Argentina)
- *Antares: Letras e Humanidades* (Universidade de Caxias do Sul, Brasil)
- *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)
- *Artelogie* (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France)
- *Babedec. Revista de Centro de Estudios de Teoría y Crítica Literaria* (Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina)
- *Belas Infiéis* (Universidade de Brasília, Brasil)
- *Biotecnología en el sector agropecuario y agroindustrial* (Universidad del Cauca, Colombia)
- *Bitácora urbano/ territorial* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)
- *Boletín de arqueología* (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú)
- *Boletín científico* (Universidad de Caldas, Colombia)
- *Boletín del Centro de Estudios de Teoría y Crítica Literaria* (Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina)
- *Boletín de filología* (Universidad de Chile)
- *Brumal. Revista de Investigación sobre lo fantástico* (Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona)
- *CAFE. Cahiers des Amériques, Figures de l'Entre* (Université de La Rochelle, France)
- *Caracteres. Estudios culturales y críticos de la esfera digital* (Universidad de Salamanca, España)
- *Caribe: revista de cultura y literatura* (Marquette University, United States)
- *CELEHIS* (Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Argentina)

- *Centroamericana* (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano, Italia)
- *Colindancias* (The West University of Timișoara, Romania)
- *Cuadernos del CILHA* (Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina)
- *Cuadernos de historia* (Universidad de Chile)
- *Cultura del cuidado enfermería* (Universidad Libre, Colombia)
- *Decimonónica: revista de producción cultural hispánica decimonónica* (United States)
- *Desafíos* (Universidad del Rosario, Colombia)
- *Desde el jardín de Freud. Revista de psicoanálisis* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)
- *Diálogos de Saberes. Investigaciones en Derecho y Ciencias Sociales* (Universidad Libre, Colombia)
- *Dirásât Hispánicas. Revista Tunecina de Estudios Hispánicos* (Tunis El Manar University, Tunisia)
- Editorial Jorge Millas (Fundación Jorge Millas, Chile)
- *El Ágora USB* (Universidad San Buenaventura, Medellín, Colombia)
- *El taco en la brea* (Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina)
- *Encuentros* (Universidad Autónoma del Caribe, Colombia)
- *Entramado* (Universidad Libre, Sede Cali, Colombia)
- *Episteme. Revista de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas* (Universidad Santo Tomás, Sede Villavicencio, Colombia)
- *e-escrita* (UNIABEU, Brasil)
- *Estudios. Revista de Investigaciones Literarias y Culturales* (Universidad Simón Bolívar, Venezuela)
- *Estudios Avanzados*. Instituto de Estudios Avanzados (Universidad de Santiago de Chile)
- *Estudios de Filosofía* (Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia)
- *Estudios de Literatura Colombiana* (Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia)
- *Estudos de Literatura Brasileira Contemporânea* (Universidade de Brasilia, Brasil)
- *Folia Histórica del Nordeste* (Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, Argentina)
- *Fronteras de la historia* (Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia, Colombia)
- *Gamma* (Universidad del Salvador, Argentina)
- *Hispanérica* (University of Maryland, United States)
- *Historia Caribe* (Universidad del Atlántico, Colombia)
- *HOW* (Asociación Colombiana de Profesores de Inglés)
- *Humanidades* (Universidad de Montevideo, Uruguay)

- *Hypnos* (Pontificia Universidade Católica de São Paulo, Brasil)
- *Ideas y Valores. Revista Colombiana de Filosofía* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)
- *Izquierdas* (Instituto de Estudios Avanzados, Universidad de Santiago de Chile)
- *Katatay. Revista crítica de literatura latinoamericana* (Red Interuniversitaria Katatay, Argentina)
- *Kavilando. Revista de ciencias sociales y humanas* (Grupo de Investigación para la Transformación Social Kavilando, Colombia)
- *Kaypunku, revista de Estudios Interdisciplinarios de Arte y Cultura* (Grupo de Investigación Kaypunku, Perú)
- *Kipus: Revista andina de letras* (Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Ecuador)
- *La Palabra* (Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia)
- *Letras* (Universidad de San Marcos, Perú)
- *Lexis. Revista de lingüística y literatura* (Universidad Católica del Perú)
- *Línguas&Letras* (Universidade Estadual do Oeste do Paraná, Brasil)
- *Lingüística y Literatura* (Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia)
- *Literatura: teoría, historia, crítica* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)
- *Luciérnaga* (Politécnico Colombiano Jaime Isaza Cadavid, Colombia)
- *Lúmina* (Universidad de Manizales, Colombia)
- *Memoria y sociedad* (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia)
- *Milenio. Revista de Artes y Ciencias* (Universidad de Puerto Rico, sede Bayamón)
- *Mora* (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- *Mundo amazónico* (Instituto Imani, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Amazonia)
- *Olho d'água* (Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de Mesquita Filho", Brasil)
- *Olivar: revista de literatura y cultura españolas* (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina)
- *Orbis Tertius* (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina)
- *Perífrasis. Revista de Literatura, Teoría y Crítica* (Universidad de los Andes, Colombia)
- *Perspectiva geográfica* (Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia - Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi, Colombia)
- *Pilquen. Sección ciencias sociales* (Universidad Nacional del Comahue, Centro Universitario Zona Atlántica, Argentina)
- *Pilquen. Sección Psicopedagogía* (Universidad Nacional del Comahue, Centro Universitario Zona Atlántica, Argentina)
- *Polifonía. Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* (University of San Francisco, United States)
- *Praesentia, revista venezolana de estudios clásicos* (Universidad de Los Andes, Venezuela)
- *Prismas. Revista de historia intelectual* (Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina)

- *PROFILE Issues in Teachers' Professional Development* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)
- *Psicoespacios* (Institución Universitaria de Envigado, Colombia)
- *Rastros Rostros* (Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia)
- *Recial* (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina)
- *Revista Archivos de medicina* (Universidad de Manizales, Colombia)
- *Revista colombiana de gastroenterología* (Asociación Colombiana de Gastroenterología, Colombia)
- *Revista Colombiana de Sociología* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)
- *Revista chilena de literatura* (Universidad de Chile)
- *Revista de Filosofía* (Universidad de Chile)
- *Revista de la Asociación Colombiana de Ciencias Biológicas* (Asociación Colombiana de Ciencias Biológicas, Colombia)
- *Revista de Literaturas Modernas* (Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina)
- *Revista de psicología GEPU* (Universidad del Valle, Colombia)
- *Revista Iberoamericana* (Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana, University of Pittsburgh, United States)
- *Revista Instituto Colombiano de Derecho Tributario* (Instituto Colombiano de Derecho Tributario, Colombia)
- *Revista Laboratorio* (Universidad Diego Portales, Chile)
- *Revista latinoamericana de etnomatemática* (Universidad de Nariño, Colombia)
- *Revista Le Bret* (Universidad Santo Tomás, Colombia)
- *Revista Miradas* (Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira, Colombia)
- *Revista Nomadías* (Universidad de Chile)
- *Revista Poiésis* (Fundación Universitaria Luis Amigó, Colombia)
- *Revista U.D.C.A Actualidad & Divulgación Científica* (Universidad de Ciencias Aplicadas y Ambientales, Colombia)
- *RIVAR, Revista Iberoamericana de Viticultura, Agroindustria y Ruralidad.* (Instituto de Estudios Avanzados, Universidad de Santiago de Chile)
- *Tejuelo. Didáctica de la Lengua y la Literatura* (Universidad de Extremadura, España)
- *Telar* (Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Argentina)
- *Tendencias & Retos* (Universidad de La Salle, Colombia)
- *Trabajo social* (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)
- *Verba Hispánica* (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- *Zama* (Instituto de Literatura Hispanoamericana de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina)