



Time and space: *two axes for slanted knowledge organization*



José Augusto Guimarães
São Paulo State University – UNESP
Marília – BRAZIL)
guima@marilia.unesp.br

Turning point in KO...

From an ontological perspective:

- nature of being, becoming, existence, or reality, as well as the basic categories of knowledge and their relations
- = KO as a set of concepts



Turning point in KO

To an epistemological perspective:

- nature, steps, and limits of human knowledge, especially within the relations established between the subject and the object of knowledge
- KO as a dynamic and complex environment.



Some socio-cognitive approaches in KO



Domain-analysis perspective



Some Socio-cognitive approaches in KO



Semiotic perspective



Some socio-cognitive approaches in KO



Cultural perspective



Glocal KO (Copenhagen, Aug. 2015)

Some concepts (and concerns...)

- Discursive communities
- Cultural warrant
- Cultural hospitality
- Power to name
- Multilingualism and multiculturalism
- Transcultural ethics of mediation
- Prejudices and antipathies
- Inter-multi-transdisciplinary domains
- Cultural interoperability
- Ethical values inKO

Some changes...

- Recognition of diversity as something inherent to KOS
- Recognition of the impact of human and social factors into the KO activities
- KO as a social product
- Suggestive (and not prescriptive) nature of KOS
- KOS as tools to promote a global dialogue

Some changes...

- From Universal systems to Global systems
- From standardization to the promotion of intercommunication
- From vocabulary control to interoperability

KO is *slanted* by definition

Slant:

- a **particular point of view** from which something is seen or presented
- to give a direction other than perpendicular or horizontal; to make diagonal



Slanted, but not biased...

Bias:

- An attitude, belief, or feeling that results in and helps to justify unfair treatment of a person because of his or her identity
- An unfair view for or against something

**Bias comprise two dangerous situations:
prejudice and proselytism**

Prejudice

- Prejudice: an attitude, belief, or feeling formed without adequate prior knowledge, thought, or reason.



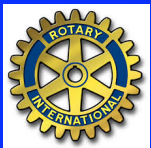
- An unreasonable view based on preconceived ideas.



Proselytism



- the attempt to convert people to a different point of view, religious or not.



Slanted KO

- So, KO procedures, tools and products are slanted by definition because they are committed to a certain world view and the assumption of a set of values and beliefs
- And the slants occur in different dimensions...

Slanted instances in KO

- Slants of the author / document
- Slants of the indexer/classifyer
- Slants of the KOS / classificationist
- Slants of the environment (e.g. enterprise)
- Slants of the user



And...

- And all those slanted instances need to be considered (or, at least, not denied) at the moment of representing the knowledge, in such a way that they can “survive” side by side, as dialogical possibilities (since they are reflects of points of view) and in order to avavoid cultural supremacies.

Slants in KO

Every KO procedure, tool or product is slanted because it is located in a certain space, in a certain time and arises from a set of ideological positions

So...

- prejudices in a certain moment might have been moral values in another period, and
- virtues in a given social context might be translated into sins in another context

Time and space as axes for a slanted KO

Time and space in KOS:

- Dewey, Otlet & La Fontaine, Kaiser, Rangantathan, etc.
- Time: allows a dyacronic approach in KO (e.g. Tennis' studies on KOS eugenics)
- Space: allows a local/global approach in KO

Time and space slants in KO

- Conceptual dimension (the concept varies in time and space, although the term remains the same)
- Terminological dimension (the term varies in space and time although the concept remains the same)

Conceptual time slants in KO

Ex: Marriage

19th Century:

- Man + Woman (19th century);



21st Century:

- Man + Woman;
- Man + Man;
- Woman + Woman



Conceptual space (or contextual) slants in KO

Ex: *Abortion*

Roman Catholic Church:

- a sin and a kind of homicide

Women's rights movements:

- a right of the woman over her own body

Conceptual space (or contextual) slants in KO

Ex: *Life after death*

- Atheism: it does not exist
- Theism: it exists
- Polytheism: it happens by means of many Supreme beings
- Monotheism: it happens by means of one only Supreme being
- Judaism: by Jeovah
- Islamism: by Allah
- Christianity: by God (and His son, Christ)
- Catholicism: it is obtained by faith and by the good Works
- Protestantism: it is obtained by grace and by faith

Conceptual time and space slants in KO

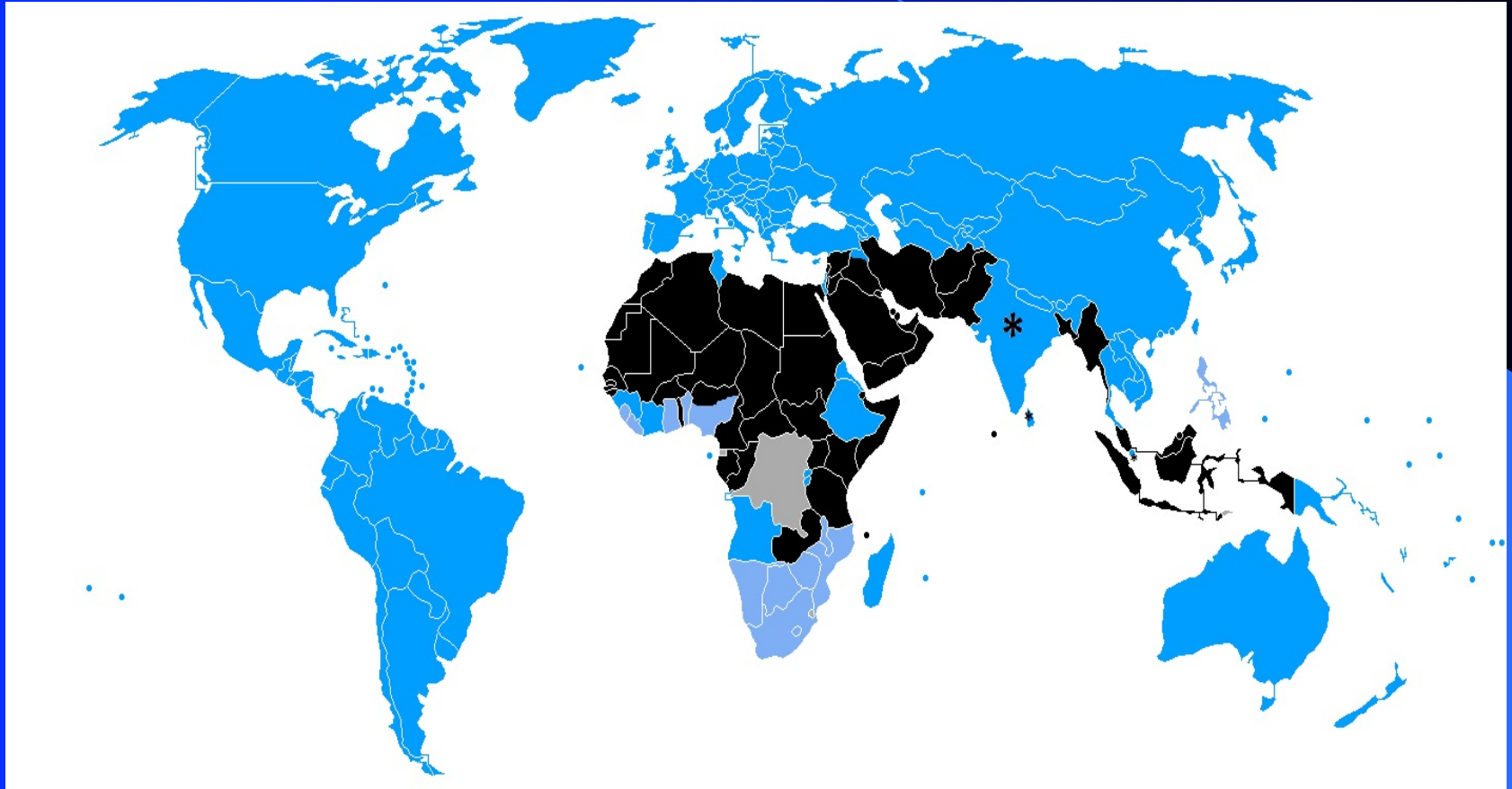
Polygamy (time slant)

- Mormons, 19th Century: allowed
- Mormons, 21st Century: prohibited

Polygamy (space slant)

- In some Eastern societies: a social standard
- In most Western Societies: a crime

Polygamy status all over the world



Time and Space terminological slants in KO

- Gay couples
- Same sex couples
- Homosexual couples
- Homoaffective couples
- Homoaffective marriage
- Homoaffective families
- LGBT parenting

Time and Space terminological slants in KO

- Idiots
- Mentally disabled
- Mentally special persons
- Persons with special needs

An additional factor: the *politically correctness in KO*

- Esthetically challenged (is the esthetic perception homogenous?)
- African-American (what about Dutch descendants South Africans?)
- “Person of size”
- “Hymenally challenged”

The metaphorical (or metonymic) dimension of KO

Hispanics X Ibero-Americans

- (Are Brazilians Hispanic? Are Spaniards Hispanic?)

Latinos

- (Are French, Italians, Spaniards, Romanians Latinos?)

America X United States

- (Is this a continent or a country? Are Canadians Americans? Are Brazilians Americans?)

Conclusion

- Time and Space are important axes to be considered in KO procedures, tools and products in order to contextualize the information content (by recognizing local realities) and to avoid “universal” categorizations.
- In this sense, the recognition of time and space variables of a term and/or a concept as Related Terms (or even a deeper investment in Contextual Scope Notes) can be a useful tool for an intercultural dialogue in a global world.

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THANK YOU!