

Editorial

Interview to Francisco Vasquez: *Psicogente* journal was created 20 years ago



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EDITORIAL
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This year, *Psicogente* journal has marked 20 years of service to the scientific community. Since this journal was designed as a place to supply knowledge for the psychology field; although initially was used to offer reader notes with discretion which made possible an approach to the psychology field as a discipline; becoming in this way, a platform where teachers and students of the psychology faculty, Universidad Simón Bolívar, were able to submit their written work, expanding teaching beyond the classroom; over the years, progress was made and we are further expanding, growing with a nearer prospect which make possible to achieve higher quality standards over the scientific world. But, this process has not just been like this, at the Forefront and back of this journal, people who made possible this journal growth have been leading. People, such as Dr. Francisco Vasquez De la Hoz, who was a very important person for this journal creation and development, as a scientific journal giving firm and decisive steps to get this current journal. That is why, in this opportunity, as a tribute to his years of service and commitment, we would like to share with you this interview in order to know not only about the *Psicogente* journal history but also its founder thought, during several years of activity.

Interviewers: Good morning Mr. Francisco, first of all, let us to thank you because of this opportunity to conduct this interview. For us, it is a real pleasure and honor to know about the founder of the *Psicogente* journal. This journal has provided knowledge to Bolivarian students, teachers, psychologists and public. Because of the *Psicogente* anniversary, this

interview has a purpose, not only to understand this journal's life cycle, but also to know its point of view related to the research and personal field. Who is Francisco ? Talk to us about your life and work.

Francisco: Who am I ?. ..well, at least I can say three things about who I am, or who I have been: Francisco Javier Vasquez de la Hoz was born in Barranquilla, Colombia, on October 1st ,1969; I am a person who keeps, practices and promotes principles and fundamental values acquired from a young age in a family which is committed to tradition and rural roots. Nevertheless, due to my parents' Jose Enrique and Etilvia Esther liberal and progressive mind, permitted my young brother, Higinio José and me this server to become a doctor and a psychologist respectively. Since I can remember the coexistence with family, friends, colleagues, students, teachers, mates, and with all those people who I have shared knowledge with, always based on respect, honesty, responsibility and good treatment.

On the other side, I can say full of pride, that I am a father of two marvelous children : one of them is Orlando Enrique, who is an Industrial engineer, due to him I became a grandfather of the other one Great Thiago, as I call him, who is less than a year; my younger daughter, Maria Gabriela is a beautiful high school student who has both , a great passion and vocation for Philosophy and Social and Human Sciences

Finally, I can say that I am a Psycologist, specialist on educational assessment, Magister in Education and University teachers' certificate and also in Research Methodology. I am concerned on the training of future psychologists since I have had an experience of more than 25 years, including the time that I performed as a monitor during my studies in psychology in several courses or subjects. Thanks god and life, during this time I have had among other experiences the following:

- Leader of educational and social synapses of Universidad Simon Bolivar (USB) are search group achieving in Colciencias Scale, A category. This process was conducted from 2004 to 2014.
- *Psicogente* journal's editor, including it in Publindex reaching B category; also in SciELO; DOAJ; EBSCO, LATINDEX, PSICODOC, HINARI..,

this process was conducted from 1997 to 1998 and returning 2008 to 2014.

- I was a boss in Publishing dpt. Making possible to recognize Universidad Simon Editions as an editorial house supplier of high quality scientific publishing by Colciencias. This process was between 2012 and beginning of 2015.
- I was also a boss in Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia (UCC), in Monteria. During this process was possible to climb in a scale of evaluation for the recognition of research groups and researchers in this institution. This process has been conducted from 2015 to 2017.
- Research coordinator in the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences (UCC), in Monteria, starting in 2018 until now.
- Teacher-Researcher in the Psychology programm (UCC), also in Montería, from 2017 until now.
- Senior Researcher as per Colciencias criteria, since their last call for recognition of Colombian researchers in 2017, still updated.

Interviewers: Currently, which field of research are you developing?

Francisco: Currently, joining the latest research group called Neurocognition which is focused on health, education and Society, I can develop from here all those topics which I considered certain time ago: Emotional Intelligence, Good treatment, Multiple intelligence... having a Great opportunity to make these topics to interact each other and with others, encouraging and diversifying them, such as Drugs consumption, psychopathology on adolescents, among othersconducted by this research group, I think with this procedure I have benefitted this research group.

Interviewers: Although what is being mentioned above is related to current processes, we would like to know how was *Psicogente* journal process?

What Does Francisco make to found this journal? How was this journal born?

Francisco: being honest, almost since the birth of the Psychology programm in Universidad Simón Bolívar, Dra. Luisa Osorio Villegas, dean of the Psychology programm had a purpose, which was to have a tool for academic dissemination, a journal able to supply a space for reading and coolaboration between students and teachers. At the end of 1997 asked me if I would like to accept this challenge , which by the way, at that time no one wanted to assume. Based on my own criteria all those who were my outstanding students from my courses could carry forward this journal and whom I laid great responsibilities according to this great challenge. I invited them to work and in this team which was a person who is today, an honorable editor, Dr. Johana María Escudero Cabarcas (in that time she was Johanita in my opinion) .

First discussions with this marvelous team were related to the name of the journal. First of all, we did a brainstorming, there was consensus and we got a name which was approved by Dr. Luisa Osorio and it was *Psicogente* specifically. As far as I can remember, it was on May 1998, we had the first print copies of this journal in that time we were very excited and proud, and we share them with USB and psychology program directives and also teachers and students.

Interviewers: and throughout this creative process , What kind of challenges *Psicogente* journal members had to cope ? Did you consider to fail during this process in any time ? Why?

Francisco: At that time our goal was to update the journal. Just two years and four issues, then, taking into account these circumstances, authors did not trust on *Psicogente*. Participating life-long upgrading in editorial processes, not only we got confidence but we got as well the first research papers from outside authors some of them were international authors. So we got its credibility. And also, visibility and inclusion was possible in different catalogues, directories and databases... At least during first 10 years, *Psicogente* got a quick rise, giving not so quick steps but very stable and secure ones “in the right track and road” as I used to say.

Interviewers: Do you think *Psicogente* journal has become a referent for the local scientific community, and based on your point of view what is missing for *Psicogente* journal to be set in the most higher standards according to the scientific community ?

Francisco: *Psicogente* has been not only a local referent but also national and international one, taking into account that it has the opportunity to be available since 2008 in electronic version and in open Access supported by OJS. Checking its views in an electronic counter in web site, we can see accesses from different countries and continents. But we also know that authors who publish in *Psicogente* are from different places: since Mexico to Argentina , Venezuela and Spain as well. *Psicogente* is one of the few colombian journals which can be cited in papers published in Scopus and ISI journals, even without belonging to these ones.

Psicogente, has to continue improving permanently, in upgrading its editorial processes, this homework never finish, which guarantee a higher scientific quality of all published papers.

Interviewers: Talk more about yourself, certainly it is necessary for our readers to figure out the importance of your work . As researcher, which research projects, are you conducting today? What are you working on at the moment?

Francisco: Let's start with the second question. Talking professionally, I am busy teaching. Today I am a teacher of the Psychology program in UCC, Monteria as I told you before. I am working with those who will be the new psychologists, next generation from Cordoba (Colombia); it is from Self-regulation and Affective process as well as Educational Social Practices, I offer my knowledge related to training, experience and research, to serve my students. I am a research coordinator of the faculty of Social and Human Sciences (UCC); from here and with researcher teachers, we conduct research and dissemination processes corresponding to this Faculty. As Neuroscience researcher I perform in research projects with disciplinary impact from the region such as: those projects we are conducting with Spanish researchers for calculation and validation for new psychometric tools; research related to drugs consumption in school and college students; life quality related to

health; emotional intelligence and psychoactive substances consumption. In addition, the scientific dissemination is included in these activities too, that is why I am always busy; in fact, with the research group, we are producing and publishing three research papers per year, published in high standard indexed journal, some of them published in *Psicogente*; I have participated as invited speaker for national and international congress; we are involving in technical consulting and reporting....

Interviewers: In this time when technology allows a wider exploration in relation with research field, and also the capacity to transmit knowledge in a faster and massive way, Do you think the research process has been improved or opposite because this process has been massive do not allow to have a control talking about publishing and appearance of new journals which do not have a methodology according to science, in one way or another deteriorating the scientific knowledge content?.

Francisco: I consider that data and communication technologies are a very important tool for scientific knowledge achievement and re-construction . These tools are also for revealing the knowledge to scientific communities, but also to the ordinary citizen. Everything in a real time, in a more agile way. Researchers, obviously have had benefits with technology, because we can access to more and better scientific knowledge as long as we develop our researches. But also we have more options where we can publish the findings of our researches. Nevertheless, every coin has two sides . The other side is that there are so many information sources and fewer filters, that beside can be overwhelming the amount of information we cope, that might be of poor quality. on the other hand, we have to consider that there are embargoes and restrictions to access to those important scientific journals around the world, becoming a big business for publishing houses which monopolize the knowledge published. I must warn that since I was in *Psicogente* I have supported and I will keep supporting Open Access movement.

As a conclusion, twenty years ago of starting as academic space for students and teachers, Francisco Javier his founder, remind us that the success of any editorial process is teamwork, becoming the main feature of this journal.

Undoubtedly, *Psicogente* journal is one of the representative means of scientific dissemination of USB, showing twenty years of existence achieving a great national and international visibility; this has been possible, due to a significant amount of contributions and papers per year and because of its dissemination and integration to important databases. Likewise, this journal has became in a seedbed of editors and researchers and because it contribute to get important and significant achievements in USB.