



METODO Public Statement

Some of the following ideas have directed the development and growing process of METODO since October, 2003, when it was founded. Until now, those ideas were private; it means that new researchers and area managers were added only by invitation. Today, July 24, 2009, this statement is made public. In this way, interested people around the world may become a researcher or an area manager at METODO.

To participate in METODO activities, the following ideas should be accepted.

1. What we think science is not about.

- a.** Science is not about defending a particular theoretical or methodological paradigm. You let paradigms be defended by themselves.
- b.** Science is not about defending egos or personal goals. Both must be omitted in any scientific discussion.
- c.** Science is not about getting higher grades or higher scores in Universities or Schools. Usually but not necessarily, a higher grade or a higher score implies a higher level in



research capacity. Nevertheless, some people do not need to be certified to develop great methodological and theoretical ideas. We think that it is possible to be a good scientist or a good researcher even without a certification.

- d.** Science is not only about being a professor or teaching in a University.
- e.** Science is not about omitting an idea before analyzing it.
- f.** Science is not about underestimating the intellectual power of art.
- g.** Science is not about thinking that everything is connected with everything therefore nothing can be understood or explained.
- h.** Science is not about thinking that society may be simplified with a few variables. Simplifying a phenomenon means that a model is being constructed. A model is therefore a simplified image of society; it is not the actual society. It means that models are always partial and limited, and the scientist should always remember these limitations.
- i.** Science is not about using complex models as ends. Especially in the social sciences, models must be used to understand aspects, elements or mechanisms of society.



- j.** Being a scientist is not about obtaining prizes or public recognition, it is about having the right conditions for development of theoretical and empirical research that is useful to face problems of humanity.
- k.** Science is not only about reason; it is also about emotions at a theoretical and a methodological level.

2. What we think science is about.

- a.** Science is about understanding the world's phenomena, in their nature and processes, whether they are about intentional or non-intentional objects.
- b.** Science is sometimes about applying rigid logic, sometimes about applying intuition. In any case, science is about creativity and mutual respect.
- c.** Science is about neutral description. Emotional and political language should be therefore avoided when describing an object, even when the scientist is motivated by emotions on a private level.
- d.** The scientist should control and minimize his political motivations. In this way, his methodological or theoretical exercises are not blinded by a political agenda.



- e.** Science is an apolitical enterprise; it does not mean that politics cannot support science, it means that scientific activity should not be manipulated or censured by a political agenda.
- f.** Science is about adjusted prediction, not about prophecies.
- g.** Science is about providing the best available explanation and the best available prediction to society.
- h.** To provide the best explanation available, any methodological tool and any theoretical content should be considered.
- i.** Science is a moral enterprise, and providing the most accurate possible description is a moral compromise. Since the scientist cannot prevent all the consequences of his ideas, he must be morally compromised while using the most honest perspective and the best methodologies available.
- j.** To provide the best explanation available, scientific discussions must not be based on defending a particular paradigm. Scientific discussions should be based on proposing ideas for an always new and better paradigm. This always new and better paradigm will be adopted by



society as a virtue of the paradigm's memetic power, not as a virtue of the political or persuasive power of its creators.

- k.** Science, as a moral enterprise, also requires understanding and collaborating with the actors entangled on the use of empirical and theoretical knowledge. Scientists should understand and discuss issues with policy makers and policy operators.
- l.** Scientific knowledge must be useful for policy-making purposes. Any scientific discovery, even if it is a theoretical or a methodological idea, should be susceptible of being translated into a policy-making input.
- m.** A scientific model should not therefore be so abstract that it cannot be applied to reality, or so simplified that it cannot be theorized. In any case, a scientific model should be as simple and minimalist as possible. In this sense, the model could be easily understood, compiled and used by any person.
- n.** The scientist must be honest about the limits of methodology.
- o.** To provide the best explanation available, it is sometimes needed to infringe limits of scales and quickly move across



scales. A good model could therefore include an operational scale component, and a theoretical scale component.

- p.** Science requires self-meta-analysis and self-meta-thinking.
- q.** Every scientist must be ready therefore to examine and change his methodological tools and his theoretical contents, at any time, under any condition.
- r.** Science is about recognizing and even using the permanent tension between short-term and long-term thinking.
- s.** Being a social scientist is not about studying sociology, economy, anthropology or psychology. Being a social scientist is about using methodologies and theoretical contents of any scientific body, in order to understand society.
- t.** Scientists may converse with artists as a way of collecting and understanding the world.
- u.** Scientists may collaborate with artists as a way to communicate scientific knowledge.
- v.** Scientists can learn about creativity and innovation by consulting with artists.
- w.** Scientists should consult with philosophers if it improves any investigation process.



- x. Science is a lens to understand the world.
- y. Science is a cultural force, and its values should be massively communicated and spread as a requisite for a sustainable, responsible and balanced cultural development.

3. What is METODO?

METODO is a team of social scientists around the world that is arranged as a social network. Using current communications tools, METODO configures a new kind of scientific institution that establishes collaborations between hard sciences, social sciences and policy-making. METODO adopts the notions of science above.

4. Academic structure

Researchers at METODO are primary volunteer. Only when granted projects are available, members involved will get paid.

The following is the academic structure of METODO:



a. Researcher

i. Requirements:

- 1.** A researcher must accept numerals 1 and 2 of the present statement.
- 2.** A researcher must be creative. It means that the researcher must propose feasible and novel theoretical and methodological ideas.
- 3.** A researcher must demonstrate minimal writing skills. Those skills will be measured through writing communication and publications.
- 4.** A researcher must have a notion of his goals and objectives, which must be communicated to the directive council in a written one-page letter. Additionally, this one-page letter must express a research agenda, research interests, and a preferred methodology.
- 5.** A researcher must be capable of conducting original and independent observation and data collection.

ii. Commitments:



1. A researcher should provide at least two working papers per year, to keep his position.

b. Stabilizer

The group of Stabilizers is composed by Area Managers. It means that an Area Manager is a Stabilizer Node. We just keep the title of “Area Manager” to avoid administrative confusion. A stabilizer node supports the stabilization process of a new field or a new research agenda. These are the requirements to become a Stabilizer Node, or an Area Manager:

- i. Requirements:
 1. A Stabilizer Node, or Area Manager, must accept numerals 1 and 2 of the present statement.
 2. An Stabilizer Node, or Area Manager, must have high-quality writing skills, at least in his language, which will be measured through writing communication, publications or scores on international tests.



3. A Stabilizer Node, or Area Manager, must have a long-term research agenda with at least a five-year term.
4. An area manager must be capable of conducting original observation, data collection, and more important, must be capable of developing and elaborating a whole new idea, a whole new theoretical framework or a whole new research methodology.

ii. Commitments

1. An Area Manager must coordinate the publication process of researchers and collaborators.
2. An Area Manager must establish new connections with new research networks.
3. One of the following:
 - a. Provide at least three original and creative working papers per year, or
 - b. Provide at least one book in his area, ready to be published.



c. Intellectual Collaborator (no commitment with METODO):

- i. A collaborator should regularly participate in discussions developed by METODO.
- ii. A collaborator must provide one of the following:
 1. A book.
 2. A working paper.
 3. A citation.
 4. A public or academic mention to METODO.

d. Science supporter (no commitment with METODO):

A person or an organization may be a Science Supporter at METODO. Each Science Supporter will receive a special and personalized acknowledgement. To be a Science Supporter at METODO, one of the followings must be accomplished:

- i. Provide access to new research networks.
- ii. Provide new areas of exploration and publication.
- iii. Donate monetary or logistic resources to METODO.

5. Administrative structure



- a.** Directive council: METODO has a permanent directive council composed by Isaac de León-Beltrán and Eduardo Salcedo-Albaran. This directive council must approve any academic decision.
- b.** Administrative Director: The Administrative director must coordinate (i) editorial activities, (ii) contract processes, (iii) web management and (iv) public activities. The current Administrative Director is Carolina López.

Bogota, Colombia, South America.

July, 24, 2009.

Directive Council

METODO.