

## ANÁLISE CONTEXTUAL DA TEORIA DAS REPRESENTAÇÕES SOCIAIS NA PERSPECTIVA DA PESQUISA QUALITATIVA EM ENFERMAGEM

### CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS THEORY IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN NURSING

### ANÁLISIS CONTEXTUAL DE LA TEORÍA DE LAS REPRESENTACIONES SOCIALES EN LA PERSPECTIVA DE LA INVESTIGACIÓN CUALITATIVA EN ENFERMERÍA

Mônica Gisele Costa Pinheiro<sup>1</sup>, Iellen Dantas Campos Verdes Rodrigues<sup>2</sup>, Gustavo Ávila Dias, Emanuella de Castro Marcolino<sup>3</sup>, Bruna Raquel da Silva Gomes<sup>4</sup>, Francisco Arnoldo Nunes de Miranda<sup>5</sup>.

#### RESUMO

**Objetivo:** analisar os aspectos contextuais que envolvem a Teoria das Representações Sociais, na perspectiva da pesquisa qualitativa em enfermagem. **Método:** ensaio analítico, fundamentado no referencial teórico da análise contextual, como fonte de significado e conhecimento, no qual o contexto é compreendido, em quatro níveis de camadas distintas, mas que mantém relações entre si. **Resultados:** o contexto imediato aborda a utilização da Teoria das Representações Sociais nas pesquisas em enfermagem; o contexto específico discorre sobre a pesquisa qualitativa na área da enfermagem; os aspectos subjetivos inerentes à Teoria das Representações Sociais nas pesquisas qualitativas em enfermagem estão dispostos no contexto geral. Cabe ao metacontexto traçar considerações sobre a amplitude que encerra as pesquisas, em enfermagem, de modo geral. **Conclusão:** a discussão exposta, no presente estudo, ampliou a compreensão dos diversos contextos que envolvem a Teoria das Representações Sociais, na perspectiva da pesquisa qualitativa em enfermagem.

**Descritores:** Teoria social; Pesquisa qualitativa; Pesquisa em enfermagem.

#### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** the objective of this study is to analyze the contextual aspects that involve the Theory of Social Representations in the perspective of qualitative research in nursing. **Method:** It is an analytical essay based on the theoretical framework of contextual analysis, as a source of meaning and knowledge, in which the context is understood at four levels of distinct layers, but they maintain relations with each other. **Results:** The immediate context discusses the use of Social Representations Theory in nursing research. The specific context discusses the qualitative research in the field of nursing. The subjective aspects inherent to the Social Representations Theory in qualitative research in Nursing are arranged in the general context. It is the responsibility of the meta-context plot considerations about the extent that closes the nursing research in general. **Conclusion:** The discussion presented in the present study expanded the understanding of the different contexts that involve the Theory of Social Representations in the perspective of qualitative research in nursing.

**Descriptors:** Social theory; Qualitative research; Nursing research.

#### RESUMEN

**Objetivo:** analizar los aspectos contextuales que envuelven la Teoría de las Representaciones Sociales en la perspectiva de la investigación cualitativa en enfermería. **Método:** ensayo analítico fundamentado en el referencial teórico del análisis contextual, como fuente de significado y de conocimiento, en el cual el contexto es comprendido en cuatro niveles de capas distintas, pero que mantiene relaciones entre sí. **Resultados:** el contexto inmediato aborda la utilización de la Teoría de las Representaciones Sociales en las investigaciones en enfermería; el contexto específico discurre sobre la investigación cualitativa en el área de la enfermería; los aspectos subjetivos inherentes a la Teoría de las Representaciones Sociales en las investigaciones cualitativas en enfermería están dispuestos en el contexto general. El metacontexto aborda las investigaciones en enfermería, de modo general. **Conclusión:** la discusión expuesta en el presente estudio amplió la comprensión de los diversos contextos que involucran la Teoría de las Representaciones Sociales en la perspectiva de la investigación cualitativa en enfermería.

**Descriptor:** Teoría social; Investigación cualitativa; Investigación en enfermería.

<sup>1</sup>Graduada em Enfermagem. Doutoranda pelo Programa de Pós-Graduação em Enfermagem da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte. <sup>2</sup>Graduada em Enfermagem. Doutoranda em Enfermagem pela Universidade Federal de Sergipe. <sup>3</sup>Graduado em Enfermagem. Mestre em antropologia social pela Universidade Federal de Sergipe. <sup>4</sup>Graduanda em Enfermagem pela Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte. Graduado em Enfermagem. Doutor em enfermagem.

#### Como citar este artigo:

Pinheiro MGC, Rodrigues IDC, Dias GA, et al. Análise contextual da teoria das representações sociais na perspectiva da pesquisa qualitativa em enfermagem. Revista de Enfermagem do Centro Oeste Mineiro. 2019;8:e2722. [Access\_\_\_\_\_]; Available in: \_\_\_\_\_, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.19175/recom.v8i0.3281>

## INTRODUCTION

Nursing is the theory and practice of multiple forms of knowledge, derived from diverse scientific sets of knowledge, such as those from the social, behavioral and biological sciences<sup>(1)</sup>. As a profession, it carries with it peculiar characteristics and skills inherent to the description, explanation and prescription of care before the complexity and diversity of the object. Such characteristics are evidenced by studies on health phenomena, especially those involving the nurse-client relationship<sup>(2)</sup>.

To meet health demands and create effective ways to intervene on them, it is necessary that nursing produces knowledge in a broad and plural way<sup>(3)</sup>. Different paradigms that guide nursing research are based on the use of rigorous methods aimed at scientifically producing different forms of care. Besides quantitative research, predominantly influenced by the logical empiricism of the Cartesian method, there are, in another perspective, qualitative studies, which differ in the sense that they focus on the subjectivity of the human experience<sup>(1)</sup>.

Qualitative research is popular in different areas of knowledge, both national and international<sup>(4)</sup>. In the health area, its importance is commonly linked to the subjective dimension of the processes and meanings attributed by the subjects, based on health and disease experiences and to the elaboration of original studies, which use innovative approaches provided by the theoretical and methodological specificities<sup>(5)</sup>.

Furthermore, they bring subsidies to strengthen health care, as they incorporate the meaning and intentionality of the different actors involved in the process, as well as the structuring of acts, relationships and social structures<sup>(6)</sup>. Qualitative research may also be linked to the theory of social representations, when it addresses subjective, affective and mental elements, as well as to the structuring of social relations that affect the representations of a given reality that one wishes to know about so as to intervene<sup>(7)</sup>.

Research shows that the term "social representations" originated in 1961 and was first used by Serge Moscovici. The author worked on social representations in the study "*Psychanalyse: son image et son public*", in which he addressed the social representation of psychoanalysis, considering it not only as a concept but as a

phenomenon. He defines them as a systematic cluster of sets of practical knowledge of everyday life, which are formulated collectively, using the problems and obstacles imposed by phenomena understood as unknown and unfamiliar that challenge individuals to modify their own positioning and ways of thinking, feeling and acting<sup>(8)</sup>.

Considering the Social Representations Theory (SRT) as an element that has contributed to the discussion of theoretical and methodological aspects within the field involving health research<sup>(7)</sup>, this article aimed to analyze the contextual aspects that involve the Social Representations Theory, from the perspective of qualitative research in nursing.

The use of methodological strategies in qualitative studies allows a better understanding of the studied phenomena. This is fundamental when considering that the events inherent to the nursing discipline are considered complex, requiring diverse approaches, with combinations of different methodological possibilities of investigation.

## METHODS

This article refers to an analytical essay based on the theoretical framework of contextual analysis as source of meaning and knowledge. The context modality was used in order to understand the significance of the phenomenon under study<sup>(9)</sup>, that is, the production of knowledge in the field of nursing care involving qualitative research and the possible relations with the social representations theory.

Context is understood as the relationship existing between the phenomenon and the various occasions in which it occurs. Knowledge of the elements that involve a given phenomenon is essential to understand the whole of a situation, discovering meanings through a mutual, purposeful and systematic relationship<sup>(9)</sup>.

The discussion of the phenomenon, from different contexts, broadens its understanding, giving it meaning by relating the knowledge inherent to each of the multiple contexts that involve the theme addressed<sup>(9)</sup>.

According to the framework used for the analysis, the context is understood in four levels of distinct layers, but which maintain relationships with each other: the immediate context, whose focus is the present, with description of the phenomenon itself; the specific context, whose main characteristic is

individualized knowledge and which encompasses relevant aspects of the present situation; the general context, in which aspects involving subjective elements to the phenomenon under study are described; and the meta-context, which brings together macro aspects of the object of study<sup>(9)</sup>.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Although the contexts present intersection points, the layers will be presented separately, following the division into four parts, as proposed by the theoretical framework<sup>(9)</sup>, so as to facilitate the didactic understanding. In this purpose, the immediate context addresses the use of the SRT in nursing research. Regarding the specific context, it involves questions related to qualitative research in the nursing area. The subjective aspects inherent in the SRT in qualitative nursing research are listed in the general context. It is in the meta-context that considerations about the magnitude that nursing research studies encompass are drawn in a general way.

### Immediate context: use of the social representations theory in nursing research

The criticism of the positivist model, present in other theories, led Moscovici to enter the field of Social Representations and use them as a scientific methodology. Today, productions grounded on the SRT, including those developed in the health field, are marked by the vitality, transversality and complexity of this theoretical-methodological aspect<sup>(10-11)</sup>.

The researches built on the basis of the SRT seek, therefore, to combine, in a general manner, the conceptual problematization regarding methodological sophistication. Regarding the production of knowledge in the nursing field, such researches have favored the expansion of sources of studies. In general, it can be inferred that there is an enlargement of the object, at the same time as there is the deconstruction of a distorted vision in which the SRT is considered as something simple, superficial and that merely and shallowly reflects social inequalities<sup>(12)</sup>.

In Brazil, the first research group on Social Representations registered in the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) originated in 1967 and the research focused on studies in the field of Physics. Growth and continuous and linear evolution of research groups working with social

representations and the productions involving the theme are noticed, being 2010 the year of greatest expansion of this knowledge, most frequently in the social sciences, followed by the health sciences. Among the areas that make up the health sciences, nursing appears as the third in the ranking of the number of productions in the context of social representations<sup>(13)</sup>.

Since the 1970s, with the expansion of postgraduate nursing programs, there has been a substantial increase in publications using the SRT as theoretical or methodological framework. This fact reflects the autonomy of production of nursing knowledge and its expansion as a science and profession, as a consequence of the acquisition and legitimation of a singular set of knowledge<sup>(14)</sup>. The possibilities inherent to the use of the SRT give freedom to nursing researchers both in the choice of the data collection method and in their analysis. It is a diversified source of quantitative and qualitative data about the investigated phenomena.

### Specific context: qualitative research in the nursing area

Qualitative research, in general, intends to understand the relationships, representations, beliefs and perceptions inherent in the individual and subjective interpretations that subjects make about the way they live or build their lives and themselves<sup>(6)</sup>. Such research has as its main object the person; thus, the investigation of the meanings, perceptions, patterns and experiences related to the human context becomes pertinent.

It can be said that the SRT, when incorporated into qualitative studies, has the peculiarity of valorization of individual experiences in a collective context. Thus, it constitutes a valuable and distinguished resource to health and nursing researches, especially in situations in which particular experiences and meanings are investigated<sup>(15)</sup>. To conduct these studies, however, is a challenge to the researcher; it requires dedication, commitment, resources, capacity for abstraction and theoretical reflection, as well as analytical competence and ethical commitment in the fulfillment of the social function<sup>(16)</sup>.

Qualitative research is manifested holistically, and the individual and the subjectivity are the focus of the investigation. As in the SRT, the object of qualitative research does not require the context and specificities of the object. It is also considered "naturalistic" due to the

rupture with any immobility proposed by the researcher<sup>(17)</sup>.

In nursing, qualitative research aims at valuing the subjects, seeks to give voice to the individual, and allows the free expression of worldviews. Therefore, the researcher must be attentive to the reports of the subjects, using active listening as a mechanism to hear and understand the reality expressed by the voice of the individual, without making them empirical data, since they are supported by scientific methods, based on evidence<sup>(18)</sup>.

### **General context: subjective aspects inherent to the social representations theory in qualitative nursing research**

Findings from qualitative research provide answers to questions centered on social experiences and broaden the meaning of human life. They are widely used because human values, cultural values and relationships cannot be measured or described using quantitative methods<sup>(1)</sup>.

The ethical element of qualitative researches is given by the humanistic, inter-relational and empathic character. In the health area, such researches support the understanding that users, health professionals and managers have before the most diverse elements involved in the health theme, such as the organization of the system and services offered, illness, death, health and the various representations of health<sup>(6)</sup>.

As qualitative methodological approaches emphasize the perspective of patients and health users, they gain prominence in nursing research. The construction of meanings enables nursing researchers to understand issues related to the health and disease process, as well as feelings, values and beliefs regarding health situations, through sensitivity, ethics and capacity for reflection<sup>(6,16)</sup>.

Developing care actions focused on the uniqueness of the subjects requires from nursing, as a profession, theoretical and practical support based on scientific knowledge. In this knowledge, the constitutive dimensions of the subject that go beyond the biological body become relevant; they comprise individual, socio-environmental and cultural factors that interfere and are determinant in the health of the population<sup>(2)</sup>.

In the meantime, the SRT has gained prominence in the health area because it addresses the phenomena of a sociocultural

nature, related to the social life of groups, expressed by social values and rules that govern the relations between individuals and between them and the world, guiding and organizing behaviors in society<sup>(7,18)</sup>.

The SRT values the subjective dimension of the individual, which influences social practices, attitudes and behaviors. In addition, it focuses attention on the knowledge of the participants as something important to understand their daily lives<sup>(19-20)</sup>.

### **Meta-context: several phases of nursing research**

The Evidence-Based Nursing movement has driven a growing advance in the research field, denoting in the profession the need for professionals to consume and produce their specific knowledge inherent to practice in different contexts of care, management or education.

Studies with methodological rigor and consistent theoretical content have stood out among the productions of the area, particularly systematic reviews of the literature, which represent the gold standard of scientific evidence and provide in-depth and broad knowledge about the phenomenon studied, allowing the professionals who use it to decide on the best conduct to be adopted<sup>(21)</sup>.

The expansion of Research Groups and Graduate Programs in Nursing has also contributed to the development of scientific researches that promote the dialogue with the most diverse areas of health. This advance in research was made possible by the existence of programs engaged with the advancement of the nursing science in Brazil, a reflection of universities with qualified offer of master and PhD programs in the area, as well as the increase of research groups in nursing.

The contribution of this scientific revolution in nursing is expressed through benefits to the equitable sectors of society. Thus, nursing has advanced in Brazil in its quest to identify and propose solutions to emerging health problems in the country<sup>(22)</sup>.

In this context, research funding agencies and policies to encourage scientific production envisage expanding the growth of publications in the country. To this end, they invest in various interfaces, providing financial resources to research groups and graduate programs, funding researchers' projects, and demanding

productivity from these programs through evaluations, which consists of a rigorous method of encouraging academic production<sup>(23)</sup>.

However, it is worth emphasizing the importance of Nursing to further embrace research as a tool for the transformation of praxis. By doing this, it will be possible to rethink the ways of doing, researching and educating, leading to advances and transformations in the curricula of undergraduate and graduate courses in the country, with consequent improvement in nursing work and Brazilian health<sup>(24)</sup>.

### FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The discussion exposed in the present study broadened the understanding of the various contexts involving the SRT, from the perspective of qualitative nursing research, allowing the sharing and increasing of possibilities for the development of research with appreciation of the subjectivity of individuals, for application in nursing care.

It is noteworthy that each of the interactive layers of the context is distinguished from each other by encompassing the content they cover, ranging from more specific to broader and universal aspects, allowing for a comprehensive analysis and interpretation of the results.

Following the perspective of such considerations, it was found that among the various theoretical and methodological approaches present in nursing research, the SRT deserves attention because it enables the researcher to understand the attitudes, behaviors and meanings shared by a given social group. Therefore, the knowledge of social representations favors the identification of practices established in a certain group, generating more specific and consequently more efficient nursing interventions, as they respect the characteristics of each social group.

Thus, by linking and analyzing the levels of contextual interaction we believe that the use of the SRT, associated with qualitative research, can motivate nurses to provide assistance in a comprehensive way, involving the individual as well as particularities and specific aspects immersed in the studied phenomenon.

The study presented as a limitation the subjectivist-comprehensivist approach, inherent to this type of research which may limiting the potential of reproduction, but which can be minimized when associated to the critical-

reflexive character and the breath of the theory used, ensuring its scientific character.

### REFERENCES

- 1- Silva FS, Pinheiro MGC, Moreira BGL, Simpson CA, Vitor AF, Lira ALBC. Contribuições da história oral para o cuidado de enfermagem: Revisão integrativa. *Revista de Enfermagem Centro-Oeste Mineiro*. 2014;4(2):1204-13. DOI: [10.19175/recom.v0i0.658](https://doi.org/10.19175/recom.v0i0.658)
- 2- Ferreira MA. Teoria das Representações Sociais e contribuições para as pesquisas do cuidado em saúde e de enfermagem. *Esc. Anna Nery* 2016;20(2):214-9. DOI: [10.5935/1414-8145.20160028](https://doi.org/10.5935/1414-8145.20160028)
- 3- Soares CB, Hoga LAK, Peduzzi M, Sangaleti C, Yonekura T, Silva DRAD. Revisão integrativa: Conceitos e métodos utilizados na enfermagem. *Rev Esc Enferm USP* 2014;48(2):335-45. DOI: [10.1590/S0080-6234201400002000020](https://doi.org/10.1590/S0080-6234201400002000020)
- 4- Knauth DR, Leal AF. A expansão das Ciências Sociais na saúde coletiva: Usos e abusos da pesquisa qualitativa. *Interface* 2014;18(50):457-67. DOI: [10.1590/1807-57622014.0274](https://doi.org/10.1590/1807-57622014.0274)
- 5- Gomes MHA, Martin D, Silveira C. Comentários pertinentes sobre usos de metodologias qualitativas em saúde coletiva. *Interface* 2014;50(18):469-77. DOI: [10.1590/1807-57622014.0271](https://doi.org/10.1590/1807-57622014.0271)
- 6- Minayo MCS, Guerriero ICZ. Reflexividade como éthos da pesquisa qualitativa. *Ciênc Saúde Coletiva* 2014;19(4):1103-12. DOI: [10.1590/1413-81232014194.18912013](https://doi.org/10.1590/1413-81232014194.18912013)
- 7- Lefevre F, Lefevre AMC. Discurso do sujeito coletivo: Representações sociais e intervenções comunicativas. *Texto Contexto-Enferm*. 2014;23(2):502-7. DOI: [10.1590/0104-07072014000000014](https://doi.org/10.1590/0104-07072014000000014)
- 8- Moscovici S. Representações sociais: Investigações em psicologia social. Petrópolis: Vozes; 2013.
- 9- Hinds PS, Chaves DE, Cypress SM. Context as a source of meaning and understanding. *Qual Health Res*. 1992;2(1):61-74. DOI: [10.1177/104973239200200105](https://doi.org/10.1177/104973239200200105)
- 10- Medina Filho AL. Importância das imagens na metodologia de pesquisa em psicologia social. *Psicol Soc*. 2013 [citado em 15 nov 2018]; 25(2):263-71. Available in: [http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci\\_arttext&pid=S0102-71822013000200003&lng=pt&nrm=iso](http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0102-71822013000200003&lng=pt&nrm=iso)
- 11- Silva CB, Carmo GT, Silva AMC. Interdisciplinaridade e teoria das representações

sociais: Lacônicas notas. Temática 2014 [citado em 20 out 2018]; 10(12):32-41. Available in: <http://periodicos.ufpb.br/ojs/index.php/tematica/article/view/22134>

12- Nascimento ARA, Trindade ZA, Veloso FGC, Nogueira EL, Vieira GT, Cezar VCF. Representações sociais, gênero e saúde no Brasil: Uma revisão bibliográfica. *Tempus* 2012;6(3):265-78. DOI: [10.18569/tempus.v6i3.1168](https://doi.org/10.18569/tempus.v6i3.1168)

13- Martins AM, Carvalho CAS, Antunes-Rocha MI. Pesquisa em representações sociais no Brasil: Cartografia dos grupos registrados no CNPq. *Psicol Teor Prát.* 2014;16(1):104-14. DOI: [10.15348/1980-6906/psicologia.v16n1p104-114](https://doi.org/10.15348/1980-6906/psicologia.v16n1p104-114)

14- Alves MDS, Barroso MGT, Oriá MOB, Teixeira MCTV. A Teoria das Representações Sociais na pós-graduação em enfermagem: A realidade brasileira. *Rev Enferm UERJ* 2005;13(3):331-9. DOI: [10.1590/S0034-71672011000500022](https://doi.org/10.1590/S0034-71672011000500022)

15- Melo LP, Jensen R, Oliveira ALO, Jaeger M, Salim NR, Musselli AR. Pesquisa qualitativa como estratégia de ensino em humanização do cuidado de enfermagem. *Rev Eletr Gestão Saúde* 2014 [citado em 7 out 2018]; 5(3):1130-8. Available in: <http://periodicos.unb.br/index.php/rgs/article/view/22704>

16- Gonçalves H, Menasche R. Pesquisando na interface: Problemas e desafios a partir da pesquisa qualitativa em saúde. *Interface* 2014;18(50):449-56. DOI: [10.1590/1807-57622014.0263](https://doi.org/10.1590/1807-57622014.0263)

17- Reis AT, Santos RS, Paschoal Júnior A, Araújo GF. A escuta atenta: Reflexões para a enfermagem no uso do método história de vida. *Rev Min Enferm.* 2012 [citado em 10 out 2018]; 16(4):617-22. Available in: [www.reme.org.br/artigo/detalhes/569](http://www.reme.org.br/artigo/detalhes/569)

18- Parreira PM, Pereira FC, Arreguy-Sena C, Salgueiro A, Tosoli AMG, Marques SC, et al. Social representations of entrepreneurship in nursing students: The role of education in the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills. *Sylwan* 2015 [citado em 13 out 2018]; 159:23-6. Available in: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/299541980\\_Social\\_representations\\_of\\_entrepreneurship\\_The\\_role\\_of\\_training\\_in\\_the\\_acquisition\\_of\\_entrepreneurial\\_skills](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/299541980_Social_representations_of_entrepreneurship_The_role_of_training_in_the_acquisition_of_entrepreneurial_skills)

19- Alba MV. Aproximação conceitual desde a escola vigotskiana à teoria das representações sociais. *Psicol Estud.* 2016;21(1):17-28. DOI: [10.4025/psicoestud.v21i1.29663](https://doi.org/10.4025/psicoestud.v21i1.29663)

20- Marcolino EC, Dias GA, Miranda FAN, Pinheiro MGC, Clementino FS, Simpson CA. Theory of social representations: Educational

possibilities in the development of active methodologies for significant learning. *Int Arch Med.* 2016;9(289):1-7. DOI: [10.3823/2160](https://doi.org/10.3823/2160)

21- Crossetti MGO. Revisão integrativa de pesquisa na enfermagem: O rigor científico que lhe é exigido. *Rev Gaúch Enferm.* 2012;33(2):8-9. DOI: [10.1590/S1983-14472012000200001](https://doi.org/10.1590/S1983-14472012000200001)

22- Fernandes ID, Teixeira GAS, Silva MG, Florêncio RMS, Silva RMO, Santa Rosa DO. Expansão da educação superior no Brasil: Ampliação dos cursos de graduação em enfermagem. *Rev Latino-Am Enfermagem* 2013 [citado em 20 out 2018]; 21(3):670-8. Available in: [http://www.scielo.br/pdf/rlae/v21n3/pt\\_0104-1169-rlae-21-03-0670.pdf](http://www.scielo.br/pdf/rlae/v21n3/pt_0104-1169-rlae-21-03-0670.pdf)

23- Coelho EAC, Nascimento ER, Paiva MS. Novos saberes, novas perspectivas: 10 anos do Curso de doutorado em enfermagem na UFBA. *Rev Baiana Enferm.* 2016; 30(1):292-4. DOI: [10.18471/rbe.v1i1.16264](https://doi.org/10.18471/rbe.v1i1.16264)

24- Scochi CGS, Gelbcke FL, Ferreira MA, Lima MADS, Padilha KG, Padovani NA, et al. Doutorado em Enfermagem no Brasil: Formação em pesquisa e produção de teses. *Rev Latino-Am Enfermagem* 2015; 23(3):387-94. DOI: [10.1590/0104-1169.0590.2564](https://doi.org/10.1590/0104-1169.0590.2564)

**Note:** Developed from the Theory of Social Representations discipline, taught by the Graduate Program in Nursing of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte.

**Received in:** 01/04/2019

**Approved in:** 15/10/2019

**Mailing address:**

Mônica Gisele Costa Pinheiro  
Street Nossa Senhora de Lourdes, 125.  
ZIP CODE: 59015-260 – Natal/RN - Brazil  
**E-mail:** [monicapinheiro@live.com](mailto:monicapinheiro@live.com)