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## The Current State of Political Research Relationship of The Object of Study and The Research Method

William Rodriguez<sup>1</sup>, Alipio Orco<sup>2</sup>, Willie Alvarez<sup>3</sup>, Carlos Coacalla<sup>4</sup>, Cesar Cuentas<sup>5</sup>, Rafael Urrutia<sup>6</sup>, Hector Marcilla<sup>7</sup>, Jenny Rios<sup>8</sup>

### Abstract

*Political Science until today, did not manage to specify its own methodology but, it has adapted to a model of methodology of the social sciences, then it failed to establish its own identity as a science, since the world of research today was reduced to simple research techniques and statistical procedures and as Sartori would say "we have a depressing science and therefore lacks a logical method". Nowadays, universities reached the absurdity of accepting a research project at different educational levels such as undergraduate and graduate only when they are based on research techniques and statistical procedures and therefore only quantitative analysis of the object of study (reality) can be carried out, at the same time there are arguments that what cannot be quantified is irrelevant, and numerology is worshipped and that the governments of turn are full of this type of professionals, according to Cecilia Rocha (2013), political science is Americanized, for the following reasons, the most relevant issues that are discussed within political science, are linked to political parties and elections, in the same way the number of theorists that generate literature on the aforementioned topics and that is most frequently chosen in The neo-institutionalist approach to rational choice, but more importantly on the prevalence of quantitative over qualitative studies in most journals.*

**Keywords:** Political Science, theoretical framework, logical method.

### Introduction

The theoretical framework, called by many authors as the literature review and which is a process and product; Process because it is immersed in the knowledge already existing and that are available and that has to be linked to our object of study and the problem statement: product because in turn it is part of a larger product, however the definition given are very basic since you could see a

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<sup>1</sup> Universidad Nacional Micaela Bastidas de Apurímac, wrodriguez@@unamba.edu.pe, Abancay, Perú

<sup>2</sup> Universidad Nacional Micaela Bastidas de Apurímac, aorco@unamba.edu.pe, Abancay, Perú

<sup>3</sup> Universidad Nacional Micaela Bastidas de Apurímac, walvarez@unamba.edu.pe, Abancay, Perú

<sup>4</sup> Universidad Nacional Micaela Bastidas de Apurímac, ccoacalla@unamba.edu.pe, Abancay, Perú

<sup>5</sup> Universidad Nacional Micaela Bastidas de Apurímac, ccuentas@unamba.edu.pe, Abancay, Perú

<sup>6</sup> Universidad Nacional Micaela Bastidas de Apurímac, rurrutia@unamba.edu.pe, Abancay, Perú

<sup>7</sup> Universidad Nacional Micaela Bastidas de Apurímac, vmarcilla@unamba.edu.pe, Abancay, Perú

<sup>8</sup> Universidad Nacional Micaela Bastidas de Apurímac, jrios@unamba.edu.pe, Abancay, Perú

**Corresponding author: William Rodriguez** (wrodriguez@@unamba.edu.pe)

lot of literature that deals with the object of study or that are related to the statement of the problem (Dalle, 2004)

The fact of selecting theories and concepts implies that we must produce new scientific knowledge, and therefore we must live up to current theoretical knowledge. Since the great discoveries (paradigms) are based on existing theories. Also the set of ideas, concepts, antecedents and theories that are considered as a theoretical framework and these allow to sustain the research and understand the perspective or approaches from which the researcher starts, and through which their results are interpreted, but the most important thing is that it is recommended to cite researchers canons of political science. The theoretical framework is not organized as a set of static definitions or concepts, rather it is the development and the integral and coherent exposition of the knowledge that one has about the subject studied and that is not a constant truth. However, in Political Science there are approaches to conducting certain research, which should be used within all research in Political Science. (Losada Lora & Casas Casas, 2008)

<b>APPROACHES THAT PRIVILEGE THE INTERIOR OF THE HUMAN BEING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Psychosocial Approach</li> <li>▪ Rational choice approach</li> <li>▪ Game theory approach</li> <li>▪ Decision-making approach</li> <li>▪ Ideational Approach</li> <li>▪ Philosophical Approach</li> </ul>
<b>APPROACHES THAT PRIVILEGE THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Historical-sociological approach</li> <li>▪ Political Micro-Sociology Approach.</li> </ul>
<b>PRIVILEGED APPROACHES THE INSTITUTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legal-Institutional Approach</li> <li>▪ Functionalist Approach</li> <li>▪ Neo-institutionalist approach</li> </ul>
<b>APPROACHES THAT PRIVILEGE THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Constructivist Approach</li> <li>▪ Culturalist Approach</li> <li>▪ Feminist Approach</li> </ul>
<b>APPROACHES THAT PRIVILEGE THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Structuralist approach</li> <li>▪ Systems Approach</li> <li>▪ Structural-functionalist approach</li> <li>▪ The Biopolitical Approach</li> </ul>
<b>CRITICAL MACROMOLD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Marxist Approach</li> <li>▪ Contemporary Critical Approaches</li> </ul>

**Source:** Adapted from the book "Approaches to political analysis", Rodrigo Lozada and Andrés, Casas Casas (2008); Page 75

In summary, it can be said that these are the main approaches to political research, however, there

are other approaches that by themselves are taking center stage in our days, we refer to the discourse analysis approach: This is one of the approaches of political research and whose object of research is language.

When talking about discourse, reference is made to the practice of speaking and writing, therefore, it is the interrelation of texts, practices and conversations associated with a particular object.

It should be clarified that we do not describe all the approaches that could be useful for research in Political Science, however the aforementioned approaches and those that we ignore in this work have their own objects of study, and clear their own nature of the theory that supports it and that could be normative, evaluative, prescriptive, empirical, causal, by having their own objects they manage to have their own methodological orientations that could be relativistic, deductive and inductive reasoning, predictive and even analytical deductivist, a clear example, is the discourse analysis approach where its object of study is to explain how discourses are structured of meaning and enable certain actions, As they are produced, function and change, therefore the nature of theory is empiricist while its methodological orientation is relativistic, because it blurs the distinction between the sphere of ideas and real objects, considering that all objects and practices have meaning only as part of a certain discourse.

The Political Science approaches outlined above give rise to a wide range of theories; Political Science, like any other discipline of knowledge (according to **UNESCO code No. 5900**), cannot be based solely on observation. (March & Stoker, 1995)

## FUNCTIONS OF THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework is an important part of the research work, therefore it has functions and are:

FUNCTION	OBJECT
SEARCH	It allows to decide on the data to capture and the most appropriate information collection techniques
ORDER	Provides a system for classifying collected data
APPROACH	It guides the researcher in the description of the observed reality and its analysis.
UNDERSTANDING	It exercises the researcher's capacity in the synthesis and understanding of texts.
LANGUAGE	It makes the technical language used more homogeneous, unifies the criteria and concepts

**Source:** adapted from the article "The construction of the theoretical framework in educational research. Notes for its methodological orientation in the thesis"; Raúl Gómez García (2010)

**STATE OF THE ART**

One of the stages, with the same importance as all and which consists of the review of research documents; The elaboration of the state of the question requires the review of the specialized literature on the subject (theoretical and conceptual material) available on the research problem that concerns us and the most correctly and coincidentally with most writers, theorists and methodologists is that I recommend reading specialized journals on the subject to be treated, naturally it is feasible that this section can be built according to a certain theory, approach or theoretical current (Villagran & Harris, 2009)

The state of question or better known as consensus about some topic, specifically in research serves to explain the problem, guide the research and provide the theoretical elements for the construction of the hypothesis. As for the classification of the documentation, this can be in chronological order (oldest to recent) or also in thematic order.

But all this is usually done according to the research "scheme" of each university, or research center. (Corella, 2013)

**PHASES OF THE STATE OF THE ART/ISSUE**

<b>HEURISTIC PHASE</b>	<b>HERMENEUTIC PHASE</b>
<p>We proceed to the search and compilation of sources of information that can be of many characteristics and different nature.</p>	<p><b>SOURCES:</b></p>
<p><b>Main sources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indexed specialized journals (I recommend reviewing recent scientific articles).</li> <li>• Research Thesis: (I recommend reviewing recent theses). focus on reviewing the introduction, methodology and conclusions</li> </ul>	<p>During this phase each of the sources investigated will be read, analyzed, interpreted and classified according to their importance within the research work. From there, the fundamental points will be selected and the instrument or instruments designed by the researcher to systematize the bibliographic information collected, for example, in a content sheet or a matrix for the concepts will be indicated.</p>
<p><b>SECONDARY SOURCES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books, official, private, legal documents.</li> <li>• Internet, filming, recordings, multimedia, etc.</li> </ul>	

**Note.** Adapted from the research paper "State of the art" (heuristic phase), Ramos Pistamaro, Francesca; Rodriguez, Ronal F; Ramirez Aragón, Mauricio (2009)

**ELEMENTS OF THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

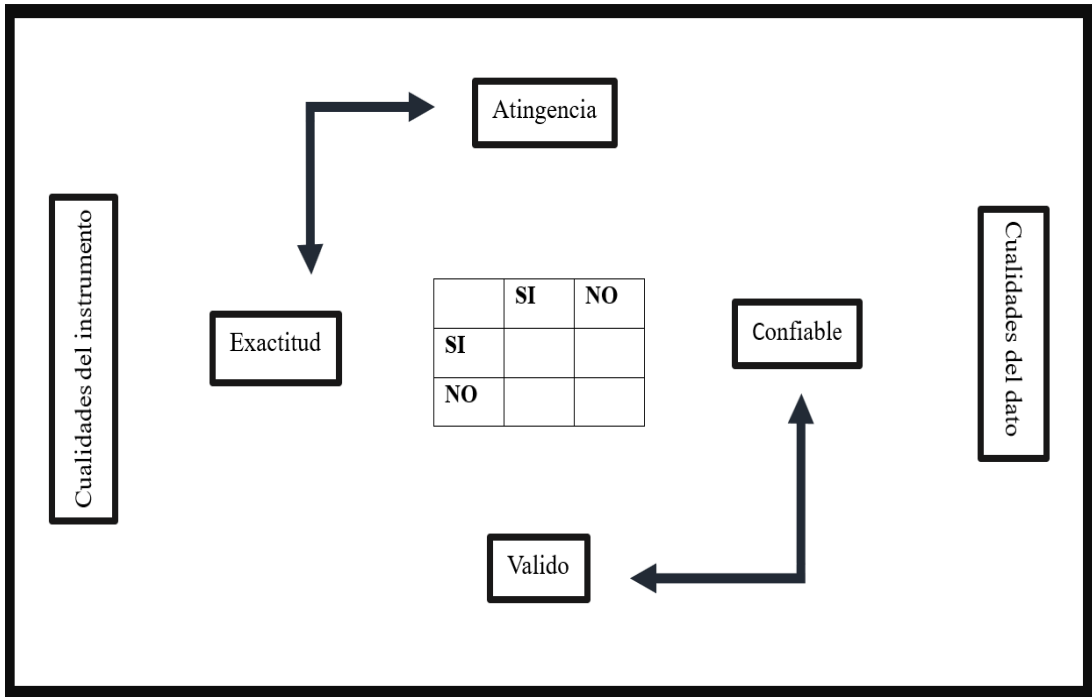
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the student selects his research topic/phenomenon, he delimits the phase or time of the phenomenon that interests him.</li> <li>In the construction of the theoretical framework you have to choose between the various existing theoretical approaches that would attribute to the object of study, and the most recommended 2 or 3 approaches. These theories that the researcher chooses is according to his own judgment since it will depend on whether they have greater explanatory force and with them the theoretical framework is built.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the collection, systematization and exposition of the fundamental concepts for the development of an investigation.</li> <li>The conceptual framework allows, on the one hand, to guide the researcher's searches and identify the necessary methodology. On the other hand, it allows to establish a minimum consensus between the researcher and the reader regarding the language and the concepts handled.</li> </ul>
EXAMPLE	EXAMPLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the time of the phenomenon that we are interested in studying is in the year 2020 and is defined in the problem statement (temporal delimitation) Heinz Dieterich (2008). All the events of the pre-2020 phenomenon belong to the historical framework.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the phenomenon to be treated would be about the political culture (variable) then we would have to simplify this variable by taking out its dimensions that in this case would be the political orientations and this with its indicators which would be Cognitive Orientation, Affective Orientation Evaluative Orientation, the latter we would have to conceptualize, theorize within our research .</li> </ul>
FUNCTION	FUNCTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delimits the time of the study of the phenomenon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orient research and help identify gaps in previous theories</li> </ul>

**Source:** Adapted from the book "New Guide to Scientific Research; Heinz Dieterich; (2008, p. 53)

### CONTRASTING THE THEORY

Hypothesis testing are models used in statistical inference whose objective is to check if an estimate adapts to population values. In less abstract words, the aim of hypothesis testing methods is to check whether an estimate adapts to reality in a 'reliable' way.

### QUALITY OF INSTRUMENT AND DATA



Source: Authors.

From the previous table we can say if an instrument is accurate the data will be valid and if an instrument is accurate the data will be reliable and when we talk about the qualities of the data it is as follows, if the data are reliable the instruments will be accurate and if a data is valid the instruments will be atingentes

We have two basic ways of contrasting theories: experimentation and observation. Observational contrasts come in two variants: large *n* and case studies. Thus, in total, we have a universe of three basic methods of contrast: experimentation, observation through large *n* analysis and *observation* through case study analysis. (Evera, 1999)

- **Experimentation.** A researcher infers predictions from a theory. It then exposes only one of two equivalent groups to a stimulus. So we must ask whether the results are congruent or inconsistent with the predictions? Well, we must clarify that a congruence between prediction and result corroborates the theory, an incongruity weakens it.

In experimental research, the researcher manipulates one or more study variables to control the increase or decrease of these variables and their effect on the observed behaviors (Murillo, 2016)

- **Observation.** A researcher infers predictions from a theory. It then passively observes the data without imposing an external stimulus on the situation and asks whether the observations are consistent with the predictions. Predictions make observations that we hope to make if our

theory is valid. They also define expectations about the incidence, sequence, location and structure of phenomena. (Droguett, 2009)

According to Bunge (2004): observation as it is a scientific procedure is characterized by being: **Intentional**: because it places the goals and objectives that human beings propose in relation to the facts, to subject them to a teleological perspective.

- **Enlightened**: because any observation to be such is within a body of knowledge that allows it to be such; it is only observed from a theoretical perspective.
- **Selective**: because we need at every step to discriminate what we are interested in knowing and separate it from the accumulation of sensations that invades us at every moment.

## Conclusion

The determination of its object of study by any discipline is decisive to achieve its own identity, so that Political Science will not have its own (particular) research method as long as it does not determine precisely what its object of study is, since this has been discussed for many years and obviously the general aspects of the theoretical framework are formulated from the normal theory and it gives us The scientific field where our research is located and after that, the concepts (conceptual framework) or protocol definitions emerge. The theoretical framework defines the variables to be studied, specifies the relationships that exist between them and establishes the hierarchy according to their influence on the whole of the phenomenon studied, as well as all research work must be framed in some approach and / or theory where it can be sustained and all the content of said research (problem statement, objectives, hypotheses, etc.)



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