A Case Study: Framework of the Sexual Behavior Problems in Children

Description:
Child sexual issues in Indonesia is increasingly complex, especially for free sex problems. In terms of development, children are not meant to show desire and sexual behavior. Children who engage in free sex behavior are complicated, varied and not always obvious. As a child's learning about their sexuality is a very sensitive issue, therefore people tend to avoid the issue of sex. Regardless of its sensitive issues, child sexuality is exigencies that requires effective prevention and appropriate intervention. It's important to comprehend the factors that influence sex behavior in children viewed from various backgrounds.

Method:
The objective of study is to understand and analyze free sex behavior in children comprehensively based on the influencing factors. The method used is qualitative study with case design, involving 2 children (1 male age 13 and 1 female age 14) who had committed sexual intercourse. Data collection method used was curriculum vitae, in depth interviews (3-5 meeting) and observation. Furthermore, the data were analyzed according to Miles and Huberman's data reduction, data display and conclusion verification process. After interpreting the research result, it was found that there are two systems that can be analyzed according to Bronfenbrenner theory, namely microsystem and mesosystem. Child development model based microsystem consists of physical development of components of family, school, peers, playground, neighborhoods, and media information & technology. All of them are inter-related.

Result:
The findings of this study indicate five factors underlying free sex behavior problems at perpetrators children. Subject 1 and 2 commit sexual behavior due to four factors: (1) less fulfilled needs of affection, (2) peer's influences, (3) lack of understanding about morality and religiosity, (4) lack of parental supervision and guidance. And large additional contribution factor on the subject 1, is exposure of pornography. All of these factors influence each subject based on their life backgrounds.

Factors underlyng free sex behavior problems

1. Unfulfilled Affection Needs
Affection also called love, feelings and emotions is one of the important factors in a child's development. The role of peer is to increase the influence of the child's self-image. Each child has a different framework and experience, so it will affect the information shared and the behavior they display. It is inevitable that peer pressure to do something with a reason to be accepted by the group can have a good and bad impact.

2. Peers Influence
The role of peers is to increase the influence of the child's self-image. Each child has a different framework and experience, so it will affect the information shared and the behavior they display. It is inevitable that peer pressure to do something with a reason to be accepted by the group can have a good and bad impact.

3. Low Understanding of Morality and Religiousity
Moral includes knowledge and insights concerning the manners and civilization of mankind. Vulnerable foundation of religion as a part of moral code makes children perform deviant behaviors.

4. Pornography Exposure
Pornography will make someone believe all the lies offered by pornography itself. One factor contributing to the issue is vulnerability in terms of the increasing information on the use of the continuous information widespread sexual stimulation through the mass media with advanced technology.

5. Lack of Supervision and Guidance from Parents
Parents as the main control holder in the family naturally have to meet their children's daily needs. Poverty and materialistic values pressure in the low socio-economic conditions can lead to lack of oversight and attention to children.
Beautiful Affliction: Revealing the Suffering of Disease Through Collaborative Performance Art
Cherie Acosta, M.F.A. Assistant Professor Costume Design, Lamar University
Travis Prokop, Assistant Professor of Dance, M.F.A. Lamar University

Working with pathologist from Johns Hopkins, Collaborative artists, costume designer and choreographer, expose the unseen beauty found in suffering and disease through costume design, choreography and music in a dance performance piece in Beaumont, Texas U.S.A.

Abstract: Collaborative artists expose the unseen beauty found in suffering and disease through costume design, choreography and music in a dance performance piece. Illness is revealed at the cellular level utilizing photographs from Hidden Beauty: Exploring the Aesthetics of Medical Science by Norman Baker and Christine A. Iacobuzio-Donahue. Focusing on the Greek ideal of beauty, gowns are constructed utilizing photos of diseases such as lymphoma and meningioma. Artists expose what it means to suffer within the world of today’s profit-driven medicine and the paradox of illness and the sublime. This work questions what it means to be human, to suffer and to find beauty in affliction.

Methods: Dresses are designed after the Greek ideal of beauty and constructed utilizing photographs from the book Hidden Beauty: Exploring the Aesthetics of Medical Science by Norman Barker and Christine A. Iacobuzio-Donahue. Artists explore the semiotics of clothing and messaging.

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Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
Adequacy and Sustainability of Pension Policies in the OECD Countries

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Introduction and Research Question

There are many purposes in old age pension, but the major one is to protect retired elderly from a poverty. Since old age pension performs role as a major income source for most of the retirees, amount of pension is closely related to reaching its goal. For this reason, ‘adequacy’ of pension benefit considered as a key component of the system, and many comparative research used adequacy as a measure for the achievement of pension systems. However, due to new social risks, such as demographic change, economic crisis, change in labor market that emerged globally, maintaining generous pension system became a challenge to many of countries. Attempts on pension reform has been making changes from early 1990s, purposed to reduce financial burden and strengthen the ‘sustainability’ of pension system. Today in most of the countries in OECD made at least some modification to their pension system.

Whereas the ‘sustainability’ of pension system also became important issue, there is need to evaluate pension systems considering its adequacy and sustainability. Because pension system that is only generous but not sustainable, cannot guarantee the proper benefit to the future generation, and cause severe damage the financial stability of a government. Adequate pension system which is also sustainable will be the ideal direction for the pension policy.

However, previous study have limitation to identify the country that have pension system that is adequate and sustainable, as most of comparative studies focuses on typology, case study, or simple comparison of related figures (Espin-Andersen, 1990; Myles, 1984; Kim, 1991; Chyhalski, 2012; Scruggs & Allan, 2006; European Commission, 2013; Scruggs, 2014; Kim, 2006). Also, there are limited number of studies that focuses both adequacy and sustainability of the pension system.

This study aims to compare the two aspects of pension system in OECD countries, using preference ranking organization method for enrichment (PROMETHEE).

Method

(1) Adequacy & sustainability measurement

To measure adequacy and sustainability of pension system, indicators of OMC pension will be used in this study as variables. Pension field provides three levels of indicators: adequacy, sustainability and modernisation, and I used adequacy and sustainability indicators for this study (Table 1).

(2) Method for analysis

PROMETHEE is Multi-Criteria Decision Aid based on Preference ranking organization method. PROMETHEE is widely used to make choices, prioritize, allocate resources, rank, or resolve conflicts of complex, multi-criteria problems. It calculates positive and negative outranking flows of each option, where positive outranking flow express how one alternative outranks all the other alternatives and negative outranking flows express how one alternative is being outranked by all the others. The higher value of positive outranking flow represents better alternative it is than others, while lower value of negative outranking represents inferior alternative (Brams & Vincke, 1985; Brans et al, 1986; Albadi, 2004). This method is specially useful when factors for decision are difficult to compare.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commonly agreed indicator</th>
<th>Direction of preference flow</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All-risk of poverty rate of people</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median relative income of elderly people</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement ratio</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in projected public expenditure</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current pension expenditure ( % of GDP )</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment rate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour market exit age</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projection of pension expenditure</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Result

[Table 1] Indicators and direction of preference flow

Luxembourg outranked other countries in terms of adequacy. Greece, Spain, Austria also showed higher ranks. UK, US, Japan ranked lower positions; South Korea was at the bottom of the list. Norway and Finland, which generally known to have generous pension, had negative flow than positive and ranked as 9th and 11th respectively for sustainability, South Korea yield better than others, followed by Norway, Canada, US, and Japan. Spain, Italy and Greece – the countries undergoing pension finance crisis – were ranked in lower group.

Generally if one country ranked in higher in adequacy indicator, it will belong to lower ranking group in sustainability (and vice versa). Luxembourg, France, Greece, Italy, Spain tends to focus more in providing generous level of pension. On the other hand, Canada, Germany, Japan, Korea, Norway, UK, and US targets for sustainable pension system than adequate pension.

South Korea, Italy, Luxembourg, and Greece – the countries who showed extreme negative flows – should consider ways to improve policy in order to complement the insufficiency of the pension system. Again, Adequate pension system which is also sustainable will be the ideal direction for the pension policy.

Reference

The U.S. Decision on Paris Accord in Media Coverage

Young Joon Lim & Jennifer Lemanski

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Introduction

President Donald Trump’s announcement to withdraw from or remain in Paris Accord had been heavily covered by the media before his decision was made. After he announced to opt out of the accord, the media produced an army of news articles to evaluate his decision. This study analyzed how the media framed and primed the decision.

Review of Literature & RQs

To develop research questions, this study uses three media theories such as framing, priming and propaganda. Based on such theories, it asks:

H1: Is there any difference in terms of the use of sources between newspapers and television outlets?

H2: Is there any difference in terms of the use of sources among the newspapers?

H3: Is there any difference in terms of the use of sources among the television outlets?

H4: Did the media reporting on before and after President Trump’s final announcement change public opinion on climate change?

H5: Did the tone of media coverage of after President’s final announcement aim for positive or negative portrayal of him?

Discussion

This study focused on non-editorial coverage of the media to find out whether they played an important role in guiding the audience toward a certain direction to U.S. participation in Paris Accord or the other way around. As the results showed, newspapers used foreign sources to convey international concerns about U.S. withdrawal from the accord whereas television preferred business people over other sources.

Results

This study examined if there was a difference in using sources between newspapers and television outlets. As shown in Table 1, all newspapers and television outlets used Trump officials, business leaders, environmentalists and foreign officials to report the president’s before and after announcement on the decision. Newspapers used more sources to report the stories (n=121) in contrast to television outlets (n=46). More importantly, newspapers conducted interviews or quoted foreign officials (n=30) in comparison to none of television outlets. These results showed a statistically significant difference ($\chi^2=18.874; df=3; p < .001$).

Table 1. News Source Difference

Table 2. Salient article extracts for thematic analysis

Conclusion

This study offers a unique approach to the analysis on media coverage of U.S. withdrawal from Paris Accord, especially for the timing of before and after the decision President Trump had to make and announce. It reaffirmed that the media are able to make an attempt to influence governmental policies and public opinion through non-editorial coverage.

References

Twitter from @realDonaldTrump
The Differences of Adolescent Crime Involvement among Schools

Zhou Xiaochen; Xun Xiaoya
University of Hong Kong, King’s College London; University of Cambridge

Introduction

Introduction:
Neighborhood enrolment policy is the school admission approach at compulsory educational stage in Mainland China. This policy entitles all school-aged pupils to study in a neighborhood public school free of charge.

However, with the development of real estate market, communities near better quality schools are becoming more expensive, which makes them only affordable to certain population. It may cause a residential clustering and a fact that pupils in one school are coming from with similar social backgrounds, and pupils from higher social classes are more likely to live in a better community and further enroll in a better-quality school. This leads them to have similar criminogenic exposure and peer crime involvement. This study covers all the 5 middle schools in Anyi town, Jiangsu Province, China. The participants were randomly selected from each school, and the sample size of this study is 633.

Research questions:
1. What is the difference of adolescent crime involvement among different schools?
2. What is the difference of peer crime involvement among different schools?
3. What is the relationship between peer crime involvement and adolescent crime involvement?

Method

Sample:
This study collected data from 633 grade eight students, 292 females and 341 males due to the gender imbalance in China. The target area was the town of Anyi, located in east China, with a population of 210,000 people. In Anyi, there are five middle schools including Baoying Shiyan Middle School (BSMS), the oldest school in town a century-long history. There are approximately 5,000 students and 400 teachers in BSMS. Chengbei Middle School (CMS), Baoying International Middle School (BIMS), Anyi Middle School (AMS) and Taishan Middle School have about 3500, 800, 850, and 1,000 students respectively. Five classes were randomly selected from BSMS and CMS. One class was randomly selected from BIMS, AMS and TMS, based on each school’s number of students.

Measures:
1) Crime involvement
This study used a self-reported crime questionnaire that listed 10 different types of crime: shoplifting, theft from a person, residential burglary, non-residential burglary, theft from a car, theft of a car, vandalism, arson, assault and robbery from a person. The subjects were asked whether they had committed the crime described in the question during the last year and, if yes, how many times they had done so.

2) Peer crime involvement
This index asks participants to report the extent to which their peers engage in various rule breaking acts. It includes six questions regarding how often subjects’ friends are involved in specific actions, ranging from ‘skipping school/work without an excuse’ to ‘getting into fights with others’. Questions are asked like ‘Does it often happen that some of your friends skip school without an excuse’ and ‘Does it often happen that some of your friends beat up or are in fights with others?’, and answers are ranked from 0-3 with 0=no, never; 1=yes, sometimes; 2=yes, often (every month); 3=yes, very often (every week). A higher score means that the individual’s peers are more often involved in crime.

Results

1) Students from different schools reported significantly different crime involvement, and good quality schools reported less crime involvement;
2) Students from different schools reported significantly different peer crime involvement;
3) Peer crime involvement has a significant impact on adolescents crime involvement.

Conclusion

Our study shows that in the context of neighborhood enrollment as the admission approach for secondary schools, the residential clustering effect does not only influencing in the quality of education that children received, but also the school and community environment. With the different peer crime involvement peer effect, the crime involvement of the lower quality schools are significantly higher than the others. This study helps to understand the pattern of adolescent crime phenomenon in China. We highlight the role of school environment and peer effect in influencing adolescents’ crime involvement.

Furthermore, it can also provide empirical evidence for the unintended outcomes of neighborhood enrollment policy in China, and we hope our finding can inform the policy maker when perfecting the policy design.

Limitation:
1) Measurements developed from UK context may not fully validate in the Chinese social and cultural context.
2) Data was collected in one locality in China, which may not be able to generalize to the overall Chinese context.
3) Only association relationship but not causality relationship can be generated from the data. However, following-up data collection is undertaken.

Reference:

Bibliography
1. Zhou Xiaochen is a joint PhD candidate of University of Hong Kong and King’s College London. Her research interests lie in educational inequality, social stratification, and policy analysis.
2. Xun Xiaoya is a PhD student of University of Cambridge. Her main research interests are youth crime and cyber crime.
Dress - A Conflict and an Enabler between Cultural Interactions with an Economic Bias

KEY WORDS

ABSTRACT
- As the definition of economic boundaries blur economically weaker inhabitants of any society face an identity crisis but at the same time experience a paradigm shift in their individual and collective aspirations.
- It has been well established that ‘Dress’ is vulnerable to change in any cultural interaction, more than any other aspect of ethnic identity.
- In a cultural-interaction, a culture may not deter from its ethnic dress & may initially lead to an intentional or un-deliberated conflict to maintain uniqueness and identity.
- The economic/social activities between them create possibilities of dwindling boundaries of varying magnitudes.
- In this paper we posit that dress is indeed the first and fundamental conflict but also becomes the first & significant enabler, in any (social and/or economic) interaction between cultures.
- This change is biased towards the economically weaker culture.

STUDY
- In this research, the study is focused on India. India has acknowledged interactions with various cultures, for e.g., Mughal, French, Dutch and British. For this research, the duration of Cultural Interactions is defined as exposure interactions of two cultures for a minimum duration of 15-20 years. This is the duration taken to show a substantial change to take notice of. This is also the duration for a new generation to grow up.
- European and other traders that came to India and the trade eventually led to a cultural interaction. For e.g., Portuguese who discovered the trade route to India, The British East India Company invading India for economic benefit etc.
- Personal and public museums were explored to visual map Art mediums like Paintings/sculptures/photographs may be collected from museums. Books and other literary sources were studied to document the historical, sociological & cultural features of these time frameworks. History of Costumes/Dress may be collected from Books/Encyclopedia etc. and analyzed for any possible evolution of the dress due cultural pluralism.
- During the British invasion of India, the natives were exposed to a completely new way of life and a culture hitherto alien to them. The natives in the face of a foreign rule suffered from an identity crisis along with a shift in their individual and collective aspirations.
- Biographies/Autobiographies of eminent personalities during the mentioned time frame may be studied for any literary or visual (illustrations/pictures) documentation of dress. For e.g., Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi My Experiments with Truth
- The generation born under a foreign rule was pushed (by their parents) towards an education and training promoted and patronized by the rulers and cultural adoption was thus encouraged. The generation (including the young Mahatma Gandhi) born and raised under the British rule adopted English dress as the first step in their interactions with their rulers of the day.
- This phenomenon was also observed during the Mughal invasion and their subsequent rule in India. The adaptations and adaptations from central Asian dress in India have been well documented in The Babur-nama – the autobiography of the Mughal ruler Babur.

CONCLUSION / SUMMARY
- ‘Dress’ as supplements and modifications to the body, remains the most visible manifestation of any culture & is vulnerable to change more often than not.
- Culture, is social glue that binds people together and also makes them view apart. There are varieties of reasons for cultural interactions to happen. Whatever might be the reason for this interaction, a mixture of change is bound to happen after the initial conflict.
- We can say that one of the purposes of ethnic dress is to create a conflict.
- It has been well established that in any Cultural Interaction a change or mixture is bound to happen in varying proportions. Creating conflicts through dress or using it as a tool to blend into another culture have also been well documented.
- This study has examined and observed that the “economic dominance” of the culture is one of the strongest features that controls the amount and bias of the influence.
- The economically weaker culture adopts and adapts to its clothing as it has an aspirational value.

REFERENCES

ETHNIC DRESS
- Ethnic dress are defined as body modifications and supplements that mark the ethnic identity of an individual (Sicher, Introduction: Dress as expression of Ethnic Identity, 1995). Members of one group wear ethnic dress to distinguish themselves from members of another by focusing on differentiation (Sicher & Simburger, World Fashion, Ethnic and National Dress, 1995). From the definition itself it can be said that one of the purpose of ethnic dress is to create a conflict or to create a group identity when there is a visitor.

CULTURE
- Culture is the collective programming of the mind; collective soul; or some type of ‘social glue’ that hold people together (Warner & Joyn, 2003).
Subjectivity Inquiry: How to Enrich Existing Methods?
The case of Q-sorting and Trace Analysis

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Background

Q-method has been invented by W. Stephenson in order to study scientifically human subjectivity. It is based on statements sorting. Traditional q-studies have been using paper cards to capture human subjectivity. Today's technical possibilities open a rich path to gather additional data, also called paradata. This study aims at capturing traces of the sorting process and incorporating it in the data. We designed a prototype to help capturing sorting on computer interface. An experimental study is conducted and our first results entail a analysis of the behavior of data.

Method

Q-method consists of three main steps:
1- assembling a corpus of statements covering the potential meanings about one topic of interest
2- preparing q-sorting : selecting people who will sort the statements in a forced-choice matrix
3- factor-analyze the q-sorts in order to identify shared points of views, or shared subjectivities.

In the present case, the topic is Perception of Augmented Reality
Q-sample (ie : statements) = 24
P-sample (ie: participants) = 15

Device : Q-trace : a dedicated program used to capture the sorting process on-screen.

Future Directions

Four prospective metrics are proposed in order to enrich classical analysis of subjectivity : (1) average number of changes per minutes during the sorting process, (2) order of placement and changes, (3) number of changes per individual and (4) change distance.
Human Beings and Nature in Radical Transformation, or Why We Still Visit Derelict Parks in Silesia

Aleskandra Kuncze, University of Silesia, Poland

Human Being Vulnerable to the Fall Social and Natural Affects

A human being is vulnerable to the fall in Silesia as a human being is vulnerable to affects and tempered by passions to the extent that he or she becomes indifferent and humble, feeling subjected to the vagaries of Nature, History, Ethics and Divinity. It is no use fighting against the affects. One can do no more than to mobilize all his or her inner strength to stay close. It means desperately striving to stick to the border where wildness, reason, humbleness, necessity and peace of mind do not combine to yield the ability to feel the pulsating rhythms of the world not outside but within ourselves. That is the serene in the place which is distinct as a derelict park. One has to contemplate and withstand the experience of Silesia in fanatical, mystical, bourgeois and industrial terms. Its unification to differences of nature that manifests itself in local people’s lives.

The Transgression of History and the Desire for Nature

This urbanized and industrialized Silesian space, construed as the product of the Enlightenment in most accounts, has in fact always been a song of praise to nature. This is best evidenced by the existence of a derelict park. The wild in the park—the wild in Silesia—the wild in the human being—is an alternative route to follow within the space of reason. It gives the ability to feel the pulsating rhythms of the world not outside but within ourselves. But the serene is only clear in the place which is distinct as a derelict park. One has to contemplate and withstand the experience of Silesia in fanatical, mystical, bourgeois and industrial terms. Its unification to differences of nature that manifests itself in local people’s lives.

Lived and Fruitful Experience. Culture Means Very Little

This implies that, by leading us beyond culture, makes us approach that which is other, not civilized enough, wild and forever barbaric. It makes different identifications emerge: we are at the same time the creators and consumers of culture. We choose between banal functions, allies, culprits, victims, people with no name and identity, Everyone or No-one, Silesia, by celebrating Everyone’s uniqueness, draws strength from this kind of multiplicity. Our fellowship with the space is questionable to a high extent, as it is never clearly stated and charged with high expectations of mutuality and hope for the community that will never come.

The park offers a lesson which says that everything that has a form will become formless, every shape anticipates shapelessness, and every single structure betrays its amorphaesness, to be finally devoured by the whirl of chaos. The space explodes with confusion, which is here a vital force. The lesson is the park is however also to stay stoically calm in the face of the violence of derelite parks make it abundantly clear.

References

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The roots of our living

The park can take both fullness and emptiness as the starting point for its further development. Staying in the border park means being located on the margins and limits of the world and life. It gives rise to a sense of powerlessness, isolation from the social space and time, being beyond culture, as well as climbing the heights of subjective and individual experience. It lets us transcend common understanding and the bounds of time and space. In the park life is somehow reordered. We learn from the park what that life offers us is a sense that nothing more can be expected. But to our astonishment it is not something that we think or say. We have to go back to the park and repeat the experience so that it remains vivid.

We are paradoxically fond of keeping close to the derelict park as a source of power that disturbs our knowledge and undermines the roots of our living. Cesare Pavese, Dead pastures (1935; translated by Peter Pettigrew, Gladsax, 1970).

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Publicizing the Peer Reviewer: Legitimacy and Quality of Scientific Publication

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Publish cannot be disconnected from scientific knowledge and has a social function of canonisation, categorisation and legitimisation (Bourdieu, 2001; Carvalho, 2000; Guerreiro-Ramos, 1991):

- Reflecting the productivity and/or quality of a scientist, with the general notion that publication in a higher level journal would indicate high level research or that many papers would broadly indicate high productivity” (Teixeira da Silva, & Dobrzenski, 2014, p. 23);
- Relevant for a successful scientific and academic path through scientific recognition:
  - “The ever-increasing competitiveness in research (“publish or perish”) in these current times of limited grant funding opportunities incentivizes researchers to ‘fragment’ results from a single study into multiple publications, or to publish identical data sets redundantly” (Stahel, & Moore, 2014, p. 2)

The researcher’s objective is to use the publication to give visibility to the knowledge produced and to be accepted by the peers and the scientific community.

In the dissemination, the most commonly accepted way is through articles, which are expected to have recognised scientific quality (Callahan, & McCulloch, 2011; Galbraith, 2015; Teixeira da Silva, & Dobrzenski, 2014; Costa, 1988; Merton, 1977).

There is a growing number of publications claiming to be scientific. Yet, the fact that they are indexed does not necessarily guarantee quality: open access logic, with unequal quality, and which, in the words of Stahel and Moore (2014, p. 2), are “sprouting like mushrooms all over the globe”.

How to guarantee the scientific quality of what is published?

Results:

Through analysis, review and critique of their peers’ work, scientists aim to ensure that only research that is part of research programs legitimised by the scientific community is published and recognised. The most commonly accepted modality of scientific quality control of what is publishable takes place through peer-review:

- Ensures an a priori control through the evaluation by peers in the area of the article, and which legitimises the editorial decision whether to publish it or not;
- Peer reviewers act as gatekeepers for the publication (Houry, Green, & Callahan, 2012), in a game always marked by interpretative uncertainty (of each of the authors involved) (Petit, 1998; Leandro, Leandro, & Nogueira, 2011).

Peer reviewer quality is not ensured:

- Peer reviewers – mostly volunteers – are of varying quality (Houry, Green, & Callahan, 2012);
- The exponential increase in the number of manuscripts submitted for publication worldwide overburden the capability of available qualified referees to keep up with reviewing requests and to ensure timeliness and quality of their respective evaluations” (Stahel, & Moore, 2014, p. 1);
- “many of the new generation open-access journals may tend to accept a lower threshold of peer review quality” (Stahel, & Moore, 2014, p. 3);
- In some journals, the authors may indicate a reviewer, who may not have competence or not be reliable in his/her assessment of the paper;
- The difficulty in controlling peer-review quality is increased, given that the quality of the reviews by the same evaluators does not tend to improve (Callahan, & McCulloch, 2011);
- Reviewers training does not attain lasting success, not even through additional formal feedback from editors or other reviewers (Callahan, & McCulloch, 2011; Houry, Green, & Callahan, 2012);
- “Contrary to many editor’s assumptions, the quality of peer reviewers cannot be predicted by their academic rank, formal research training, grant funding, or other traditional markers of academic achievement” (Houry, Green, & Callahan, 2012, p. 1).

Conclusion:

- Peer review of articles published as a priori control continues and will continue to be central as an element of justification and legitimation of their publication.
- The publication of these peer reviews, with the identification of their author, expresses a scientific ethos of participation and accountability of the various actors in the process of production and dissemination of scientific knowledge.
- It may be a critical factor of accountability and subsequent legitimacy of the scientific quality of what is published, by enabling greater control and demand in what is publishable and published, in a control, also, a posteriori.

This entails rethinking the role of reviewers in this process, by the visibility that they will assume, as they will continue to be the gatekeepers of the legitimacy of scientific publications.

References: