



## RESEARCH

SOCIAL PHENOMENOLOGY: ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIC PRODUCTION OF GRADUATE IN NURSING, BRAZIL, 1979-2010

FENOMENOLOGIA SOCIAL: ANÁLISE DA PRODUÇÃO ACADÊMICA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM ENFERMAGEM, BRASIL, 1979-2010

FENOMENOLOGÍA SOCIAL: ANÁLISIS DE LA PRODUCCIÓN ACADÉMICA DE POSTGRADO DE LA ENFERMERÍA, BRASIL, 1979-2010

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To analyze the academic production of Brazilian Nursing with approach to Social Phenomenology of Alfred Schütz. A structured approach to Social Phenomenology by Schütz stands out among the possibilities of referential philosophical and methodological of qualitative research. **Method:** study of narrative review of literature, from the catalogs of the Center for Studies and Research in Nursing dissertations and theses that were produced between 1979/2010. Data collection was conducted in December 2011. Results: it was found 65 titles, with a concentration of production in the 2000s (73.85%), in the southeast region (95.38%) and in the area of care (69.2%). **Conclusion:** This referential is constituted as a possibility in the construction of knowledge resulting from research in nursing through research of phenomena of everyday life that support philosophically assistance and teaching. **Descriptors:** Nursing, Nursing research, Qualitative research, Philosophy.

## RESUMO

**Objetivo:** Analisar a produção acadêmica de Enfermagem brasileira com abordagem da Fenomenologia Social de Alfred Schütz. A abordagem da Fenomenologia Social estruturada por Schütz destaca-se dentre as possibilidades de referencial filosófico-metodológicas de pesquisa qualitativa. **Método:** Estudo de revisão narrativa de literatura, a partir dos catálogos do Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas em Enfermagem de dissertações e teses que foram produzidas no período de 1979/2010. A coleta de dados procedeu em dezembro 2011. **Resultados:** Encontrou-se 65 títulos, com concentração de produções na década de 2000 (73,85%), na região Sudeste (95,38%) e na área assistencial (69,2%). **Conclusão:** Tal referencial constitui-se como uma possibilidade na construção do conhecimento resultante de pesquisa em Enfermagem, através de investigação dos fenômenos de seu cotidiano que respaldam filosoficamente a assistência e a docência. **Descritores:** Enfermagem, Pesquisa em enfermagem; Pesquisa qualitativa, Filosofia.

## RESUMEN

**Objetivo:** Analizar la producción académica de enfermería brasileña con enfoque de la fenomenología social de Alfred Schütz. El enfoque de la fenomenología Social estructurado por Schütz se destaca entre las posibilidades del referencial filosófico y metodológico de la investigación cualitativa. **Método:** estudio de revisión narrativa de la literatura, a partir de catálogos del Centro de Estudios e Investigación en Enfermería de disertaciones y tesis que se produjeron entre los años 1979/2010. La recolección de datos se llevó a cabo en diciembre de 2011. **Resultados:** se encontraron 65 títulos, con una concentración de la producción en la década de 2000 (73,85%), en la región sudeste (95,38%) y en el área de la atención (69,2%). **Conclusión:** Tal referencial se constituye como una posibilidad en la construcción de los conocimientos resultantes de la investigación en enfermería a través de la investigación de los fenómenos de la vida cotidiana que apoyan filosóficamente la asistencia y la docencia. **Descriptor:** Enfermería, Investigación en enfermería, Investigación cualitativa, Filosofía.

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## INTRODUCTION

Nursing seeks, in the progressive use of research, the consistency of knowledge, generating innovation and technology as well as changes in the area. The Nursing research in Brazil has as its starting point the historical and symbolic struggle of Brazilian nurses by the formation of a scientific community nursing and structuring of their scientific field. For this comes up continued making efforts since the establishment of modern nursing in Brazil in 1922, based on the Nightingale system through the creation of the School of Nursing Anna Nery.<sup>1</sup>

The 1970 is a milestone for nursing research in Brazil with the emergence of Courses Postgraduate strictly at Masters Level, organized in various regions of the country. The advent of these courses contributed to the creation of knowledge in nursing in Brazil. Although the creation of the Center for Research in Nursing (CEPEN) by the Brazilian Association of Nursing in 1971, at that time called Activities Committee and Scientific Documentation, opened a new space for the development of research, which is confirmed by the subsequent disclosure of their catalogs "Information on Nursing Research and Researchers" in 1979.<sup>1</sup> Setting up as an important tool for the dissemination of knowledge production in nursing in the country.

Since then intensifies the concern with the epistemological aspect of nursing expressed by systematic ordering your body's specific knowledge and the development of concepts and theories that sustain their know-how. Thus, from the 1980s, established itself in a new phase of research in nursing, where nurses began to approach qualitative research. It started to appreciate not only the technical aspects of care, but also the understanding of the subjects

involved in the health care. Such a movement solidified, expanding internationally<sup>2</sup>

In this sense, phenomenology emerges as a possibility in the epistemological field research in Nursing, seeking social focus and subjective in their approaches. Phenomenology has its origin reflections and studies of Edmund Husserl, passing then to be understood as a science dedicated to the experiences concerned with the essence of existential phenomena of the human being. The phenomenological movement was born as a reaction to positivism which considers valid only fact empirically researched and measured, while the phenomenology aims to direct investigation and description of phenomena that are experienced by consciousness.<sup>3</sup>

Phenomenology has enabled the Nursing investigate various dimensions of the human being in a given time and space shared with others and with the world, from its singular and unique way of intending the existential phenomena. The use of referential phenomenological (theoretical and / or methodological) intuitus understand the vision of the human being as a whole lived - and no more parts and separately - and located in the world.<sup>4</sup>

Among these references, there is the social phenomenology of Alfred Schütz structured, from the assumptions set out in the concepts of Husserl and Weber's comprehensive sociology. Schütz appropriates the concepts of Husserlian intentionality, intersubjectivity and *Lebenswelt* (lived world) to apply them to the understanding of sociological method systematically. Such concepts can support the investigation of issues experienced in the social world, for example, the social world which are part of users of health services and nursing professionals. Thus, the Social Phenomenology seeks grasping the meaning of human actions and the establishment of the typical action.<sup>4</sup>

The fact to consider is that nursing is a social practice indicates that this has values and responsibilities in guiding their actions in the care covering the technical, political and social, so that from the needs of the customers is determined that the care nursing that need.<sup>5</sup> In the interim, Nursing care claims more than one objective element, theoretical and scientific, since it requires the realization of a component intersubjective able to help him / her caregiver / and establish an opportunity for empathic care and authentic centered on the other.<sup>6</sup>

In the context of health care to the population is observed that daily life is full of experiences and expectations that need to be understood by nursing, and this understanding becomes a possibility in the use of phenomenology in research which focuses on the experiences of those involved in the health disease. So, to guide the development of this study was to elaborate the following question: What is the profile of the academic productions of Brazilian Nursing outlined in the light of the theoretical methodology of Social Phenomenology of Alfred Schütz? Thus, the present study was developed with the aim of analyzing the academic Nursing Brazilian approach to social phenomenology of Alfred Schütz.

Justified the development of this study, it is recognized that the process of production of knowledge in nursing is an important strategy for advancement of nursing practice and health and that the ethical dimension in this case refers to the autonomy of the researcher in defining the research problem . Besides the necessary socialization of findings and their incorporation into practice, extrapolating objectivity always in search of better care and a better human living from their life-world.<sup>7</sup>

## METHODOLOGY

J. res.: fundam. care. online 2013. out./dez. 5(4):652-60

This is a study of narrative review of the literature, which is meant to promote an approach from the appropriation of existing knowledge among the works which focus on the same theme in order to foster the development of new and innovative knowledge that can and should be used to transform reality.<sup>8</sup>

To achieve the proposed goal, we elaborated the research question: what is the panorama of Brazilian academic production of nursing using the Social Phenomenology of Alfred Schütz? Was elected to the primary source to search the catalogs of the Centre for Studies and Research in Nursing (CEPEn), which are compiled by the Brazilian Nursing Association (ABEn) and meet the abstracts of dissertations and theses that were produced by nurses / the Brazilian / as from 1979. The catalogs CEPEn / ABEn stand as one of the main references of Brazilian nursing research. The foundation of ABEn, dating from 1926, especially as a channel for the exchange and dissemination of knowledge between the professional category, promoting and encouraging the dissemination of research through the Center for Studies and Research in Nursing.

Data collection was carried out in December 2011, with summaries of academic productions from 1979 to 2000 were accessed on the CD-RW and others (2001-2010) in archives available online on ABEn (<http://www.abennacional.org.br/index.php?path=57>). The search was performed independent double in order to ensure the reliability of the results. First, the productions were accessed with a phenomenological approach, among which, a posteriori, makes a selection were those that met the inclusion criteria: the use of referential social phenomenology of Alfred Schütz. Exclusion criteria were adopted: theses and dissertations that used a phenomenological approach sustained by other scholars and philosophers, and

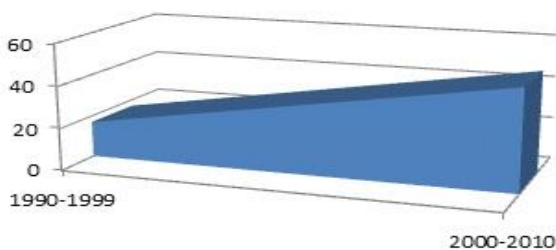
phenomenological productions not that moment using the theoretical framework of Schütz. Developed a careful analysis of the selected literature through exhaustive reading of the titles and abstracts of productions. Of the total of 415 productions available in brochures CEPEn / ABEn, 65 (15.6%) formed the database of this research.

The analysis was based on the following variables: type of academic production, year of publication, origin, Program Graduate (PPG) bound, scenario studies, areas, population particularity of reference. Data were tabulated and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Among the 65 academic productions, with regard to the type 63.07% (41) are dissertations, 35.39% (23) PhD theses and 1.54% (1) thesis for teaching.

Second year of defense of dissertation / thesis, the distribution of productions in decades has demonstrated significant growth: 0% in 1979 to 1989 (0), 26.15% (17) 1990-1999 and 73.85% (48) in 2000-2010 (Figure 1).



**Graph 1** - Distribution of academic productions of nursing benchmark in Alfred Schutz according to decades. Brazil, 2012.

It was found that the Brazilian region of origin of these productions most notably the Southeast was 95.38% (62) (Table 1). Regarding the participation of states in the growth of publications, the states of Rio de Janeiro 56.92% (37) and St. Paul 33.84% (22) were the main contributors to the construction of knowledge, J. res.: fundam. care. online 2013. out./dez. 5(4):652-60

followed by Minas Gerais with 4.62% (3), Ceará 3.08% (2) and Santa Catarina with 1.54% (1).

**Table 1-** Distribution of nursing students in productions of Alfred Schutz benchmark by region of the country. Brazil, 2012.

Verificou-se que a região brasileira de procedência dessas produções com maior destaque foi a Sudeste 95,38% (62) (Tabela 1). Em relação à participação dos estados no crescimento das publicações, os Estados do Rio de Janeiro 56,92% (37) e de São Paulo 33,84% (22) foram os que mais contribuíram para a construção do conhecimento, seguida por Minas Gerais com 4,62% (3), Ceará 3,08% (2) e Santa Catarina com 1,54% (1).

**Tabela 1** - Distribuições das produções acadêmicas de enfermagem no referencial de Alfred Schutz segundo região do país. Brasil, 2012.

Region	Number of productions	Percentage (%)
Southeast	62	95,38
Nordest	02	3,08
South	01	1,54
Total	65	100

As for PPG bound, 36.9% (24) of the titles in Alfredo Pinto Nursing School, Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO), 26.2% (17) in the School of Nursing, University of São Paulo (USP), 20% (13) in the Anna Nery School of Nursing, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). The other programs had a little participation in all these productions.

Regarding the areas of study, 69.2% (45) were produced in care work or teaching. Among the scenarios of the attendance area productions were grouped into hospital (41.50%), primary care (17.0%), education (9.2%), and social institutions (1.54%). And seven (10.75%) did not specify the stage productions. N terms of the scenarios education area: the university (12%) and hospital (1.54%) were research sites.

Among the population, there is a predominance of productions geared to nurses, teachers and students, totaling 22 (33.8%), 14 (21.5%) productions addressed to adult health among these five (7.7%) jobs with specificity in adult mental health, nine (13.85%) to women's health, seven (10.75%) to child health, seven (10.75%) with caregivers / family members, and three (4.85%) healthcare for the elderly and three (4.85%) adolescent health.

Regarding the use of the theoretical framework, we highlight the particularity of 18 (27.7%) academic productions that used the concept of need. The capture of intentions in action subject forwards prospects for health care needs and demands of health care.

The significant growth of academic productions Nursing Brazilian approach to social phenomenology of Alfred Schütz in the last three decades, especially since 2000, is converged with other studies.<sup>9-10</sup> In the 80s, five were submitted dissertations and theses in phenomenology, and from the 90 work with this approach began to be developed in the nursing field, increasing considerably over the past few years.<sup>9</sup>

This approach has attracted attention among researchers and theoretical nursing as a research method, alternative to traditional used by the natural sciences. In seeking to understand the meaning of the lived experience of human beings, have brought contributions to the understanding of the multiple dimensions involved in the care process of human living, so on unexplored.<sup>3</sup> Contributing to the construction of a know-how in Nursing.

Doctoral theses defended in the Graduate Programs in Nursing, Brazil, indicate a paradigm shift in the process of knowledge construction, showing a direction for studies with a qualitative approach. In these, we highlight the phenomenological-hermeneutic, ethnographic, J. res.: fundam. care. online 2013. out./dez. 5(4):652-60

historical and social, seeking understanding of social and existential phenomena that permeate the practice of nursing<sup>10</sup>. It can be inferred that this movement of post-graduate studies in Brazilian nursing has open field for research in light of the Alfred Schütz.

The origin of production suggests that the tendency to highlight the southeast is the merged regional PPG. Data reported in the document area in 2009 (for the triennium 2007-2009) published in 2010, the Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES), reveals that there are in Brazil, 35 courses Postgraduate Nursing . Despite the finding of the growth and strengthening of post-graduate national faces an important issue that deserves to be noted with respect to the asymmetric geographical distribution of postgraduate programs, which happens also in other areas , namely, a significant portion of these courses are concentrated in the Southeast, with small number of programs compared with the amount of undergraduate courses.<sup>11</sup>

The implementation of the post-graduate course in Nursing in the last 30 years shows a constant concern in the construction of knowledge in the evolutionary trajectory of the history of nursing.<sup>1</sup> This concern also reflects the commitment of / the nurses / them in developing their academic production to meet the challenges posed by changes in scientific, technological and political world contemporary.<sup>12</sup>

It has been in Brazil, 330 research groups registered in the Directory of Research Groups CNPq. Of these, it is worth noting that some discuss and develop research to apply the theoretical and methodological bases of comprehensive approach in Alfred Schütz, quote: Research Group on Nursing and the subjectivity of the woman who experiences the disease process, the School of Nursing and, Group Research and



Vieira LB, Schaurich D, Padoin SMM *et al.*

*Social phenomenology: analysis of...*

Population Health Nursing, School of Nursing Alfredo Pinto UNIRIO, these groups that leverage research in nursing in light of the Alfred Schütz. Highlights also include the School of Nursing Anna Nery of UFRJ (the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), a pioneer in post-graduate studies (master and doctorate), which emerged from 1972 and includes a significant number of productions with phenomenological approach Schütz.<sup>13</sup>

In this study it appears that there is a prevalence of studies focusing on the area of health care. This finding converges with the academic nursing phenomenological approach, published in the period 1981 to 2002, totaling 87% focusing on the area of care and 13% the area of education. This points to a field construction of nursing knowledge and the themes around which it is structured and reflects the differences and contradictions of its historical process.<sup>9</sup>

The prevalence of research in the area maintains a continuing care for four decades, indicating, however, a change in perspective of issues relating to the objects of study, leading to the adoption of new research methods.<sup>10</sup>

Given the predominance of studies related to population of nurses, teachers and students, it can be inferred that there is a concern to privilege a listen and a look to the professional. So that nursing as a social practice of health care that deals directly with the human being and its complexity needs envision the practice of caregiver through research focused on sensitive listening, caring and welcoming, encouraging knowledge.<sup>14</sup>

The nursing care practice occurs in a social context, influenced and influencing people who integrate dynamic mode, namely, the client and nurses.<sup>15</sup> Thus, the central theme of the research that has as its nurses themselves / the seek to grasp the interrelationship between people, and focusing on structuring the understanding of the J. res.: fundam. care. online 2013. out./dez. 5(4):652-60

motives and actions with living that constitute the act of Nursing, in social relation nurse/client.

Respect to the other populations, it is noteworthy that in seeking actions (motives, designs, desires, possibilities) of a social group to social phenomenology subsidizes discussions and insights in various areas of nursing knowledge. For Alfred Schütz, the world of everyday life is where the man lies in its intersubjectivity with their peers, establishing social relations. According to him, the purpose of social science is to reveal the subjective meanings of the universe of social actors. Thus, this reference studies experienced by individuals in their daily lives, considering them as elements that act, interact and understand within the social world. This approach enables the unveiling of phenomena that are part of the process of nursing care, assisting in understanding various contexts that underlie the disease process.<sup>4</sup>

The concepts from the perspective of Social Phenomenology allow deeper issues experienced in the various life stages of social actors, consistent with the variety in populations of academic productions, namely: child, teen, woman, adults and seniors. This comprehensive approach proposes, from the experiences of these and previous experiences, understand the significance of the action expressed by their reasons for (subjective) and reasons why (objectives) of the subjects investigated. Allows point to the motivation for actors to act a certain way, inserted into your everyday world which establishes their social relations.<sup>4</sup>

In light of the standard of Schütz, the biographical situation of actors can influence the objective to be achieved and establishing relationships. In the apprehension of reason can grasp the meaning of his action and thus characterize the typical action of a particular social group. Thus, from the typical action, as a

Vieira LB, Schaurich D, Padoin SMM *et al.*

*Social phenomenology: analysis of...*

perspective for nursing, broadens the understanding of the health professional, who can best direct their health, from the subjectivity of the subjects investigated.

It has also a pertinent discussion on a quantitative expressive of academic productions analyzed with respect to the thematic approach 'care needs' health supported the comprehensive approach of Schütz. In the field of thought of the person Schütz explains the intentionality of its action through *comunicação*.<sup>16</sup> This intentionality involves the expression of meanings that indicate perspectives, needs, demands and life projects. Thus, the Social Phenomenology assumes that in every action that the subject develops, there is a sense that intentionally seeks to meet your expectations, your needs.<sup>17</sup>

Seeks to rethink the nursing care provided to the population, rethink it not in terms of needs previously established as that of their daily lives, but concretely, those that emerge from the population itself. In this sense, the theoretical and methodological Schütz captures social reality and needs in the natural attitude, that is, by placing the care needs customer-centric subject, from his own, rather than a priori statements.<sup>18</sup>

By highlighting the issues of everyday life, open up possibilities for understanding the man set in his world of life and how this world of life contributes to highlight their felt needs. Thus, this phenomenological part of reality, ie, the experiences, seeking the essence of living, in order to improve the adequacy of health programs to meet the real needs of the population, from the people in their natural world and singular.<sup>18</sup>

Therefore, based on the principle that every practice should have as a theoretical guideline to support the practice of nurses in identifying needs to propose health promotion, prevention and health maintenance clientele sees the perspective of investigating the concept of J. res.: *fundam. care. online* 2013. out./dez. 5(4):652-60

need based practice of nurses to the population in care practice and care by the population group.<sup>19</sup>

## CONCLUSION

It is important the contribution of phenomenology in the production of nursing knowledge, so that we can see the growing academic production in light of the Alfred Schütz dated in the period between 2000 and 2010; in addition to emphasizing adherence to reference this area needs nursing care. It means such advancement in production as a consolidation of post-graduate training in Brazilian nursing human resources. What strengthens their specificities and diversities, as well as articulate and integrate knowledge with other sectors determinants of human life and health for better nursing care to citizens in their everyday world.

Points to greater academic production supported the comprehensive approach of Alfred Schütz axis Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, driven by the research groups of nursing UNIRIO, USP and UFRJ. A quantitative production still scarce in other regions of the country hinders the production of knowledge and knowing in nursing leading to professional development in order to strengthen science, technology and innovation. Understands how crucial the other areas of the country to strengthen and consolidate its production supported by an interdisciplinary, intersectoral and complexity, targeting a significant return to the social needs of the population as recommended by CAPES.

The research is a vital tool in the process of nursing care, establishing itself as a subsidy for the promotion of knowledge. Upon investigation, based on the approach of Social Phenomenology seeks to understand the meaning of experiences of human beings, requiring an attentive look, a listen and a real openness to the other individual. Such considerations evoke reflections on nursing care,

Vieira LB, Schaurich D, Padoin SMM *et al.*

*Social phenomenology: analysis of...*

how health professionals and nurses / researchers to / have been made available to the encounter with the other, if the communication at this meeting really effective and if we are open to the moment of empathy and subjectivity with / as / users of the health services.

The comprehensive look of the phenomenological approach enables a sharing of experiences and life, perceiving the other as a subject in its essence, life and relationships. Finally, understanding the other from the reference of Alfred Schütz, considering its human and social dimensions of life in the world, provides a key issue in nursing which is to think, design and act in the actions of care that meets the needs of its context experiential to meet the wishes of customers.

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Vieira LB, Schaurich D, Padoin SMM *et al.*

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