

Summary

Studies about knowledge production and circulation present a lacuna when it comes to empirically approaching the different roles that academic actors play in these processes. It is for this reason that the main contribution of this dissertation is providing elements to further construct a theory of knowledge production and circulation that incorporates the dimension of the circulation agents from an ample perspective of asymmetries. Thus, two research questions constitute the basis of this work: What role do actors of the academic field play in international and local knowledge circulation processes? What asymmetries are inherent to these processes?

The case utilized for the research is the production and circulation of the multiculturalism debate in Chile for the period of time comprising of the return to democracy -beginning of the 1990s- until the year 2014. The election of the time frame is for two reasons. The first reason is the exceptional and paradoxical combination of neoliberalism and multiculturalism that takes place during this period. The second is the particular characteristics of the social and human sciences field during the neoliberal regime that defines this period.

The hypothesis of this dissertation poses the existence of a relation between the scientific-academic field and the implementation of a governmentality model based on multiculturalism. This is due to the fact that academic actors have been relevant not only for the production and circulation of the concepts and theories that shape the debate on multiculturalism but also to the fact that they have been key players in the implementation and advancement of this debate in other fields, like the political-state field.

The dissertation proposes a theoretical-conceptual framework based on the dialogue between four key concepts that shape the analysis: knowledge production and circulation, circulation agents, social field and capital. The last two concepts, inspired on Pierre Bourdieu's Theory of Social Fields, are discussed and expanded within the framework of the empirical results of the research. It underlines the importance of considering the multiple positionings of the academic actors and the use they make of the capitals accumulated along their trajectories in diverse fields such as trading currency. The analysis thus allows us to expand Bourdieu's postulates by proving that in the struggle for capitals, some academic actors 'cross borders' (between disciplinary fields, between the academic and political-state field, between the national and international space). This allows us to identify the importance of the different asymmetries that characterize their work as circulation agents.

The methodological design included the reconstruction of the field of debates on multiculturalism and the subfield of cultural diversity studies located within the field of the social and human sciences. In this last one the circulation agents were identified and differentiated based on two indicators: their positioning in one or several fields and the accumulation of different sorts of capital. Through the construction of relational biographies it was possible to take a deep look at their strategies and trajectories as well as the processes that ultimately shaped them. In order to achieve this, the dissertation utilizes the results obtained through 35 open interviews conducted between 2012 and 2014 with social sciences' academics in Chile as well as content analysis of different documents like resumes and secondary literature.

The reconstruction of possibility structures for the production and circulation of the debate on multiculturalism in Chile allows us to distinguish between global and local processes. At the global level (chapter 3), the process for the internationalization of liberal multiculturalism was

reconstructed. At the local level (chapter 4), firstly, the main characteristics of the cultural diversity management model that was in place in Chile after the nineties were identified. Secondly, the main characteristics of the scientific-academic field of the social sciences and their relation with the cultural diversity thematic were identified.

In relation to the question about the role of academic actors in the production and circulation of knowledge, the analysis allows us to differentiate between: 1) the strategies that concern only their positioning within the academic field (chapters 7 and 8) or their simultaneous positioning within other social fields (chapters 5 and 6); and 2) the importance of their trajectories in the accumulation of capitals that serve as trading currency for their positioning in a diverse array of fields. In this way, it is concluded that academic actors can play three different roles as circulation agents when considering said analytical factors: brokers, relay stations and transmitting antennas. The dissertation develops the concept of 'brokerisation' to describe the process by which certain academic actors become brokers given that they utilize their scientific-academic capital as trading currency to position themselves in other social fields.

In relation to the question about asymmetries, the dissertation shows the need to think about them from ample perspectives, one that goes beyond geopolitical asymmetries. This allows us to identify at least three asymmetries that are inherent to the processes of production and circulation of knowledge about multiculturalism in Chile. First, it is identified that asymmetries exist based on whether the knowledge is produced by academic actors or actors pertaining to other fields. Second, it is necessary to consider the existing asymmetries between academic actors based on the differential of capitals they possess. This defines their legitimacy as actors within the subfield and allows them to position themselves in other fields. Third, it is important to mention the importance of disciplinary asymmetries based on the centrality granted to the multiculturalism debate. Multiculturalism is a debate that gains relevance for the law by the influence of the international field of human rights, it gains a bigger presence beyond the scientific-academic field. Furthermore, it is discussed how certain asymmetries, such as a peripheral geographical location can be strategically used by some academic actors.

It is concluded that the knowledge production and circulation processes must be understood in the interrelation of the scientific-academic field with other fields on different spatial levels. The circulation of the debate on multiculturalism in Chile shows how a debate taking place in the scientific-academic field is installed in other fields partly as a result of the labor undertaken by the same academic actors outside of the scientific-academic field. The relevance of understanding knowledge production and circulation as processes that occur in the interrelation between different dimensions and levels is also highlighted. The strategies of the academic actors struggling for capitals and their positioning in different fields (subjective dimension) can only be understood if the processes that work as possibility structures (objective dimension) and take place both at the global and local level (micro- and macro processes) are analyzed.

The argument reveals the importance of studying the processes of knowledge production and circulation not only for their theoretical-methodological implications but also for their socio-political implications.

In theoretical-methodological terms, the novelty of this dissertation can be summarized in three key aspects. First, the dissertation invites us to re-think the circulation of knowledge from a complex and multidimensional perspective that takes into consideration spatial dimensions on different levels, but also the movements between different social fields. Second, it introduces the

notions of circulation agents -as a central element in the study of knowledge production and circulation- and asymmetry -to incorporate the multiple dimensions that configure social differentiation and hierarchisation, transcending geographical space and introducing other difference axis that are present in the knowledge production and circulation processes. Finally, it proposes a methodology that allows for deep analysis of academic actor's trajectories and their relations with other subjects and institutions in different fields.

At the socio-political level, the novelty of the dissertation lies in that it encourages us to rethink the relation between the scientific-academic field and the state from the vantage point of knowledge production and circulation. This takes place on two levels. The first level refers to the link between academic actors and the formulation and management of public policy by showing the importance of academic actors in the implementation of a governmentality model based on multiculturalism. The second level refers to the catalyst role of public institutions in these processes in so far as they are presented as sources of capital for the academic actors and thus their influence in the knowledge production and circulation processes.