

NOTES ON RESEARCH
AND WRITING
(NOTAS SOBRE INVESTIGACIÓN
Y REDACCIÓN)

Raúl Rojas Soriano

*"El trabajo de investigación no puede
sino ser complejo y delicado;
demanda mucha fineza de
análisis y sobriedad intelectual..."*

*"Conocer la psicología particular
del público al que se
quiere conquistar [con el escrito]"*

*Antonio Gramsci,
Prisión italiana (1926-1934).*

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VI

Quoting format on the APA¹ style
Critical reflections

General considerations

The APA style, presented in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*², is mostly being used in the academic and scientific field when writing bibliographic and newspaper references in a text and when elaborating bibliographies.

This model has been gradually added, without further criticism, to the academic and scientific activity in the United States, as well as having been the facto standard transferred to developing countries.³

This has been proved by observing the massive adoption of the APA quoting format by numerous institutions and researchers and academics from both, natural and social sciences disciplines in Latin America and other regions around the world.

Surely within the American academic culture the APA style is indeed functional for directives, administrators, judges or evalua-

¹The APA style was developed in the United States by the *American Psychological Association*. The first version dates back to 1929. In 1952 put into circulation its *Publications Manual*, and in 2009 was realized its more recent review, edited one year later. It is worth noting that in some institutions it is called Harvard-APA style.

²El *Manual Moderno* Publisher, Mexico, 2012.

³I use the concept *developing countries* to facilitate reading to those who are not familiar with social sciences. For a particular analysis of the term, look at Immanuel Wallerstein's work: *World-Systems Analysis. An Introduction*, who proposes the expression Peripheral States (p. 47).

tors from academic and investigation institutes.

From their perspective, the APA model responds criteria of uniformity, space-saving in the text, and a fast pace reading.

The above does not change the fact that instructions in the APA manual, as I will demonstrate here, results in misunderstanding, even for the same American specialists:

1. *Disrespect towards the authors quoted in academic-scientific works, as well as towards the reader, to whom it shows authoritarianism.* See paragraphs 1, 3, 7, 11 and 13.

2. *Inaccuracy, which generates confusion, doubt or mistakes both when quoting sources in the text and when recording them in the “reference list” (bibliography).* See paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12.

3. *Depersonalizes the academic and scientific work.* See paragraphs 1, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 12.

4. *Contributes to the unconscious attribution of plagiarism of ideas and information.* See paragraphs 3 and 6.

5. *Discriminates the female gender.* See paragraph 9.

6. *Reveals incongruity.* See paragraph 10.

7. *Exhibits lack of order when writing sources in the bibliography.* See paragraph 12.

8. *The APA manual shows authoritarianism towards the reader.* See paragraph 13.

Said mistakes must be avoided in academic and scientific works, criteria with which American academics and researchers surely agree too.

It is also pertinent to note that these mistakes, omissions, negligence, etc., from the APA system do not appear isolated, but what one generates or includes other.

Before moving on, it is necessary to mention that the publishing house which published my book *Capitalismo y enfermedad* (*Capitalism and Illness*) in 1983, while making the style revision used the APA style and replaced (without asking me) the one I had used.

Given the technical difficulties to modify said format, because at that time our country still lacked access to book editing software, this text maintains the APA style, which I analyze here based on my academic and research practice, as well as presenting the reasons to avoid its use.

Further on, I present the other quoting method, which currently is widely used and allows diverse publishing houses around the world mending the mistakes in the APA quoting style.

In relation to the APA format for quotes, bibliographic and newspaper sources, the previously mentioned manual specifies (p.174) that “references in APA style publishing are quoted in the text in an author-date system [...]”, and is exemplified with this case:

“The study also shows the existence of a high co morbidity associated with alcohol abuse or dependence and severe depression (Kressler, 2003)”.

Concretely, APA (American Psychological Association Manual) states that when quoting an idea or piece of information, the only data to be considered is the author’s last name and the year.

Referring to the date, even if it seems obvious that it concerns the publication year, it does not specify whether it refers to this year, or that in which the text was first published, or the year in which it was written. I present further criticism on this matter in point 4 of this chapter.

Likewise, in accordance to the APA criteria, the page or pages where the information was obtained are not included; however, in the very APA’S *Quoting Style Manual* is indeed indicated several times the page or pages where the quoted information can be found. See, as an example, pages 65, 90, 171, 174 from this manual, among others.

According to APA, “this quoting style identifies briefly the source and allows the reader to find it in the alphabetical reference list at the end of the article” (*ibid*⁴. p.174).

Therefore, the data required to know exactly what sort of texts were used in the investigation are written in the section denominated as *References list*⁵, as specified in said manual, although it is also specified (*Ibid*, p.181) that only the family name and the initial or initials of the name or names of the author or authors.

Further criticism on this can be found in points 11 and 12 of this chapter.

⁴ *Ibidem* (*Ibid.*) means: the same author and work. The *Diccionario panhispánico de dudas* (*Pan-Hispanic Dictionary Of Doubts of the Royal Spanish Academy*), and from The Spanish Language Academies Association put an stress mark on said Latinism in Spanish.

⁵ It should be noted that in Latin America *List of references* generally is tantamount to *Bibliography* or *Press clippings*.

In relation to what APA suggests (“find the source in the alphabetical reference list at the end of the article [or book]”), I consider that given the necessity of extra time to look at the bibliographic and newspaper references section, it is highly possible that people abstain from doing it, and consequently forget the sources more quickly.

This provokes ideas and information to be attributed to the author or authors of the text in which this quotations were made. I develop this matter in point 6.

Likewise, if the reader chooses to consult the reference list (bibliography) to obtain more data on a mentioned source, *they might get lost the guiding thread of the reading*.

According to the previous statements, I set out precisely the following critical considerations, based on my academic practice and research work.

1. The quoting format in the APA manual is, in my opinion, *disrespectful (perhaps an involuntary fault of the creators of the system) towards the authors in whose work we support ourselves while making our research*, since their full name is not written.

It must be mentioned that in American tradition, generally, official documents only consider the last name⁶. This *practice goes against our Latin American idiosyncrasy*.

Writing and considering only the first last name should be valid for certain names that have passed on to history as individuals that have made transcendental contributions to science and society and are very well known: Darwin, Newton, Einstein, Marx, among others.

In the event of quoting in the text an author whose family name is Marx but he is not Karl Marx –let us say, Christopher Marx, academic of Harvard University–, the lack of a second family name or the full name could make us believe automatically that the Marx being quoted is Karl Marx, author of *The Capital*, unless we corroborate this information attending the reference list, which is at the end of the article or book.

To avoid *confusions* like these, the full name of each author

⁶ Translator’s note: when Dr. Rojas Soriano mentions the **last name**, he refers to the first last name, (which belongs to the Father’s name). In Latin America, the family name includes both: father’s and mother’s last name.

must be written (first and second family name). *This structure is not foreseen in the APA style.*

2. There are several family names in Mexico and in every other part of the world that belong to hundreds of people, which brings forth imprecisions: for example, the reader will not be able to know which *López* (of the thousands in our country and others) wrote the quote we use in some article of book, he will know only if he decides to consult the reference list (bibliography).

To demonstrate the inappropriateness of the APA style concerning the inclusion of only the first last name as a family name, I quote an example from that manual (p. 92):

“López (1993) noticed that ‘the effect disappeared after a few minutes’ (p. 311) but did not specify what effect”.

Is it not clear the *inaccuracy* of the APA quoting style which leads to the *misunderstanding* of not knowing who the quoted author is?

Such ambiguity cannot be allowed in a scientific or academic work.

3. The vagueness of the APA style also causes *uncertainty*, as it happened to me while revising, in 1994, as a member of the jury, a master’s degree thesis from the Faculty of Superior Studies Zaragoza of the UNAM:

Effects of the Participation in Socially Useful Activities, in the Cooperating Conduct of a Group of Secondary School Students in the Federal District, by Aurora González Granados.

In mentioned work there was a quoted author in a page (González⁷, 1986); some pages later another idea by an investiga-

⁷ The APA manual (p.176) states that if a publication has “two or more major authors with the same surname, there must be included the initials of the first author in all quotes within the text”, which *discriminates* against other authors with the same name. When it comes to publications with different authors, if we would like to apply this rule (to write, besides the name, the initials of the name or the names, to avoid confusion), in practice such indication is forgotten, or it is unknown, and the question arises, as it happens to the case I am analyzing.

tor with the same family name but a different year was included (González, 1983). My questions were:

- a) Is González the same author in both cases, and are these quotes taken from two different texts, one published in 1986 and the other in 1983?
- b) Are they two different individuals?
- c) One of the quotes, does it correspond to the author of the thesis who is also called González?

In this last case the person would be *auto-quoting*, which is valid in the academic and scientific field, in other words, they recur to a thought or information that is theirs and has been already published in another work or article.

To clear doubts I had to go to the bibliography and see that in fact, it was two authors with the same family name: González.

The first one was González Rey L., *Motivación moral en adolescentes y jóvenes (Moral Motivation in Adolescents and Youths)*, Científico-Técnica Publishers, Cuba, 1983. The second one was: González, R. M., “Delincuencia juvenil: un problema mundial” (Juvenile Delinquency: A Worldwide Issue), *El Nacional* newspaper, pp. 1-2, Second Section, 1986.

In occasions the author’s full data is not considered in the bibliography, as in the mentioned thesis, which corresponds to the APA model and with which I disagree.

This error of the APA model of not writing full names must be avoided, so as not to leave doubt as to which are the authors we are referring to in our investigations (See paragraph 8 of this chapter).

On the other hand, recording the full name facilitates the search for other works by the same author to go deeper into the analysis of their contributions, which would not happen if we only knew the initials, for we would lack enough information to localize more of their publications (as in the case of González, R.M., previously mentioned).

This confusion in the way of quoting references can be avoided if we write:

- a) The given name and family names, (mother and father last names), of the author or authors. When there are several authors, out of respect for each author, it should be written the full author's name the first time that their work or article is quoted.

Or, would you accept not being cited as a co-author of a written work without including your full name merely because that is the norm in the APA system?

If the same text is quoted again, only the first author's full name must be written, as presented in the published work, followed by the phrase: *et al*⁸, which stands for "and others";

- b) The title of the work in *italics*;
c) The abbreviation of the term *page* in lowercase (p.); for two or more pages, use a double p (pp.);
d) The page number;
e) If the quote comes from an *article* in a newspaper or magazine, or if it is a *chapter* in a collective book, the title of the article or chapter must be placed in between inverted commas ("")⁹.

4. The APA style can also cause *inaccuracy* even in the academic field, since it is not specified whether the year indicated in the quotes is: 1) the edition we are consulting, 2) the date in which the work was published or 3) when it was written.

For example, on a book by Ernesto E. Hashimoto Moncayo and Luis Mario Aparicio Guzmán, (*Cómo investigar desde los tres paradigmas de la ciencia*) [*How to Investigate from the Three Paradigms of Science*], p. 191), we can find:

⁸*Et ál.* Is an abbreviation of *Et álii*. *The Diccionario panhispánico de dudas (Pan-Hispanic question dictionary)* from the Royal Spanish Academy and from the Spanish Language Academies Association put a stressed mark on the word *álii*.

⁹Full details of the source are given in the section: bibliography, where is being included, generally the press clippings and other sources (such as Internet). The author may write in different sections; 1) Bibliography; 2) Press Clippings; 3) Other information sources (Internet, etc.).

“Several authors (Durkheim, 1938; V.A. Judges, 1971) agree in the affirmation that the exam does not arise, exactly, from the educational scene [...]”.

Those who do not know the APA system could think that Durkheim wrote his ideas regarding this matter in 1938, when in fact he died in 1917.

Another case: “In the nineteenth conference of his ‘General Introduction to Psychoanalysis’, Freud (1968) presented his own example as that of one of the great thinkers that had mistreated men’s ‘naive’ self-love” (Alejandro Piscitelli, *Meta-cultura* [Meta-culture], pp. 161, 162).

In this quote about Freud, whoever ignores when the *Father of psychoanalysis* died will think that the mentioned thought was expressed in 1968, when Freud lived from 1856 to 1939.

The very APA manual provides more elements to further this critic, presenting the following example (p. 94) “to quote in the text a republished work: Freud (1923/1961)”.

The referred manual makes this example explicit in a previous page (p. 89): “Freud (1923/1961) wrote about two impulses: the impulse of union with others and the selfish impulse towards happiness.”

Those readers who are not familiar with the APA style might think that Freud lived between 1923 and 1961, which is a false assumption. This *error* might arise when the reader *reads*: Freud (1923-1961), instead of Freud (1923/1961).

5. The APA manual (p. 171) also generates *confusion* between the publication date and the year in which an idea was expressed, which can be seen in the following text:

“Others have contradicted this opinion: The co-presence does not guarantee the interaction between all the members of the group [...]” (Purcell, 1997, pp. 111-112). The other reference is: “In 1997, Purcell contradicted this opinion [...]”.

Except in the newspapers, it can be said that others publications (books, journals), due to the editing process time, very few times the publication year will match with the date that an idea in the book or in the article is being expressed. Hence the confusion to which I refer.

6. Likewise, the APA style can *induce the mistaken attribution to the author of the text, ideas that belong to others*, which would lead to the presumption that plagiarism has been committed, when in fact it has not.

To demonstrate this, let us perform the following experiment (which I carried out in the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of the UNAM, with a group of 120 licentiate students on the subject of *Methodology for the Investigation*):

Ask students enrolled in a superior level to revise a brief article that presents the contributions of barely known authors, using the APA format style.

Remind that to know the origin of the quotes said style only requires the family name of the author or authors, the year and, in occasions, the page or pages.

Ask the group to note down the most relevant statements presented in the work: the tendency *will be to attribute to the author of the document (which is being read for the experiment) the ideas of other -not so known- authors* (even though the author has no idea that such contributions have been incorrectly assigned to him).

The readers will not care much about remembering the authors quoted in the article, especially if the work is long and they have little time.

Therefore, the use of the APA style contributes to the occurrence of this phenomenon, of *attributing to an author other authors' ideas*, especially in the case of authors whose work has not been sufficiently promoted and whose family names have not transcended in the academic and scientific circles.

Likewise, to write the source as a footnote may lead us to act in a similar manner, as I demonstrate in my book *Trabajo intelectual e investigación de un plagio (Intellectual Study and Investigation on Plagiarism)*.

About the subject of plagiarism, I must recognize that *the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* does refer to this matter and how to avoid it (see section "Plagiarism and Auto-plagiarism").

This fact, however, does not invalidate the criticism I make on the APA manual, which is an expression of the dominant way of thinking in the United States concerning the exposition and divulgation of knowledge.

Without disregarding the validity and importance of some of the recommendations indicated in the mentioned manual for the wording and socialization of knowledge, it is necessary to adapt them to our academic-scientific needs and our sociocultural models.

7. In family names such as González Casanova, the use of the referred model would imply removing the second family name and include only the first one: González. This would surely trouble the people whose family name is González Casanova, in this case, the academic tradition would lead to consider these family names as a compound family name¹⁰.

Let us see both ways of indicating the bibliographic reference (using the same quote):

In the first case I recur to the APA style to demonstrate how little is the use of this model is when writing the information on a source:

The dynamics of inequality continue both inside and outside the country, and the political decisions which oppose it up until now have not been enough to eradicate it. The slow rate of economic growth in the last years, the depressing conditions of the global market, the limitations of the inner market and the awakening of the masses in many sectors of the country demand a single fundamental decision: the democratization of national institutions. (González, 1971).

The other style for writing a bibliographic or press clipping reference when some information or idea is mentioned (which is being increasingly used by the Latin American publishing industry), considers the elements mentioned in point 3: full name of the author or authors, title of the work or article, and page or pages.

This citing style facilitates, without a doubt, the retention of the information about the author or authors of the text and the

¹⁰I was working on these notes when I read at the UNAM's Gazette (April 16th, 2012) the titled article "El legado de Manuel González Casanova" (The legacy of Manuel González Casanova). The subtitle is "El peso del apellido González Casanova" (The weight of González Casanova's last name). Notice the relevance of including both last names to facilitate the identification of the character.

text title in the reader's memory.

Now, I present the same quote, but I use this last format for the bibliographic reference. You will be the judge of which of these styles facilitates more the recalling of the source:

*The dynamics of inequality continue both inside and outside the country, and the political decisions which oppose it up until now have not been enough to eradicate it. The slow rate of economic growth in the last years, the depressing conditions of the global market, the limitations of the inner market and the awakening of the masses in many sectors of the country demand a single fundamental decision: the democratization of national institutions. (Pablo González Casanova, *La Democracia en México* [*The Democracy in Mexico*], p. 178).*

As we finish cutting the cord with Mother APA, we can include the year after the title of the book or article: (Pablo González Casanova, *The Democracy in Mexico*, 1971, p. 178).

To avoid a routine is recommended to place the name of the author before beginning the quote, for example: As Pablo González Casanova says: (when recurring to this format, only the *title of the work* and the page should be included at the end of the quote).

8. Sometimes, we must support ourselves in personal situations or experiences to emphasize our ideas, for which I apologize to the reader. I do so only to justify the reason why we should not use the APA system for, as I have already mentioned, it *depersonalizes the academic and scientific work* since it **does not** mention the full name of the authors and correspondent sources.

Having made this clarification, I present a case of the book by Roberto Hernández Sampieri, Carlos Fernández Collado and Pilar Baptista Lucio, *Metodología de la investigación (Methodology of Research)* (p. 13), in which the APA format is used (I recur to this example to show the *lack of accuracy* of the model):

“Likewise, as Rojas (1981) suggests, it is necessary to establish the temporary and special limits of the study and elaborate a profile of the observation units...”

The questions anyone interested in knowing the source from which the quote was taken would ask are:

Which *Rojas* are the authors referring to?

In what text can the quote be found?

So, this *uncertainty* (which should not be present in academic and scientific works) remains in relation to the source, due to the lack of the author's full name and for omitting the title of the work as well as the page number.

To know the exact information, the reader must look in the section where the bibliography has been written, which is complicated especially when we are consulting a magazine or collective volume in which each article or chapter has its own reference list; in this case the last pages of each specific text must be "swept" to find said list, or look at the index to localize them.

Said quote paragraphs before, which I use as an example to question de APA style, was obtained from my book *Guía para realizar investigaciones sociales (Guide for Conducting Social Research)*, page 50, 1981 edition.

Next, I mention another case about an author who shows respect for his colleagues by citing their work used to support the text and to develop the author's ideas. I am referring to Ario Garza Mercado (*Manual de técnicas de investigación para estudiantes de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades [Manual of Investigation Techniques for Students of Social Sciences and Humanities]*, p 21):

Raúl Rojas Soriano describes in several of his books the characteristics of, and his experience in, the investigation- action, which he also denominates militant investigation. In his Guía para realizar investigaciones sociales (Guide for Conducting Social Research)¹¹ he defines it as a method: "while both investigators and population participate actively, in a level of equality, as agents of change,

¹¹ When the quote is in italics, if within the title of a book appears, as in this case, that title should be written in Roman.

facing in a permanent basis the theoretical and methodological model with the practice, so as to adjust it to the reality that requires change and so it can be used to guide strategies and action programs”.

The APA style does not recognize the strong link that Latin American people feel towards the maternal figure, which is a vital part of our culture and family identity.

Because of this, and against the instructions of the APA model, any author will prefer to have their full name written when his/her contributions are cited by other authors to support their research, since it is a way of recognition to which every creator is entitled to.

9. The matter of gender cannot be forgotten in this analysis: the APA style *discriminates* the maternal family name, considering only the paternal one. I have always said that someone gave birth to me, what about you?

Likewise, with the omission of the given name as the APA style suggests, the identity of the author is hidden, therefore the reader ignores whether the person who wrote the idea or information that appears as a bibliographic quote is male or female. If we consider that we live in a patriarchal culture and that according to the mental structure that this implies, intellectual work is usually attributed to men.

Omitting the full name is valid only in those cases in which publications are sent for a dictation (or to include only the initials of the authors when the jury indicates it), for it is anonymity or the exclusive use of initials of the authors what prevents a negative judgment of the work of an author merely because of her being a woman.

10. It is pertinent to emphasize on an *inconsistency* in the APA manual regarding gender.

On the one hand, as we have already seen, this style includes only the first family name, reason for which the sex of whoever wrote the idea or information being quoted is unknown. On the other hand, the same manual indicates that when writing an article or book “we must avoid the ambiguity regarding the sexual identi-

ty or sexual role by the meaning of nouns, pronouns and adjectives that describe specifically the participants” (p.73).

Is the contradiction in which the APA style gets entangled clear?

11. Regarding the way of elaborating the reference list (bibliography), *the APA Publication Manual indicates that only the first family name and the initials of each author must be registered* (followed by the year, title of the work of article, location in which it was published and the publishers). As to the name of the author or authors, said manual states:

“Arrange the entries in alphabetical order by the family name of each author, followed by the initials of the author’s name [...]” (ibid., p. 181).

Would you agree with being quoted in a bibliography with simply your last name and your initials? If you do not agree, neither do I.

In the next point I present an example to support this critic.

12. When referring to the bibliography, the APA style places the publication date after the name of the author or authors, giving it more importance than to the title of the work.

To demonstrate that the APA format results *inadequate* for the writing of the *bibliography*, according to the name of the *author* and the *publication date*, it is enough to show an example that appears in a text¹² in which one of my books on conformity on the discussed style is quoted:

Rojas, R. (1990), *El proceso de la investigación científica (The Process of Scientific Investigation)*, Mexico, Trillas.

Again *uncertainty* arises: 1) who is this Rojas R.? And 2) did he write his work in 1990, or is it the publication date?

Next, I present a case to illustrate how to write a bibliography properly. To do so, I use an example found in a book in which

¹² Andrés García Martínez y Segundo Galicia Sánchez. *El arte y la ciencia de enseñar (The Art and Science of Teaching)*, UAS- Habana University- Plaza y Valdés Publisher, Mexico, 2011.

the name of the author is fully written, and the order of the data is shown in the correct order.

It was written by Dr. Héctor Fix-Zamudio, one of the most eminent jurists in Ibero-America and recognised by the United Nations (UN). In his *Ensayos sobre metodología, docencia e investigación jurídica (Essay on Legal Methodology, Teaching and Investigation)*, Fix-Zamudio incorporates in his essential bibliography a publication previously mentioned, of my authorship; in this bibliography the main data¹³ is considered, as well as the correct order in which it must be written:

Rojas Soriano, Raúl, *Guía para realizar investigaciones Sociales (Guide for Conducting Social Research)*, UNAM, Mexico, 1977.

This way of writing the bibliography also follows a logical order: from the specific (*the author's name*) to the general, *the year*. It is also the more adequate way of requesting a book in a library or when buying it in a bookshop.

13. Lastly, it must be mentioned that the APA manual “decides” when we must include further data on the quote when citing in the text; for example, in the chapter “Practical Aspects of Style”, it is stated:

“In some sections of this chapter the precise bibliographic reference is presented so as to help the readers extend the information on subjects that might interest them” (p. 85).

However, only in three cases on that chapter does the APA manual provides more information on a source (and only because of the sort of examples used requires it); in most cases makes use of their own quoting format, being evaluated here.

¹³ * If it is volume or volumes to be indicated the number accessed. Some authors add in the bibliography: the translator, if any, and the number of editing (e.g. 3rd ed.), and the total number of pages in the text (e.g., 230 pp.). Remember that the title of a work, as well as the name of a newspaper or magazine, should be in italics, while the title of an article, or chapter of a book (if it is a collective work), must be enclosed in quotes (“”).

The decision of disposing of more information regarding the sources only in some cases *is a sign of authoritarianism towards the readers.*

Due to lack of space I leave aside further critics related to the quoting format and the organization and knowledge spreading of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.*

14. **Finally**, when quoting and idea or information in the text body of an investigation, ***one must not use the APA style or any other model that does not include the following information:*** full name of the author or authors, title of the work or article and page or pages. In the bibliography the data that must be registered is, in the following order: full name of the author or authors (starting by family name), title of the work or article, publisher, publishing location and date of publication. Additionally, the information mentioned in point 12 of this chapter can also be included.

Esteemed reader, I will thank you immensely if you send your valuable comments on the contents of this chapter, which is part of my book *Notas sobre investigación y redacción (Notes on Research and Writing)*.

If you consider this might interest for teachers, investigators and students that you are acquainted with, please forward them the present text. Thank you very much.

Dr. Raúl Rojas Soriano

raulrojassoriano@gmail.com
raulrojassoriano@hotmail.com

P.S. I annex my CV (brief). My works, save for two, can be reading in full in Google books and, starting September 2013, in my website: www.raulrojassoriano.com

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CURRICULUM VITAE of the Dr. Raúl Rojas Soriano
(Brief)

- Raúl Rojas Soriano is Doctor on Sociology, titular professor and investigator at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).
- He has been an academic evaluator at the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT).
- He was president of the College of Sociologists of Mexico.
- He has been invited by more of a hundred Mexican and foreign universities, and by more than seventy teacher training schools and technological institutes, as well as by another academics institutions, government departments, national health institutes, hospitals, prisons, information agencies, political parties, syndicates, artists' associations, writers, professionals, students and entrepreneurs, and by national and international book fairs, forums in which he has given more than a thousand conferences.
- He has given more than eighty master conferences in diverse Mexican and foreign institutions.
- He has written twenty-one books about investigation, education and health (five of them are co-authored) with more than a million sold copies:
- *Guía para realizar investigaciones sociales (Guide for Conducting Social Research)* (also published in Portuguese with the title: *Manual de pesquisa social [Social Inquest Manual]*, Vozes Publishers, Brazil)
- *Investigación-acción en el aula (Investigation-action in the Classroom)*
- *Formación de investigadores educativos (Training of educative researchers)*
- *Métodos para la investigación social. Una proposición dialéctica (Methods for the Social Investigation: A Dialectic Proposal)*
- *El arte de hablar y escribir (The Art of Speaking and Writing)*
- *El proceso de la investigación científica (The Process of Scientific Research)*
- *Teoría e investigación militante (Militant Theory and Re-*

search)

- *Investigación social: teoría y praxis (Social Research: Theory and Praxis)*
- *Trabajo intelectual e investigación de un plagio (Intellectual Study and Research on Plagiarism)*
- *Sociodrama real en el aula (Real Socio-Drama in the Classroom)*
- *Capitalismo y enfermedad (Capitalism and Illness)*
- *Crisis, salud-enfermedad y práctica médica (Crisis, Health-Illness and Medical Practice)*
- *Historia de vida de un mexicano sentenciado a muerte en Estados Unidos (Real-LifeStory of a Mexican Sentenced to Death in the United States)*
- *Metodología en la calle, salud-enfermedad, política, cárcel, escuela... (Methodology in the Streets, Health-Illness, Politics, Prison, School...)*
- *Notas sobre investigación y redacción (Notes on Research and Writing)*

In co-authorship with Amparo Ruiz del Castillo:

- *Investigación-acción en la UNAM (Research-Action at the UNAM.)*
- *Vínculo docencia-investigación para una formación integral (Teaching-Investigation Link for an Integral Education)*
- *Apuntes de la vida cotidiana (reflexiones educativas) (Notes on Daily Life [Educational Reflections])*

In co-author ship with Amparo Ruíz del Castillo and Martha Peral Salcido:

- *Una estudiante... Ericka Zamora acusada de guerrillera (A Student... Ericka Zamora accused of being a guerrilla)*

And in co-authorship with Ángel Peralta García:

- *Pablo Sandoval Cruz. Su lucha social en Guerrero por un mundo mejor (Pablo Sandoval Cruz. His Social struggle in Guerrero for a Better World).*
- He coordinated the work written by the interns at Mixquiahuala prison, Hidalgo (Mexico), titled: *En busca de la libertad a través de la escritura (Looking for Freedom through Writing)*, Plaza y Valdés Publishers.
- Several chapters of Dr. Rojas' works have been included in anthologies published in Mexico and other countries.
- His works have been quoted in hundreds of books and articles, and in thousands of professional thesis from different degrees in various countries.
- He has prolonged diverse texts, from authors both Mexican and foreign.
- In 1999, by request of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Raúl Rojas Soriano supported the CONACYT to perform a sociological study to help in the defense of a Mexican immigrant condemned to death penalty in Arizona, United States of America.
- Dr. Raúl Rojas Soriano has participated in interviews at press, radio and television programs in several countries.
- For his academic work he has received several acknowledgements in and outside of Mexico.
- Currently, the Dr. Raúl Rojas Soriano works in the project "Investigation-action in Sport, Nutrition and Health. An Experiment with a Strictly Vegetarian (Vegan) Diet".
- Being the test of his hypothesis he has participated in more than 25 athletics races, of which three have been mountain races; eleven were half-marathons (distance: 21 km), and three marathons (distance: 42km); the rest were 10 km races.
- To fully prove his hypothesis, "long and intense physical and intellectual activity can be successfully performed with a strictly vegetarian diet", he participated in a high-resistance race, and completed it: the 85 km Ultra-Marathon, on the 9th of July 2011, León, Guanajuato, Mexico.

- This investigation is founded in laboratory and cabinet tests; it is presented in his work *Deporte, nutrición y salud (Sport, Nutrition and Health)*, which will be edited in June 2014.
- Dr. Raúl Rojas Soriano is preparing the following books for their publishing at the end of 2014:
 - *El oficio del investigador-escritor. Historia de vida de un texto (The Office of the Investigator-Writer. Life Story of a Text)*.
 - *Aspectos humanos del Movimiento Estudiantil Mexicano 1968. Memorias de un brigadista (Human Aspects of the Mexican Student Movement of 1968. Memories from a Brigade)*.
 - *Evocaciones. Vivencias personales (Evocations. Personal Experiences)*.

English translation by: Nora D. Flores Castrejón
noracastrejon@gmail.com
Collaborator: Janneffer Coleman

Review in Mexico by: Maricela Alatraste Ortiz
Carlos Alberto Martínez Islas