

EPISTEMIC-THEORETICAL-METHODOLOGICAL PROPOSAL REFERENCED IN TERRITORIAL HERITAGE: Presentation of the Dossier

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In studies carried out since 2021, epistemic-theoretical references and methodological assumptions convergent with the territorial approach to development have been proposed. As a result, a proposal for a methodological reference was outlined for the elaboration of diagnoses and prospecting of new development scenarios, in territories or regions, having as a strategy the activation of their territorial heritage, through the enhancement of resources and territorial assets, with the purpose of contributing to development. As a result of the studies and investigation, a measurement system based on components and variables was envisaged, synthesized in the Multidimensional Index of Territorial Heritage Activation (*Índice de Multidimensional da Ativação do Patrimônio Territorial - IMAP*), founded on hybrid ontological bases, multidimensional assumptions, and on the triangulation of methods.

What motivated the direction of the studies was the understanding that diagnosis, planning, and territorial prospecting actions lack methodologies that innovate, in order to overcome the traditional sectoral and disciplinary studies, advancing in the sense of proposing the need for integrated, multidimensional, and interdisciplinary analyses.

Thus, at this moment, having completed a stage of studies and in compliance with the objectives proposed by the research project Territorial Heritage as a reference for the development of territories and regions (*O patrimônio territorial como referência para o desenvolvimento de territórios e regiões - ProPAT*)¹, we celebrate what is most significant in terms of results : (i) the publication of four articles in scientific journals; (ii) the publication of a thematic dossier in the Brazilian Journal of Management and Regional Development, in 2022; (iii) the publication of a thematic dossier, composed of seven articles, in the magazine

¹ This is a Research Project coordinated by Dr. Valdir Roque Dallabrida, referring to the Research Productivity Program (2021-2024), of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development. Three other research projects, some of them still running, contributed with these studies: (i) Territorial heritage as a reference in the development process of territories or regions: a study in three regions of Rio Grande do Sul, supported by Fapergs, which is being implemented at the Programa de Pós-Graduação em Desenvolvimento Regional – PPGDR/UNIJUÍ, coordinated by Dr. Pedro Luís Büttenbender; (ii) the project Territorial heritage as a reference in the development process of territories or regions: epistemic-theoretical assumptions and proposed methodological instruments, which is being implemented at the Programa de Pós-Graduação em Desenvolvimento Territorial Sustentável – PPGDTS/UFPR, coordinated by Dr. Valdir Frigo Denardin; (iii) the Territorial Heritage project as a reference in the development process of territories: a study of the social dimension in a municipality on the northwest border of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, being implemented at the Programa de Pós-Graduação em Desenvolvimento e Políticas Públicas - PPGDPP/UFFS, coordinated by Dr. Edemar Rotta.

Desenvolvimento em Questão (which we present here); (iv) finally, a book with 313 (three hundred and thirteen) pages, to be published following the publication of this dossier.

Of the articles published, two of them focused on the epistemic-theoretical-methodological theme: (i) Dallabrida, Rotta, and Büttenbender (2021), in which epistemic-theoretical assumptions are presented that can serve as a basis for methodological references; (ii) Dallabrida et al. (2021), in which the conceptual categories and methodological assumptions convergent with the territorial approach to development are explained. Two other articles were focused on themes related to collective action in the territories: (i) Dallabrida et al. (2022), arguing that processes of territorial articulation, aiming to prospect the territorially desired future, require practices of territorial governance with a collaborative, horizontal, and democratic basis, involving state agents and representations of the social, productive-business and university sectors; (ii) Dallabrida, Menezes, and Fuini (2022), presenting the territory as a construction resulting from social action derived from multi-actor interaction (and territorial operators) and engulfed in a historical process, in power networks and socio-territorial coalitions. In this last article, territorial development is conceived in a multidimensional perspective, highlighting the theoretical categories “territorial action”, governance, and territorial heritage, with their meanings serving as references to guide the process of analysis and territorial prospecting.

The dossier published in the first quarter of 2022, with texts by the research team of the aforementioned research project, consisted of a presentation text and six articles that, as a whole, propose references for the structuring of a multidimensional methodological instrument that could be used in analysis and territorial prospecting.

As the most important result of the studies synthesized in the publications carried out in 2021 and 2022, mentioned above, we highlight another dossier, this one consisting of seven articles. The first presents the general structure of the methodological framework, the epistemic-theoretical-methodological proposal referenced in the territorial heritage, synthesized in the Multidimensional Index of Territorial Heritage Activation (IMAP). The magazine *Desenvolvimento em Questão*, edited under the responsibility of the Graduate Program in Regional Development (Masters and Doctorate), of the Universidade Regional do Noroeste do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul (UNIJUI), welcomed and accepted the publication of the new dossier.

The central purpose of the thematic dossier, referring to IMAP, is to contribute to the process of breaking theoretical-methodological paradigms of a disciplinary and/or sectoral nature, in studies related to analysis and territorial prospecting. Without claiming to be the “final word” about the “territorial approach to development”, it dares to advance, and open new paths, proposing the qualification of territorial studies, in the perspective of contemplating the principles of integration, interdisciplinarity, and multidimensionality. Thus, the socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental reality, which is expressed in territories or regions, is understood in its complexity.

As for the articles that make up the dossier, the first of them - Multidimensional Index of Territorial Heritage Activation: a proposed methodological framework for territorial studies - states that the proposed methodological framework assumes the socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental reality, in an integrated manner, multi-dimensionally, recognizing the complexity of territorial dynamics. The overall objective is to propose a methodological instrument suited to the territorial perspective of analysis, aiming to contribute to the elaboration of territorial

diagnoses that favor the prospect of innovative and sustainable development alternatives, having the territorial heritage as a reference.

The other six articles, based on a set of components, variables, and references of analyses, propose a rating scale (from 1 to 5), characterizing situations, from total precariousness to others of full activation of each of the dimensions of territorial heritage: (i) cultural, (ii) social, (iii) productive, (iv) natural, (v) institutional and (vi) human-intellectual. For each of the variables, techniques and instruments for data collection are suggested. The agglutination of the result of the six dimensions forms the IMAP.

The article on the cultural dimension points out that, in the last decades, in the understanding of development, attention was paid to the characterization of its dimensionality and its association with the conditions present in the territories. Thus, one of the constitutive dimensions is culture, the understanding of which is fundamental for territorial development. It presents, as central components of the cultural dimension, (i) multiculturalism (values and codes of conduct), (ii) cultural manifestations and equipment, (iii) the structure of the media, and (iv) the creative economy.

The article on the social dimension states that it comprises the different relationships and structures constituted by human beings in the interactions they establish with each other and with nature. It presents, as central components of the social dimension, (i) labor relations and access to goods and services produced in societies, (ii) the forms of organization and interaction that mark the different specific societies, and (iii) the values, norms and social structures of societies.

The article on the productive dimension proposes to detect strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, in a multidimensional and multidisciplinary approach, which makes it possible to generate scenarios, public policies, and priorities in activating territorial development. In view of the various studies on productive agglomerations and their derivations, the theoretical option that presents a greater convergence with the territorial approach is indicated, proposing the “arrangements” or “territorial systems of production” as a theoretical-practical perspective of “territorialization of development”. It presents, as central components of the productive dimension, (i) the territorial productive systems, (ii) the local agrifood and/or agrosilvopastoral systems, (iii) the basket of territorial goods or services and experiences of geographical indications, (iv) the social and cooperatives enterprises, and (v) the socioeconomic trajectory of the territory.

The natural dimension article begins by stating that thinking and acting in territorial development processes requires multi/interdisciplinary teams, to avoid false and mistaken interpretations, which assume development as a synonym for economic growth, relativizing issues related to social inclusion and environmental sustainability. That is, it proposes the need to think about a pattern of development that does not allow the degradation of ecosystems, nor the expansion of social inequalities. It presents, as central components of the natural dimension, (i) (bio)geodiversity, (ii) agroecosystems, (iii) urban environmental vulnerability, (iv) the basket of territorial goods and services, and (v) State policies for sustainability.

The institutional dimension article considers institutions as intermediaries in the process of conversation between public authorities and social actors in the territories, in the definition of public policies for territorial development. It is reaffirmed that the organizational structure,

the evaluation of action measures, and the way in which social and institutional actors cooperate and articulate, with a view to a shared vision of the development potential of a territory, are fundamental in the articulation of all development strategies and dimensions. It presents, as central components of the institutional dimension, (i) the administrative capacity of the state in the territory; (ii) public policies to support development, and (iii) actors, institutions, and concerted arenas.

The article on the human and intellectual dimension uses Amartya Sen's Approach to Capabilities as a reference, since this theoretical approach connects with the notion of territorial development with a focus on the Human and Intellectual Dimension, as this presents indications related to the constituent population of the different territories. It presents, as central components of the human and intellectual dimension, (i) formal knowledge, (ii) informal knowledge, (iii) vertical human groups, and (iv) horizontal human groups.

This is the content that we, with great honor, present in this thematic dossier. We wish all readers a fruitful reading, in the hope that the reflections and arguments expressed here will contribute to expanding the efforts of academia, leaders, and public administrators, in planning the future, territorially desired by the population that inhabits our territories and regions.

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