

L. Díaz¹
G. Buela-Casal¹

Comparative study of publications performed on psychosis in the Spanish psychology and psychiatry journals

¹Universidad de Granada

The objective of this study was to examine the article production on psychosis from the main Spanish journals of psychology and psychiatry, as well as to make comparisons among them. 16 journals of psychology and 5 of psychiatry were selected and a period of revision of four years settled down (2003–2006). The sample was constituted by 183 articles. For the comparison of the journals four indexes were used: proportion of articles on psychosis in relation to the total of generated articles; used type of methodology; used type of sample; and aspect of the psychosis in whose investigation it is centered. The results show that little is investigated, that most of the studies is theoretical or ex post facto, that more the frequently studied subjects are those with psychosis and that the taken care of aspects more are related to the etiology and the treatment of the disease.

Key Words:
Schizophrenia, psychosis, journals of psychology, journals of psychiatry.

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Estudio comparativo de las publicaciones realizadas sobre psicosis en las revistas de psicología y psiquiatría españolas

El objetivo de este estudio fue examinar la producción de artículos sobre psicosis desde las principales revistas de psicología y psiquiatría españolas, así como realizar comparaciones entre ellas. Se seleccionaron 16 revistas de psicología y 5 de psiquiatría y se estableció un periodo de revisión de cuatro años (2003–2006). La muestra estuvo constituida por 183 artículos. Para la comparación de las revistas se utilizaron cuatro índices: proporción de artículos sobre psicosis en relación con el total de artículos generados; tipo de metodología empleado; tipo de muestra

utilizado; y aspecto de la psicosis en cuya investigación se centra. Los resultados muestran que se investiga poco, que la mayoría de los estudios son teóricos o ex post facto, que los sujetos más frecuentemente estudiados son aquéllos con psicosis y que los aspectos más atendidos son los relacionados con la etiología y tratamiento del trastorno.

Palabras Clave:
Esquizofrenia, psicosis, revistas de psicología, revistas de psiquiatría.

INTRODUCTION

In spite of the multiplicity and heterogeneity of conceptualizations that have been developed on schizophrenia since it was first described by Kraepelin more than one century ago, nowadays almost no one questions its entity as an independent disorder nor its triple consideration as a health care, scientific and social problem.¹

Proof of this is its recognition within the current disease classification system, that is, ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases, 10th edition)² and the DSM-IV-TR (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition, text revision)³; and the many research projects that have been done over the last 20 years, above all with the purpose of going deeper into the understanding of the phenomenological, etiological, evaluation factors and the treatment of the disorder.^{4–6}

As is well known, the advances in the research of schizophrenia have been published in the scientific journals, these being therefore indicators of the level of scientific production in each field of knowledge. This explains the important and growing unanimity in regards to the relevance of evaluating scientific production (through analysis of journals, articles, etc.)⁷, even though there is still no agreement among the investigators regarding which are the best criteria to carry out this evaluation.⁸

The present study arose in order to examine the scientific production generated in recent years on schi-

Correspondence:
Lucía Díaz and Gualberto Buela-Casal
Universidad de Granada
Departamento de Personalidad, Evaluación y Tratamiento Psicológico
Campus Universitario de Cartuja, s/n 18071 Granada (Spain)
E-mail: ludiazr@correo.ugr.es

zophrenia (and more generically, on psychosis) within the principle Spanish psychology and psychiatric journals, while using this information to verify if there are differences in the type of studies planned between the different journals.

With this dual purpose in mind, certain Spanish journals from both disciplines were selected and examined in detail in order to extract all those articles whose content studies some core aspect of psychoses. The revision period was limited to the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. Four variables were used for the analysis and comparison of the studies, that is: the proportion of articles on psychosis in relationship to the total amount of articles produced by the Journal in the time period considered, the type of methodology used in this study, the type of sample used and finally the aspect of psychosis focused on in the investigation.

Therefore, this is a descriptive study⁹ performed by analysis of documents.

METHODOLOGY

Unit of analysis

The unit of analysis consisted in the articles published by the selected journals (see material section) during the time period considered.

Materials

The journals used for the analysis were:

Revista Internacional de Psicología Clínica y de la Salud / International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology (ISSN: 1697-2600), founded in 2001 and published by the Spanish Association of Behavioral Psychology (Asociación Española de Psicología Conductual), Colombian Association for the Advance of the Sciences of Behavior (Asociación Colombiana para el Avance de las Ciencias del Comportamiento) and Portuguese Association of Behavioral Therapy/Portuguese Society of Behavioral and Therapeutic Psychotherapies (Associação Portuguesa de Terapia do Comportamento / Sociedade Portuguesa de Psicoterapias Comportamentais e Cognitivas). It accepts works having a basic and applied character, both theoretical and empirical, that contribute to the advance of any field within Clinical Psychology and Health. It publishes 3 issues a year and publishes articles in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Análisis y Modificación de Conducta (Analysis and Modification of Behavior) (ISSN: 0211-7339), founded in 1975 and published by Editorial Promolibro (Spain). It is a journal

having a clinical setting that accepts work of any methodology regarding this subject matter. It publishes 6 numbers a year and publishes in Spanish.

Psicothema (ISSN: 0214-9915), founded in 1989 and published by the official Association of Psychologists of Asturias (Spain). This journal has a general setting that accepts work regarding any field and methodology in psychology. It publishes 4 numbers a year and publishes articles in Spanish and English.

Revista de Psicopatología y Psicología Clínica (Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Psychology) (ISSN: 1136-5420), founded in 1996 and published by the Spanish Association of Clinical Psychology and Psychopathology. It accepts articles on any relevant aspect related with Psychopathology and Clinical Psychology, independently of the methodology used in them. It publishes 3 numbers a year and is published in Spanish.

Ansiedad y Estrés (Anxiety and Stress) (ISSN: 1134-7937), founded in 1994 and published by the Spanish Society for the Study of Anxiety and Stress (SEAS) (Spain). It is a multidisciplinary journal that publishes theoretical and empirical works focused on anxiety, stress and other emotions, from the different areas of psychology, medicine and similar sciences. It publishes two numbers a year, the second one being a double issue, and publishes articles in Spanish and English.

Revista Internacional de Psicología y Terapia Psicológica / International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy (ISSN: 1577-7057), founded in 2001 and published by the Association of Analysis of Behavior (Spain). This journal has a general scope that accepts works that are both theoretical and empirical related with any area of psychology. It publishes 3 numbers a year and in Spanish and English.

Estudios de Psicología (Studies of Psychology) (ISSN: 0210-9395), founded in 1980 and published by the Fundación Infancia y Aprendizaje (Spain). This journal has a general scope that accepts works that are both theoretical and empirical and that are considered to be an innovation in any scope of psychology or similar sciences of it. It publishes 3 numbers a year and is published in English and Spanish.

Papeles del Psicólogo (Papers of Psychologist) (ISSN: 0214-7823), founded in 1981 and published by the Official Association of Psychologists of Spain. It is a journal having a general scope and accepts works on any field and methodology of psychology. It publishes 3 numbers a year and is published in Spanish.

La Revista Española de Psicología / The Spanish Journal of Psychology (ISSN: 1138-7416), founded in 1998 and

published by the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain). Its primary objective is to promote international spreading of relevant empirical research and of the theoretical and methodological proposals of different areas of specialization within psychology. It publishes two issues per year and publishes in English.

Infancia y Aprendizaje (Childhood and Learning) (ISSN: 0210-3702), founded in 1978 and published by the Fundación Infancia y Aprendizaje (Spain). It is an international Journal of Psychology of development and education that accepts both theoretical and empirical articles. It publishes 4 issues per year and publishes articles in Spanish and English.

Clínica y Salud (Symptoms and Health) (ISSN: 1135-0806), founded in 1990 and published by the Official Association of Psychologists (Colegio Oficial de Psicólogos) of Madrid (Spain). It accepts both theoretical and empirical articles related with the clinical and health field. It publishes 3 issues per year and publishes articles in Spanish.

Anales de Psicología (Annals of Psychology) (ISSN: 0212-9728), founded in 1984 and published by the Publication Service of the University of Murcia (Spain). It covers different subject areas of scientific psychology and accepts work having a basic and applied character, both theoretical and empirical. It publishes 2 issues per year and is published in Spanish and English.

Revista de Psicología General y Aplicada (Journal of General and Applied Psychology) (ISSN: 0373-2002), founded in 1946 and published by the Spanish Federation of Associations of Psychology (Federación Española de Asociaciones de Psicología). It is a journal having general scope and accepts theoretical and empirical articles. It publishes 4 issues per year and publishes articles in Spanish.

Anuario de Psicología (Psychology Yearbook) (ISSN: 0066-5126), founded in 1969 and published by the School of Psychology of the University of Barcelona (Spain). The journal has a general scope and accepts both theoretical and empirical articles. It publishes 4 issues per year, the articles being published in Spanish, Catalan, English and French.

Cuadernos de Medicina Psicosomática y Psiquiatría de Enlace (Binders of Psychosomatic Medicine and Liaison Psychiatry) (ISSN: 1695-4238), founded in 1987 and published by Editorial Médica. It accepts theoretical and empirical articles on subjects preferentially related with Psychosomatic Medicine, Liaison Psychiatry and Psychology of Health. It publishes 4 issues per year in Spanish.

Apuntes de Psicología (Notes on Psychology) (ISSN: 0213-3334), founded in 1982 and published by the Official Association of Psychologists of Western Andalusia and by the Secretariat of Publications of the University of Seville

(Spain). This journal has a general scope that accepts basic and applied works, both theoretical and empirical, that contribute to the development of psychology and/or the practice of the profession. It publishes 3 issues per year and is published in Spanish.

Anales de Psiquiatría (Annals of Psychiatry) (ISSN: 0213-0599), founded in 1984 and published by Arán Ediciones (Spain). It accepts theoretical and empirical works within the area of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology. It publishes 6 issues per year plus a special issue and is published in the Spanish language.

Actas Españolas de Psiquiatría (Spanish Proceedings of Psychiatry) (ISSN: 1139-9287), founded in 1940 and published by Fundación López-Ibor (Spain). It accepts works that are predominantly empirical belonging to the area of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatry, Psychosomatic Medicine, and Medical Psychology. It publishes 6 issues per year and is published in Spanish and English.

Psiquiatría Biológica (Biology Psychiatry) (ISSN: 0213-7429), founded in 1973 and published by the Subdivision of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology of the Hospital Clínico y Provincial de Barcelona (Spain). It mainly accepts works regarding Psychology and Psychiatry, both from the care point of view and that of research. It publishes 6 issues per year and is published in Spanish

Psiquiatría Biológica (Biology Psychiatry) (ISSN: 1134-5934), founded in 1994 and published by Ediciones Doyma S.A. (Spain). It accepts theoretical and empirical works related, exclusively, with the specialty referred to in its name. It publishes 6 issues per year and is published in Spanish.

La Revista Europea de Psiquiatría / The European Journal of Psychiatry (ISSN: 0213-6163), founded in 1986 and published by the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Zaragoza (Spain). It accepts both theoretical and empirical works related with any aspect of mental disease, independently of whether the approach is biological, psychological or a social sciences one. It published 4 issues per year and is published in English. However, since 2002, it is also available in a version in Spanish.

Procedures

First, the journals to be included in the analysis were selected. The criteria used for this were: for the psychology journals, those occupying the first 10 positions in the *Índice de Impacto de las Revistas Españolas de Ciencias Sociales* (IN-RECS) (Impact Index of the Spanish Journals of Social Sciences) of the year 2005 and all the others that were either about general psychology or that included the words "clínica" or "salud" in their title were included, as

long as their impact index differed from 0 in that year. In the case of psychiatry journals, all of those that appeared in the Índice Médico Español (IME) (Spanish Medical Index) were included except for the Journal Psiquis, which was ruled out because it discontinued publications in the year 2005. The final number of journals included was 21 (16 psychology and 5 psychiatry). It must be pointed out that the journal *Cuadernos de Medicina Psicosomática y Psiquiatría de Enlace* was included within the psychology Journal group because it appears in the IN-RECS instead of in the IME.

The analysis period was limited to 4 years: 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Once the journals were selected and the periodicity of analysis established, all of the publications made in these journals during the time period indicated were reviewed. To do so, both the DIALNET data base and the paper copies of the journals, when necessary, were used. All of those articles having an exclusively theoretical or empirical type, whose title suggested the approach to a core aspect of psychosis were selected, ruling out those that seemed to study the phenomenon in a more peripheral way. In case of doubt, the summaries of the works were read to decide their final inclusion or not in the study.

The outcome of the previous phase was a sample of 183 documents, of which 58 came from psychology journals than 125 from psychiatry journals.

Four variables were established for the analysis and comparison of the articles generated from one discipline or another: the proportion of articles on psychosis in relationship to the total number of articles produced by the journal in the time period considered, the type of methodology used in this study (Theoretical, Descriptive, Experimental, Quasiexperimental, Ex Post Facto; Single Case, Cases, Instrumental, and Others)⁹; the type of sample used (Subjects without disorders; Subjects at risk of developing psychosis; Subjects with psychosis; Family members of subjects with psychosis; Subjects with psychosis vs. subjects with other disorders; Subjects with psychosis vs. subjects without disorders: Studies without a sample; and Others) and, finally, the aspect of the psychosis focused on in the investigation (Conceptualization; Clinical and associated characteristics; Incidence/Prevalence/Distribution/Comorbidity; Factors of risk/Early detection/Early intervention; Evaluation; Etiology/Maintenance –distinguishing among psychological, biological and combined factors – Treatment – also distinguishing between psychological, biological and combined; and Others)

For the counting of the number of articles published yearly by each journal, the data provided by the IN-RECS and the IME were used, although some calculations had to

be made in order to break down the data offered by them. It must be mentioned that the reliability of this procedure is not completely satisfactory since some of these indexes include all types of documents and not only those having a theoretical or empirical character, as this study had aimed to considered.

This study counted on the collaboration of a professional from the Methodology/Statistics Unit of the Fundación Reina Mercedes del Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío of Seville for the methodological classification of the works.

RESULTS

Percentage of articles on psychosis in relationship with the total number

Of the 2505 articles published in the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 by the 21 journals considered, only 183 were on psychosis, which accounts for 7.30% of the total.

Of these 183 articles, 58 came from 16 journals on psychology and 125 from 5 on psychiatry, which accounts for 3.17% and 18.54% of all the articles published from each one of these disciplines, respectively.

If we focus on the psychology journals we can observe that *Apuntes de Psicología* has the greatest production of articles on psychosis in relationship to all of them, this percentage of all of them representing 19.60%. Immediately following that Journal is the *International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy*, with 14.15% of the articles dedicated to psychosis. Next in line is the *Revista de Psicopatología y Psicología Clínica*, with 7.14%; *Clínica y Salud*, with 3.22%; *Análisis y Modificación de Conducta*, with 2.5%; *Anales de Psicología*, with 2%; *Psicothema*, with 1.86 %; *International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology*, with 1.39%; *Ansiedad y Estrés*, with 1.31% y la *Revista de Psicología General y Aplicada*, with 0.71%. No articles related with psychosis during the 4 years covered by the study were found in the journals *Estudios de Psicología*, *The Spanish Journal of Psychology*, *Papeles del Psicólogo*, *Cuadernos de Medicina Psicosomática y Psiquiatría de Enlace*, *Infancia y Aprendizaje* y *Anuario de Psicología*.

In regards to the psychiatry journals, standing out in the first place is the *Revista de Psiquiatría de la Facultad de Medicina de Barcelona*, with a percentage of 22.35% of articles related with psychosis. This is followed by *Actas Españolas de Psiquiatría*, with 20.69%; *Anales de Psiquiatría*, with 1.88%; *The European Journal of Psychiatry*, with 15.71 % and *Psiquiatría Biológica*, with 13.89%.

Type of methodology

Considering all of the articles of the sample, we have observed that the majority (37.70%) are theoretical. In the second place in importance are the ex post facto study, these accounting for 23.50% of the total. Following these are the descriptive ones (9.29%), that would be followed by the experimental and instrumental ones (8.20% in both cases). Then the case studies (6.01%), quasiexperimental ones (4.92%) and Others (1.64%) appear. The single case studies would occupy the last place, only representing 0.55% of the total.

If we specifically focus on the psychology journals, we have observed that the percentage of theoretical articles accounts for 60.34% of the total. The case studies would be in second place, representing 12.07%. Following these are the experimental ones (10.34%), ex post facto (6.90%), the descriptive and instrumental ones (3.45% in both cases) and the experimental and single case ones (1.72% also in both cases). None of the articles could be classified in the category of Others.

When we focus on the psychology journal that had the greatest production of articles on psychosis, that is, *Apuntes de Psicología*, we can observe that 85% of these articles are theoretical and the remaining 15% are distributed equally (5%) among the descriptive, ex post facto and cases. In the case of the *International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy*, the percentage of theoretical articles reaches 93.33%, the remaining 6.67% being classifiable as experimental. The majority of the studies in the *Revista de Psicopatología y Psicología Clínica* are experimental (50%) and 25% are theoretical and instrumental. In the case of *Clínica y Salud*, half of the studies are quasiexperimental the other half cases. Standing out in *Análisis y Modificación de Conducta* are the case studies (66.67%), the percentage of articles ex post facto (33.33%) also being relevant. *Anales de Psicología* has 50% theoretical studies in another 50% descriptive studies. In the case of *Psicothema*, the experimental type studies (37.50%), are at the head, and these are followed by case studies (25%), the residual percentage being divided equally (about 12.5%) among the ex post facto, instrumental and single-case works. It should be pointed out that this single case study is the only one, if you will excuse the repetition, of its category in the entire sample analyzed. In the *International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology*, half of the studies are theoretical and the other half ex post facto. In *Ansiedad y Estrés*, the only study found is of cases and in the *Revista de Psicología General y Aplicada*, theoretical.

In regards to most of the psychiatry journals, we observe that 31.20% of the articles produced by them are ex post facto, 27.20% theoretical, 12% descriptive, 10.40% instrumental, 7.20% experimental, 6.40% quasiexperimen-

tal, 3.20% cases and 2.40% of another type. As has been previously indicated, none of the articles would be classifiable as single case.

In the specific case of the *Revista de Psiquiatría de la Facultad de Medicina de Barcelona*, a significant predominance was observed of ex post facto articles (36.84%) and of theoretical ones (26.32%), there also being a considerable number of case studies (15.79%). The descriptive and experimental studies only accounted for 10.53% of the total (each one). In the journal *Actas Españolas de Psiquiatría*, the theoretical type methodology (22.92%) as well as the descriptive and instrumental one (20.83% in both cases), stand out. A significant percentage was also obtained by the ex post facto type (18.75%) and experimental type (10.42%). The quasiexperimental type would occupy the last-place, with 6.25% of the total. In the journal *Anales de Psiquiatría*, we observed that most of the articles (48.15%) are of the ex post facto type followed by, at quite a distance, those of the theoretical type (18.52%). In third place are the quasiexperimental and others (11.11% each one) and the instrumental (7.41%) and descriptive (3.70%) are found in the last positions. *The European Journal of Psychiatry* is characterized by a predominance of the ex post facto type methodology (45.45%) that is followed in importance by, although at a great distance, the theoretical type (18.18%). The experimental, quasiexperimental, cases and instrumental studies appear to be comparable, each one of them having 9.09%. Finally, in the case of the journal *Psiquiatría Biológica*, we find that more than half the works (55%) are theoretical type. The second place would be reserved for the ex post facto articles that account for 25% of the total. Following them are the descriptive type (10%) and, finally, the experimental and quasiexperimental, with the percentage of 5% each. (tables-see annex)

Type of sample

When all the documents are considered, it is seen that most of the studies (40.98%) use persons having psychosis as the subject for them. The percentage of works that do not include a sample (38.80% of the total) is also significant, the number of those that use a different type of sample being less important, that is, those that compare subjects with psychosis with those without the disorder (6.56%), those that use another type of sample (6.01%), those that compare persons with psychosis with persons with other disorders (3.28%) and those that study family members of subjects with psychosis (2.19%), 2 subjects without disorders (1.64%) and subjects at risk (0.55%).

When the analysis focuses on the specific group of psychology journals, a predominance is observed of studies without a sample (60.34%) that are followed, at a great distance, by those that include subjects with psychosis as a unit

of analysis (24.14%). Appearing in third place in importance are the studies that compare persons with psychosis with persons without disorders (5.17%). In the fourth place are those that use subjects without disorders as well as those that use another type of sample (3.45% in both cases). The last place is reserved for the works that are focused on subjects at risk and for those that analyze family members of persons with psychosis (1.72% also in both cases). None of the studies compare subjects with psychosis to subjects with other disorders.

If we pay attention to the within-group results, we observed that the Journal *Apuntes de Psicología* has a predominance of articles without samples (85%) and only 15% in which the unit of analysis is made up of subjects with psychosis. The *International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy* has an even greater preponderance of articles without samples (93.33%) and an even lower percentage of those focused on the study of persons with psychosis (6.67%). The articles of the *Revista de Psicopatología y Psicología Clínica* study subjects without disorders (25%), subjects with psychosis (25%) and the similarities/differences between both (25%). Some of them are also characterized by not having a sample (25%). In the case of the journal *Clínica y Salud*, 100% of the articles are focused on the study of subjects with psychosis. Predominating in *Análisis y Modificación de Conducta* are those articles that use persons with psychosis (66.67%) and on the second level, those that compare subjects with psychosis with those without disorders (33.33%). The articles of the journal *Anales de Psicología* are divided between those that study persons with psychosis (50%) and those that do not include any type of sample (the remaining 50%). *Psicothema* is characterized by including articles in which subjects with psychosis predominate as a unit of analysis (50%) and, to a lesser degree, those that use another type of sample (25%) and that study subjects at risk or compare persons with psychosis with persons without disorders (12.50% each one of them). In the case of the *International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology*, 50% of the articles are focused on the study of normal subjects and the remaining 50% do not use any type of sample. The only article of the Journal *Ansiedad y Estrés* is focused on the study of the family members of psychotic patients. Finally, the work of the *Revista de Psicología General y Aplicada* does not include any type of sample.

In regards to the group of psychiatry journals, we observed that almost half of the works (48.8%) are aimed at the study of subjects with psychosis. A total of 28.8% do not include any type of sample; 7.20% compare persons with psychosis with persons without disorders or use another type of sample; 4.8% compare subjects with psychosis with subjects with other disorders; 2.40% focus on the family members of persons with psychosis and 0.80% study subjects without disorders. None of the studies use subjects at risk as a sample.

The detailed examination of the journals included within the group of the psychiatry ones also provides interesting results. The *Revista de Psiquiatría de la Facultad de Medicina de Barcelona* has a predominance of articles in which the unit of analysis is made up of subjects with psychosis (52.63%), those others that do not use any type of sample being fewer (26.32%), then those that use another type or that compare persons with psychosis with persons with other disorders (10.53% in both cases). In the case of *Actas Españolas de Psiquiatría*, the use of the different types of samples is organized in the following way: 45.83% of the studies use subjects with psychosis; 27.08% do not include a sample; 10.42% use another type of sample; 8.33% compare persons without disorders and 4.17% said the family members of patients with psychosis. The last position, comparable in percentage (2.08%) is held by those that focus on subjects without disorders and those that compare persons with psychosis with those that have other mental disorders. In *Anales de Psiquiatría*, most of the studies (66.67%) use subjects with psychosis. Following this are those that do not include a sample (18.52%) and after that those that use them but of another type (7.41%). Finally, 3.70% of the articles that compare subjects with psychosis with normal subjects and another similar percentage do the same, on comparing persons with psychosis with persons with other disorders. In *The European Journal of Psychiatry*, works that use subjects with psychosis (54.55%) and those others, although to a much lesser degree, that do not include any type of sample (18.18%) stand out. In the last place, we find, with the same percentage (9.09%), those that study the family of the patients with psychosis, those that compare subjects with psychosis with subjects without disorders and those that compare persons with psychosis with persons with other disorders. Finally, the journal *Psiquiatría Biológica* is characterized by having a majority of studies (55%) without a sample, that is following by 25% that use subjects with psychosis as a unit of analysis. A total of 15% are dedicated to comparing persons with psychosis with persons without disorders and the remaining 5% do so on searching for the differences/similarities between subjects with psychosis and those with other disorders.

Aspect of the psychosis focused on

In all of the 183 articles of the sample, we observed that most (25.68%) are focused on the treatment of psychosis (12.57% in the biological type, 12.02% in the psychological and 1.09% in the combined). The percentage of studies that deal with etiological/maintenance factors (that is: 18.58%, 9.8% of which are focused on those of psychology type, 7.10% on those having a biological character and 1.64% on the combined ones) is also significant. Those works that study the clinical and associated characteristics of psychosis (14.75%) as well as the aspects related with its incidents, prevalence, distribution and comorbidity

(13.11%) are also in a still significant position. The last places are reserved for those that study evaluation (9.84%), other aspects (8.20%), their conceptualization (6.56%) and their associated risk factors (3.28%).

When we consider the group of psychology journals, attention is drawn to the percentage of articles dedicated to the treatment of psychosis (31.04%, 27.59% of which are focused on the psychological type and 3.45% on the combined type, there being none that refer to the biological type). Along the same line are those works of interest because of etiological/maintenance factors (25.87%, of which 18.97% are by the psychologists, 3.45% by the biologists and 3.45% more by the combined). Also standing out are works that focus on the study of clinical and associated characteristics (13.79%) and on conceptualization (12.07%). Those articles that consider risk factors or other aspects (5.17% in both cases) and those that are focused on their incidence, prevalence, distribution and comorbidity as well as on their evaluation (3.45% also in both cases) must also be mentioned.

If we examine each one of the psychology journals one by one, we will find that in *Apuntes de Psicología*, the articles that address the subject of the treatment, and more specifically, psychological, of the psychosis (40%) stand out. Also important are those that study etiology/maintenance, also having a psychological character, and those that stand out due to their clinical and associated characteristics (15% in both cases). Having a comparable percentage (10%) are those works that focus on the incidence, prevalence, distribution and comorbidity of the disorder, and on other aspects, and those (5%) that deal with conceptualization and the risk factors. In the *International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy*, most (46.66%) of the articles investigate the etiological/maintenance factors of the psychosis (this percentage being divided among the 33.33% that decide for the psychological type and 13.33% that do so for the combined type). Standing out in second place are the conceptualization studies (26.67%), which are followed by those on treatment (20%, divided into 13.33% of psychological type and 6.67% combined type). Last on the scale are those works on risk factors (6.67%). Half (50%) of the articles of the *Revista de Psicopatología y Psicología Clínica* show an interest for the clinical and associated characteristics of psychosis and of the remaining 50%, half (25%) do so for the risk factors and the other half for evaluation. The single article in *Clínica y Salud* investigates the psychological type treatment. Of *Análisis y Modificación de Conducta*, one third (33.33%) of the works are focused on etiology/maintenance of a psychological type, one third more on the treatment, also having a psychological character, and the remaining third on other aspects. Half (50%) of the works of the *Anales de Psicología* study the clinical and associated characteristics of psychosis and the other half psychological type etiological/maintenance factors. In *Psicothema* the distribution of the subject matter

is more extensive: 37.50% of the articles study treatment (25 % psychological type and 12.50% combined type) of psychosis, 25% clinical and associated characteristics, another 25 % etiological/maintenance factors (this percentage being equally divided between the psychological and biological factors) and the last 12.50% evaluation. Of the two articles found in the *International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology*, one (50%) is focused on conceptualization, and the other on psychological type etiological/maintenance factors. The single work of *Ansiedad y Estrés* is on psychological treatment. And that of the *Revista de Psicología General y Aplicada* on conceptualization.

In the group of psychiatry journals, it is observed that most (23.20%) of the articles focus on the treatment of psychosis (18.40% in the biological type and 4.80% for that of the psychological type, there not being any that have studied the combined type). Those that study incidence, prevalence, distribution and comorbidity of the disorder (17.60%) also stand out. With not much difference, comparable in percentage (15.20%), are those that study the clinical and associated characteristics and the etiological/maintenance factors (the biological ones with 8.80% and the psychological ones with 5.60% and the combined ones 0.80%). In the last positions, there are those that study evaluation (12.80%), other aspects (9.60%), conceptualization (4%) and risk factors (2.40 %).

When the within group results are studied, it is detected that in the *Revista de Psiquiatría* of the Medical School of Barcelona the works that investigate the clinical and associated characteristics, those that study incidence, prevalence, distribution and comorbidity of the disorder and those that study other aspects head the classification, these being comparable in percentage (21.05%). Following in second place, also equalized in percentage (15.79%) are those that investigate etiology/maintenance (10.53% biological type and 5.26% psychological type) and those that focus on the treatment (specifically, biological character). Occupying the last place are conceptualization articles (5.26%). Standing out in *Actas Españolas de Psiquiatría* are those works that investigate treatment (33.34%, 29.17% of which tend towards the biological and 4.17 % towards psychological). No less important is the percentage of studies that focus on evaluation (27.08%) or those that do so on etiology/maintenance of the psychosis (14.59%, 10.42% of which focus on the biological and 4.17% on the psychological). Found in the following positions are the works that study other aspects (8.33%) and those that study the clinical and associated characteristics and on incidence, prevalence, distribution and comorbidity of the psychosis (6.25% in both cases). Occupying the last place are the studies on conceptualization and on risk factors (2.08% also in both cases). In the *Anales de Psiquiatría*, the studies on clinical and associated characteristics and on incidence, prevalence, distribution and comorbidity of the psychosis head the list, with

Classification of the articles according to the study methodology

Table 1	Works of the <i>International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>THEORETICAL STUDY: (García y Pérez, 2003) EX POST FACTO STUDY: (García, Cangas, Pérez, Hidalgo y Gutiérrez, 2005)</p>	
Table 2	Works of <i>Análisis y Modificación de Conducta</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>EX POST FACTO STUDY: (López, Mendoza, Muela, Shergill, 2006) CASE STUDY: (Navarro, 2004; Méndez, 2006)</p>	
Table 3	Works of <i>Psicothema</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (López, Ruiz-Vargas y Hillers, 2004; Fernández, Rivero, Quirós, Conde y Guerra, 2005; Vázquez, Nieto, Cerviño y Fuentenebro, 2006) EX POST FACTO STUDY: (Gutiérrez, Caqueo y Ferrer, 2006) SINGLE CASE STUDY: (Mariana, Alarcón y Herruzo, 2004) CASE STUDY: (Cueva-Yust, Perona y Martínez, 2003; García, Luciano, Hernández y Zaldívar, 2004) INSTRUMENTAL STUDY: (Lemos, Paino, Inda y Besteiro, 2004)</p>	
Table 4	Works of <i>Revista de Psicopatología y Psicología Clínica</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>THEORETICAL STUDY: (Prats, Vicens-Vilanova, Obiols y Llebaria, 2003) EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (Florit y López-Luengo, 2003; Nieto, Fuentenebro, Díez, Valiente y Vázquez, 2006) INSTRUMENTAL STUDY: (Nieto, Hervás y Vázquez, 2006)</p>	
Table 5	Works of <i>Ansiedad y Estrés</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>CASE STUDY: (Terrasa, Pérez y Palmer, 2003)</p>	
Table 6	Works of <i>International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>HTICAL STUDY: (Berrios, Luque y Villagrán, 2003; Peralta y Cuesta, 2003; Sass, 2003; Cangas, García-Montes, López y Olivencia, 2003; Villagrán, 2003; Obiols y Vicens-Vilanova, 2003; Álvarez, de la Casa y Sánchez, 2003; Lemos, Vallina y Fernández, 2003; Kopelowicz, Liberman y Wallace, 2003; Pankey y Hayes, 2003; Perona, 2004; Salzinger y Serper, 2004; Krabbendam, Myin-Germeyns y van Os, 2004; Moreno, Medina y Lillo, 2004) EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (García, Fuentes, Ruíz, Gallach y Roder, 2003)</p>	
Table 7	Works of <i>Clínica y Salud</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (Farriols, Palma, Ramos, Fernández, Chamarro, Polo, et al., 2006) CASE STUDY: (Manzano y Salamero, 2005)</p>	

Table 8	Works of <i>Anales de Psicología</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>THEORETICAL STUDY: (Vendrell y Salgado, 2004) DESCRIPTIVE STUDY: (Palma, Cañete, Farriols, Julià y Soler, 2005)</p>	
Table 9	Works of <i>Revista de Psicología General y Aplicada</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>THEORETICAL STUDY: (Lemos, 2005)</p>	
Table 10	Works of <i>Apuntes de Psicología</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>THEORETICAL STUDY: (Estebaranz, 2004; de la Higuera, 2005; García y Pérez, 2006; Vallina, Lemos y Fernández, 2006; Vázquez y Díez, 2006; Perona, 2006; Valiente, Villavicencio y Cantero, 2006; García, Fuentes y Ruiz, 2006; Vázquez y Jiménez, 2006; Lemos, Fernández y Vallina, 2006; Florit, 2006; de la Higuera y Sagastagoitia, 2006; Cuevas-Yust, 2006; Pérez, Cangas y García, 2006; Díaz y Stiefel, 2006; Vallejo, 2006; Laviana, 2006) DESCRIPTIVE STUDY: (Martínez, Perona, Hervás, Laviana, Ramos, Navarrón, et al., 2003) EX POST FACTO STUDY: (Vázquez, Jiménez y Vázquez, 2004) CASE STUDY: (Martínez, Perona y Cuevas-Yust, 2004)</p>	
Table 11	Works of <i>Anales de Psiquiatría</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>THEORETICAL STUDY: (Cirici, 2003; Díaz, 2004; Sumarroca y Cirici, 2006; García, 2006a; García, 2006b) DESCRIPTIVE STUDY: (Alonso, González, Blanco y Sanguino, 2006) QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (García, García y González, 2003; Alonso, Mínguez y González, 2003a; Pedrós y Tenías, 2004) EX POST FACTO STUDY: (Alonso, Mínguez y González, 2003b; Abuin y López, 2004; Caballer, Pedra, González, Reyes y Abella, 2004; Pedrós y Tomás, 2004; Sanguino y González, 2004; Mínguez, Alonso, Sanguino y González, 2004; Pedrós, 2005; Mínguez, 2005; González, 2005; Pedrós y Tenías, 2006; Camacho, Alcalá, Giner y Baida, 2006; Alonso, Sanguino y González, 2006; Espina, Ortego, Ochoa y Jaureguizar, 2006) INSTRUMENTAL STUDY: (Camacho, Giner y Mojarro, 2003; Alonso, Sanguino, Mínguez y González, 2005) OTHERS: (García, 2003a; García, 2003b; García, 2004)</p>	
Table 12	Works of <i>Actas Españolas de Psiquiatría</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
<p>THEORETICAL STUDY: (Lomeña, Font, Parellada, Fernández-Egea y Bernardo, 2003; Gayubo, Portela y Virseda, 2003; Montejo, Navarro y Martín, 2003; García, Vallina, Alonso, Ortega y Lemos, 2004; Virseda, Rejón y Martínez, 2004; Dilla, Ciudad, Sacristán y Prieto, 2004; Virseda y Ramos, 2005; Giner, Baca, Azanza, Vallejo, Díez, Saiz, et al., 2005; Seva y Cervera, 2006; Barberá, 2006; Segarra, 2006) DESCRIPTIVE STUDY: (Moreno, Jiménez, Godoy y Torres, 2003; Giner, Cervera, Bobes, Leal, Baca e Ibáñez, 2004; Montejo, Ciudad, Olivares, Novick, Ros y Prieto, 2004; Marín, Vallano, Pérez, Castells y Capellà, 2005; Saldivia, Cabasés y Torres, 2005; Mayoral, 2006; Brunner, 2006; Baca, 2006; Montejo, 2006; Giner, 2006) EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (Guevara, Cerdán, Ibarrarán y Ramos, 2003; Fresán, Apiquian, de la Fuente y Portillo, 2005; Ortuño, Arbizu, Millán, Cervera, Moreno y Soutullo, 2005; Martí, Robles, Sanjuán, Llull, Aguilar, Gadea, et al., 2005; Montero, 2006) QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (Fiestas, Guimas, Mazzotti, Vega-Dienstmaier, Herrera y Gálvez, 2004; Alonso, Sanguino, García, Mínguez y González, 2005; Medina, Masanet, Bellver, Montero y Lacruz, 2005) EX POST FACTO STUDY: (Labad, Bueno, Valero y Rofes, 2003; Fresán, Apiquian, Nicolini, Lozaga, Ulloa y Gómez, 2003; Mendoza, Miranda, Sánchez, Mazzotti, Chávez-Paz, Vega-Dienstmaier et al., 2003; Bobes, Gayoso, Blanco, Flórez y Gómez-Reino, 2004; Díaz, Lomba, Valdés, Mendoza, Padrón y Martín, 2004; Busquets, Soler, Torrens, Bulbena y Farré, 2005; Molero, Ortuño y Gutiérrez, 2005; Fresán, Juárez, Nicolini, Apiquian, Lozaga, de la Fuente, et al., 2005; Gil, 2006) INSTRUMENTAL STUDY: (Leal, Echanove, Sanjuán, Cañete y González, 2003; Montejo, González-Torres, Mayoral, Olivares, Ros, Bousoño, et al., 2003; Paino y Lemos, 2003; Fresán, Apiquian, Nicolini, de la Fuente y García, 2004; Ramírez, Robles, Salazar y Páez, 2004; Robles, Páez, Hernández, Zúñiga y Rizo, 2004; Ostrosky, Nicolini y Hilda, 2005; Ulloa, 2006; López, 2006; Lemos, 2006)</p>	

Table 13	Works of <i>Revista de Psiquiatría de la Facultad de Medicina de Barcelona</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
	<p>THEORETICAL STUDY: (Usall, 2003; Berrospi, Miralles y Salavert, 2003; González, 2005; Sarró, 2005; Dörr, 2005) DESCRIPTIVE STUDY: (González, 2003; Bergé, Arranz, Bulbena y García-Ribera, 2005) EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (Castillón, Abadía y Castillón, 2003; Solé, Pascual, Tejedor, Castillón y Abadía, 2005) EX POST FACTO STUDY: (Vázquez-Valverde y López, 2003; Pérez, Gutiérrez y Calvo, 2003; Vila, Haro y Ochoa, 2003; Pérez, 2004; Ferrer, 2004; Robert, 2004; Parra, Crivillés, Soto, Santos y Acebillo, 2005) CASE STUDY: (Castelló y Sánchez, 2004; Xavier, Benabarre, Vieta, Plana y Giral, 2004; García, 2004)</p>
Table 14	Works of <i>Psiquiatría Biológica</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
	<p>THEORETICAL STUDY: (Arrojo, Esteves, Ferreira y Palha, 2003; Gayubo, García, Vírveda y Portela, 2003; Arseneault, Cannon, Witton y Murray, 2004; Nosé, Barbui, Gray y Tansella, 2004; Häfner, Maurer, Löffler, der Heiden, Hambrecht y Schultze-Lutter, 2004; López, Villegas, Villegas y Martínez, 2005; Palomo y Vidal, 2005; Díaz, 2006; Sánchez-Araña, Touriño, Hernández, León, López, Villegas, Villegas y Martínez, 2006; Digiacomo, Gómez, Gómez y Camacho, 2006; Rodríguez, Pintor y Rejón, 2006) DESCRIPTIVE STUDY: (Montes, Saiz, Ibáñez, Pelegrín, Huertas, Vicente, Díaz, Arias, Jiménez, García, Fabregat, Moreno y Morales, 2003; Soriano, Valencia, Ochoa, Zárate, García y Meza, 2003) EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (Vírveda, Portela, Gayubo y García, 2004) QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (de la Gándara, Hernández y Vicente, 2006) EX POST FACTO STUDY: (Pérez, Sánchez, Pérez y Águila, 2003; Brodaty, Sachdev, Koschera, Monk y Cullen, 2004; Highley, Walker, McDonald, Crow y Esiri, 2004; Alcalá, Franco, Giner, Camacho, Mojarro y Casas, 2005; Corripio, Pérez, Escartí, Pérez, Pérez, Ramos y Álvarez, 2006)</p>
Table 15	Works of <i>The European Journal of Psychiatry</i> , according to applied methodology, published between 2003 and 2006
	<p>THEORETICAL STUDY: (Wijers, Verhoeven y Tuinier, 2005; Molina, 2005) EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (Rubio, Martínez, Recio, Ponce, López-Muñoz, Álamo, Jiménez-Arriero y Palomo, 2006) QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: (Koukia y Madianos, 2005) EX POST FACTO STUDY: (Gispén, Cohen, Puite y Dekker, 2003; Yasuhiro, Nagamine y Fujii, 2003; Thaller, Bagaric, Karlovic, Potkonjak, Solter y Cnrkovic, 2004; Rodríguez y González, 2005; Ochoa, Usall, Villalta-Gil, Vilaplana, Márquez, Valdelomar y Haro, 2006) CASE STUDY: (Al-Gommer y Moselhy, 2004) INSTRUMENTAL STUDY: (Steiner, Rudas, Schmitz, Lang, Berghofer, Kager y Schmidl, 2003)</p>

the same level of percentage (22.22%). Next are the works on treatment (14.82%, which would be divided equally between those of biological and psychological type). The percentage of those that focus on the etiological/maintenance factors are almost identical (14.81%, of which 11.11% concern the psychological type and only 3.70% the biological type). These are followed by the articles that focus on other aspects (11.11%) and appearing in the last place, equalized in percentage (7.41%), are those that focus on conceptualization and evaluation. Two groups of studies that occupy the first positions, equalized in percentage (27.27%) appear in *The European Journal of Psychiatry*: those that focus on incidence, prevalence and comorbidity and those that do so on treatment (18.18% in the biological type and 9.09% in the psychological type). The last three study groups are also equalized in percentage (9.09%) and concern conceptualization, evaluation and etiology/maintenance of combined type. Finally, in the *Psiquiatría Biológica* journal, most of the articles (30%) investigate incidence, prevalence, distribution and comorbidity of psychosis. Occupying the second position, equalized at 20%, are the studies that concern the

clinical and associated characteristics and the etiological/maintenance factors (15% for the biological ones and 5% for the psychological ones). The proportion of works on treatment (15%, 10% of which focus on the biological and 5% on the psychological) is also important. Ten percent of the studies focus on the risk factors and the remaining 5% on other aspects.

CONCLUSIONS

The first piece of information that calls our attention in relationship with the results is that only 7 out of every 100 articles published by the Psychology and Psychiatry journals considered are dedicated to the study of psychosis. This occurs even though it is currently considered the most severe form of mental disease. This result takes on even greater relevance when the psychology journals are examined separately, in which only 3 out of every 100 works dealt with this disease, the journals that contribute to this percentage also being very few, that is, only 10 of the 16 and within these

10, especially 2, *Apuntes de Psicología* and the *International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy*. This greater contribution could be explained from the publication of monographs of each one on psychosis. Four out of the 6 journals that did not generate any article on psychosis during the 4 years of the study are within the first 10 of impact factor in the IN-RECS.

When we focus on the psychiatry journals, the result is somewhat more generous, since the percentage of publications on psychosis reaches 18.54%. In addition, on the contrary to that which occurs with the Psychology journals, in this case all the journals are highly balanced in regards to the productivity of articles on psychosis.

A second datum of interest is that most of the studies reviewed are theoretical, above all due to the contribution of the psychology journals and more specifically of the 2 most productive ones, since in the group of psychiatry journals, the ex post facto study stand out. Descriptive, experimental and instrumental methodology are also significant in the whole sample, although to a lesser degree. The proportion of case studies is moderate, in spite of their importance in the group of psychology journals. Finally, attention is drawn to the presence of only one single case study.

The most frequent type of sample in the articles on psychosis is that made up of patients suffering the disorder, a result that owes its existence to the contribution, above all, of the psychiatry journals. The articles that do not include any type of sample are also very numerous, in this case due to the large amount of theoretical-type articles included in the psychology journals. It is worthwhile mentioning the limited percentage of works performed in subjects at risk, a percentage that can reach 0 in the case of the psychiatry journals.

The most studied aspect of psychosis is, by far, treatment (both psychological and biological, and to a lesser degree, combined type). The number of articles that deal with the etiological and maintenance aspects of the disorder (in this case appearing a decompensation in favor of the psychological type factors) is also important. The percentage of articles on clinical and associated characteristics, and on the incidence, prevalence, distribution and comorbidity of the psychosis, the latter percentage in the contribution of the psychiatry journals being especially clear, are also worthy of consideration. Both in the psychology group of journals and in the psychiatry ones, the general tendency is maintained, although there is a preponderance of interest regarding psychological and biological type factors, respectively, in the studies having etiological aspects and the treatment of psychosis, a preponderance that would be less significant in the case of the latter.

In conclusion, we can say that schizophrenia (and more generically, psychosis) continue to be abandoned, in the

shadow of other disorders that resist leaving space on the podium of the diseases that gain the condition of being important. In addition, when they are considered, this is always on the theoretical and abstract level, in retrospective, reviewing what has occurred until recently instead of investigating what is being done and what is needed nowadays, now, at this point in time. At least it can be appreciated that the approach to the patient is direct, that the patient is sought out, and it is not done through others that speak in the patient's name. Furthermore, it can be appreciated that the attention, still inexact, directed towards this disease is projected towards the factors that will foreseeably make it possible to understand its idiosyncrasy and to attend to it.

Researching the factors that attenuate the visibility of this disease and/or that limit its capacity to obtain the approval of the investigators is still pending with this study, this only being a first step.

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