THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS AND SOCIAL CAPITAL IN STUDIES IN THE CONTEXT OF PUBLIC SECURITY

ABORDAGENS TEÓRICAS DAS REPRESENTAÇÕES SOCIAIS E DO CAPITAL SOCIAL EM ESTUDOS NO CONTEXTO DA SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA

APROXIMACIONES TEÓRICAS SOBRE LAS REPRESENTACIONES SOCIALES Y EL CAPITAL SOCIAL EN LOS ESTUDIOS EN EL CONTEXTO DE LA SEGURIDAD PÚBLICA

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ABSTRACT: This article aims to analyze studies in the area of Public Security that used the theoretical framework of Social Representations and Social Capital. This is an integrative review of the literature, with six stages, which allowed the selection of 12 studies, 7 of which focused on social representations and 5 on social capital. The studies explored different areas of public security (crime, violence, drugs, and perceived safety) and subjects (mothers, elderly people, students, and public security professionals). Research with social representations was mostly carried out in the Brazilian scenario of a qualitative documentary nature, with the aid of software for analysis. Those that used social capital were developed in other countries and focused on quantitative approaches, through the application of questionnaires, descriptive statistics, and regression analyses. We noticed the theoretical relationship between the approaches, especially in the way people perceive themselves, interact, and relate to each other in society, and the difference between collection techniques.

KEYWORDS: Social Representations. Social Capital. Public Security. Review.

RESUMO: *O presente artigo objetiva analisar os estudos na área de Segurança Pública que utilizaram o referencial teórico das Representações Sociais e do Capital Social. Trata-se de uma revisão integrativa da literatura, com seis etapas, que permitiram selecionar 12 estudos, sendo 7 com abordagem das representações sociais e 5 do capital social. Os estudos exploraram diversos âmbitos da segurança pública (criminalidade, violência, drogas e segurança percebida) e sujeitos (mães, idosos, estudantes e profissionais da segurança pública). As pesquisas com representações sociais foram, majoritariamente, desenvolvidas no cenário brasileiro, de caráter qualitativo, documental, com auxílio de software para análise. As que utilizaram o capital social foram desenvolvidas em outros países e focaram em abordagens quantitativas, por meio da aplicação de questionários, analisadas por estatística descritiva e regressão. Percebeu-se a relação teórica entre as abordagens, especialmente na forma como as pessoas se percebem, interagem e se relacionam na sociedade, e a diferença entre as técnicas de coleta.*

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Representações Sociais. Capital Social. Segurança Pública. Revisão.*

RESUMEN: *Este artículo tiene como objetivo analizar estudios en el área de Seguridad Pública que utilizaron el marco teórico de las Representaciones Sociales y el Capital Social. Se trata de una revisión integradora de la literatura, con seis etapas, que permitió la selección de 12 estudios, 7 de los cuales se centraron en representaciones sociales y 5 en capital social. Los estudios exploraron diferentes áreas de la seguridad pública (crimen, violencia, drogas y seguridad percibida) y sujetos (madres, personas mayores, estudiantes y profesionales de seguridad publica). La investigación con representaciones sociales fue realizada mayoritariamente en el escenario brasileño, de carácter cualitativo, documental, con el auxilio de software de análisis. Aquellos que utilizaron capital social fueron desarrollados en otros países y se centraron en enfoques cuantitativos, mediante la aplicación de cuestionarios, estadísticas descriptivas y análisis de regresión. Notamos la relación teórica entre los enfoques, especialmente en la forma en que las personas se perciben a sí mismas, interactúan y se relacionan entre sí en la sociedad, y la diferencia entre las técnicas de recolección.*

PALABRAS CLAVE: *Representaciones Sociales. Capital Social. Seguridad Pública. Revisión.*
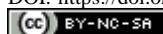
Introduction

Social Representation and Social Capital are theories from the social psychology and sociology streams, respectively. The former was developed by the Romanian psychologist Serge Moscovici and the latter by the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu (Moscovici, 2015; Bourdieu, 1980). The academic careers of the two theorists have had the same founding structure from the start: rescuing the value of the symbolic dimension in the construction of social reality, which is made up of fields where structures and symbolic formations make up a whole. Campos and Lima (2018, p. 1) also highlight common points in the theories:

> They prioritize the symbolic dimension in the construction of the social world, proposing breaks with dichotomies that they consider limiting the study of social phenomena, such as subjectivity vs. objectivity and individual vs. society. Both are "constructivists" who conceive of social space as a space of struggles/changes in which the symbolic dimension produces realities (Campos; Lima, 2018, p. 1, our translation).

Social representations are constructed and shared in society, related to specific contexts within social groups. They explain essential aspects of reality, define group identity, direct social practices, and justify actions and positions taken after they have been carried out (Campos; Rouquette, 2003; Doise, 1985; Wagner, 1998). It is, therefore, a scientific theory about the explanatory processes of social objects from the perspective of people who interact socially, because it connects popular knowledge (common sense) to scientific knowledge by collecting information that circulates in society, materialized by the experiences of the subjects and by the communication between them (Moscovici, 2015; Vala, 2013).

As forms of knowledge, they enable different people to share their opinions and thus express the way in which each social group organizes itself and constructs its meanings (Santos, 2013). Therefore, representations become social because "it is a collective construction of knowledge and allows individuals, groups, and communities to work with situations and phenomena that are part of their everyday reality" (Goffman, 1983, p. 74, our translation). Its elaboration takes place through two processes: anchoring and objectification, in which the former classifies, names, and categorizes something, transforming the unknown into the familiar, while the latter materializes meanings, makes the impalpable physical and visible, enabling abstract ideas to become concrete (Moscovici, 2015).

In addition to Moscovici's primary theoretical current, there are three other complementary interpretations of the grand theory of social representations. The first, proposed by Jodelet (2001), is the most closely linked to Moscovici's, considering the development and

sharing of knowledge in society, capable of building a common reality. The second, by Doise (1985), brings a sociological approach to social representations, also called societal. The third, no less important, comes from Abric (1994), who emphasizes the structure and organization of representations. These different conceptions are not incompatible with each other, since they derive from Moscovici's initial proposal and do not disfigure it (Sá, 1998).

Social capital is one of the types classified by Bourdieu (1987), along with economic, cultural, and symbolic capital, when referring to the fields of sociology, which links them to the so-called social classes. According to the author, social classes are logical conditions, theoretically determined by a group of individuals who occupy the same position in the social space. This group, in turn, is located in a space structured by fields, called markets, where these capitals clash (Bourdieu, 1994; Degenne, 2004).

It should be noted that symbolic capital is part of a broader theory of power, culture, and social relations and is understood as a form of capital associated with prestige, recognition, and status in society. Unlike economic capital (money and material resources) or social capital (social networks and connections), symbolic capital is based on the perception and appreciation of culture and symbolism (Lochner; Kawachi; Kennedy, 1999). Thus, in addition to being the effect of the distribution of other forms of capital in terms of social recognition, the "power attributed to those who have obtained sufficient recognition to be able to impose recognition" is intangible (Bourdieu, 1987, p. 164).

Social capital, therefore, is "the aggregate of actual or potential resources linked to the possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual knowledge or recognition" (Bourdieu, 1985, p. 248, our translation). The concept's approach is instrumental in nature, focusing on the benefits that individuals derive from participating in groups and the purposeful building of social capital. Therefore, this definition seems to be the most theoretically sophisticated among those who have brought the concept into contemporary sociological discourse. In his original writings, Bourdieu (1985, p. 249) stated that "the benefits gained from belonging to a group are the basis of the solidarity that makes them possible". There is then a focus on the benefits individuals obtain through group participation and the intentional construction of social capital.

Considering that public safety refers to initiatives and actions taken by government and society to protect citizens, maintain order, prevent crime, and promote peace in communities, dialog with social representations and social capital is necessary, as these are complex interactions of collective memories related to safety and intra-community social ties.
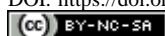
Understanding this intersection is fundamental to developing effective security strategies that promote both a sense of security and stronger social relations. Furthermore, this study finds relevance in linking these theories to a scenario that promotes strategic activities aimed at guaranteeing the well-being of individuals and society.

In view of this, the question is: *how are Social Representations and Social Capital approached in studies on public security?* To answer this question, the aim of this article is to characterize the studies in the area of Public Security that have used the theoretical framework of Social Representations or Social Capital.

Methodology

This is an Integrative Literature Review, characterized as a study method that provides broad and up-to-date knowledge, synthesizing relevant information on a given subject. It was developed through the following steps: 1) Outlining the problem and research objectives; 2) Searching platforms/databases; 3) Defining inclusion and exclusion criteria; 4) Analyzing the articles; 5) Extracting the data of interest; 6) Presenting and discussing the results (Mendes; Silveira; Galvão, 2019).

Data was collected from July to August 2023 from the following databases: Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), *Biblioteca Virtual em Saúde* (BVS), *Portal de Periódicos da Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior* (CAPES) and Web of Science. We used the descriptors and keywords " *Capital Simbólico*", "Symbolic Capital", "*Representações Sociais*", "Social Representation", "*Segurança Pública*", and "Public Security", crossing them with the Boolean operators "AND" and "OR", to compose the search strategy (Chart 1).

Chart 1 - Search strategy for studies, according to language. Manaus (AM), 2023

Languages	Search strategy
Portuguese	*(Capital Simbólico OR Representação Social) AND Segurança Pública*
English	(Symbolic Capital OR Social Representation) AND Public Security

Source: Prepared by the authors.

As for the inclusion criteria, we selected original articles, available online and in full, published in the last 10 years (2013 - 2023), in Portuguese and English. Duplicate studies,

bibliographic reviews, and those developed outside the context of public security that did not include one of the theoretical-methodological approaches sought were excluded.

All the results from the search strategy for each database were included in the reference manager *EndNote* in order to exclude duplicates and organize the studies. The studies were then exported to the Rayyan software, which was used to assist and optimize the time of the team conducting a review, in which two independent reviewers read titles and abstracts under masking. A third reviewer was called in to resolve the differences. The included studies were then organized in a concise manner, and their content was extracted and characterized through in-depth reading, summarizing authors, year, country, and database, as well as objectives, design, subjects, collection and analysis techniques, and main results.

As this was a review study, there was no need for the Research Ethics Committee to examine it. Even so, the ethical precepts and the guarantee of the copyright of the studies used were respected.

Results

A total of 364 articles were identified, of which 10 (2.75%) in SciELO, 72 (19.79%) in BVS, 107 (29.39%) in the CAPES Journals Portal, and 175 (48.07%) in the Web of Science. After applying the eligibility criteria, 12 studies made up the review sample, as shown in Figure 1, using the flowchart constructed in accordance with the recommendations of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) (Tricco *et al.*, 2018).

Figure 1 - Flowchart summarizing the process of selecting articles for review
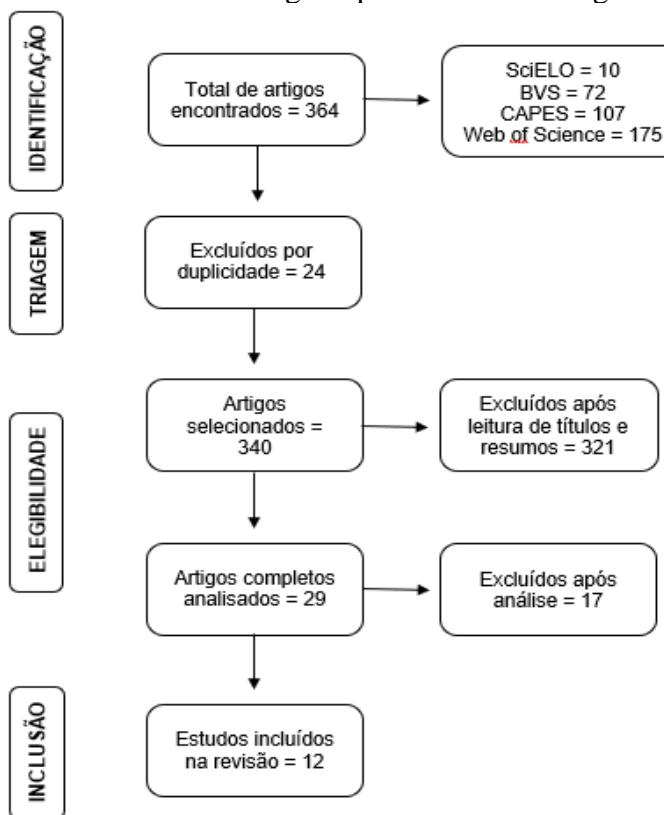
Source: Prepared by the authors in accordance with PRISMA recommendations.

Charts 2 and 3 present the summaries of the 12 studies included, seven of which (58.33%) used Social Representations and five (41.67%) Social Capital. With regard to databases, one (8.33%) was indexed in SciELO, five (41.67%) in BVS, five (41.67%) in CAPES, and one (8.33%) in *Web of Science*. With regard to the scenario studied, seven (58.33%) were carried out in Brazil, three (25%) in the United States of America (USA), one (8.33%) in the United Kingdom, and one (8.33%) in China. In terms of methodology, there were five (41.67%) quantitative studies, four (33.33%) qualitative studies, and three (25%) documentary studies.

Chart 2 - Summary of studies using the Social Representations approach included in the review (N=7). Manaus (AM), 2023

Authors, year, country and database	Objective(s)	Design, subjects, collection technique and analysis	Main results
Machado and Porto, 2015; Brazil; SciELO	To analyze the social representations of police chiefs,	Qualitative; 11 public security professionals (3 deputies, 5 prosecutors and 3 magistrates);	The representations were summarized as a lack of resources, lack of infrastructure, equipment, and personnel, as well as insufficient

	prosecutors, and magistrates regarding the criminal justice system.	Focus groups.	working conditions. They also have unsaid and unbidden undertones that seem unfamiliar (such as the growth of violence and crime) but are inserted into their knowledge, making them familiar.
Justo, Pinto and Pires, 2019; Brazil; CAPES	To identify the social representations of violence emerging from the events resulting from the Public Security Crisis in Espírito Santo. Santo in February 2017.	Documentary; Local printed newspaper "*A Tribuna*"; IRAMUTEQ software.	Representation of violence based on the dichotomy between "good people" and "criminals". There were also reports on the administrative consequences of the crimes, the restoration of social order, and security measures. The news detracts from understanding violence as a broader social phenomenon, strengthening stereotypes and contributing to phenomena of exclusion.
Souza; Santos; Apostolidis, 2020; Brazil; CAPES	Analyze the representational field of drugs in media communications.	Documentary; 4,516 articles from a widely-circulated newspaper in Brazil that had drug-related issues as their central theme; IRAMUTEQ software - lexicometric analysis.	Three thematic axes were identified: socio-political regulation of drug use, production, and circulation; drug use, addiction, and health; police and the war on drugs in Brazil. The phenomena in the field are related to typical social categories (e.g. users and dealers); forms of deviance (e.g. addiction and crime); and social practices in health and public security (e.g. treatment and imprisonment).
Velozo and Mendonça, 2021; Brazil; CAPES	To analyze higher education students' social representations of crime.	100 face-to-face, collective and individual interviews with Physical Education and Psychology students; free recall questionnaires; IRAMUTEQ - prototypical and similarity analysis.	Social representation is associated with physical and property violence, drug trafficking, and social aspects. The state plays a significant role in the social organization of the use of violence.
Virgílio *et al.*, 2020; Brazil, CAPES	To understand the meaning of life in traffic from the perspective of members of the Life in Traffic Network.	Qualitative; interviews with 30 participants; Collective Subject Discourse.	Representations portrayed in the Anchoring (promoting life in traffic) and in the Central Idea (preserving life by reducing accidents). The promotion of life in traffic is represented by education; respect; tolerance; investment, and safety. The preservation of life refers to the reduction of traffic fatalities and safe transportation.
Vieira and Doula, 2019; Brazil; CAPES	Analyze the media's social representations of the displacement of crime to rural areas.	Documentary, analyzing stories broadcast on the main Brazilian television news programs.	The imagery of the countryside has changed, and today, this space is re-signified by insecurity and fear. Thus, crime and violence have been expanding their borders and reaching

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			the countryside, where they are now incorporated into national public security statistics.
C; Brazil; *Web of Science*	To explore the social representations of young people from Rio de Janeiro's favelas about police practices in the context of the implementation of the 'Pacifying Police Units'.	Qualitative; fieldwork, participant observation and interviews.	They expressed a demand for more public security and social services. The young people noticed some progress in police practices, although these changes seemed unstable. The permanence of violent practices and prejudice on the part of the police was verified in the young people's narratives. Any change in this scenario must be based on replacing the war logic of 'pacification' with another logic, that of participation.

Source: Prepared by the authors.

Chart 3 - Synthesis of the studies addressingSocial Capital included in the review (N=5). Manaus (AM), 2023

Authors, year, country and database	Objective(s)	Design, subjects, collection technique and analysis	Main results
Zhang *et al.*, 2020; China; VHL	Explore the determining factor of citizen security behavior from the perspective of social capital theory.	Quantitative; 311 construction workers; 5 validated instruments, 4 for citizenship of security, 1 for autonomous security and 3 for social security capital.	Safety citizenship behavior was significantly related to safety social capital. Autonomous security motivation mediated the relationship between social security capital and security citizenship behavior.
Honga *et al.*, 2018; USA; VHL	To examine the moderating effect of perceived safety on the association of green space with neighborhood social capital in older adults.	Quantitative; 647 independent elderly people.	Certain elements of the neighborhood's green space, such as attractive natural views, are positively related to the social capital of the elderly. However, other green spaces, such as parks and tree-lined streets, can have an undesirable impact on neighborhood social capital among older people who consider their neighborhood less safe.
Jones *et al.*, 2014; United Kingdom; VHL	To evaluate the impact of individual characteristics, perceived social and environmental incivilities, indicators of cognitive and structural social capital, as well as perceived security.	Quantitative; 8,237 interviews with residents aged 16 and over living within the boundaries of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde x1_".	It was found that physical health, social structural factors such as age, and measures of cognitive, and social capital were stronger predictors of mental well-being than variables reflecting perceived incivilities or safety. The effect of cognitive, and social capital on well-being was strongest among respondents aged 56þ.
Evans *et al.*,	To examine the	Quantitative; 713	The neighborhood's perception of safety

2014; USA; VHL	perceived characteristics of coexistence to successful outcome among mothers 10 years after treatment for substance use disorders.	mothers; Semi-structured interview instrument - *Addiction Severity Index* (ASI).	has almost doubled the chances of success. Perceived safety in the neighborhood interacted with social involvement, decreasing the chances of success among mothers who reported more or less social participation in the neighborhood. Perceived neighborhood climate is associated with long-term outcomes among mothers with substance use disorders, regardless of individual characteristics.
Caspia *et al.,* 2013; USA; VHL	Examining social capital, perceived safety and behavior disorder of walking in a population of low-income residents.	Quantitative; 828 residents of these housing estates; Questionnaire International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ) and structured (closed) questions.	Those who reported low social disturbance also reported less leisure walking, and those who reported high community social capital also walked less for all outcomes. Physical disorder and community safety were not associated with walking behavior. The socio-environmental variables of the neighborhood are unlikely to be the most important factors in determining walking behavior.

Source: Prepared by the authors.

Discussion

Social representations can be identified, apprehended, and interpreted in different ways. Although most of the studies available in the literature directly investigate the individuals of a social group in order to explore a common problem, representations are not limited to this form of development. In addition to being a reference for interpretation, the theory of social representations is an essential methodological guide since the phenomenon of interest, the context, and the subjects (in some cases) can guide the researcher in conducting the study.

In three studies in this review (Justo; Pinto; Pires, 2019; Sousa; Santos; Apostolidis, 2020; Vieira; Doula, 2019), data was collected through documentary analysis of printed or digital materials reported in local, state and national newspapers. In two of them (Justo; Pinto; Pires, 2019; Sousa; Santos, Apostolidis, 2020), the analysis was aided by the IRAMUTEQ software - a free program that has been consolidated in social representation research by performing Descending Hierarchical Classification (DHC), content analysis, discourse analysis, similarity and lexicometry (Nascimento; Menandro, 2006).

Sousa, Santos, and Apostolidis (2020) analyzed 4,516 articles published from 2010 to 2014 on a São Paulo newspaper's news portal, whose central theme was drug use, considering the variables of year of publication, section published in the newspaper and direct or indirect reference to a particular drug in the article's title. The CHD procedure made it possible to

classify 36,204 textual segments (words), distributed into eight classes, named as: 1) Mexican drug trafficking and the drug circuit in the Americas (2,282 segments - 6.3%); 2) Forms of drug regulation and alternative policies to prohibitionism (5,738 - 15.85%); 3) The marijuana march (376 - 1.04%); 4) The "*cracolândias*[5]" and the controversy over compulsory hospitalization (2.822 - 7.79%); 5) Substances, risks, harm, and therapeutic uses (5,688 - 15.71%); 6) Police operations and the war on drugs in Rio de Janeiro (4,392 - 12.13%); 7) Drug and arms seizures in Brazil (7,661 - 21.16%); 8) Drugs, celebrities, interpersonal relationships, and life stories (7,245 - 20.01%). These classes allowed the authors to conclude that there are two strands of meanings for the term drug: legal-criminal and medical-sanitary.

Also using CHD to identify and organize social representations of violence, Justo, Pinto, and Pires (2019) analyzed 114 articles linked to a local newspaper in Espírito Santo during the public security crisis in the state. The *corpus* textual originated six classes, divided into two large *sub-corpora*: "Criminal Actions" and "Occurrences and Society" - the former gave rise to the classes "Victim vs. Bandit", "Post-Crime" and "Crime Scenes", while the latter gave rise to "Security and Social Life", "Records and Reports of Occurrences" and "Police Stations and Attendance at Occurrences". There were thus polarized representations restricted to the dichotomous view between "bandits" and "good society".

The study by Vieira and Doula (2019) aimed to understand crime in the countryside from an analytical perspective that derives from the messages and information broadcast by the media to its target audience, mainly social actors linked to the countryside. Unlike the first two studies mentioned, this one used manual data analysis, which nevertheless provided the symbolic basis for an imagination of the countryside as a place of tranquility and well-being that has come to be questioned and amplified by the mass media, creating a new collective consensus. Veloso and Mendonça (2021) also investigated the social object "crime", not using a documentary method, but by applying a free word recall questionnaire to health students in order to record the terms associated with the problem. The words that stood out were "violence", "death", "inequality", "politics", "drugs" and "gun".

Thus, it is understood that the aforementioned studies are anchored in the structural approach to social representations proposed by Abric (2003), where the author considers not only knowledge of the content of representations but also their organization in order to make sense of understanding. However, an in-depth understanding goes beyond words evoked by a

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[5] Cracolândia is the common name for a homeless population, mostly made up of drug addicts and drug dealers, usually crack addicts, who occupy a certain area in the center of the city of São Paulo.

stimulus or even disseminated on media platforms. Intra- and intersubjective aspects must be analyzed in the subjects' discourses and narratives through participant observation, interviews, or focus groups, for example. Such collection techniques appear to optimize the process of reaching and interpreting representations, used by three studies included in this review (Corrêa *et al*., 2016; Machado; Porto, 2015; Virgílio *et al*., 2020).

Corrêa *et al*. (2016) explored the elements that potentiate conflicts between the police and young people living in the German complex. Although the actors report a decrease in the number and severity of armed conflicts between the police and criminal groups in the city, young people still distrust the security agencies, which are represented by a pattern of aggressive and disrespectful behavior. In an inverse perspective, Machado and Porto (2015) present the representations of police officers, prosecutors, and magistrates about homicide in Brasíliaa. The familiar and the unfamiliar, which are apparently distinct, were equated and interpreted by the authors, revealing the "unsaid".

Attributes in relation to problems linked to public safety seem to be strongly embedded in the social imaginary of the subjects investigated, exonerated by various aspects, such as living in specific groups in society. Representations, therefore, constitute a reality for those involved. It is an environment capable of forming systems for thinking, knowing, and acting with the world on a given social problem (Berger; Luckmann, 1996). Routine and habit help to construct this reality, as well as the reactions that result from everyday events, which influence the responses common to people who belong to an interaction network in a given context (Moscovici, 2015).

When we draw a parallel with the studies that have used social capital, we see characteristics that differ from those used in social representations. Social capital emphasizes the importance of social connections, shared norms, and healthy relationships within a community. The association of the latter with studies on public safety results, for the most part, in investigations into perceived safety. All the aspects mentioned above have a significant impact on the functioning and well-being of individuals and communities.

In the five studies in this review that establish a dialog between perceived security and social capital (Caspia *et al*., 2013; Evans *et al*., 2014; Jones *et al*., 2014; Honga *et al*., 2018; Zang *et al*.2020), it was possible to perceive the concept of social capital being translated as characteristics of social organizations where trust, norms, and networks of relationships can improve social efficiency and facilitate coordinated work. In this sense, Bourdieu (1985)
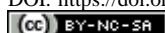
considers the sum of resources coming from the network of institutionalized relations of mutual recognition in the social fields.

In the studies (Evans, 2014; Jones *et al*., 2014 Honga *et al*., 2018) in which this concept of capital is related to perceived security and factors linked to health, it is noted that social capital operates through the perpetuation of social norms, such as greater security and collective efficiency. It can thus be seen that the social environment can affect health through interactions and relationships, resulting in social support or discrimination. It is, therefore, clear that mutual trust and solidarity are factors that improve collective efficiency and stress. However, Caspi *et al.* (2013, p. 9) emphasize that the "results indicate that social capital, security, and disorder act independently to influence health behaviors, but it is not yet clear exactly how these constructs are interrelated".

The perception of social capital is well assessed in the study by Honga *et al.* (2018), who consider it a public good, where social investments are recognized as positive collective qualities, being above individual qualities. However, safety remains a major challenge in maximizing the benefits of green spaces, because they can play an essential role in promoting the social capital of the neighborhood and the health of the elderly. However, other types of green spaces, such as parks and tree-lined streets, may be less favorable for seniors who consider their neighborhood unsafe for pedestrians.

Final considerations

The studies explored various areas of public safety, such as crime, violence, drugs, and perceived safety. The subjects included low-income residents, mothers undergoing treatment for substance use disorders, elderly community members, civil servants, health students, and public security professionals. However, most of the studies that have used social representations have been conducted in Brazil and have been qualitative and documentary, using Iramuteq software to analyze the data. Those that used social capital were developed in other countries and focused on quantitative approaches, using questionnaires and analyzing descriptive statistics and regressions.

Through this research, it was possible to see the theoretical relationship between social representations and social capital, especially in the way people perceive themselves, interact, and relate to each other in society. It was also noted that the research methods in each type of theoretical approach were different. Therefore, It is of the utmost importance that researchers
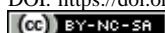
and professionals working with public security adapt the phenomenon of interest to the theoretical framework and collection method/technique and the subjects involved to offer a more complete and in-depth view of social problems.

Finally, it was noted that social representations and social capital are linked by social and psychological processes that shape relationships in society. That instigates reflection on the harmony of these aspects and the gaps that need to be filled by future studies. Although the field of social sciences does not usually require interventional research, the importance of this method in investigations focused on public policies that leave practical contributions to society and science is highlighted.

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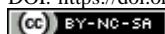
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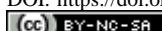
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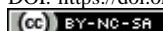
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