



Artículo original

Sociology and History: a necessary relationship in contemporary historiographical studies

Sociología e Historia: una relación necesaria en los estudios historiográficos contemporáneos

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Resumen

El presente artículo analiza la relación entre Sociología e Historia en los estudios historiográficos contemporáneos, destacando su carácter necesario para la comprensión de los procesos sociales de larga duración. Se parte de la identificación de un vacío historiográfico relacionado con la persistente separación disciplinaria entre ambas áreas, lo cual ha limitado la capacidad explicativa de los fenómenos sociales complejos. A través de una revisión crítica de la literatura clásica y contemporánea, se examinan los aportes de la sociología histórica, los estudios de memoria colectiva y las perspectivas latinoamericanas que han contribuido a superar dicha fragmentación. El análisis muestra que la integración entre Sociología e Historia permite articular estructura y temporalidad, ofreciendo marcos interpretativos más amplios para el estudio de la formación del Estado, las identidades colectivas, la estratificación social y los procesos de cambio histórico. Asimismo, se evidencia que los enfoques interdisciplinarios recientes fortalecen la comprensión de la complejidad social mediante metodologías comparativas y longitudinales. Finalmente, se sostiene que la sociología histórica constituye un campo clave para la renovación de los estudios historiográficos contemporáneos, al permitir una lectura integrada del pasado y el presente.

Palabras clave: sociología histórica; historiografía; memoria colectiva; cambio social; interdisciplinariedad.

Abstract

This article analyzes the relationship between Sociology and History in contemporary historiographical studies, emphasizing its essential role in understanding long-term social processes. It begins by identifying a historiographical gap linked to the persistent disciplinary separation between both fields, which has limited the explanatory capacity of complex social phenomena. Through a critical review of classical and contemporary literature, the study examines contributions from historical sociology, collective memory studies, and Latin American perspectives that have sought to overcome this fragmentation. The analysis shows that integrating Sociology and History allows for the articulation of structure and temporality, providing broader interpretative frameworks for studying state formation, collective identities, social stratification, and processes of historical change. It also highlights that recent interdisciplinary approaches enhance the understanding of social complexity through comparative and longitudinal methodologies. Finally, the article argues that historical sociology constitutes a key field for renewing contemporary historiographical studies by enabling an integrated reading of past and present.

Keywords: historical sociology; historiography; collective memory; social change; interdisciplinarity.





1. Introduction

Contemporary historiographical studies have undergone a profound transformation in recent decades, marked by the progressive incorporation of interdisciplinary approaches that seek to overcome the limitations of traditional narratives focused exclusively on the chronological reconstruction of events. In this context, the relationship between Sociology and History has gained increasing relevance, insofar as both disciplines make it possible to examine social processes from complementary perspectives that connect the structural dimension with historical temporality. However, despite this growing convergence, epistemological tensions and analytical gaps still persist, hindering the consolidation of a fully integrated theoretical framework for the study of long-term social phenomena. One of the main problems identified in the specialized literature is the persistence of a disciplinary divide that has limited the explanatory capacity of both Sociology and History. While the former has tended to privilege synchronic explanations centered on contemporary structures, the latter has, in many cases, maintained an emphasis on the descriptive reconstruction of particular events without consistently integrating explanatory theoretical frameworks of a sociological nature. This fragmentation has created a significant historiographical gap, especially in the analysis of complex processes such as state formation, the construction of collective identities, the persistence of structural inequalities, and long-term transformations in power relations.

In the field of historical sociology, various authors have sought to overcome this dichotomy by proposing integrative approaches that connect structure and temporality. The works of Halbwachs (2004) and Anderson (2006) have been fundamental in understanding the social dimension of memory and the historical construction of collective identities, while more recent contributions such as those of Jelin (2021) have further explored the conflictive and political nature of social memories. At the same time, contemporary historical sociology has developed analytical tools to explain long-term processes, as evidenced by the contributions of Milia (2008), who emphasize the importance of comparative analysis for understanding complex social structures. Likewise, in the Latin American context, authors such as Giordano (2007) and Riquelme (2025) have underscored the need to develop situated interpretive frameworks capable of accounting for the region's historical particularities, shaped by colonial processes, persistent structural inequalities, and heterogeneous state trajectories. These approaches have contributed to expanding the scope of contemporary historiography by incorporating categories such as dependency, social conflict, stratification, and collective memory, thereby strengthening the dialogue between Sociology and History as complementary disciplines.

At the international level, recent literature has reinforced this trend toward interdisciplinary integration, highlighting the importance of the historical dimension in the sociological explanation of contemporary phenomena. Strangleman's (2023) studies have revalued the historical imagination as an analytical tool for understanding the relationship between past and present, while research in the field of historical sociology has emphasized the need for comparative and longitudinal methodologies to analyze complex social processes. This body of work demonstrates a growing consensus regarding the inadequacy of exclusively disciplinary approaches for addressing the complexity of contemporary societies. Nevertheless, despite these advances, theoretical and methodological dispersion continues to hinder the consolidation of a unified analytical framework. The lack of systematic integration among the contributions of historiography, historical sociology, and memory studies has resulted in a fragmented field in which concepts circulate unevenly and are sometimes disconnected. In this regard, one of the main historiographical gaps today is the absence of a theoretical synthesis capable of coherently integrating the contributions of these traditions for the study of long-term historical processes.

Within this context, the present article begins from the need to problematize the relationship between Sociology and History in contemporary historiographical studies, understanding this relationship not as a simple disciplinary complementarity but as a contested epistemological space in which explanatory frameworks concerning society, historical time, and the production of knowledge are constructed. It argues that the articulation between these two disciplines makes it possible to overcome the limitations of fragmented approaches and advance toward a more comprehensive understanding of social processes. The objective of this study is to analyze the relationship between Sociology and History in contemporary historiographical studies by identifying their principal theoretical and

methodological convergences, as well as the contributions of historical sociology and memory studies to the construction of integrated interpretive frameworks for the analysis of long-term social processes.

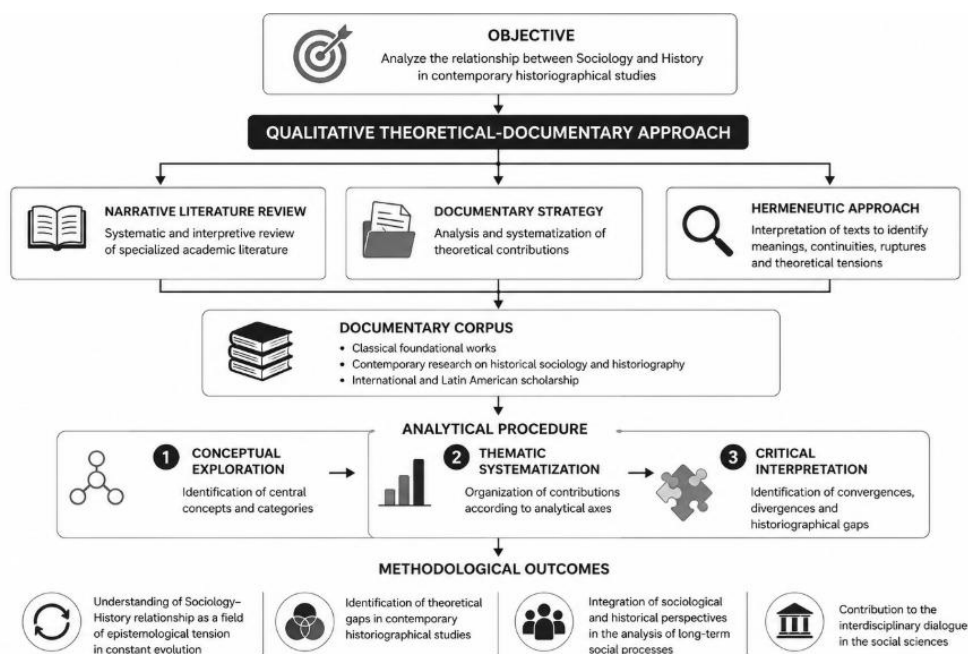
2. Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative theoretical-documentary design based on a narrative literature review and hermeneutic interpretive analysis to examine the relationship between Sociology and History in contemporary historiographical studies. Because the objective is conceptual rather than empirical, the study does not involve the collection of primary data; instead, it critically synthesizes scholarly literature to explore the epistemological articulation between both disciplines.

The documentary corpus comprises classical and contemporary academic publications selected according to their theoretical relevance to the research objective. The review includes foundational works on historical sociology, historiography, collective memory, and social identity, together with recent contributions addressing interdisciplinary perspectives on long-term social processes. To ensure a broad analytical perspective, publications from both international and Latin American scholarship were incorporated.

The analytical process followed three sequential phases (Figure 1). First, conceptual exploration identified the principal analytical categories underpinning the study, including historical sociology, historiography, collective memory, social identity, and structural change. Second, thematic systematization organized the selected literature into shared conceptual dimensions, facilitating comparison among theoretical approaches. Third, critical interpretation examined convergences, divergences, complementarities, and unresolved debates across the literature, enabling the identification of historiographical gaps and emerging interdisciplinary perspectives.

Figure 1. Methodological framework



he methodological strategy emphasizes analytical synthesis rather than descriptive review, allowing the reconstruction of the contemporary academic debate concerning the interaction between sociological and historical

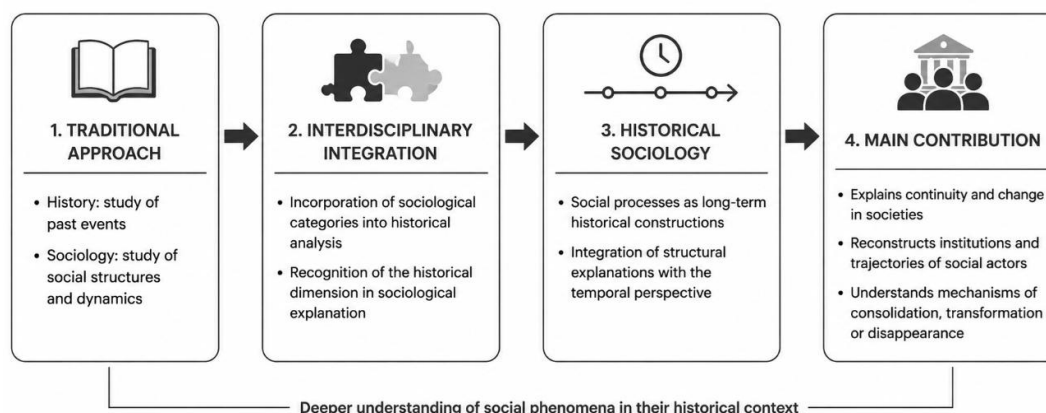
perspectives. Through this interpretive process, the study identifies the principal theoretical developments, epistemological tensions, and areas requiring further interdisciplinary research. Overall, this methodological approach provides a coherent framework for understanding the Sociology–History relationship as an evolving field of inquiry. By integrating conceptual analysis with systematic documentary review, the study contributes to clarifying the theoretical foundations of contemporary historiography and highlights future directions for interdisciplinary research on long-term social change.

3. Results

3.1 The epistemological dialogue between Sociology and History

The relationship between Sociology and History has undergone a profound transformation throughout the development of the social sciences. Traditionally, both disciplines were conceived as autonomous fields with distinct objects of study, methods, and purposes. While History focused on the critical reconstruction of past events through the analysis of documentary sources, Sociology centered its attention on explaining the structures, institutions, and dynamics that organize social life. However, contemporary historiographical studies have shown that understanding historical processes requires incorporating analytical categories drawn from Sociology, just as sociological explanation must recognize the historical dimension that gives rise to and provides meaning for social phenomena. This interdisciplinary approach has fostered the consolidation of historical sociology as a field of research that integrates the structural explanations of Sociology with the temporal perspective of History. From this viewpoint, social processes are understood as long-term historical constructions in which political, economic, cultural, and symbolic factors interact, and whose evolution can only be understood through an analysis that connects historical time with transformations in social structures. Consequently, contemporary historiography no longer conceives events as isolated facts but interprets them as expressions of complex processes unfolding within specific social contexts (Figure 2). Jiménez-Albornoz (2022) argues that History constitutes an indispensable component in the construction of robust sociological explanations because it makes it possible to reconstruct the genesis of institutions, identify the trajectories of social actors, and understand the mechanisms through which certain structures become consolidated, transformed, or disappear. This perspective goes beyond exclusively synchronic interpretations of social reality and positions historical analysis as a central element in explaining continuity and change within societies.

Figure 2. *Relationship between Sociology and History*



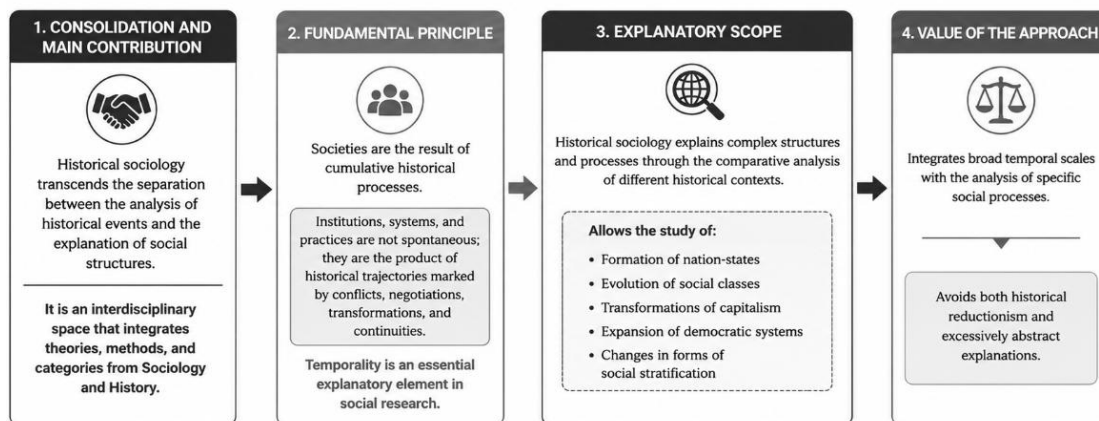
opening up the social sciences requires overcoming traditional disciplinary boundaries in order to build interdisciplinary approaches that make it possible to understand the historical specificity of Latin America without abandoning the development of analytical categories with comparative scope.

From this perspective, contemporary historiographical studies are no longer limited to chronologically reconstructing events but instead seek to explain the relationships among social structures, cultural practices, institutions, and historical actors. The incorporation of sociological concepts such as power, stratification, social action, identity, collective memory, and institutional change has significantly enriched historical research, making it possible to interpret the past as a dynamic process whose influence continues to shape contemporary societies. Thus, the convergence of Sociology and History has become an indispensable condition for the development of historiographical research capable of explaining the complexity of social phenomena from a comprehensive perspective.

3.2. Historical Sociology as the Theoretical Foundation of Contemporary Historiographical Studies

The consolidation of historical sociology as a field of knowledge has represented one of the most significant developments in the renewal of contemporary historiographical studies. Its main contribution lies in transcending the traditional separation between the analysis of historical events and the explanation of social structures by proposing an integrative approach in which historical time constitutes an essential dimension for understanding the origin, continuity, and transformation of social phenomena. In this sense, historical sociology should not be understood merely as a specialty within Sociology or History, but rather as an interdisciplinary space that brings together theories, methods, and categories from both disciplines to offer more complex interpretations of reality (Figure 3). One of the fundamental principles of this approach is that societies are the result of cumulative historical processes. Political institutions, economic systems, forms of social organization, and cultural practices do not emerge spontaneously or respond exclusively to present conditions; rather, they are the product of historical trajectories marked by conflicts, negotiations, transformations, and continuities.

Figure 3. Relationship between Sociology and History



From this perspective, temporality ceases to be a simple chronological reference and becomes an indispensable explanatory element within social research. Milia (2008) argues that historical sociology makes it possible to explain complex structures and processes through the comparative analysis of different historical contexts, identifying causal mechanisms that transcend the particularities of each society. This approach facilitates the study of phenomena such as the formation of nation-states, the evolution of social classes, the transformations of capitalism, the expansion of democratic systems, and changes in forms of social stratification. The value of this approach lies in its ability to integrate broad temporal scales with the analysis of specific social processes, thereby avoiding both historical reductionism and excessively abstract explanations. Consequently, historical sociology has contributed to redefining the object of contemporary historiographical studies. Historical research is no longer limited to



reconstructing singular events or establishing chronological sequences; instead, it seeks to understand the relationships among events, structures, and institutions within long-term historical processes. This methodological transformation has made it possible to overcome the traditional dichotomy between event and structure, promoting interpretations that recognize the continuous interaction between human agency and the social conditions that shape the possibilities for action. A central aspect of this disciplinary convergence is the use of the comparative method. Unlike traditional history, which has often focused on particular cases, historical sociology incorporates systematic comparison as a strategy for identifying regularities, differences, and explanatory mechanisms across different societies or historical periods. Comparison does not seek to homogenize historical experiences but rather to understand the conditions that explain divergent trajectories in response to similar social problems. This perspective is especially relevant for the analysis of Latin America. The processes of colonization, independence, state-building, economic modernization, and democratization share common characteristics across the countries of the region, yet they also display profound differences resulting from their particular historical contexts. Historical sociology provides tools for examining these similarities and contrasts from a comparative perspective, thereby contributing to the development of broader explanations of the historical configuration of Latin American societies. In this context, Riquelme (2025) proposes that the opening of the social sciences entails recognizing the need to construct analytical frameworks capable of integrating regional specificities with theoretical debates of global scope. This position challenges fragmented views of knowledge and emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinarity as a prerequisite for understanding complex historical processes. From this perspective, historical sociology represents a methodological alternative that fosters dialogue among different intellectual traditions, thereby expanding the interpretative possibilities of historiographical research.

For their part, González Aimé and Peñas Esteban (2006) point out that although Sociology and History followed relatively independent trajectories for much of the twentieth century, the two disciplines have converged once again due to the need to explain phenomena characterized by a high degree of social complexity. Issues such as globalization, international migration, recurring economic crises, technological transformations, and identity conflicts require approaches that simultaneously integrate structural analysis with the historical reconstruction of social processes. From this perspective, contemporary historiographical studies have incorporated sociological concepts such as power, domination, legitimacy, social capital, collective identity, social action, and institutional change to interpret the evolution of societies. These categories make it possible to move beyond explanations focused exclusively on individual actors or political events, fostering an understanding of historical processes shaped by economic structures, power relations, cultural systems, and institutional dynamics operating over long periods. Likewise, the development of new methodologies has strengthened this interdisciplinary convergence. The digitization of historical archives, access to longitudinal databases, social network analysis, data mining techniques, and mixed methods have expanded research possibilities for both historians and sociologists. These tools make it possible to combine quantitative and qualitative evidence, reconstruct long-term historical trajectories, and identify patterns of social change that were previously difficult to observe. Consequently, historical sociology has established itself as a particularly relevant theoretical and methodological framework for contemporary historiographical studies by integrating the temporal depth of History with the explanatory power of Sociology in the analysis of social transformations.

3.3 History, Collective Memory, and Social Identity in Contemporary Historiographical Studies

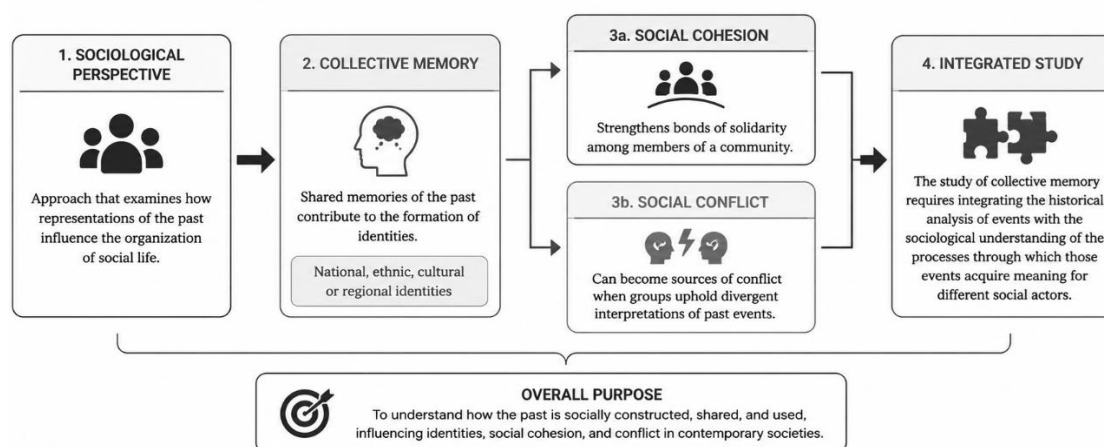
The relationship between History and Sociology acquires a particularly significant dimension when analyzing the processes of constructing collective memory and social identities. Both categories constitute fundamental elements for understanding how societies interpret their past, legitimize their institutions, and project their expectations toward the future. From the perspective of contemporary historiographical studies, memory is no longer conceived as a simple repository of past events but rather as a dynamic social construction, constantly influenced by power relations, symbolic disputes, and processes of historical reinterpretation. This conception represents a substantial shift from traditional historiographical approaches. For a long time, History was primarily oriented toward the objective reconstruction of facts through the critical analysis of documentary sources. However, the development of historical sociology and memory studies demonstrated that every representation of the past involves processes

of selection, interpretation, and social evaluation. Consequently, the production of historical knowledge cannot be separated from the political, cultural, and institutional contexts in which that knowledge is produced.

One of the main contributions to this discussion comes from Maurice Halbwachs (2004), who established that memory is essentially collective in nature. According to this author, individuals remember through the social frameworks provided by families, communities, educational institutions, religious groups, and political organizations. Individual memory is therefore conditioned by forms of social organization that determine which events are remembered, which are reinterpreted, and which remain excluded from the historical narrative. This perspective introduces an indispensable sociological dimension for understanding the construction of historical narratives. Contemporary historiographical studies have revisited this proposal to analyze how different social actors contest the legitimacy of particular interpretations of the past. Official memories promoted by states coexist with local, community-based, or subaltern memories that frequently challenge dominant narratives. This plurality of memories demonstrates that History is not merely a discipline devoted to the study of the past but also a space for the production of social meanings where political interests, collective identities, and cultural projects converge. In this regard, Jelin (2021) argues that memory processes should be understood as ongoing arenas of symbolic negotiation. Memory does not represent an exact reproduction of historical events but rather a social construction that responds to the present needs of communities. Societies build narratives that help explain traumatic experiences, strengthen feelings of belonging, or assert collective rights, thereby transforming the past into a fundamental resource for shaping contemporary identities.

From the perspective of Sociology, this approach makes it possible to understand how representations of the past influence the organization of social life. Shared memories contribute to the formation of national, ethnic, cultural, or regional identities, strengthening bonds of solidarity among members of a community. At the same time, they can become sources of conflict when different groups uphold divergent interpretations of significant historical events. Consequently, the study of collective memory requires integrating the historical analysis of events with the sociological understanding of the processes through which those events acquire meaning for different social actors (Figure 4).

Figure 4. *Sociology and collective memory*



The construction of national identities constitutes one of the most representative examples of this interdisciplinary convergence. Benedict Anderson (2006) explains that nations should be understood as imagined communities—that is, as historical constructions whose members develop a shared sense of belonging even though they may never know one another personally. This national identity is consolidated through historical narratives, symbols, rituals, educational institutions, and cultural practices that contribute to representing the nation as a cohesive community.



Andersons (2006) proposal is particularly relevant to contemporary historiographical studies because it demonstrates that collective identities are the result of long-term historical processes rather than natural or immutable expressions. Contemporary historiography has incorporated this perspective to analyze the formation of nation-states, the consolidation of political projects, and the construction of collective imaginaries that legitimize particular forms of social organization. From this approach, History contributes the reconstruction of state formation processes, while Sociology explains the mechanisms through which these narratives are internalized by different social groups. This articulation between memory and identity acquires special importance in Latin America, where disputes over the past continue to play a central role in political and cultural life. The processes of colonization, independence, authoritarianism, political violence, and democratic transition have generated multiple collective memories that coexist, confront one another, and continually evolve. Contemporary historiographical research has shown that understanding these processes requires incorporating analytical tools from Sociology to examine the relationships among memory, power, social recognition, and the construction of citizenship.

In this context, historiography has ceased to focus exclusively on events led by political elites and has incorporated the historical experiences of traditionally marginalized actors, such as Indigenous communities, peasant movements, labor organizations, women, Afro-descendant groups, and human rights organizations. This expansion of the historiographical object is largely a response to the influence of sociological approaches that recognize the diversity of social actors involved in historical production and challenge homogeneous interpretations of the past. The incorporation of these perspectives has strengthened the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary historiographical studies. Collective memory, social identity, and cultural representations are no longer considered secondary dimensions of historical research but rather constitutive elements of social processes whose understanding requires integrating the theoretical categories of Sociology with the methods of historical analysis. Consequently, the relationship between these two disciplines goes beyond simple methodological complementarity to become an interpretive framework capable of explaining the complexity of contemporary societies from a historical, social, and cultural perspective.

3.4 The Latin American Perspective of Historical Sociology and the Challenges of Contemporary Historiography

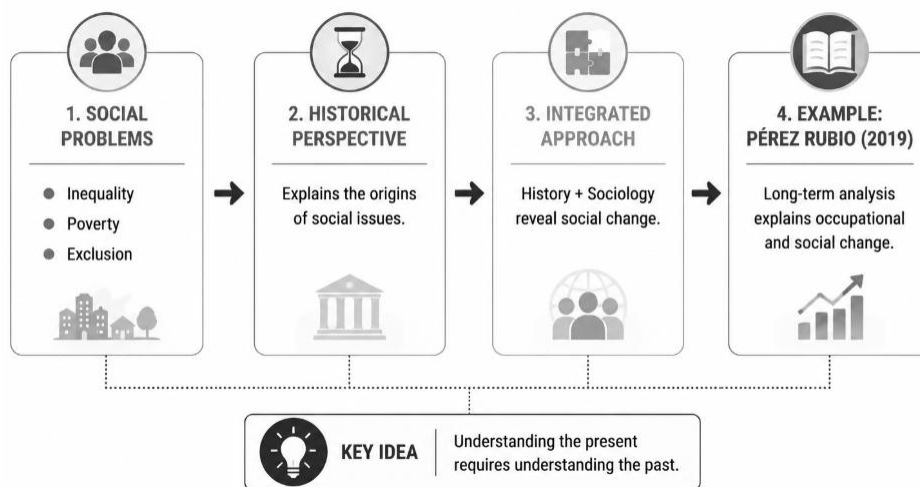
The development of historical sociology in Latin America has followed a trajectory different from that observed in Europe and North America, due to the political, economic, and cultural particularities that have characterized the region. Processes of colonization, struggles for independence, the consolidation of nation-states, the persistence of deep social inequalities, and successive cycles of authoritarianism and democratization have shaped historical scenarios that require analytical approaches capable of integrating multiple dimensions of social reality. In this context, the articulation between Sociology and History has ceased to be merely a methodological proposal and has become an epistemological necessity aimed at understanding the complexity of Latin American historical processes. Contemporary Latin American historiography has undergone a significant transformation in recent decades. While at first narratives centered on political events, national figures, and institutional chronologies predominated, perspectives gradually emerged that sought to reconstruct the experiences of diverse social actors, analyze power relations, and explain the historical mechanisms that gave rise to the structures of inequality present in the region. This shift was closely linked to the development of historical sociology, whose influence favored the study of long-term processes and the incorporation of analytical categories from the social sciences.

Giordano (2007) argues that Latin American sociology found in the historical perspective a fundamental tool for interpreting phenomena that could not be explained exclusively through theoretical models developed in other contexts. The specificity of Latin America required considering historical trajectories of economic dependence, colonial heritage, the uneven formation of nation-states, and the coexistence of multiple forms of social organization. Consequently, the integration between Sociology and History made it possible to develop interpretations that are more sensitive to regional particularities and less dependent on universalist approaches. This perspective gained particular relevance with the so-called Latin American historiographical renewal, characterized by an interest in studying social processes from interdisciplinary approaches. The incorporation of

categories such as social conflict, collective movements, stratification, citizenship, exclusion, political culture, and identity significantly expanded the field of historical research. In this way, historiography ceased to focus exclusively on political events and began to address economic, cultural, and social phenomena that had previously been marginal in traditional historical analysis. Alfaro Velázquez (2009) states that historical sociology constitutes a particularly relevant alternative for overcoming the limitations derived from excessive disciplinary specialization. According to this author, the separation between Sociology and History hinders a comprehensive understanding of social processes, since institutional transformations can only be properly explained when their structural and historical dimensions are simultaneously considered. This statement is especially important in societies characterized by deep historical continuities, where contemporary problems find part of their explanation in processes developed over long periods.

Contemporary historiographical studies have confirmed that phenomena such as inequality, poverty, wealth concentration, educational exclusion, political violence, or institutional weakness are not merely short-term situations, but the result of complex historical trajectories. Analyzing these problems from a purely synchronic perspective limits the understanding of the mechanisms that reproduce them. In contrast, the integration between History and Sociology makes it possible to identify the processes of formation, consolidation, and transformation of the social structures that condition current Latin American reality. In this sense, the research conducted by Pérez Rubio (2019) on the evolution of socio-occupational stratification in Extremadura constitutes an illustrative example of the usefulness of historical sociology for explaining structural transformations through longitudinal analysis. Although the study is set in a European context, it demonstrates that occupational changes, social mobility dynamics, and transformations in labor organization can only be properly understood when their historical trajectories are reconstructed. This type of methodological approach has significantly influenced Latin American research interested in explaining similar processes related to industrialization, internal migration, urbanization, and transformations in the labor market (Figure 5).

Figure 5. *An Integrated Approach to Understanding Latin American Reality*



The comparative dimension represents another fundamental contribution of historical sociology to contemporary historiographical studies. Comparing historical processes developed in different societies makes it possible to identify regularities, recognize regional specificities, and build broader theoretical explanations. However, such comparison requires avoiding the mechanical application of categories developed in different contexts, favoring approaches that recognize the cultural, political, and institutional specificities of each society. It is precisely in this direction that the proposal formulated by Riquelme (2025) is oriented, as he argues for the need to open the social sciences through a historical sociology constructed from Latin America. This perspective does not seek to reject



theoretical contributions from other academic traditions, but rather to establish a critical dialogue that allows these approaches to be reinterpreted from Latin American historical experiences. Knowledge production thus acquires a situated character, in which analytical categories are developed by considering the particularities of regional social processes and the historical conditions that gave rise to them. Another relevant aspect within contemporary historiography is the recognition of new historical subjects. For a long time, historical research privileged the study of political elites, institutional processes, and major economic transformations. However, the incorporation of sociological approaches has encouraged the analysis of actors traditionally marginalized from historical narratives, such as Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, peasant movements, trade unions, feminist organizations, and various social movements. This expansion of the object of study has significantly enriched the understanding of social diversity in Latin America. Likewise, contemporary historiographical studies have incorporated methodologies from Sociology to analyze cultural processes, everyday practices, symbolic representations, and forms of identity construction. The use of interviews, life histories, discourse analysis, social network studies, and mixed methods has expanded the interpretative possibilities of historical research, allowing traditional documentary sources to be integrated with new forms of empirical evidence production.

Consequently, the Latin American perspective of historical sociology has made a decisive contribution to renewing contemporary historiographical studies. The integration between History and Sociology not only strengthens the explanatory capacity of both disciplines but also fosters the construction of broader analytical frameworks, sensitive to the diversity of historical experiences and capable of interpreting the complexity of social processes from a critical, comparative, and interdisciplinary perspective. In a context characterized by accelerated political, economic, technological, and cultural transformations, this disciplinary convergence constitutes an indispensable tool for understanding the historical challenges faced by contemporary societies.

4. Discussion of Results

During the last decade, the dialogue between Sociology and History has regained a central place within the social sciences. Faced with scenarios characterized by accelerated technological transformations, health crises, geopolitical conflicts, intensifying international migration, and the deepening of social inequalities, numerous researchers have agreed that exclusively synchronic analytical models are insufficient to explain the complexity of contemporary societies. This revaluation of the historical dimension has strengthened the development of historical sociology as an interdisciplinary space capable of articulating structural explanations with long-term historical processes. One of the main current debates revolves around the so-called historical imagination, understood as the ability to interpret present social problems through the historical trajectories that gave rise to them. In this sense, Strangleman (2023) argues that Sociology needs to recover a historical perspective in order to properly understand the challenges of the present and build robust interpretations of the future. The author maintains that the separation between past and present has limited the explanatory capacity of the discipline, favoring analyses focused solely on immediate circumstances without considering the historical processes that shape social transformations.

This position converges with the proposal developed by Jiménez-Albornoz (2022), who states that History is a necessary condition for the construction of sociological knowledge. Both approaches agree that institutions, power relations, social inequalities, and collective identities are the result of cumulative historical processes that can only be understood through a broad temporal analysis. Consequently, historical sociology does not represent a marginal specialization within the social sciences, but rather a transversal perspective that strengthens the explanation of contemporary phenomena. Another recent contribution comes from studies on interdisciplinary exchange developed within the Social Science History Association. These investigations show that historical sociology has established an increasingly close dialogue with ethnography, social history, anthropology, and other disciplines interested in understanding the complexity of social processes. Far from dissolving disciplinary identities, this convergence has fostered the construction of more robust methodologies and explanations with greater theoretical scope, demonstrating that interdisciplinarity is one of the main drivers of contemporary scientific development. This growing methodological integration has also driven a renewal of historiographical practices. Current studies increasingly combine traditional documentary analysis with in-depth interviews, life histories, social network



analysis, data mining, longitudinal databases, and digital tools for the large-scale processing of historical information. This methodological diversification reflects the recognition that the complexity of social processes requires multiple sources of evidence and complementary analytical strategies. The incorporation of mixed methods strengthens the explanatory capacity of historical research by making it possible to relate specific events to long-term structural processes.

The renewal of historical sociology has also contributed to the critical revision of traditional categories used to interpret the evolution of societies. Concepts such as State, citizenship, modernization, development, nation, or democracy have been reinterpreted through historical, cultural, and comparative perspectives. Rather than treating these concepts as universal and unchanging categories, contemporary research recognizes that each of them corresponds to specific historical trajectories and acquires different meanings depending on the social contexts in which they develop. This conceptual revision has expanded the interpretative scope of historiographical studies and strengthened dialogue between different academic traditions. Within this scenario, contributions from Latin America have gained increasing importance. Research developed in the region has challenged the tendency to explain historical processes using models derived exclusively from European or North American experiences. The proposal to build a situated historical sociology, defended by various Latin American scholars, seeks to recognize the specificity of processes such as colonization, economic dependence, ethnic diversity, democratic transitions, and persistent structural inequalities. In this sense, Riquelme (2025) argues that opening the social sciences requires developing analytical frameworks that integrate Latin American historical particularities with international debates, fostering a more plural and interdisciplinary scientific production.

Contemporary historiography has also significantly expanded its object of study. Research is no longer limited to the analysis of political or institutional events but now incorporates issues related to collective memory, social emotions, identity construction, gender relations, migration processes, environmental transformations, and cultural dynamics. This thematic expansion has strengthened collaboration between historians and sociologists, who share analytical categories and methodologies aimed at understanding phenomena characterized by high social complexity. Likewise, the increasing digitalization of historical archives and the availability of large volumes of information have opened new possibilities for interdisciplinary research. The application of computational tools to the study of historical processes makes it possible to identify temporal patterns, analyze interaction networks, reconstruct institutional trajectories, and develop comparative studies at previously unattainable scales. These methodological innovations do not replace traditional historical analysis; on the contrary, they expand its interpretative possibilities by integrating it with techniques developed within Sociology, data science, and the digital humanities.

Consequently, the relationship between Sociology and History continues to strengthen as one of the main axes of contemporary social science development. The global challenges of the twenty-first century require approaches capable of simultaneously explaining the persistence of social structures and the historical dynamics of processes of change. From this perspective, contemporary historiographical studies find in historical sociology a theoretical and methodological framework that allows for the understanding of the multiple dimensions of social reality, integrating temporality, structure, culture, agency, and institutions within an interdisciplinary scientific explanation.

5. Conclusions

The analysis developed here supports the argument that the relationship between Sociology and History constitutes a fundamental axis for contemporary historiographical studies, insofar as it makes it possible to overcome the limitations derived from the traditional disciplinary separation between both fields. Historical sociology emerges as a space of theoretical and methodological convergence that articulates historical temporality with the structural analysis of social phenomena, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of complex processes such as state formation, the construction of collective identities, the persistence of social inequalities, and long-term institutional transformations. In this sense, the integration of both disciplines not only expands the explanatory possibilities of research but also redefines the analytical frameworks of contemporary historiography by incorporating sociological categories that enrich interpretations of the past. Likewise, it is concluded that the contributions of historical



sociology and studies of collective memory have significantly contributed to the renewal of the historiographical field, especially by incorporating interdisciplinary perspectives and comparative approaches that make it possible to analyze the complexity of social processes across multiple temporal scales. The theoretical evidence reviewed shows that a systematic gap persists in the articulation between Sociology and History, which opens a relevant field of inquiry for future studies. Consequently, the need to consolidate integrated analytical frameworks is reaffirmed, allowing for a deeper understanding of the relationship between past and present, thereby strengthening the explanatory capacity of the social sciences in the face of contemporary challenges.

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There is no conflict of interest related to the subject matter of the work.

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8. Authorship Contribution

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