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# SURVEY ON THE ACADEMIC PRODUCTION ON INDIGENOUS MENTAL HEALTH IN RONDÔNIA, PORTO VELHO, BRAZIL

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### ABSTRACT

This article aims to conduct a survey and analysis of the scientific production about the psychological attention in the indigenous health in the state of Rondônia, federative unit of Brazil. We have as a working methodology bibliometrics directed to the use of social, human and health sciences, focusing on the qualitative aspects of the works listed. Thus, our procedures are based on the survey of articles, dissertations and theses on the subject published in Rondônia and in the Rondonian context, and afterwards an analysis of their objectives, methods and conclusions. It is intended to delimit the academic discussions on the subject from these publications. We conclude that there are a small number of productions on the theme as well as participation in events and that the productions analyzed show low attention to the question of indigenous mental health.

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# **INTRODUCTION**

In 2010 (IBGE INDÍGENAS, 2010), indigenous groups in Brazil totaled approximately 796,000 individuals, 57.7% of whom in recognized indigenous lands and 11.3% in rural areas (unrecognized indigenous territories). These data provide us with insight into the difficulties encountered in the penetration of public health policies in indigenous communities, especially those isolated geographically. Girão e Mendes (2006) affirms that these indigenous groups generally found themselves in similar health conditions as the more precarious strata of "nonindigenous" urban societies: malnutrition, alcoholism, infant mortality and, as in the example of Meihy (1991) suicide, occurring systematically among the Guarani Kaiowá. More recently, in 2015, a study conducted in the Dourado indigenous reserve, the suicide rate among indigenous people was 89.92 per 100,000 inhabitants, with the national index being 9.6, with a general number of 400% higher than nonindigenous populations in the state of MatoGrosso (REIS, 2018).

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These data demonstrate that the issue is not overcome by the social organizations involved, but that there is a mitigation of the problem among indigenous communities. The issue of indigenous collective health and psychological attention in its precariousness is marked by the logic of the colonial enterprise that subalternized the indigenous in all aspects, including in the body, health, organization for health care and ethnoknowledge - passing through one's own action in the construction of a public policy of basic health and attention to the mental health of the indigenous ethnic groups. This organization of indigenous territories and cosmogonies is linked to historical and current violence, isolation and discrimination related to the indigenous view, unequal insertion in the division of non-indigenous labor, among other phenomena that result in high rates of psychological illness that can lead to self-harm among the natives, a serious problem of collective health in Brazil. Another important feature to understand the dimensions of this issue is to understand the organizations and ethnic boundaries established by the groups (Barth, 1998), such as cosmology, kinship relations, territorialities and other elements that underlie the subjectivities of individuals that, in general, differ of nonindigenous constructions. The youth groups (REIS, 2018) that are most impacted by mental illness are the young people, who face migration issues and multiple territories in the search for professionalization and / or schooling, being shocked by social categories as "success" that are, in essentially "nonindigenous". The objective of this review article is to discuss the elements discussed in the academy on the psychological attention to indigenous groups in the State of Rondônia, considering the needs indicated by the data listed in the composition of the guiding question of the research.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this article, we will use as method of data collection the bibliometry associated to quantitative perspectives of analysis. Bibliometrics is an initially quantitative and statistical form that emerges at the beginning of the 21st century as a symptom of the need to study the forms of scientific production and communication that in many ways intensify with the expansion of access to the Internet. Thus, we can say that its main objective is the use of quantitative methods in the search for an objective evaluation of scientific production based on numerical analysis of authors, works, countries and journals as categories of productivity (ARAÚJO, C.A., 2006). dissertation bank of the postgraduate programs of the Federal University of Rondônia, especially those linked to the indigenous issue and public health, and the CAPES Journal Bank.

### RESULTS

The journals, theses and dissertations analyzed were CAPES / MEC Portal of Periodicals, in which the keywords "Indigenous Health Rondônia" were used to search for results and were considered as effects of personalization of results: articles, theses and dissertations, historicity from 1981 to 2017, all available collections and languages, and only peer-reviewed articles. The respective captions and titles as demonstrated in the models below. We found 108 results that relate debates on indigenous health in Rondônia, and of these 03 focused on the issue of mental health: (1) Policy of integral attention to mental health of the indigenous populations of Porto Velho / RO: the voice of leaders and (2) Psychological aspects in the use of alcoholic beverages among the Karitiana and (3) Reports of rape against indigenous women: intercultural feminist bioethics, collective health and justice. The other papers discuss nutritional aspects, tuberculosis, intestinal parasitoses, among others.

#### Table 1. Available articles on indigenous mental health in Rondônia

Workname	Authors	Journal	Key-words
Política de atenção integral à saúde mental das populações indígenas de Porto Velho/RO: a voz das lideranças	Priscilla Perez da Silva Pereira/Arneide Bandeira Cemin/José Juliano Cedaro/Ari Miguel Teixeira Ott	Tempus Acta	Indigenous population; Health care; Mental health
Aspectos psicológicos na utilização de bebidas alcoólicas entre os Karitiana	João Jackson Bezerra Vianna/José Juliano Cedaro/Ari Miguel Teixeira Ott	Psicologia e Sociedade	problems related to alcohol use; indigenous psychology; indigenous peoples of Rondônia; Karitiana.
Denúncias de estupro contra a mulher indígena: bioética intercultural feminista, saúde coletiva e justiça.	Arneide Bandeira Cemin	Amazônica: Revista de Antropologia	Rape, indigenouswoman, Bioethics

Source: the authors, 2018 - from the CAPES journal portal.

Table 2. Indigenous health dissertations in PPG Regional Development and Environment – UNIR

Workname	Advisor	Author	Year	Key-words
O processo de alcoolização entre os Tenharim das Aldeias do Rio Marmelo/AM	Ari Miguel Teixeira Ott	Priscilla Perez da Silva Pereira	2010	Indigenous Health Agent - AIS, Paiter Suruí, Indigenous Health
Atuação dos agentes indígenas de saúde Paiter Suruí: Possibilidades de ações terapêuticas no contexto do distrito sanitário especial indígena Vilhena	Ari Miguel Teixeira Ott	Ricardo da Silva Rodrigues	2013	Alcoholization. Tenharim. Amazonia
Desenvolvimento e doenças: morbidade com diagnósticos presumidos no período de 2006 a 2012 entre os Karitiana em Rondônia, Brasil.	Ari Miguel Teixeira Ott	Natália Gonçalves Santos Mackerte	2015	Indigenous Health. Diseases. Indigenous Populations.
Mulheres indígenas em porto velho: relações sociais de gênero, situações de desenvolvimento e políticas públicas	Arneide Bandeira Cemin	Lady Day Pereira de Souza	2010	Indigenous women, development situations. public policy. Amazônia, Porto Velho-RO.

Source: the authors, 2018 - from the link http://www.pgdra.unir.br/

As a method is marked by a double intention: the analysis of scientific production is the search for immediate practical benefits for the compilation of the production of a certain theme, as we intend to accomplish in this work in relation to the production on indigenous education in Rondônia. In this specific article we will make a survey of the scientific production on the subject of Psychological Attention in indigenous health, having as reference of analysis three points: objectives, method used and conclusions of the work, thus, we intend to draw a state of the object cuts faced by the researchers involved. The databases analyzed were: the This survey is in accordance with the dissertation of Marianna Queiróz Batista (2014) that found, in the year of its development, only 01 work on the subject in Rondônia. Between 2014 and 2017 we added 02 published works to the list of articles. From the reading of the articles we can conclude that of the 08 authors, 07 are from the Federal University of Rondônia and 01 from the Federal University of Amazonas, concentrating on the Postgraduate Program in Regional and Sustainable Development, with no attention to the theme in the programs health or psychology. In relation to the postgraduate programs, the databases of the following were

analyzed: Regional Development and Environment, Psychology and Teaching in Health Sciences. In the PPG Regional and sustainable development it was possible to list 04 dissertations and no thesis that debated the theme, from 2005 to 2017, distributed as follows:

In the postgraduate program in Psychology, we find a range of works on mental health, however no work directly related to the issue of indigenous mental health in Rondônia. The survey was done in the following way, first accessed the dissertations portal of the program (http://www.mapsi.unir.br//page/ exhibir/4880) and verified biennium to biennium the production. In this form of work, no works were found with the keywords that guide the investigation of this work. It is worth noting the production of Silvana Andrade (2013) on the mental health care network of Porto Velho, which highlights, within the PPG Psychology, the deficit situation of the state of Rondônia in the creation of specific programs and legislation to care for these populations (ANDRADE, 2013, p.65). In the same dissertation the author talks about the initiative of the Federal University of Rondônia to think about a seminar on the theme that resulted in the event "Research on Indigenous Health in the Amazon: Interdisciplinary Perspectives" (http://www.cesir.unir.br/eventos .html) whose themes did not specifically address mental health and there are no event annals available. In the postgraduate program in Teaching of Health Sciences, there were also no dissertations with this theme. the portal accessed was http://www. cienciasdasaude.unir.br//pagina/exibir/1907. From this survey, we point out that there is little production on the specific theme, even though "mental health" and "the indigenous question" are present in the academic productions of articles, dissertations and theses, we do not find in the databases analyzed a large number of works that effectively associate the two elements. In the next topic of this work we will discuss the collected texts with the intention of understanding in which process or what the consolidated view on the theme until the moment of the writing of this work.

# DISCUSSIONS

In advance, it is possible to point out the limited production on the subject, despite the relevance already pointed out about it. The objective of this section is to analyze, as pointed out in the methodology, the objectives, methodology and conclusions of the articles and dissertations listed in the previous section. In the dissertation of Ricardo da Silva Rodrigues, "The work of the indigenous health agents Paiter Suruí: Possibilities of therapeutic actions in the context of the Vilhena indigenous special health district" aim to "Conduct a study on the performance of the indigenous health agents Paiter Suruí who work in the Sete de Setembro Indigenous Territory within the Indigenous Special Sanitary District 32 Vilhena MT / RO "(RODRIGUES, 2013). Analyzing the trajectory of indigenous health in Brazil and the training of the indigenous health agent, as well as the ethno-knowledge used in the search for the healing process. From a methodological point of view, it was carried out in three stages: an exploratory study was carried out, a bibliographical survey was carried out, followed by a survey and documentary analysis "Data from the Information System of the Special Secretariat of Indigenous Health (SESAI) and DATASUS database" (RODRIGUES, 2013). Finally, participant observation guided fieldwork, as the last methodological step. The conclusions of the study point out that the interethnic contact between the notions of health of

Paiter Suruí and the notion of health of the Brazilian State create intermittent categories, deeply altering the perceptions of those involved, especially the composition of the intercultural health agent. No written evidence on indigenous mental health was found at work. In the dissertation of Priscilla da Perez Silva Pereira (2010) is presented as an objective to describe how the Tenharim use the alcoholic beverages and in the determination of alcohol consumption. The method used was the ethnographic one, with the contact with the groups and going through the difficulties of these field works, with later analysis of the reports. One of the important conclusions of this work is that the contact with alcohol is a result of the white men who were in front of contact with the indigenous groups that, on a large scale, made customary use and was, by the Tenharim, associated with a rite of passage of the youth - where one can drink - to adulthood - where one can not drink more. Individuals should move from one moment to the next if they continue to ingest alcohol it is considered that they have failed in the ritual process. The dissertation of NatáliaGonçalves Santos Mackerte (2015) aims to "Investigate and analyze morbidities in the period from 2006 to 2012 with the public policies involving the health of the Karitiana indigenous people in the municipality of Porto Velho-RO", analyzing the morbidities among the Karitiana, mapping cultural contexts and services performed during the period. As for the method, it is a descriptive and retrospective study, where data collected in the period prior to analysis provide the data for constructing a perspective on the object. Regarding the conclusions, it is possible to emphasize that there is a reduction in certain diseases (such as in the respiratory system), while others increase (external injuries), a fact attributed to the more direct contact with non-indigenous society. The purpose of the dissertation by Lady Day Pereira de Souza (2010) was to "understand the development situations and social practices of indigenous women living in the city of Porto Velho-RO, perceiving the context of housing and the particular aspects of everyday life." The method used was ethnographic, with the use of semi-structured research. With regard to the conclusions, it is possible to see that the colonial models had a strong impact on women and especially on indigenous women, subordinated to them in many contexts, listed in the dissertation.

The article "Policy of integral attention to the mental health of the indigenous populations of Porto Velho / RO: the voice of the leaders" discusses the above mentioned event "Research on Indigenous Health in the Amazon: Interdisciplinary Perspectives" and highlights the voice of indigenous leaders in which concerns mental health. Some conclusions are possible; first it is necessary to train indigenous health agents and interdisciplinary agents to recognize the symptoms and mental disorders, relating the phenomena to the cultural issues of each group. It is also necessary to relate sectors other than health, such as economics, politics and religion in relation to mental health. Indigenous leaders point out some issues, such as the control of alcoholic beverages by FUNAI, the monitoring of young Indians in the city, the strengthening of collective practices, among others. The article "Reports of rape against indigenous women: intercultural feminist bioethics, collective health and justice" talks about sexual violence in Indigenous Lands in the Guaporé Valley, Rondônia. It discusses the applicability of a bioethics that takes into account aspects of colonization, contact, gender and public policies to change this relationship. It also proposes an observatory of this violence in the region. Finally, the article "Psychological aspects in the use

of alcoholic beverages among the Karitiana" highlights the possibility of thinking about the issue of alcoholism and mental health within the cultural contexts of each indigenous group. It cites that the Karitiana gave account of working the contact with alcohol culturally. It is possible that nonindigenous psychology has more to learn from these groups than the opposite, he concludes.

#### Conclusion

In analyzing the state actions on mental health in Rondônia, in accordance with what is affirmed in the texts reviewed here, it is possible to perceive that there is little intention to make the issue of indigenous mental health feasible and visible, and the issue is represented in the absence of public policies in relation to these processes. It was not possible to find sources talking about the indigenous mental health management committee in the state. On the productions, it is possible to conclude that: (a) there are few productions on the theme (b) there are no productions on the subject in the PPG in Psychology (c) the dissertations of the PPG Regional Development and Environment do not speak directly with the theme, do not use concepts or legislation and do not discuss practical / conceptual issues about indigenous mental health in Rondônia; (d) No recent and / or publicized action on the subject was found in a survey of the state Health Department's website. Thus, we conclude that it is a topic that needs to be debated by the academy and the state of Rondônia, in the form of public power, social movements and collectivities in general, even considering national legislations (BRASIL, 2007).

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