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PERCEPTION OF POLICE PERFORMANCE IN STREET AROUND BIOSECURITY

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Abstract. *The perception of the police action in the face of Covid-19 was the objective of this work. A cross-sectional, psychometric and correlational study was carried out with a sample of 100 students, considering their participation in the public health system as social servants or professional practitioners through a platform. A four-factor structure was found that explained 63% of the total variance, although the findings are only applicable to the sample, and its extension to other scenarios is recommended. In relation to biosafety protocols, the inclusion of the four factors as mediating variables of the demands of the environment and internal organizational resources is considered pertinent.*

Keywords *–Covid-19, police, schedule, perception, security*

Introduction

As of this writing, the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic and the Covid-19 disease have claimed the lives of a million people, although the ministries of health recognize a wide margin of under-records when considering the atypical cases of pneumonia and asymptomatic patients as sectors that would significantly increase the effects of the health crisis (WHO, 2021).

In such a scenario, the policies of confinement and social distancing have reduced not only the number of infections and the sick but have also saved lives through the public health service and the avoidance of crimes; robberies, kidnappings and homicides, although cases of domestic violence have increased, the perception of security seems to have increased. Studies on risk society, specifically on uncertainty and insecurity, have been carried out for decades (PAHO, 2021).

Given that pandemic mitigation policies focus on confinement and social distancing, police action in crime prevention suggests a strategy to approach vulnerable groups such as children, women and the elderly (OECD, 2021). The protection and integrity of the people is a central communication policy of the State, but the public perception contrasts with the government's figures (INEGI, 2020). While the reports of the administration and prosecution of justice highlight a reduction in crimes, the civil appraisal denounces greater grievances, as well as re-victimization of those who come to report any wrongdoing. Consequently, the contrast of both positions, the official and the citizen, denote a discussion of the differences

between national security and civil security.

In OECD countries, spending on health security has increased with respect to public order due to the SARS CoV-2 coronavirus and the Covid-19 disease (see Figure 1)

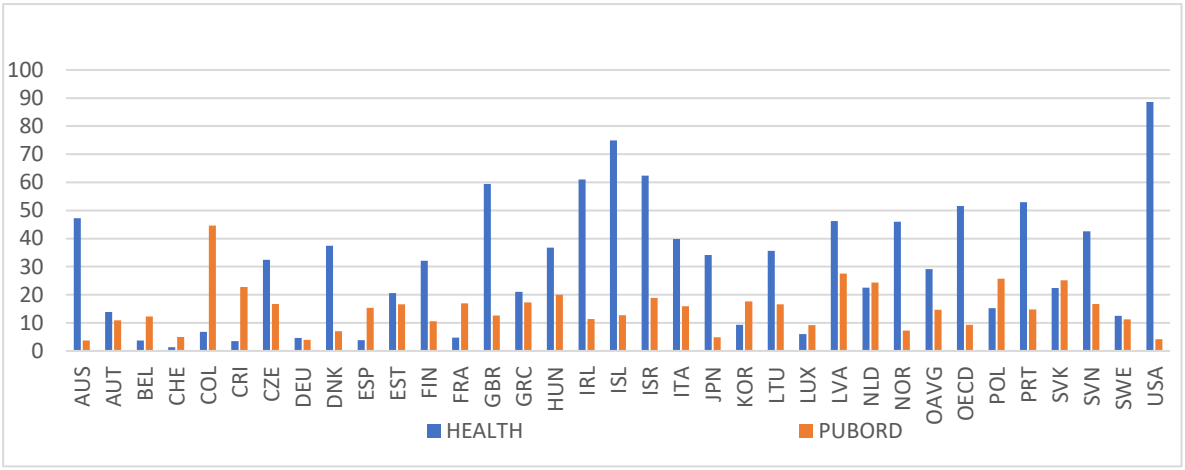

Figure 1. Central government spending
Note: Elaborated with data OECD (2021)

Even the expectations of trust in governments have increased compared to other pre-pandemic scenarios (see Figure 2)

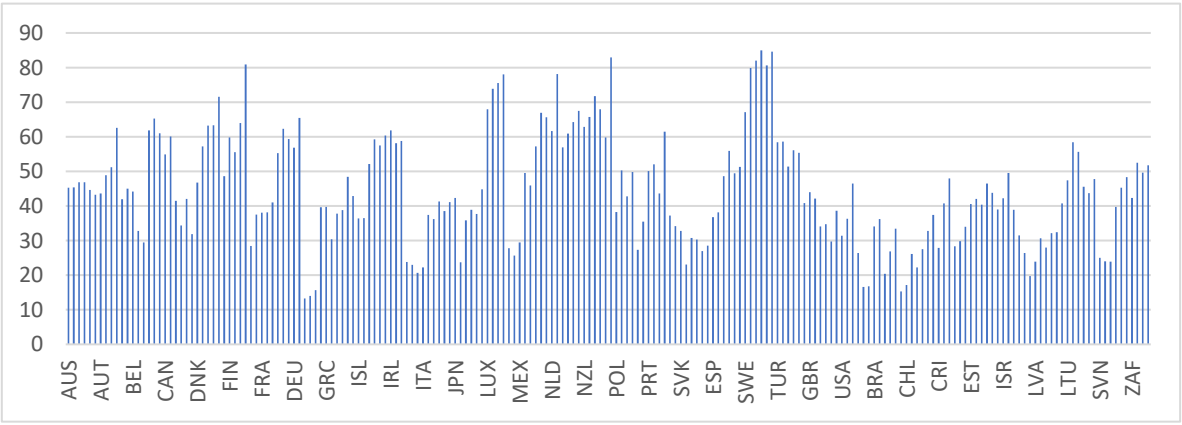

Figure 2. Trust in government
Note: Elaborated with data OECD (2021)

However, when the deficit in health spending is appreciated, it is possible to appreciate that only a few have complied throughout a selected period. In other words, trust in the government seems to be centered on the management of the pandemic and not on investment in science and technology to prevent this phenomenon, much less in the administration of the forces of order, their professionalization and quality of service.

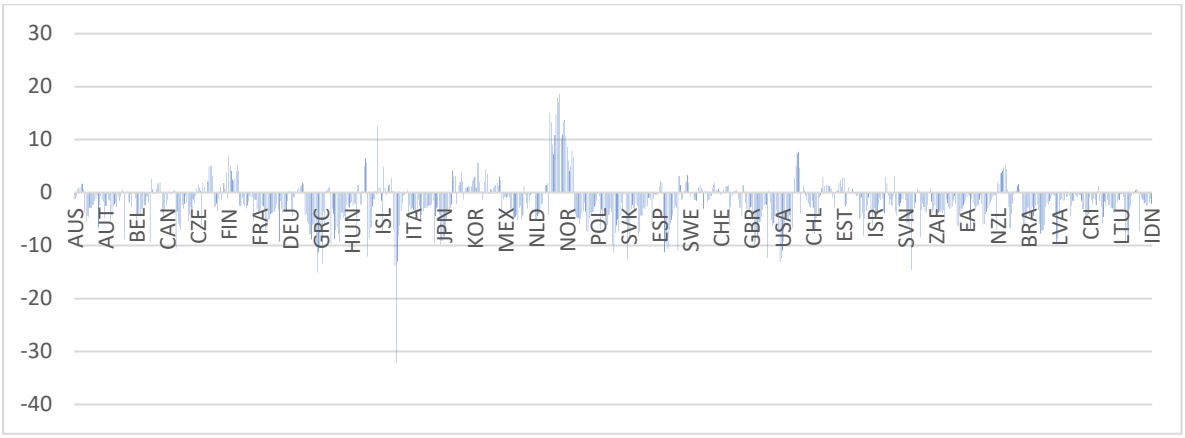

Figure 3. General government deficit
Note: Elaborated with data OECD (2021)

In the 1980s, The Theory of Diffusion of Innovations explained the compatibility of technological advances and the lifestyles of potential users of the nascent information society. Security was understood as the minimization of costs and the maximization of benefits (Aldana, 2019). Such risk control and management implied a communication oriented towards certainty based on the balance between contingencies and resources.

In the 90's, the Internet emerged, and the risks were observed in grooming and sexting as extensions of human trafficking and extortion (Arellano, 2017). The theories of acceptance of technology and adoption of electronic commerce explain the adjustment of computer skills to technological advances in order to reduce or expand the risks and rights to the protection of honor, privacy and image of people, freedom of expression, the right to information and the protection of intellectual property (Rincón, 2018).

In the first decade of the century, the substantial increase in informative content impacted on addictive behavior associated with the search for an identity in the diversity of contacts and user profiles (Carreon, 2017). Models of acceptance and adoption of technology, Internet and social networks are merged with models of diffusion of innovations in order to establish comprehensive predictions of the impact of content on people's decisions and actions (Quintero, 2017).

In the second decade of the century, systematic and meta-analytic reviews established axes, trajectories and relationships between the explanatory variables of risk events and their dissemination in traditional communication media with respect to electronic media, mainly social networks led by Twitter (Carreon, 2018a). It is about the culture of computer security that lies in the search for information and access to learning communities, but with wide exposure to harassment (Carreon, 2018b). Security is associated with privacy and e-trust indicated by the protection of passwords for access to social networks (Mejia, 2016). The security associated with technology is not only perceived indirectly but at a distance by younger users compared to users of home devices (Mendoza, 2017). This is so because confidence in technology is associated with the computing skills of users.

Therefore, the objective of this work is to show the differences between public perception and mediated perception regarding the security experienced and that learned through the media and electronic networks such as Twitter, considering the health crisis and policies. of confinement and social distancing.

Are there significant differences between the structure of the perception of public insecurity with respect to the perception of the news broadcast on Twitter?

The premise that guides the present research warns that there are significant differences between the structure of direct perception with respect to the structure of mediated perception (Garcia, 2016). This is so because the media and social networks are technologies and devices for the construction of the public agenda (Rincon, 2018). In other words, the axes, themes, and relations of debate between political and social actors, as well as between public and private sectors, are legitimized in networks such as Twitter, influencing public opinion regarding the performance of their government and institutions (Garcia, 2017a).

Materials and Methods

First study

Sample

Given that biosafety is a dimension of the health and economic crisis, a documentary investigation was carried out considering the publication threshold from 2019 to 2021, as well as the search by keywords (see Table 1).

Table 1. Descriptive sample
Note: Elaborated with data study

Repository	Biosecurity		
	2019	2020	2021
Academia	1	2	3
Copernicus	2	4	2
Dialnet	3	3	5
Ebsco	4	5	4
Frontiers	5	4	3
Latindex	3	3	2
Redalyc	1	4	4
Scielo	3	5	4
Scopus	4	4	3
Zenodo	2	3	3

Instrument

The Delphi Inventory was used, which includes three rounds of registration: 1) Qualifying where expert judges in thematic assign a value of -1 to the summaries that include relationships reflecting the concept and +1 for the findings that report formative structures; 2) Feedback where the grade point average is compared with the individual grade; 3) Reconsideration where the initial rating is maintained or modified (see Table 2).

Table 2. Descriptive sample
Note: Elaborated with data study

Extract	Repository	Author	Year	References	Relations
e1	Academia	Wang et al.,	2019	45	Formative
e2	Copernicus	Luiselli	2020	16	Reflective
e3	Scielo	Siche	2020	24	Formative
e4	Scopus	Lima et al.,	2020	40	Formative
e5	Zenodo	Arteaga	2020	16	Reflective

Analysis

Once the selection of the most relevant findings was established, the information was systematized and processed in the Ucinet version 7.6 software in order to be able to estimate the distribution parameters, probability proportion, adjustment and residual.

Second study

Sample

The sample consisted of 100 students (M = 21.3 SD = 3.2 years and M = 8'967.56 SD = 456.78 monthly income) from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, considering their social service and professional practice in public hospitals, as well as their registration in the Microsoft Teams virtual classroom system and platform to access the survey.

Instrument

The instrument was built from the Psychological Security Scale which reports a value between 0.670 and 0.828 with four factors related to 1) natural environmental security, 2) self-psychological security, 3) social environmental risk perception, 4) social security

Scale of perception of the police in streets. It measured the degree of crime prevention in the pandemic from five response options ranging from 0 = "not frequent" to 5 = "quite frequent" with an acceptable reliability (alpha of .60).

Police perception scale in hospitals. It measured the degree of suspicion of the crime in the face of the pandemic from five response options ranging from 0 = "not frequent" to 5 = "quite frequent" with an acceptable reliability (alpha of .64).

Scale of mediated perception of police in the streets. It measured the performance of the policeman on the streets in the face of the pandemic reported by the media from five response options ranging from 0 = "not frequent" to 5 = "quite frequent" with an acceptable reliability (alpha of .72).

Scale of mediated perception of the police in hospitals. It measured the performance of the police in hospitals in the face of the pandemic reported by the media from five response options ranging from 0 = "not frequent" to 5 = "quite frequent" with an acceptable reliability (alpha of .80).

Process

The survey was applied at the beginning of the 2020-I semester. Respondents accessed the project page: ***www.academictransdisciplinarynetwork.es.tl*** in order to answer the questionnaire. In capturing the surveys, the strategy of confronting the double capture of each questionnaire was used, comparing the similarities and differences. In cases where there were many differences, it was decided to delete both captures from the same questionnaire. Finally, most unanswered questionnaires were also deleted from the final capture and the corresponding analyzes.

Analysis

Version 20 of the SPSS statistical program was used to capture and process the normality

analyzes to meet the requirement of more sophisticated analyzes such as reliability estimated by Crombach's alpha parameter (Garcia, 2017b). Validity was established with the factorial weights of the item with respect to the subscale (Juarez, 2017). In order to estimate the structure of relationships, the correlational and regression coefficients were measured (Martinez, 2018). The observation of the structure of factors and indicators was weighted with the adjustment and residual parameters.

Values ranging between 0.30 and 0.90 were assumed as evidence of reliability, validity, correlation and covariance without spurious or collinear condition for the parameters that measure internal consistency, factorial weights, and regression and covariance coefficients. on the other hand, values greater than 0.90 were assumed as evidence of adjustment and values less than 0.008 as evidence for residual statistics.

Results

First study

The literature concerning biosafety discovers a central axis composed of five extracts which were evaluated by expert judges (see Table 3). This distribution suggests permissible risk thresholds where the literature seems to adhere to the biosafety category, even when indicators and determinants such as resilience or cybersecurity are included.

Table 3. Descriptive data

Note: Elaborated with data study; R = Round, R1 = Qualifying, R2 = Feedback, R3 = Redistributive, E = Extract, e1 = Wang et al., (2019), e2 = Luiselle (2020), e3 = Siche (2020), e4 = Lima et al., (2020), e5 = Arteaga (2020), M = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation, ( ) confidence interval

E	M	SD	e1	e2	e3	e4	e5
R1							
e1	,678	,124					
e2	,762	,178	,13 8,10 ,18)				
e3	,893	,109	,35 8,23 ,48)	,17 (,10 ,59)			
e4	,612	,167	,35 (,17 ,45)	,30 (,23 ,49)	,14 (,11 ,54)		
e5	,893	,121	,46 (,21 ,45)	,43 (,25 ,87)	,26 (,17 ,46)	,20 (,18 ,43)	
R2							
e1	,762	,179					
e2	,891	,163	,45 (,21 ,46)				
e3	,956	,189	,46 (,21 ,60)	,32 (,14 ,65)			
e4	,670	,153	,54 (,28 ,50)	,43 (,28 ,59)	,43 (,27 ,67)		
e5	.834	,108	,26 (,19 ,44)	,26 (,18 ,46)	,32 (,19 ,56)	,43 (,30 ,60)	
R3							
e1	,671	,143					
e2	,568	,145	,54 (,28 ,59)				
e3	,709	,189	,40 (,17 ,65)	,27 (,20 ,49)			
e4	,634	,134	,54 (,39 ,67)	,20 (,30 ,58)	,43 (,24 ,56)		
e5	,792	,109	,31 (,35 ,42)	,26 (,19 ,57)	,46 (,21 ,50)	,47 (,45 ,66)	

Once the relationships between the extracts had been established, their structure was estimated, considering the biosafety category and the five extracts qualified in three Delpphi rounds (see Figure 4)

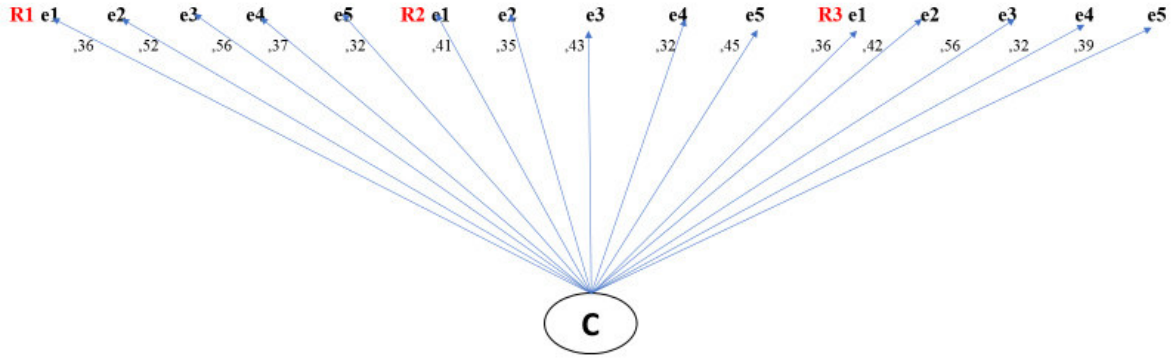

Figure 4. Structural equation modelling

Note: Elaborated with data study; R = Round, R1 = Qualifying, R2 = Feedback, R3 = Redistributive, E = Extract, e1 = Wang et al., (2019), e2 = Luiselle (2020), e3 = Siche (2020), e4 = Lima et al., (2020), e5 = Arteaga (2020), C = Category, ← formative, → Reflective, ←→ correlation.

Table 4. The distribution of variables

Source: Prepared from the data of the study; M = Mean, SD = Standard deviation, B = Bias, A = Asymmetry, Adequacy (KMO = .687), Sphericity ⌈χ2 = 364.279 (66gl) p = 0.000⌋. Method: Main Axes, Rotation: Promax. F1 = Perception of the Police in Streets (26.24% of the total variance explained and alpha of .60), F2 = Perception of the Police in Hospitals (14.76% of the total variance explained and alpha of .64), F3 = Media Perception of the Police in Streets (13.99% of the total explained variance and alpha of .72), F4 = Media Perception of the Police in Hospitals (8.35% of the total explained variance and alpha of .80). All the items include five response options: 0 = "not frequent" to 5 = "quite frequent".

R	Item (s)	M	SD	B	A	F1	F2	F3	F4
	Police perception in the streets (alpha of .60)								
r1	The police supervise the healthy distance	4,65	2,62	,125	,111	,437			
r2	Police seize anti-Covid products	3,74	3,02	,764	,788	,314			
r3	The police monitor the residences of the infected Covid	4,74	2,94	,296	,247	,502			
	Perception of the police in hospitals (alpha of .64)								
r4	Police restrict access	4,87	3,71	,237	,643		,443		
r5	Police wear face masks	2,31	2,52	,010	,960		,507		
r6	Police use antibacterial gel	3,24	3,10	,079	,324		,459		
	Media perception of police in the street (alpha of .72)								
r7	On Twitter there are images of the police consuming food with people	2,79	2,90	,459	,679			,445	
r8	On Twitter there are images of the police allowing the sale of anti-Covid products	4,16	3,34	,886	,801			,517	
r9	On Twitter there are images of the police facilitating the departure of the infected from their residences	4,36	3,39	,600	,634			,683	
	Media perception of the police in hospitals (alpha of .80)								
r10	On Twitter, the hospital police allow access to anyone	4,97	3,46	,390	,342				,671
r11	On Twitter, the hospital police do not wear face masks	4,42	2,55	,796	,173				,444
r12	On Twitter, the hospital police do not use antibacterial gel	4,13	2,78	,468	,962				,345

The structure found suggests the reflection of biosafety in the five selected extracts. The adjustment and residual ⌈χ2 = 13,21 (14 df) p < ,05; CFI = ,998; GFI = ,990; RMSEA = ,008⌋ parameters denote the non-rejection of the hypothesis regarding the differences between the theoretical structure with respect to the judges' scores.

The results of the first study seem to indicate that biosafety is a central axis and topic on the literature agenda, although this prevalence can be compared with the perceptions of practicing students in public health institutions.

Second study

Table 4 shows four factors that explained 63% of the variance and are related to the direct and indirect perception of public security with respect to security derived from police and government action, as well as their mediated versions. That is, both the direct and the media phenomena are considered as part of a public agenda in six out of 10 people to whom the instrument is applied.

Once the structure of reliability and validity that demonstrate the viability of the instrument for its application in other contexts, settings and study samples had been observed, the structure of relationships between the factors was established in order to anticipate the axes and trajectories of relationships between indicators and factors (see Table 5).

Table 5. The correlation between the factors

*Source: prepared with the study data; F1 = Perception of the Police in the Streets, F2 = Perception of the Police in Hospitals, F3 = Media Perception of the Police in the Streets, F4 = Media Perception of the Police in Hospitals; * p <.01; ** p <.001; *** p <.0001*

	M	SD	F1	F2	F3	F4	F1	F2	F3	F4
F1	21,32	14,35	1.00				1,893	,354	,321	,302
F2	24,35	15,67	.516***	1.00				1,543	,432	,456
F3	21,46	10,21	.467*	.331**	1.00				1,439	,412
F4	26,53	13,34	.302*	.361**	.023	1.00				1,687

The structure of relationships between the factors reveals trajectories between them that would explain why security is a central axis and theme of the public agenda. It is a factorial composition of experiences and learning through filtered data in the media. The convergence of the indicators reveals that the SARS-Cov-2 pandemic and the Covid-19 disease have impacted on confinement and social isolation in such a way that both the information and the experience of the risk event are associated. In order to corroborate these assumptions, a structure of axes, trajectories and relationships between factors and indicators was estimated (see Figure 5).

The structure notices the influence of other indicators and factors. The relationships between these variables corroborate 63% of the total variance explained from the exploratory factor analysis. In other words, the perception of security is structured around direct and indirect perceptual factors that in turn bring together responses to stimuli from police or government action. Each factor is reflected by the responses of the respondents regarding the performance of the State and law enforcement agencies in the face of the pandemic.

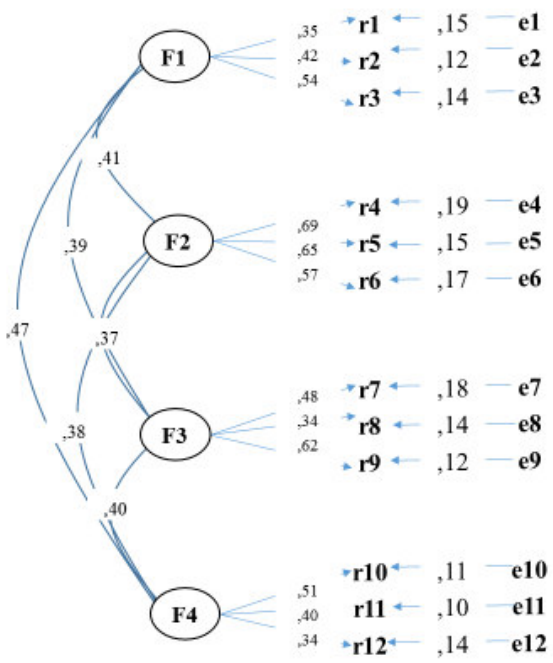

Figure 5. Structural equation model

Source: Prepared with the study data; F1 = Perception of the Police in Streets, F2 = Perception of the Police in Hospitals, F3 = Media Perception of the Police in Streets, F4 = Media Perception of the Police in Hospitals; e = Measurement error, ←→ relationships between factors, ← relationships between errors and indicators, → relationships between factors and indicators

The adjustment and residual parameters ⌈χ2 = 13.24 (24gl) p> 0.05; GFI = 0.997; CFI = 0.995; RMSEA = 0.000⌋ suggest the non-rejection of the premise that there are significant differences between the security mediatization structure with respect to the direct perceptual structure.

Discussion

The contribution of this work to the state of knowledge about security in the Covid era was the validity of an instrument that measures the direct and indirect perception of the police. Four factors were established, two direct and indirect, about the performance of the police against Covid both on the streets and in hospitals. Such results are only applicable to the analysis sample, but they suggest the extension of the work to other contexts, scenarios and samples in order to contribute to the validity of the instrument.

Wang et al., (2019) validated the Psychological Security Scale which included four dimensions related to 1) natural environmental security, 2) self-psychological security, 3) social environmental risk perception and 4) social security, establishing positive associations between three of the four factors, the social security the variable that was negatively related. Rather, the present work found four factors in which the security attributed to the forces of order are related and suggest the emergence of a second-order factor that the literature identifies as perceived security. Lines concerning the inclusion of environmental factors with respect to security attributed to the police will allow anticipating risk and contingency scenarios. The perception of police performance, whether testimonial or mediatic, will decrease or increase the impact of

security policies on civilian trust towards its authorities.

Arteaga (2020) argues that cybersecurity, as it is related to resilience, creates a scenario of predictable risks. In the present work, the mediated perceptual dimension explained 13% of the variance, indicating that cybersecurity is not entirely an axis and central theme of the civil security agenda compared to territorial, national or public security. Consequently, the lines of study related to resilience would be focused on media coverage.

Lima (2020) suggests that sustainability, as it is associated with safety, acquires a formative status, since in the face of the pandemic, a biosafety regime oriented towards corporate social responsibility is essential. In the present work, it is assumed that the police are a corporate entity that, by guaranteeing security, can inhibit their balance between demands and resources. In this organizational sense, security institutions can adjust their objectives, tasks and goals towards balancing the inflows and outflows of resources. Investigations related to the media dissemination of police responsibility would explain the aversion or propensity to corruption as the central axis of discussion on the local agenda.

Luiselli (2020) describes risks inherent to the pandemic that are turned upside down as points of discussion in the security agenda, such as deregulated digitization, which would be linked to identity theft, extortion, and fraud. In the present work it is noted that the performance of the police action must wield a biosafety protocol centered on the perception of the citizens, but also on media coverage and its influence on public opinion. Study lines on deregulation in electronic networks such as Twitter and Facebook will make it possible to anticipate scenarios for spreading false news that threaten people's integrity.

Siche (2020) argues that Covid-19 has impacted agriculture and with it food biosecurity, affecting areas violated in their rights to food. In this study, it is assumed that police security depends on the preventive image that the media disseminates, building a perception of security that ranges from defenselessness to protection of the State. Investigations concerning the perceived civil protection will anticipate contexts of civil trust towards their authorities.

In relation to studies of public security and its mediatization, which warn the construction of a public agenda focused on the containment of crime rather than on crime prevention, the present work has shown that a structure of perceptions prevails around the police action differentiated by its preventive and reactive strategy in hospitals with respect to the streets. In other words, the public perception of the police in the face of the pandemic is organized around the differences between what they witness and what they receive on Twitter. These differences are generated and configured in this way because the police action is divided into two zones, one of no risk and the other of risk with respect to civil protection.

Therefore, future research related to risk communication will allow us to see the place of the police in the State's policies, strategies and programs in the face of the pandemic, confinement and social distancing. Such findings will open the discussion around the effectiveness of mitigation and containment of the pandemic with the support of law enforcement agencies.

Conclusions

The objective of this study was to establish the differences between the perception of the police in the face of the pandemic considering their actions in the streets and hospitals, as well as the dissemination of their actions on Twitter. The results suggest the non-rejection of the hypothesis of significant differences between the perceptual structures, although only applicable to the surveyed sample, they suggest the extension of the research.

The instrument will allow citizen evaluation of police performance, as well as the

mitigation and containment strategy of the pandemic based on social distancing and confinement, as well as preventive measures for the use of facemasks and antibacterial gel.

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