



## Identity of Psychology: First Results of Systematic Review

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### Abstract

The thinking about the Psychology Identity is the background of this study, that helps to the answer of this question: Which is the exclusive aim of the psychology intervention, that changes into singular when compared with any other profession or intervention? This statement, first research process stage more plural, disclose the process and the first products of a qualitative systematic literature review, grounded, explaining and describing all stages of the data collection and the synthesis. It is expose the first results obtained after the review of 202 studies, based on the qualification categories: published date, document typology, editor nationality, methodologic perspective, research method, sample size, publication impact factor and the citations quantity in the primary study.

**Keywords:** Psychology Identity, Roadmap, Systematic Review

### Introduction

This research was developed from questions and thinking about the intervention paper recognizing of the psychological intervention in the nowadays societies. Considering the importance, the great psychological science development and the emergency of the activities associated in the same, it's urgent the delimitation of a professional identity of this class, as well as their action area. As there is a growing of the relevance of the understanding of the psychologist and the psychologic intervention.

Considering the major mediatisation of the activities in the titled field of parapsychology, frequently as a try of logical association and the wanted psychological science, being more and more urgent a profession identification, being clear their proceedings and the objectives, avoiding confusion by the general public (Costa-Lobo et al. 2017; Ricou, 2014). These considerations take us to the thinking about the psychologist professional identity in the actuality and, consequently, about the identity of the psychology. The professional identity is an important cognitive mechanism that affects the attitudes, the emotions and the behavior of the professionals in their workplaces. So, understand as the professionals think about themselves have been the focus of different past researchs (e.g., Ashforth, Kreiner, Clark, & Fugate, 2007; Ibarra, 1999; Kreiner, Ashforth, & Sluss, 2006; Kreiner, Hollensbe, & Sheep, 2006; Pratt, Rockmann, & Kaufmann, 2006).

The analysis of the main theorists of the professional identity allows recognize that this identity is defined as an professional auto-concept based on the attributes, in the values, in the motivations and in the people experiences (Ibarra, 1999; Schein, 1978). According to the review made by Valle (1997), the profession exercise assumes the domain of the disciplinary theoretical body and the acquisition of the technical and professional competences, directly related with the professional practice in a certain society. So, both presented as necessary to achieve the professional authority.

So, seems to be acceptable, according the Wenger (2001) research, state that professional identity is faced as the conscience and the evaluated significance that the person presents in the membership, involving a set of cultural rages interiorized, namely the elaborated significances that put in action the person daily where there is a permanent



participation in the future construction. This way, according with Dubar (2002), the professional identity is defined as a social category that can be part of the person. So, the professional identity, faced as a subjective construction, embody the personal compromise, the believes and the values associated to the profession, defined culturally (Lasky, 2005). In conclusion, the main literature assumes that professional identity changes according with the importance given to their profession in their auto-concept and, to quantify this importance, there is a possible help in the understanding of the individual attitudes and in their labor behaviors.

The present research aims to obtain the answer to the central question – Which is the exclusive objective of the psychological intervention, that be singular when compared with any other profession or intervention? This aims to achieve the following secondary objectives: study how the psychologists define themselves; how these are defined by the other professionals and by the general public; identify which are the difficulties of the psychologists in their professional tasks and identify how the psychologists understand and describe their functions.

## **Method**

### **Research Design**

The present research concludes a synthesis of the scientific production in the sub-domain of the psychology. So, it's defined as the objective to elaborate a literature systematic qualitative review aiming to collect and synthesize relevant information.

The definition of literature systematic qualitative review to this work in course was “A literature systematic qualitative review is the process to collect data, know, understand, analyze, synthesize and evaluate the group of scientific articles with the aim to create a art state about certain topic of research” (Levy & Ellis, 2006). This way, the literature systematic qualitative review is within the review studies, especially in the evaluation and synthesis category (Depaepe, Verschaffel, & Kelchtermans, 2013) and makes the difference through the formulation of the research question, definition of critical diagnostic strategies and exigence in the transparency to define the inclusion criteria and studies of exclusion (Davies, 2007). Literature systematic qualitative review groups the study's results, considering the proximities and the differences existent between the research growing the possibilities of interpretation, constructing and reconstructing the readings (Galvão, Sawada, & Trevisan, 2004; Hoefelmann, Santos, & Moretti-Pires, 2012) ensuring the descriptive validity, concerning the relevant studies identification, the interpretative validity concerning the correspondence between the synthesis made by the reviewers and the study matter, the theoretical validity, concerning the credibility methods developed, the pragmatic validity, concerning the utility, the applicability and to the transparence of the knowledge generated to the practice (De-la-Torre-Ugarte-Guanilo, Takahashi, & Bertolozzi, 2011).

### **Method: Selected Data Sources**

The data composing the present literature systematic qualitative review were extracted from the database of the bibliography references, the database of the periodical publications, the database of the thesis and dissertations and the online library of the knowledge. In the database of the bibliography references it's included the *Web of Science* and *ELSEVIER Scopus*; in the database of the periodical publications it's included *Scientific Electronic Library Online – SciELO*, the *American Psychological Association PsycNet – APA PsycNet* and the *Newspapers in Psychology - Pepsic*; in the thesis and dissertations database it's included the *CAPEs*; and the online library of the knowledge - *b-on*. Facing the specificity of the selected sources of the data, it was decided to start the process of the “advanced research” in order to be possible to be delimited the best possible way the study object, without changing the sense and the defined the presupposes.

The inclusion criteria of the present research were the follow: published between 2007 and 2017; published in English, Portuguese and Spanish; indexed in database: *Web of Science*, *ELSEVIER Scopus*, *SciELO*, *APA PsycNet*,



*Pepsic*, *CAPES* and *b-on*. The exclusion criteria was the topic of the work context doesn't be connected with the Psychology Identity.

### **Method: Materials**

After exporting the studies of the different databases, assumed as parts of the present research, it was made the adjustment to the results through the software of the management of the bibliography references *Medley Desktop*. So, the results were consolidated in a single list, being excluded the double situations. After words, it was made the redefinition of the studies and it was made the appointments in the free space given by the software what allows organize the presented approaches presented to each study to posterior critical analysis.

The *Mendeley Desktop* selection allowed the automatic insertion of the bibliographic data from the documents in PDF format, the categorization and extraction of the references, the bibliography management according to the specific styles to publish and the share of the results with the other project researchers. In the next stage, after the extensive and intensive reading of the obtained studies, these were imported to the database of the software and qualitative data analyze *NVivo11*, as internal sources. The *NVivo11* is considered as a helpful instrument in the qualitative analysis, as the content study and the speech, as well as gives instruments to categorize the data, make notes, etc. (Lage, 2011). Nowadays there is a variety of the support varieties to the qualitative analyze. It was chosed the *NVivo11*, as it is an instrument to help the qualitative analyze of the data recognized in the scientific community, allowing importing, analyze and export the data obtained from the studies. So, this software supported the understanding and analysis, demonstrating their flexibility to follow all reformulations occurred during the process.

### **Method: Proceedings**

The main point of the research was constructed in a clear and detailed way in accordance to all researchers. This way, the study aims to reply to the main research answer, Which are the exclusive objective of the psychological intervention that changes singular when compared to any other profession or intervention? In the aims definition, those to the literature systematic qualitative review were according to the project. So, with th methodology assumed was intention to achieve the following secondary objectives: analyze how the psychologists define themselves; how these are defined by the other professional and by the general public; identify which are the difficulties that psychologists have in their professional tasks; and identify how psychologists understand and describe their functions.

In the identification of the primary sources – that were articles and chapters published in the database of the bibliography references, in the database of periodic publications, in the database of the thesis and dissertations and in the *B-on*. In the strings of the research construction, it was followed the definition process – the test and the adaptation. It was necessary testing the combination of the terms referents to the research theme, as well as the way of operators *booleanos*, *and*, *or*, *not*, have been used. So, the research strings elaborated were the “identity *and* psychology”; identity *and* psychologists paper *or* psychologist functions”; “identity *and* dilemas *and* psychology”. Consequently, it was made the translation and the reverse translation of the research *strings* selected to English and Spanish. The reverse translation is concerned to the translation of the research *strings* that were already translated in the language in the original language. The objective of this translation was evaluate in which measure the translated version to English and to Spanish was in accordance to the linguistic coherence to original language. In the criteria definition of the inclusion and exclusion, having in consideration the selected objectives, were selected to the present research in the following inclusion criteria: published works between 2007 and 2017; published works in English, Portuguese and Spanish; and indexed in the database: *Web of Science*, *ELSEVIER Scopus*, *Scielo*, *APA PsycNet*, *Pepsic*, *CAPES* and *b-on*. The exclusion criteria was the following: the topic and context of the work don't take us to the identity of psychology. In the qualification of the categories it was signalized and systematized the characteristics distinctive of the articles and the chapters included in the literature systematic review. The categories



of the qualifications profitable were: the indexed sources, the work date, the document of the publication, the perspective methodologic used, the perspective methodological used, the research methodology adopted, the citations quantity that primary study obtained, the sample size. Concerning the indexed sources capitalized: *Web of Science*, *ELSEVIER SCOPUS*, *Scielo*, *APA PsycNet*, *Pepsic*, *CAPES* and *b-on*. Concerning the work date, it was included published works from 2007 and 2017, having been achieved the research inclusion criteria. About the selected publication documents, the typology of the articles, it is related exclusively the magazines and the scientific events abstract books. concerning the used methodology, there were the following categories: quantitative, qualitative and mixt.

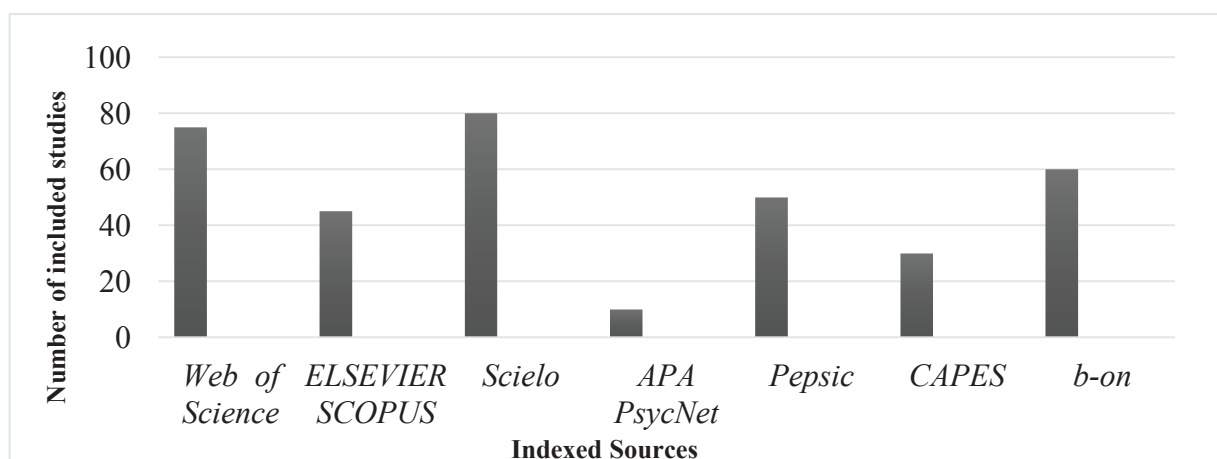
The systematization of the research methods adopted implied the used technics of the data collect, having emerged, the following categories: documental analysis, descriptive, exploratory, field research and experimental. In the definition of the method and instruments, the research method was defined as interactive, allowing refine the research. On the other hand, the instruments definition, it was opted by the software of management of bibliographic references *Mendeley Desktop* by the software of qualitative data analysis of qualitative data *NVivo11*. In the schedule construction, having in mind the defined objectives, it was avoided that literature systematic review should have the duration between 10 to 12 mouths, since the planning to their conclusion.

In the reading and analysis was realized the lecture of the primary studies and these were submitted to 3 filters of reading. The first filter of reading corresponds to the title and to the summary and to the keywords. In the circumstances, there was doubt concerning the studies, submitting these studies to the second filter. This reading filter included the introduction and the studies, to the following parameter was already analyzed in the first filter. The studies that don't attend the research objectives and the inclusion criteria were excluded in this stage. The third stage applied when the second was not enough, corresponds to the integral lecture of the studies. From this reading result the studies attending to the inclusion criteria defined initially what allowed to their inclusion in this literature systematic review. In the catalogation and storage the studies were included in the bibliograpy references management *Mendeley Desktop* and in the software of analysis qualitative *NVivo11*. In the bibliometric analysis of the studies, were evaluated scientific impact factors of the works and the sources impact indicators selected. Finally, in the synthesis and results stage, it was made the elaboration a critical synthesis of the bibliography studied, based on the qualification categories, specially, the publication work date, the typology of the document of the publication, the editor nationality, the methodologic perspective used, the adopted research method, the sample size, the magazine impact factor that are indexed in the *Web of Science*, in the *ELSEVIER Scopus* and indexed in *CAPES* as the citations quantity of the primary study.

## Findings

The research developed in the different indexed sourced, according to the inclusion requirements, criteria referenced before, signalized a total of 350 studies, being 75 indexed by *Web of Science*, 45 by *Pepsic*, 30 indexed by *CAPES* and 60 indexed by *b-on* (cf. Figure 1).

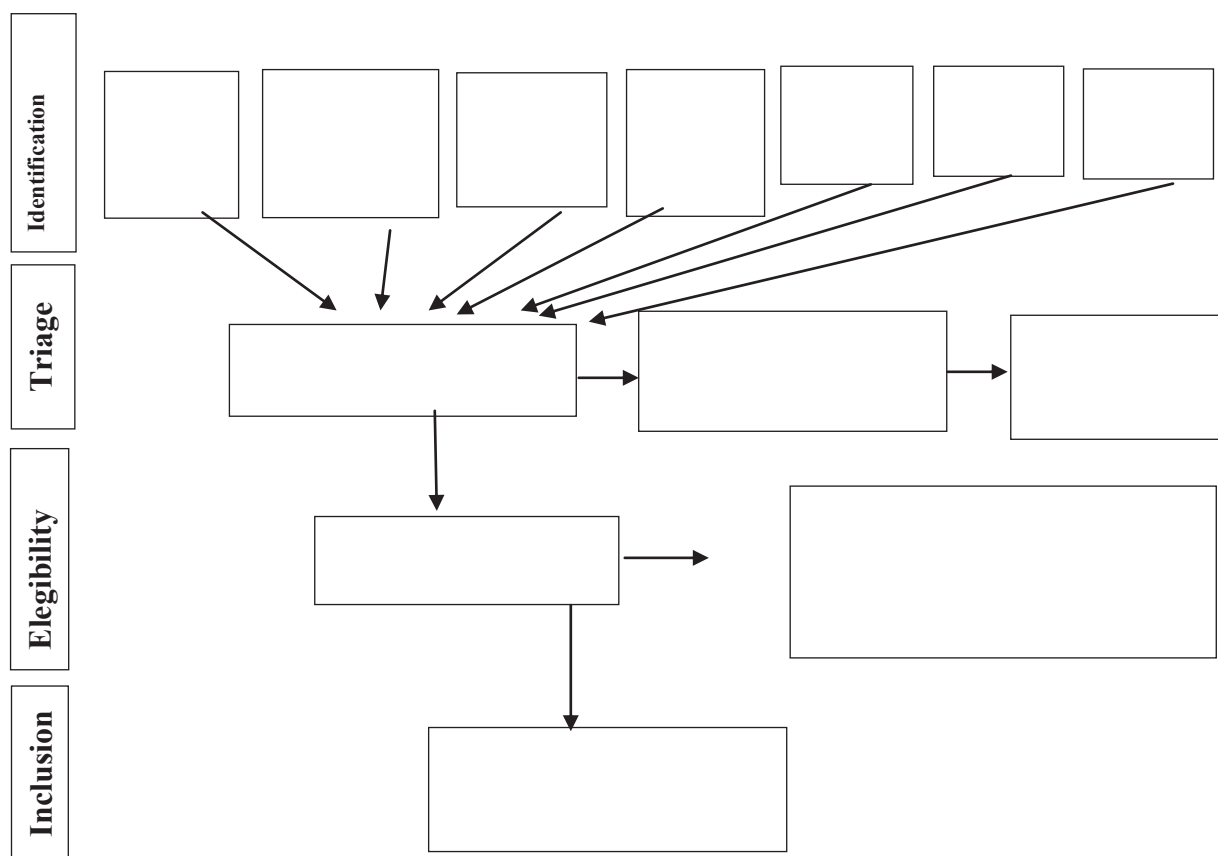
Figure 1. Number of studies included by indexed sources.





After the studies being submitted to the three filters of lecture defined before, excluded 120 studies, being selected 230 studies concerning the inclusion and the exclusion standard by the present literature qualitative systematic review. Within 230 studies, it were excluded 28 as they presented as doubled in several sources of the considered indexation. This means that 202 studies presented as being full papers accessed and eligible to the present research literature qualitative systematic review, where 37 indexed in *Web of Science*, 20 were indexed in the *ELSEVIER SCOPUS*, 66 were indexed in *Scielo*, five are indexed in *APA PsycNet*, 34 are indexed in *Pepsic*, 8 are indexed in *CAPES* and 32 are indexed in *b-on*.

Figure 2. Studies selection scheme to the literature systematic review



Afterword's it was made a critical synthesis of the bibliography selected based on the categories of qualification, namely: the work published date, the published document typology, the editorial nationality, the used methodology perspective, the adopted research method, the sample size, the Web of Science indexed magazine impact factor, ELSEVIER Scopus magazine impact factor and the CAPES impact factor, as the citations quantity that the primary study obtained.

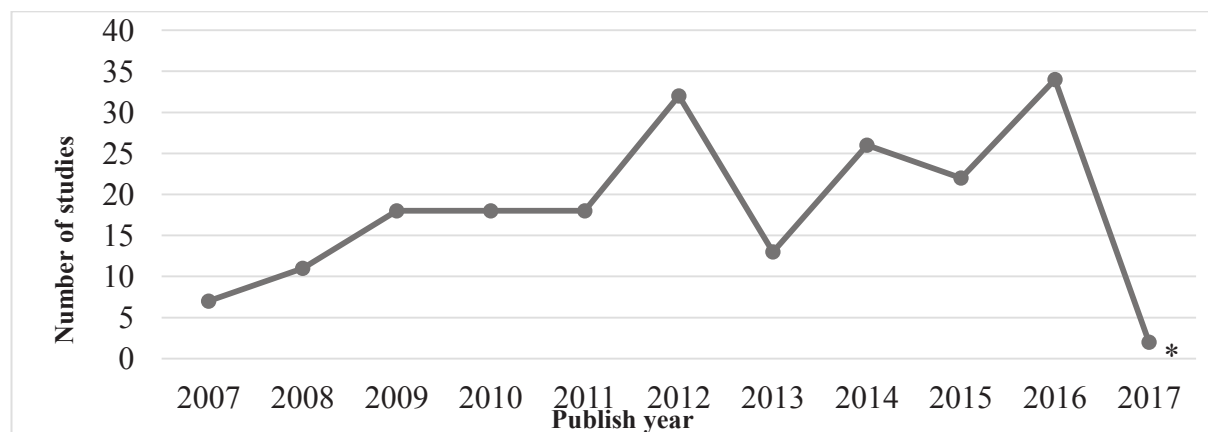
Concerning the work published date and, considering the defined inclusion criteria, it was considered the studies after 2007 year. This way, it was possible to state that the number of the publications was not following the linear standard all over the years.

It was important to evidence that on the last 5 years there was a significant growing of the publications number, comparing the period of 2007 and 2012. So, let's concentrate the attention to the element of obtaining the major number of annual publications about the theme "psychology identity" in 2016 and 2017, the lower number of the



publications. However, the fact that in 2017 being considered the year when there was a lower number of the publications cannot be considered as an full pointer of the productivity in this year, as the both data are related with the obtained information in the first semester of this year. So, the complete year with a lower number of publications is the 2007, and the complete year with the higher number of publications is the 2016 year (cf. Figure 3).

Figure 3. Flouchart of the Studies Seleccion by Published year. \*Year in course.



Concerning the typology of the document of publication, the 202 studies analyzed were published exclusively in magazines and scientific events abstracts books. So, from the 202 studies 199 presented as publication document typology, scientific magazines, and three presented as publication document typology, scientific events abstract books. The 199 studies that presented as publication document typology, scientific magazines, were published in 116 journals, from 19 different nationalities. The nationality of the editorial more frequently Brazilian (n=41), the nationality of the editorials with immediately frequency to follow is American (n=34).

According to the used methodological perspective, it was possible identify three different perspectives, mixt (n=10), qualitative (n=154) e quantitative (n=38). This way, it's possible to state that 4.95% of the studies presented a mixt methodology, 76,24% a qualitative methodology and 18,81% a quantitative methodology. The 154 studies with qualitative methodology presented the research method, the documental analysis (n=104), descriptive (n=16), exploratory (n=7) e field research (n=27). On the other hand, the ten studies with mixt methodology, the research methods were the descriptive (n=2), exploratory (n=2) and field research (n=6).

In the same line, from the 38 studies with a quantitative methodology, the research methods were the documental analysis (n=2), descriptive (n=19), exploratory (n=12), field research (n=3) and experimental (n=2).

Concerning the sample size, it was possible to verify that 55,9% of the studies don't present the sample (n=113), 29,3% of the studies presents the inferior sample to 100 (n=59), 6,5% of the studies presents a superior sample to 100 and lower to 200 (n=13) and 8,5% presents a superior sample to 200 (n=17). Finally, it was considered the indexed factor magazine in *Web of Science*, *ELSEVIER Scopus* indexed magazines and *CAPES* indexed magazines. So, it was possible to verigy that *Web of Science*, the magazine with higher index *JCR* is the *Personality and Social Psychology Review* (JCR=7.571) as the scientific magazine that presents a lower impact factor is *Educational & Child Psychology* (JCR=0.204) (cf. Table 1).



**Table 1.** Number of the published studies by Magazine, with evaluation according to the JCR da Web of Science Index

Magazine/Book of records of scientific events	Number of Studies	Index JCR
<i>Advances in Health Sciences Education</i>	1	2,462
<i>American psychologist</i>	1	5,880
<i>British Journal of Guidance and Counselling</i>	1	0,530
<i>Canadian Journal of School Psychology</i>	1	1,020
<i>Counselling Psychology Quarterly</i>	6	0,690
<i>Educational &amp; Child Psychology</i>	1	0,204
<i>Educational Psychologist</i>	1	5,688
<i>European Journal of Psychology of Education</i>	1	1,008
<i>Industrial and Organizational Psychology</i>	1	1,080
<i>Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science</i>	1	1,088
<i>Journal Ethics &amp; Behavior</i>	1	0,897
<i>Journal Reflective Practice</i>	1	0,651
<i>Journal of Career Development</i>	1	1,036
<i>Journal of Humanistic Psychology</i>	1	0,622
<i>Journal of Medicine and Philosophy</i>	1	1,293
<i>Personality and Social Psychology Review</i>	1	7,571
<i>Proceedings of the 30th International Congress of Psychology</i>	1	1,276
<i>Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences</i>	10	0,400
<i>Psychotherapy research</i>	2	2,570
<i>Psicologia: teoria e prática</i>	1	0,098
<i>Review of European Studies</i>	1	0,460
<i>The Australian journal of rural health</i>	1	0,764
<i>The Counseling Psychologist</i>	4	1,167
<i>The Educational and Developmental Psychologist</i>	1	0,724
<i>The European Proceedings of Social and Behavioural Sciences EpSBS</i>	1	0,400

On the other hand, according to the indexed source *ELSEVIER Scopus*, the magazine that presents the higher impact factor is the *Counselling Psychology Review* (SJR=8,146), and the one that presents the lower impact factor is *Revista Iberoamericana de Educación Superior* (SJR=0,057). (cf. Table 2).



**Table 2.** Number of the Studies published by Magazine, with evaluation as the Index SJR of *ELSEVIER Scopus*

Review/Scientific events abstract books	Number of studies	Index SJR
<i>Canadian Journal of Counselling and Psychotherapy</i>	1	0,297
<i>Clínica y Salud</i>	1	0,150
<i>Counselling Psychology Review</i>	5	8,146
<i>Journal of interprofessional care</i>	1	1,645
<i>Medicina Paliativa</i>	1	0,144
<i>Psychology in the Schools</i>	1	1,035
<i>Revista Iberoamericana de Educación Superior</i>	1	0,057
<i>Sexuality and Disability</i>	1	0,771

Concerning the scientific production of Brazilian programs of post-graduation studies, there is a stratification of the quality of that production by the *Qualis*, system of the *CAPES* responsibility. The quality stratification of the production is signed by alphabetical indicators ordered corresponding to the classification in the A extract to the more quality publications. In this system the stratification of the production quality, the C letter corresponds to the indication of less quality. According to the last annual evaluation, the index magazines at *CAPES* selected to the present quality systematic review of literature, are classified exclusively in the extract A and B (cf. Table 3).

**Table 3.** Number of the Published Articles by Magazine with Evaluation according to *Qualis da CAPES*

Magazine (Qualis)	Number of Articles	Author (data)
<i>Estudios Pedagógicos</i> (B1)	1	Costa, C., Sanhueza, G., Barra, M., & Villalobos, C. (2012)
<i>Estudos e Pesquisas em Psicologia</i> (B1)	1	Trindade, M. & Serpa, M. (2013)
<i>Psico USF</i> (A2)	1	Oliveira, M., Pereira, R., Peixoto, A., Rocha, M., Oliveira-Monteiro, N., Macedo, M., & Silveiras, E. (2014)
<i>Psicologia: Ciência e Profissão</i> (A2)	3	Gauy, F., Fernandes, L., Silveiras, E., Marinho-Casanova, M., & Löhr, S. (2015); Mazer, S. & Melo-Silva, L. (2010); Sá, M. (2012)
<i>Psicologia em Estudo</i> (A2)	1	Bisinoto, C & Marinho-Araújo, C. (2011)
<i>Psicologia: Reflexão e Crítica</i> (A1)	1	Carvalho, R. (2008)

Finally, according to the last qualification categories consigned, the quality of citations that the primary study obtained was verified that the study that had the major number of citations was “*Narrative and the Cultural Psychology of Identity*”, with 359 citations. By other side, 61 studies didn’t have any citation, and between 70 and 358 citations were not identified any studies (cf. Table 4).



**Table 4.** Number of studies by quantity of the obtained citations

Citations Obtained Quantity	Number of the Studies
0	61
1 a 10	87
11 a 20	26
21 a 30	13
31 a 40	4
41 a 50	2
51 a 60	3
61 a 69	2
70 a 358	0
359	1

## Results, Conclusions and Recommendations

### Discussion

Due to the growing significance of the psychological professionals in the last years and due to the existent inconsistent in the professional identity in this class, it's essential the existence of the universal ethical principles that could be responsible by the professional regulation (Ricou, Sá, & Nunes, 2017). The present research had as objective to collect, organize and analyze the published studies in the last decade, studies connected with the psychology identity theme. The majority of the studies analyzed presents qualitative methodology. So, according with the different studies analyzed, the research method more used was the documental analysis. It's important to state that by the conceptual point of view, the central study object more represented in the studies group is the group of the intentions of those who practiced the psychological act. In the group of the 202 articles included in these first stages of the literature systematic review concerning the last decade, the main analysis, with great influence: (a) the ideas and the significances existing within the exclusivity of psychological intervention, (b) the assumed functions by the psychologists in their different contexts of the professional insertion, in the different stages of their careers, (c) the recognized role, by the psychologists and by all the professionals, to the psychological intervention and (d) the users perspective, and the citizens less directly involved in this process, face to the psychological intervention need. It was possible to obtain the main conclusions of the original studies, what will be helpful to identify the gaps existents in the literature. This way, it was possible to state that there was a significant growing of publications about the professional identity of the psychologists in the last 5 years. In this context, this work is in line with Ricou, Sá e Nunes (2017) opinion. In the next stage of this research will be identified the relationships, the contradictions, the gaps and the existents inconsistencies in the psychology identity studies. Being the identity a construct non-physical, it's possible to considerer essential the existence of a bigger number of studies around the psychologist identity, in particular in the discussion of the exclusivity of the psychological intervention, with the psychologists' perceptions.



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