Abstract

The purpose of this article is to analyze the existing networks in the field of social science in Chile and the incidence of diverse sociocognitive factors on the structural configuration of such networks. With that aim, I study publications that report research results, taking as empirical basis the network established through citations and the networks of coauthorship. I made such study with respect to three disciplines, sociology, political science and anthropology, for the period 2000-2006, analyzing 21,787 references. The results show that the social scientific communications networks in the country are scarcely dense, with very low interdependence and reciprocity, and with low conglomeration, assuming a predominantly hierarchic form. In contradiction with the generalized valuation of interdisciplinarity, it is acknowledged that disciplines put strong barriers to the communication. The paradigmatic frameworks, on the other hand, although are strong attractors of conglomeration, they are much less excluding and exists a reduced group of investigators who operate like interparadigmas brokers. The investigation revealed in addition a significant role of gender in the constitution of networks. The analysis of networks allows, thus, to reveal a set of patterns structuring the field of social sciences and contributes to understand its form of operation.

Keywords

Social networks, scientific paradigm, scientific field, social science.