

Three Decades of Publication on Topics of Social Interest in PROSPECTIVA¹

Tres décadas de publicación en temas de interés social en PROSPECTIVA

María Teresa Rincón-Salazar²  

Master's degree in education. Social worker

Universidad del Valle. Cali, Colombia

maria.rincon@correounivalle.edu.co

PROSPECTIVA: JOURNAL OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL INTERVENTION is the academic publication of the School of Social Work and Human Development at the Universidad del Valle, Cali. They founded it in 1994 when they established the academic unit. Since its first appearance, it has published 36 issues and 419 articles covering a wide range of Social and Human Sciences topics, focusing on a diverse umbrella of the social question, including social issues, social policies, social intervention, social work, and professional training. The Journal has addressed various themes, including issues associated with the family, such as care, domestic violence, and grief; within the community sphere, such as local development and the environment; and issues related to the Colombian sociopolitical context, such as the armed conflict, victims, and peacebuilding. Numerous published articles have also explored human rights, gender equality, diversity, citizenship, democracy, mental health, and education. In recent years, among those newer editions, issues referring to care, peacebuilding, the systematization of experiences, and interculturality have had a significant focus. The Journal has also published monographic issues on social subjects, collective actions, and residential enclosures/confinement. Thus, PROSPECTIVA has been sharing knowledge relevant to and about social intervention for three decades.


¹ The text was published in La Palabra (2023), which takes up PROSPECTIVA on its 30th anniversary. As of October 2024, the Journal has published 38 articles and 444 articles.

² Editor of PROSPECTIVA during the period 2015 – 2023.

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 **Correspondence:** María Teresa Rincón-Salazar. Universidad del Valle. Cali, Colombia. Street 13 No. 100-00, Meléndez. Email: maria.rincon@correounivalle.edu.co

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Although it began as an academic journal, PROSPECTIVA has gradually configured itself as a selective, specialized, periodical, peer-reviewed scientific publication recognized in journal databases. In 2008, Publindex – the journal system of Colciencias, today the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology of Colombia – indexed it for the first time, granting public-state recognition for its quality. In 2013, the Journal became available online through the Open Journal System (OJS), enabling global dissemination and starting the process of indexing in international databases, publication listings, and international institutional repositories, such as Fuente Académica, Informe Académico, and Directorio Latindex. In 2016, the purpose of sharing research results and disciplinary reflections more efficiently, along with an increased number of articles, led to the change from the annual periodicity to the biannual periodicity, adjusted to the school calendar (January-June; July-December), which increased the number of articles published per year. Also, the editorial team redefined the thematic field of the publication and focused it on Social Work and social intervention, reflecting this change in its title. The criteria for selecting articles were updated, recognizing the scientific nature of the publication and its commitment to disseminating research results from different epistemological positions and methodological strategies.

In line with *Open Science* principles – such as accessibility, coverage, immediacy, free of charge, and reducing environmental impact – PROSPECTIVA transitioned to a fully electronic format in 2020, making it freely available to readers and authors. Since then, the most significant change has been the continuous publication established in 2022, which allows each article to be published independently, responding more quickly to the demand for new knowledge and the dynamics of research processes.

In the history of PROSPECTIVA, those who have directed the School of Social Work have been protagonists, either by directing the Journal or supporting its publication through the Journal Committee. Since 2016, the chief editors and the editorial assistant have overseen its direction. Professionals from different disciplines linked to prestigious universities in different countries have supported the Journal as an Editorial Committee in the national and international scientific fields. Teachers from the School have participated in the support unit for editorial processes as members of the Work Team. Along with student monitors from the Social Work Program who assisted in managing daily tasks on the editorial platform. In the final phase of the editorial process, the contribution of proofreaders and translators has been significant.

Furthermore, in anonymity, in these 29 years of editorial work, those who have jointly served as evaluators of the articles have also been protagonists, collaborating in selecting the best texts and contributing with their recommendations to raise the quality of the publication. Finally, the great protagonists have been the authors, who, with their generosity and trust, have placed their intellectual production in our hands. To all of them, our gratitude. It is fair to recognize the Editorial Program of the Universidad del Valle, mostly of journal editors, who have guided and



contributed to editorial qualification and indexing processes from their careers and expertise. Likewise, to the graphic arts unit of the Faculty of Humanities for 25 years of printed publication.

Today, we can affirm that the Journal has been fulfilling the purpose expressed by its founder, professor Víctor Mario Estrada, on the first editorial page: "to continuously and systematically collect the best intellectual production of professors, postgraduate students, social work professionals, and other Social Science professionals at regional, national, and international levels" contributing to the construction of a more just, equitable, and inclusive world. We can proudly say that PROSPECTIVA is a channel that aims to disseminate research production at the national and international level that "represents state of the art and the accumulation of the corpus of knowledge" in the disciplinary field. Through it, the Academic Unit contributes to the disciplinary strengthening of Social Work and developing the interdisciplinary thematic field of social intervention. Its rigorous editorial process has made it a trusted resource for readers and authors interested in globally sharing their research. Although the publication includes articles of institutional production, it privileges exogenous production, creating space for authorships from different Ibero-American countries. This focus has earned recognition as a scientific journal with a disciplinary emphasis on Social Work and broad international dissemination. This is reflected in how it permanently receives articles from countries such as Spain, Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Its readers span both Colombia and various countries in Latin America, as well as the United States, France, and Portugal.

PROSPECTIVA now positions itself as an open-access, plural publication, continuously edited and funded by Universidad del Valle. In addition, databases of highly recognized journals such as Redalyc, Dialnet, and Scielo index it. According to the metrics of Publindex and other databases, its national and regional leadership is visible among serial publications in the same thematic field; according to Web of Science, it ranks second in impact factor among Social Work journals published in Spanish (Zurita-Castillo, 2023).

Among the current challenges is expanding the dissemination of knowledge produced from the territorial and social South. One strategy is indexing in Scopus – a prestigious international database of journals of high scientific quality – by publishing all articles in Spanish and English. Other challenges include building networks of researchers on relevant topics, promoting interinstitutional and international collaboration, and continuing to publish research linked to participatory processes.

In Colombia, a significant difficulty is the high demands of the Publindex National Indexing System, an entity that, although it offers training courses for editors, does not effectively support editorial quality processes and reduces the possibility of moving up in indexing with its requirements. Despite these challenges, the School of Social Work remains committed to PROSPECTIVA, aiming to produce and share socially relevant knowledge with high ethical standards, supporting disciplinary and interdisciplinary intervention processes for social change.



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Ethical statement

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Zurita-Castillo, R. (2023, del 8 al 10 noviembre). Debates disciplinares del Trabajo Social en habla hispana: aproximaciones bibliométricas a la literatura científica del Trabajo Social en Web of Science [Presentación de ponencia]. *Primer Congreso Nacional e Internacional: escenarios emergentes en el Trabajo Social Latinoamericano; dilemas y nuevos desafíos*, Santiago, Chile.

