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Historical evidences as a way to construct the historical knowledge about Nursing and Health

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The process of construction and reconstruction of human societies is based in each movement of life and it is effective according to the reality of each time and space. Historiography analyzes the sense of the past, locates and interprets critically and reflectively the changes. Since to be member of a human community means to be positioned according to the past [...]”^(1;22).

The scientific production published in this journal, made by several researchers of Nursing and Health History, bring in highlight the importance of the research sources and historical evidence. Mainly, how important they are for the establishment of new and better knowledge with regards the history of care practices, of the institutions of health, of nursing education and of struggles to qualify care for people’s health, and resistance to power and oppression.

For this, it is necessary the theoretical and epistemological clarity and working with sources and historical evidence need to be addressed critically and considering their reciprocity.

This means that besides the contact with the sources, the researcher needs to overcome the use of them as the simple confirmation of details concerning a historical interpretation⁽²⁾. The history is constructed from evidence and goes beyond the presentation of facts and events. It needs to be analyzed and reflected upon in accordance with reality in time and space. The evidence of the historian is the one that seeks the “why” and “how is given” the fact. Think about the status of evidence in history is to reflect on history itself.⁽³⁾

The numerous reformulations in modern historiography cannot disregard the borders of the visible and the invisible based on the intent to get al view of things from an analytical, broad and deep way. At the end of the twentieth century, evidence of history becomes questioned. What is the proper role, from now on, the historian facing the “narrativist challenge”?⁽³⁾

The question of the historical evidence is in the body of the narrative, which is the expression of the historian on the facts that come from different sources, whether the orality, the memory or the documents. The discussion about the epistemology of the narrative, however, repositions the historian in the work place, as he questions what to see, what to do and how to do it. The way the researcher deals with the evidence of his research, that is, what questions he does to the evidence, reflect the dialogic exercise between the concept and evidence.

Therefore, the proposal of this editorial rested in establishing a thoughtful dialogue placing this subject in the perspective of the problematization. Advertising sources and its relation with the evidence for the historical produced knowledge and contributing to the writing of a significant history

for Nursing and Health. Also, pointing out the ruptures, transformations and struggles/resistances, knowledge and power and bringing to light the care and practices. To give theoretical and epistemological visibility to the historical evidence qualifies research and grants scientificity to publications.

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