



The resignification of the human in the context of Information and Communication Technologies

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Abstract

The article arises from the research project: "Data verification, journalist ethics and immediacy of information in the processes of productive routines." The University Superior Council approved the project to establish links of co-participation with other regional universities, such as the University of the Army (ESPE), with the adhesion of researchers from the represented institutions. There is a constant concern about the media content presented as a product in the community, which shows insufficient verification of data, insufficient treatment in the productive routine, and finally, ethical dilemmas arise. The objective of the study is to determine how the constant exposure of the human being to contents that are emitted by information and communication technologies model the way of thinking, feeling and acting individually and collectively, as well as to investigate the current state of research and publication of articles and other types of documents related to the study of the proposed topic.

Keywords: Communicational Information Technologies, Resignification of the human, ICTs.

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1. Introduction

The human being has received constant exposure to content through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), which in some way has affected his nature and character. In addition, the naturalization of things, the structure of corruption, the escalation of lethal, structural and symbolic violence, the androcentric and discriminatory language, sexism and machismo, among other situations presented by the ICT, contributed to the human being to be objectified. This brief background allows concluding that the resignification of the human is a moral imperative.

There is evidence of a significant dependence on social relationships on technological devices. The

dynamics of interpersonal relationships have taken a significant turn in the distortion of reality due to a generalized need to achieve a privileged place within universes such as those offered by social networks, where even the level of social acceptability that an individual may have has been based. This suggests an additional effort to the educational system since affection for the physical and mental health of those who exceed the time of use of ICT tools has already been identified.

Recently, the world has been in the middle of a complex situation in terms of public health due to the appearance of the disease called Covid-19, which originated in China and quickly spread to different continents, causing the declaration of a



pandemic by the World Health Organization, which caused high levels of uncertainty due to the measures imposed by the health authorities. This caused high levels of uncertainty due to the measures imposed by the health authorities, which forced total confinement and the paralyzation of a large part of the commercial dynamics, so that companies and educational institutions migrated all types of activity to virtualization, adding more time of exposure to all ICT tools, which triggers a series of conditions analyzed in this article.

2. General Objective

to determine how the constant exposure of human beings to contents emitted by information and communication technologies model the way of thinking, feeling and acting individually and collectively.

3. Methodology

3.1 Supplementary material

- Worldwide statistics on the use of social media (**Digital 2022 World**)
- Statistics of Ecuador regarding the use of social media (**Digital 2022 Ecuador**)
- In addition. A simple random sampling was carried out, consisting of 250 students of the Communication career.
- In order to reflect on the impact of information and communication technologies, a web search was conducted on global statistics on the use of social networks and the applications that currently have the greatest usability on the web.
- Bibliometric review on the variable ICT and Resignification of the human to know the current state of the literature published in high-impact journals indexed in the Scopus database from 2017 to 2021 by Latin American institutions.

4. Bibliometric analysis

The main characteristics of the volume of scientific production related to the topic proposed in this article are presented below.

4.1 Keyword co-occurrence

Figure 1 shows the co-occurrence of keywords within the publications identified in the Scopus database.

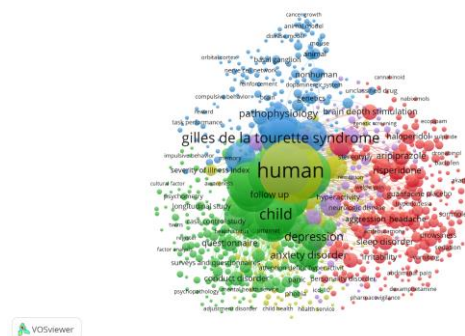


Figure 1. Co-occurrence of words

Source: Own elaboration (2022); based on data provided by Scopus.

This means that all physical and mental implications of the use of ICTs, such as the variables Guille de Tourette Syndrome, Anxiety Disorder, Depression, and Behavioral Disorder, referring to some of the implications of the excessive use of digital devices, and how the absence of control over it, can alter the emotional and mental stability of people. Access to a whole universe of information, as well as the pressure exerted through social networks, trigger stressful situations in people, especially children and adolescents, who want to generate a greater number of followers, views, and “like,” among other types of interactions typical of these tools. It also shows how research has been developed around variables such as Stereotypes, Vanity, Personality Disorders, Phobias, Panic, and Sleep Disorders, which allows inferring that most of the authors focused their methodologies on the analysis of all those conditions that are manifested in ICT users, from the physical, emotional and mental component.

4.2 Distribution of scientific production by year of publication

Figure 2 shows the distribution of scientific production by year of publication.

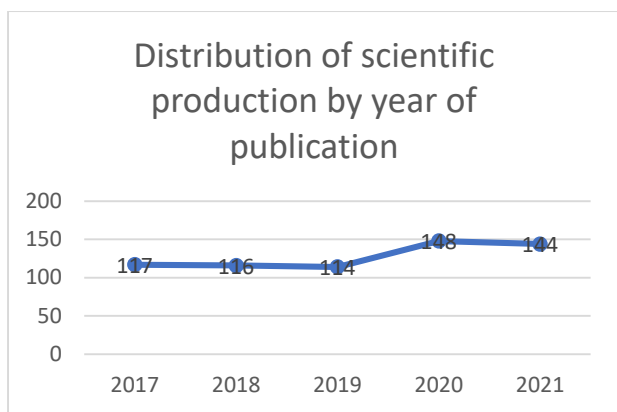


Figure 2. Distribution of scientific production by year of publication.

Source: Own elaboration (2022); based on data provided by Scopus.

One of the main characteristics to evaluate is the volume of production according to the year of publication since it is possible to understand which external factors encourage or discourage research on certain topics, for example, in the case of the study of the Resignification of the Human through the use of ICT, it is shown in the previous figure how the years 2017, 2018, and 2019, maintained a uniform annual production between 117 and 114 documents published in high impact journals indexed in Scopus database; however, for the year 2020 and 2021, the number of publications increased significantly to 148 and 144 records. From the above, it can be inferred that, due to the appearance in the world of the disease called Covid-19, health authorities imposed worldwide restrictive measures on the movement of people in order to reduce the number of infections and deaths due to the same disease and whose transmission is precisely by contact with a patient carrying the virus. Thus, many institutions abiding by these regulations moved their activities to remote work so that the increased use of ICT tools increased considerably and with this, many implications at the level of health of students and workers, which drew the attention of the scientific community and began a tour of the causes and effects of exposure to digital devices.

4.3 Distribution of scientific production by country of origin.

Figure 3 shows how scientific production is distributed according to the nationality of the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

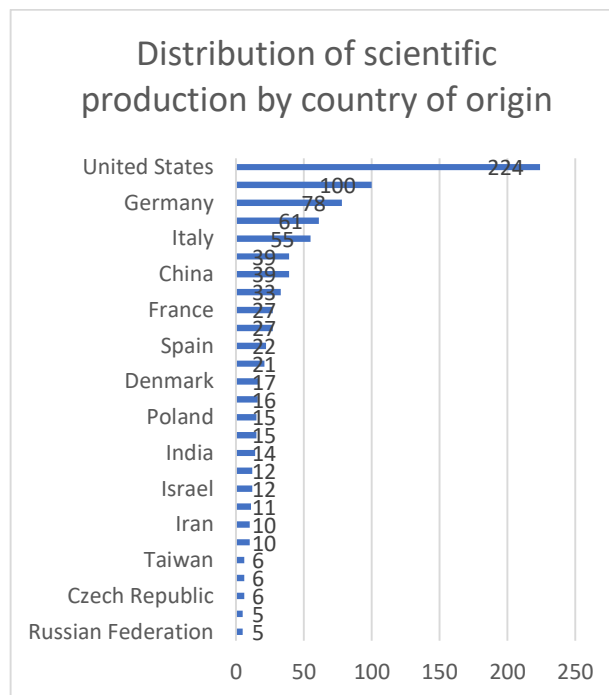


Figure 3. Distribution of scientific production by country of origin.

Source: Own elaboration (2022); based on data provided by Scopus.

Scientific production at the global level is led by authors affiliated with U.S. institutions; a total of 224 documents referring to the study of the Resignification of the Human in the use of ICT correspond to studies carried out by researchers in this country, followed by the United Kingdom with 100 publications. At this point, it is worth noting that the production of scientific publications, when classified by country of origin, presents a special characteristic: collaboration between authors with different affiliations to both public and private institutions. These institutions may be from the same country or from different nationalities, so the production of an article co-authored by different authors from different countries of origin allows each country to add up as a unit in the general publications. This is best explained in Figure 5, which shows collaborative workflow from different countries.



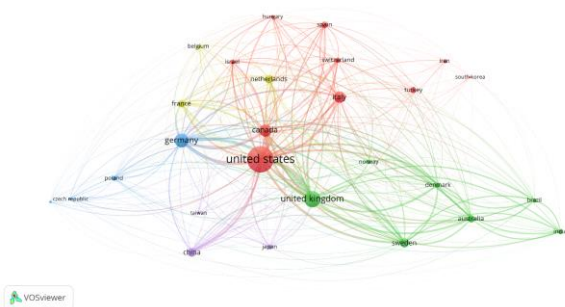


Figure 5. Co-citations between countries.

Source: Own elaboration (2022); based on data provided by Scopus.

The United States, Canada, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, Hungary, South Korea, Iran, Israel and Spain are among the countries that have carried out research projects with international co-authorship, as well as the United Kingdom with Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Australia, India and Brazil.

5. Results

There is a growth in digital trends suggested by the report of the Digital 2022 portal, which indicates a significant increase in internet users and social networks in the last 12 months. Below are some statistics extracted from this page, which show the behavior of the platforms and the exponential growth that is evidenced. In this regard, McDonald, co-founder of We are Social indicates that “we are seeing rapid changes in culture, economy and society in general, the huge changes in behavior observed in the last 12 months are now permanent and accelerating even faster, more people spend time online, beyond social connections, information and entertainment, the growth of social commerce, gaming and spending on cryptocurrencies and digital goods is evident, that the cultural change is real (McDonald, 2022).

The study shows that 80% of social network users connect with a mobile device, representing 62.5% of the population. This trend is on the rise, and it is expected that more of the population with mobile devices will connect to social networks. The population of social network users for January 2022 is 4.62 million, equivalent to 58% of the world's population.

Concerning the use of Instagram, by the year 2022, it will have approximately 1270 million

users, making it one of the most popular social networks worldwide, which means that it is a massive means of communication and information.

Tik Tok has become one of the social phenomena worldwide since its inception in 2018. This global platform has an increase of 38% (Fernandez, 2022; Flores et al., 2022a).

As mentioned, social networks are the fundamental basis for users to use the Internet. Although they are a strategy to create communities and directly sell products through the creation of content and use them as a means of communicating information, the following data was not to understand the importance of the use of social networks.

58.4% of the population uses social networks, that is, 4.2 million people.

Among those over 13 years of age, 74.8% use social networks.

Among users and social networks, 46.1% are female, and 53.9% are male.

App Annie research indicates that the typical YouTube user spends nearly 23.7 hours per month using the mobile app.

Facebook ranks second in terms of total cumulative time spent using social networking apps, with Android users averaging 19.6 hours each month on the platform's app.

Tik Tok users 19.6 hours per month using Android platform

WhatsApp ranks third in terms of total time spent, with users spending an average of 18.6 hours per month using the messaging app on Android phones.

Instagram ranks fourth with 11.2 hours per month (Digital, 2022).

This data is important because it allows knowing the applications that users are interacting with, what type of content they are consuming, and how many hours they are connected to incorporate within these platforms elements that contribute to the formation of the character of citizens individually and collectively through the virtual community.

Digital 2022 Ecuador use of ICT

The Digital 2022 portal, Ecuador chapter, presents the following figures for statistics up to January 2022 (Kemp, 2022; Flores et al., 2022b).

Ecuador has a population of 18 million, of which 14.60 million use social networks.

At the beginning of 2022, Facebook reported 12.70 million users, data published in Meta advertising resources,

According to ad resource updates, YouTube had 11.70 million users at the beginning of 2022.

Regarding Snapchat 2.55 million users in Ecuador at the beginning of 2022.

A sample of the use of ICT

To contrast the information posted on the *We are Social* platform, a random sample of 251 respondents was chosen, with university students as inclusion criteria.

6. Conclusions

Using technological devices in conjunction with internet connectivity has allowed the creation of hundreds of thousands of activities that previously could only be performed in person. In addition, augmented reality, artificial intelligence, and many other tools are currently used to support commercial, educational, social and economic processes in the public and private sectors. Hence, exposure to these technologies is beneficial in a society that seems to depend more and more on the entire universe of possibilities offered by ICT.

However, it has been shown how the physical and mental well-being of certain people has been affected by all those conditions associated with the use of such devices, like stress, behavioral changes, addictions, anxiety, and personality disorder, which are just some of the ailments of those who say that their emotional stability has been affected by the excessive use of digital platforms.

Therefore, it has been measured both the written and published bibliography within which it was possible to identify the main characteristics in the scientific production related to the topic proposed in this document, as well as the testimony of a group of university students who stated how much time they usually invest in the use of ICT tools for different purposes.

Furthermore, for health authorities, it is a public health issue due to a large number of anomalies in the physical and mental stability of people, so this study proposes not only to encourage research associated with the causes and effects of prolonged exposure to technology but also the implementation of programs for the prevention and promotion of diseases associated with this situation.

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