

THE ROLE OF A REFERENTIAL PATTERN OF UNIVERSAL VALUES (RPUV) IN SOCIAL SCIENCES: SEVEN FUNCTIONS FOR AN ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL

The "*Homo sapiens*" of the 21st century is perplexed by the personal loneliness he feels and the impressive technological development that surrounds him. Lacking or not gods from whom to expect mercy or consolation, more aware than ever of his responsibility, he throws himself into the arms of his own reason to create a humanistic shield to protect him. And this shield is called REFERENTIAL PATTERN OF UNIVERSAL VALUES (RPUV), proposed by the author in 1975 and 2000, based, first, on Protagoras ("man is the measure of all things") and then, from Francisco de Vitoria's Law of Nations, to modern Constitutions of San Marino in 1600, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the UN in 1948, A. Maslow's Theory of Necessities in the 1950s, the anthropological conception of C.Kluckhohn (value is the reverse of the medal of necessity), and finally the last United Nations Conferences on Climate Change, to reformulate their own purposes. And, on "the shoulders of these giants" as Newton would say, the author of the RPUV presents the system of the following nine values: **Health, Material Wealth, Security, Knowledge, Freedom, Distributive Justice, Nature Conservation, Quality of Activities and Moral Prestige...** which are a response to the needs felt by the human being, in no matter what time, place and circumstance. It is, therefore, a theoretically closed and methodologically operative system, where any human desire (conscious or unconscious) must be included within it, unless it is invalidated. A PRVU that would be designed to fulfill the following seven functions: **Humanistic** (human "needs" as the only reference); **Identifier** (due to the profile of values chosen), **Critical** (by comparison between what "done" and what "to be done"; **Economic** (due to its determining role in the rest of the "value system"); **Adaptive** (due to its ability to generate anti-conflict agreements); **Systemic** (for pointing out global imbalances) and **Guarantor** (for preserving the human dimension of the value system).



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who has been president of and/or founded many systems theory organizations such as the Association Internationale des Sociologues de Langue Francaise, the Sociedad Espanola de Sistemas Generales, and the Instituto Univesitario de Recursos Humanos. He is also a member of the editorial board of the journal *Systems Research and Behavioral Science*. Parra-Luna is the founder and was the first president of the Sociocybernetics and Social Systems Theory group in the International Sociological Association. Parra-Luna has authored 19 books and more than 50 articles. He has won several prizes and distinctions including first prize from the Fundación Rumasa in 1979, second prize from the Institute de Estudios Laborales in 1979, the Prize del Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas in 1982, the national prize on "Marketing político" in 1983, and the national prize for "Martin Artajo" on Employment Politics in 1987. He also had a square in the town Villanueva de los Infantes, Spain dedicated to him in 2005. "Lately he has directed the publication of a trilogy of books (2005,2009,2015), dedicated to discovering the "Place of the La Mancha" in the Quixotte, using systemic approaches and where some twenty colleagues from different universities participated. He is the **Honorary President of the Sociedad Española de Sistemas Generales (SESGE)**. He is the president of the International Center "Place of La Mancha" of Studies of the Quixotte (CILMEQ) dedicated to the study of his value systems. Currently, he is applying the "systemic-axiological" approach to the problem of secessionism in Catalonia as a possible solution.