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Bibliographic Reception of Reinhart Koselleck's Work in Peru: 2000-2020

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Abstract

This article examines the reception and influence of German historian Reinhart Koselleck's work in Peru between 2000 and 2020. Known for his focus on conceptual history, which traces the evolution of key political and social concepts, the study explores how Peruvian scholars have adopted and adapted his methodology to analyze the country's political and social history. Drawing on a systematic literature review, the article identifies key themes, findings, and implications, assessing the contributions of Koselleck's conceptual history to enriching historical analysis in Peruvian contexts. The study emphasizes interdisciplinarity and methodological adaptations as essential tools for understanding Peru's historical and cultural complexities.

Keywords: Conceptual History, Reinhart Koselleck, Peru, Political Concepts, Interdisciplinarity.

Introduction

Reinhart Koselleck (1923-2006) was a prominent German historian, recognized for his fundamental contributions to the development of conceptual history (Begriffsgeschichte). His methodological proposal marked a shift in traditional historiography by proposing that, in order to fully understand the events of the past, it is essential to analyze the key concepts with which societies organized their political and social experiences. Not only do these concepts reflect the thought structures of an era, but they also reveal the underlying power and resistance dynamics.

Koselleck's approach invites us to explore how terms such as "state", "democracy" and "citizenship" have evolved over time, adapting to diverse historical and cultural contexts. His work has had a significant influence on European historiography, but its impact on Latin America, particularly Peru, has been less studied. This article seeks to fill that gap by examining how Peruvian scholars have adopted and adapted conceptual history to analyze the evolution of political and social concepts in the Peruvian context.

Through a systematic review of the literature, the study identifies the main themes, findings, and implications of research applying the Koselleck framework in Peru between 2000 and 2020. By focusing on the reception of this methodology, it seeks not only to assess its relevance and usefulness, but also to highlight how scholars have developed methodological adaptations to capture the historical and cultural complexity of the country. This interdisciplinary and contextualized approach underscores the importance of conceptual history as a critical tool for Peruvian historiography.

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2. General objective

To analyze the reception, influence, and adaptation of the conceptual history methodology proposed by Reinhart Koselleck in the Peruvian context between 2000 and 2020, evaluating its impact on national historiography and its usefulness in understanding the evolution of key political and social concepts in Peruvian history.

Methodology

To address the methodology used in this research, a qualitative study was designed focused on a systematic literature review. This approach allows us to rigorously collect, analyze, and synthesize previous studies related to the reception of Reinhart Koselleck's work in the Peruvian context between 2000 and 2020. As Booth, Sutton, and Papaioannou point out, a systematic review is essential not only to compile relevant information, but also to identify patterns, trends, and potential gaps in knowledge, which is critical when studying the influence and impact of a specific author in a given country.

For the literature search and selection, the keywords were carefully defined, including "Reinhart Koselleck", "conceptual history", "Begriffsgeschichte" and "Peru". These terms were chosen to ensure that the documents found addressed both Koselleck's conceptual approach and its application in the Peruvian academic field. Following the recommendations of Greenhalgh et al., inclusion criteria were established covering publications in Spanish and English and were limited to academic articles, books, and book chapters published during the selected period. This temporal, idiomatic and publication type delimitation was key to maintaining coherence and relevance in the results obtained.

The search was carried out in academic databases recognized for their high quality and rigor, such as Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar. Scopus and Web of Science were chosen for their prestige in indexing and wide coverage of scientific publications, which is highlighted by Falagas et al., who consider that these resources are essential to obtain an exhaustive vision of any area of study. In addition, Google Scholar was included to complement the search, given that this platform can offer access to a wider range of literature, including theses, lectures, and other types of academic documents that are not always available in traditional databases.

For the collection and analysis of the data, bibliographic management tools such as Mendeley were used, which facilitated both the organization and the thematic analysis of the texts. Each selected document was thoroughly reviewed to identify the ways in which Koselleck has been interpreted and applied in the Peruvian context, allowing a classification of the recurring themes and critical approaches present in the literature. As Haddaway et al. point out, the use of this type of tool allows for effective organization and systematic analysis of sources, which are fundamental aspects in literature review studies.

Finally, it is recognized that this methodology has certain limitations. The selection of publications in specific languages and the reliance on specific databases could introduce biases that limit the generalizability of findings. As Booth et al. point out, it is important to recognize these limitations in order to understand the scope and constraints of the results, an aspect that was taken into account in the interpretation of the reception of Koselleck's work in the Peruvian context.

Results

The systematic literature review shows that Koselleck's work has had a significant impact on Peruvian historiography, particularly in four main areas: the analysis of political and social concepts, the reinterpretation of historical events, interdisciplinarity, and methodological reflections.

Analysis of Evolving Political and Social Concepts

One of the recurring themes in Peruvian studies on conceptual history is its application to explore the evolution of political and social concepts. Concepts such as "democracy", "citizenship" and "State" have been the subject of detailed analysis, revealing how their meanings have changed in response to the historical and socio-political dynamics of Peru. This approach has allowed historians to identify the implications of these changes in the social and political structure of the country. According to Salazar and Pérez, "the application of theories in diverse contexts enriches the development of the discipline and allows the generation of situated knowledge."

This analysis has also delved into the relationship between these concepts and specific historical processes, such as political reforms and democratic transitions in Peru. Studies have shown that the semantic transformations of terms such as "citizenship" not only reflect changes in political structures, but also in social demands and struggles for inclusion and recognition.

Likewise, the analysis of concepts related to modernity and progress has been central. Grompone-Velásquez stresses that "progress was on the horizon, but it needed remarkable elite-led efforts to become a reality." This analysis has illuminated how modernization discourses have influenced public policies and social reforms in different historical periods, from agrarian reforms to industrialization and urbanization plans.

Reinterpretation of Historical Events and Processes

Koselleck's methodology has served as a basis for reinterpreting specific historical events, providing critical readings on Peruvian political and social development. Zuñiga and Orfale argue that "the reinterpretation of historical events through conceptual analysis allows for a deeper understanding of the dynamics of power and resistance present in each period." This has been particularly useful for studies on independence and republican reforms, highlighting the continuities and ruptures in the evolution of political and social structures.

In addition, recent research has applied conceptual history to reevaluate contemporary social conflicts, such as indigenous movements and civil rights struggles. Delupi argues that "conceptual history is a powerful tool for unraveling the roots and evolution of historical conflicts that still resonate in Peruvian society." These analyses have made it possible to explore how historical discourses are intertwined with current demands for social justice and human rights.

Conceptual history has also offered new perspectives on processes such as the consolidation of the nation-state and the tensions between centralism and regionalism in Peru. By reinterpreting events such as independence or the reforms of recent decades, scholars have revealed how notions of national identity and citizenship have been reconfigured over time, shaped by political and economic interests.

Interdisciplinarity And Promotion of Integrated Approaches

Koselleck's approach has fostered interdisciplinary collaboration between history, sociology, political science, and anthropology in the Peruvian context. Quijera observes that "the

application of conceptual history in Peru has promoted interdisciplinarity, since historical concepts are treated from multiple perspectives, thus enriching the analysis." This has allowed for a more comprehensive understanding of complex phenomena, such as transformations in notions of identity and culture, especially in the face of globalization and cultural rights movements.

Recent studies have integrated perspectives from anthropology to examine how notions of "culture" and "identity" have evolved in response to global and local changes. Fonseca-Martínez and Brull-González emphasize that "conceptual history offers a framework for understanding how perceptions of cultural identity have evolved in Peru over time, especially in response to globalization and cultural rights movements."

Methodological Reflections and Local Adaptations

Finally, Peruvian academics have reflected on how to adapt Koselleck's approach to the cultural and historical particularities of the country. Saravia et al. note that "Koselleck's methodological approach requires adjustments when applied in non-European contexts, as historical and cultural dynamics differ markedly." In the Peruvian case, these adaptations have been essential to address the coexistence of pre-colonial, colonial, and modern temporalities.

Koselleck's notion of "temporal strata," which describes the overlapping of different temporalities in a society, has been particularly useful. Pérez and Vargas stress that "this notion allows us to capture the overlapping of precolonial, colonial, and republican temporalities that coexist in modern Peru," providing a key analytical tool for understanding how the past influences the present.

In this context, methodological reflections have highlighted the need for a flexible and adaptive approach, which allows integrating cultural diversity and the historical complexity of Peru in the conceptual analysis. These adaptations have facilitated more inclusive and representative studies of the country's social and political dynamics.

Taken together, these results demonstrate how Koselleck's work has enriched Peruvian historiography, providing new perspectives for the conceptual analysis of the country's political and social history.

Discussion

In the discussion of these results, we explore how Reinhart Koselleck's conceptual history approach has influenced Peruvian historiography, especially in terms of interpretation, theoretical adaptation, and contextual relevance in historical analysis. This systematic review shows that Koselleck's work has allowed Peruvian scholars to trace the changing meanings of key concepts in national history, providing new perspectives on the events, processes, and ideas that have shaped the past and continue to influence the present. As Pérez & Vargas points out, "conceptual history facilitates the understanding of how concepts are transformed over time, adapting to specific contexts," which is particularly relevant for a country like Peru, with a history of complex cultural and political interactions.

Conceptual History Approach as a Critical Analysis Tool

One of the most notable contributions of Koselleck's approach in Peru is its ability to promote a critical analysis of historical concepts that, according to Morena, "reveals the dynamics of power and resistance implicit in the meanings attributed to key terms." In the Peruvian case, concepts

such as "democracy", "citizenship" and "modernity" have been the subject of in-depth analysis, since their meaning has changed considerably over the years in response to social, political and cultural transformations. Peruvian scholars have employed conceptual history to highlight these dynamics and, in doing so, have been able to identify how certain concepts have been used to legitimize or challenge power structures in different historical periods.

In addition, as Zuñiga and Orfale point out, Koselleck's approach provides a "retrospective view that helps to understand not only how concepts change, but also how these changes affect the way a society perceives its own history." In the Peruvian context, this has made it possible to reevaluate fundamental events such as republican reforms and independence processes, providing new interpretations of their impact and significance in the construction of national identity.

Transformation of Political and Social Concepts

One of the aspects that has gained the most attention in Peruvian studies is the analysis of evolving political and social concepts, an area in which the conceptual history approach has proven to be especially useful. This is evident in studies that analyze the changes in the concept of citizenship in Peru, particularly in the context of the democratic transition and the political reforms implemented in recent decades.

In addition, the conceptual history approach allows us to address the complexity of concepts such as "nation," which, according to Fonseca-Martínez and Brull-González, "has been reinterpreted in multiple historical moments in Peru, reflecting a mixture of political, cultural, and social aspirations." This approach has helped historians identify how the concept of nation has been used both to foster cohesion and to justify policies of exclusion, providing a more nuanced understanding of its evolution and its role in shaping Peruvian identity.

Interdisciplinarity and Contextualized Approach

Koselleck's use of conceptual history has also promoted an interdisciplinary approach in Peruvian studies, allowing scholars to connect history, sociology, anthropology, and political science. Quijara emphasizes that "conceptual history not only allows us to understand changes in concepts, but also offers a framework to study the connections between different fields of knowledge." In the Peruvian context, this interdisciplinarity has allowed researchers to explore topics such as cultural identity and the influence of global processes on local societies.

The adaptability of conceptual history is also evident in the way Peruvian scholars have incorporated local perspectives when analyzing concepts of European origin. As Saravia et al. point out, "conceptual history must be contextualized to reflect the cultural and historical particularities of each society." This has led to a theoretical adaptation that allows the use of Koselleck's approach in a country with a cultural diversity and a complex colonial history such as Peru.

Reinterpretation of Historical Events and Processes

Conceptual history has also offered an invaluable tool for reinterpreting historical events and processes, particularly in relation to social conflicts and political transitions. Delupi's research suggests that "by applying conceptual history to historical events, it is possible to identify the continuities and ruptures in struggles for power and resistance."

In the case of Peru, this approach has been used to analyze contemporary social conflicts and resistance responses, especially in the context of the demands of indigenous groups and rural communities.

On the other hand, Grompone-Velásquez highlights the importance of conceptual history to examine the relationship between modernity and progress in Peruvian history. In this sense, Koselleck's approach has allowed Peruvian historians to reinterpret key events such as agrarian reforms, industrialization processes, and educational reform movements.

Methodological Reflections and Limitations of the Approach

The conceptual history approach in Peru has fostered significant methodological reflections, allowing scholars to analyze both its strengths and limitations. Although this perspective provides a valuable analytical structure, its application in non-European contexts requires adaptation that takes into account local particularities. This is especially relevant in the Peruvian case, where it has been adjusted to capture the interaction between precolonial, colonial and modern temporalities.

Despite its benefits, conceptual history also faces certain limitations in its application, especially when it comes to analyzing concepts whose historical development has been influenced by unique cultural dynamics. As Fonseca-Martínez and Brull-González state, "conceptual history must be used with caution in contexts where concepts have been shaped by cultural experiences that do not always align with European paradigms." This has led Peruvian scholars to modify and adapt certain aspects of Koselleck's approach so that they adequately reflect the realities and complexities of Peruvian history.

Conclusions

The study underscores the relevance of Reinhart Koselleck's conceptual history approach in Peruvian historiography, highlighting its ability to broaden and enrich the understanding of political and social processes in the country. The research analyzed shows how Peruvian academics have managed to integrate Koselleck's perspective, adapting it to the cultural, historical and social specificities of Peru.

One of the most outstanding contributions is the detailed analysis of political and social concepts, such as "democracy", "citizenship" and "State", which have undergone significant semantic transformations. This approach has allowed historians to identify the interactions between changes in these concepts and the dynamics of power and resistance in different historical periods. In addition, the conceptual approach's ability to reinterpret historical events and processes has been key to reexamining fundamental moments in Peruvian history, such as republican reforms and social resistance movements.

The drive towards interdisciplinarity has also been a crucial contribution, facilitating collaborations between disciplines such as sociology, political science and anthropology. This interdisciplinary approach has enriched historical analyses, offering broader and more comprehensive perspectives on Peru's social and political phenomena.

Likewise, the methodological reflections and adaptations made by Peruvian academics underscore the flexibility of Koselleck's framework, allowing its application in non-European contexts. These adaptations have resulted in more representative and inclusive analyses, capable of capturing the historical and cultural complexities of Peru.

In summary, the conceptual history approach has proven to be a valuable tool for interpreting Peruvian history from critical and contextual perspectives. This study highlights its potential to open new lines of research that address emerging concepts and contemporary issues, such as social movements, cultural rights, and the challenges of globalization. Future studies could explore comparisons between the reception of Koselleck's work in other Latin American countries, further enriching regional historiography.

In addition, the need to investigate how emerging concepts in Peru, such as "historical memory", "social justice" and "community resilience", could be analyzed under Koselleck's approach, is identified. This development could expand the applications of conceptual history and strengthen its usefulness in addressing current problems in complex social contexts. Finally, the study highlights the importance of promoting interdisciplinary and collaborative research that integrates local and global perspectives, ensuring a more inclusive and representative analysis of historical and conceptual dynamics in Peru and the Latin American region.

Future Research

Despite the advances and contributions achieved through the application of Koselleck's conceptual history in Peruvian historiography, the present research identifies several gaps that suggest possibilities for future studies. First, one of the key limitations observed in the literature is that many studies focus predominantly on political and social concepts associated with themes such as citizenship, nation, and modernity. This trend, while valuable, leaves a significant gap in the analysis of other relevant concepts in areas such as economics, popular culture, and environmental history, all of which could offer additional perspectives on the development and tensions of Peruvian society. The study of economic or environmental concepts from a conceptual history approach could help to better understand the complex interactions between development, sustainability, and social justice in the contemporary Peruvian context.

Another important aspect to develop in future research is the lack of studies that explore the reception and adaptation of Koselleck's approach in academic communities outside the main research centers in Peru. So far, most studies seem to concentrate on universities and research centers in Lima and other major cities, limiting our understanding of how the conceptual history approach might be being used in other regions. An extension in this direction would allow us to observe whether there are differences in the interpretation and application of Koselleck's theory in communities with different cultural and social dynamics, as is the case of the Andean or Amazonian contexts, where ancestral traditions and concepts play a key role in the construction of local identity. The inclusion of these perspectives can offer a more complete and diverse approach to the reception of conceptual history in Peru.

In addition, there is a need to evaluate the applicability and limitations of conceptual history in recent historical events, such as the internal armed conflict, indigenous social movements, and human rights struggles in Peru. While Koselleck's approach has been useful in the revision of historical concepts with a long history, its applicability in the analysis of emerging or redefined concepts in recent times remains an open question. Future studies could focus on exploring how concepts such as "memory", "resistance" and "reconciliation" have been used and reinterpreted in the context of recent Peruvian history. Such an approach would allow us to examine whether Koselleck's framework can be adapted to analyze conceptual evolution in short periods and in contexts of rapid change, such as those experienced in Peru in recent decades.

In addition, the interdisciplinarity of conceptual history poses an opportunity for future studies to consider more integrated collaborations across disciplines. While historians have led the application of this approach, greater involvement of sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, and economists could offer a more enriching insight. Interdisciplinary collaboration would allow conceptual history to be analyzed from a holistic perspective that addresses how concepts not only evolve in historical discourse, but also in social, political, and cultural discourse. This could facilitate the development of hybrid methodologies that not only highlight the historical transformations of concepts, but also their impact on everyday life and current power structures.

Finally, a notable gap in research is the lack of comparative studies between the development of conceptual history in Peru and its application in other Latin American contexts. Future studies could benefit from analyzing the similarities and differences in the reception of Koselleck's work between Peru and other countries in the region, such as Chile, Argentina or Mexico, where there is also a growing interest in conceptual history. This comparative perspective would not only broaden the theoretical scope of conceptual history in Latin America, but would also allow for the identification of shared patterns and regional particularities that reflect the multiple realities and cultural contexts of the region.

In conclusion, the gaps identified in this research suggest a wide range of opportunities for future exploration. Broadening the conceptual history approach to less studied areas, adopting a more diverse regional perspective, addressing recent and emerging concepts, strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration, and conducting comparative studies with other Latin American countries, would be fundamental steps to deepen and diversify the application of Koselleck's approach in Peruvian and regional historiography. These lines of research would not only contribute to the development of a more inclusive and diverse historiography, but would also strengthen the role of conceptual history as a dynamic and adaptable tool for understanding the evolution of meanings and the construction of identities in ever-changing societies.

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