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Sociological analysis of the discourses system in praxis. Social representations of the environment.

## **Abstract**

This presentation focus on explaining how to conduct the “Sociological analysis of systems of discourse”<sup>1</sup> (ASSD) (Conde, 2009). According to Conde (2009), this type of analysis considers that social discourse can only be understood as taking a position against others. ASSD has two levels: the textual level, which studies the significance of the discourse, and the contextual level, which looks for links between social practices and socio-historical context. In order to carry out this type of analysis, Conde (2009) suggests developing a set of procedures: social positions, narrative configurations, and semantic spaces. We are going to explain how we developed such procedures in our own research.

The main purpose of this research was to analyse, from a comparative perspective, social representations and environmental and agrarian discourses with respect to protected areas flowing into the Mediterranean Sea –the Albufera Natural Park<sup>2</sup> and the Ebre Delta Natural Park.<sup>3</sup> 58 in-depth interviews and two discussion groups were conducted and analysed with different social actors living in the surroundings of these areas. The selected study areas were privileged spaces in which to study social representations of the environment because they condensed the socioecological conflict between capitalist economic growth and ecological degradation. These qualitative practices have allowed us to clarify how social position and socio-historical context can explain different sorts of understanding of the environs.

## **Biographical note**

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<sup>1</sup> Análisis Sociológico del sistema de los discursos in Spanish

<sup>2</sup> The Albufera (from Arabic al-buhayra meaning ‘small sea’) is a freshwater lagoon and estuary on the Gulf of Valencia, off the coast of Valencian communities in eastern Spain. A number of industries and cities, the biggest of which is Valencia, surrounds the lagoon. In 1986, the Albufera was declared a Natural Park by the Valencian government. Since 1990, the Albufera Nature Reserve has been included as a Ramsar site in the list of wetlands of international importance for birds. Since 1991, the Albufera Natural Park has also been included in the Special Protection Areas by Natura 2000.

<sup>3</sup> The Ebre Delta is one of the largest wetland areas—320 square kilometres (79,000 acres)—in the western Mediterranean region. It is located in the delta region of the Ebre River in the Province of Tarragona, Catalonia, in north-eastern Spain. It is on the Mediterranean Sea, and it is the northernmost point, by some designations, of the Gulf of Valencia. In 1993, the Ebre Delta was placed on the Ramsar Convention list of wetlands of international importance.

Marina Requena Mora, PhD in Sociology (University of Valencia, 2016) and specialist in qualitative research methods and environmental and agrarian studies. Currently works as a lecturer at the University of Valencia. She has been a visiting scholar in The University of Sheffield, The University of Manchester and The Autonomos University of Madrid. She worked as a social researcher at The University of València, The University of Barcelona, The Institut d'Estudis Catalans, The Acadèmia Valenciana de la Llengua and TNS. Her current research, financed by the Generalitat Valenciana and the European Social Foundation, investigates environmental behaviour and different lifestyles in the context of daily practices in rural and urban habitats.

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