

Psychology, gender equality and public health in Uruguay

Scientific knowledge in public policy development

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ICAP 2026

Programa Género, Sexualidad
y Salud Reproductiva
INSTITUTO DE PSICOLOGÍA DE LA SALUD

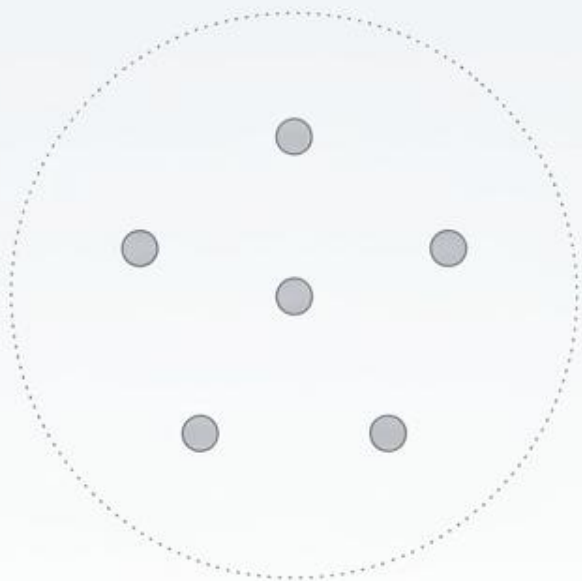


Facultad de
Psicología
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The Case: Gender, Sexuality and Reproductive Health Programme

An academic programme born from — and for — a public agenda:
gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

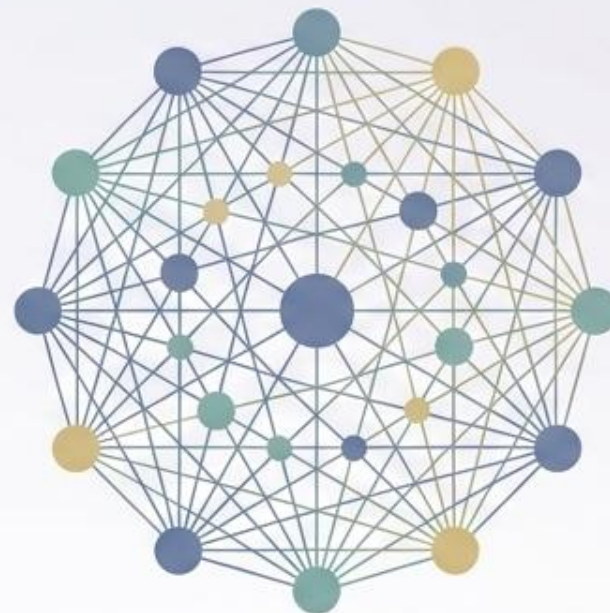
1999



5 researchers

an emerging, marginal space

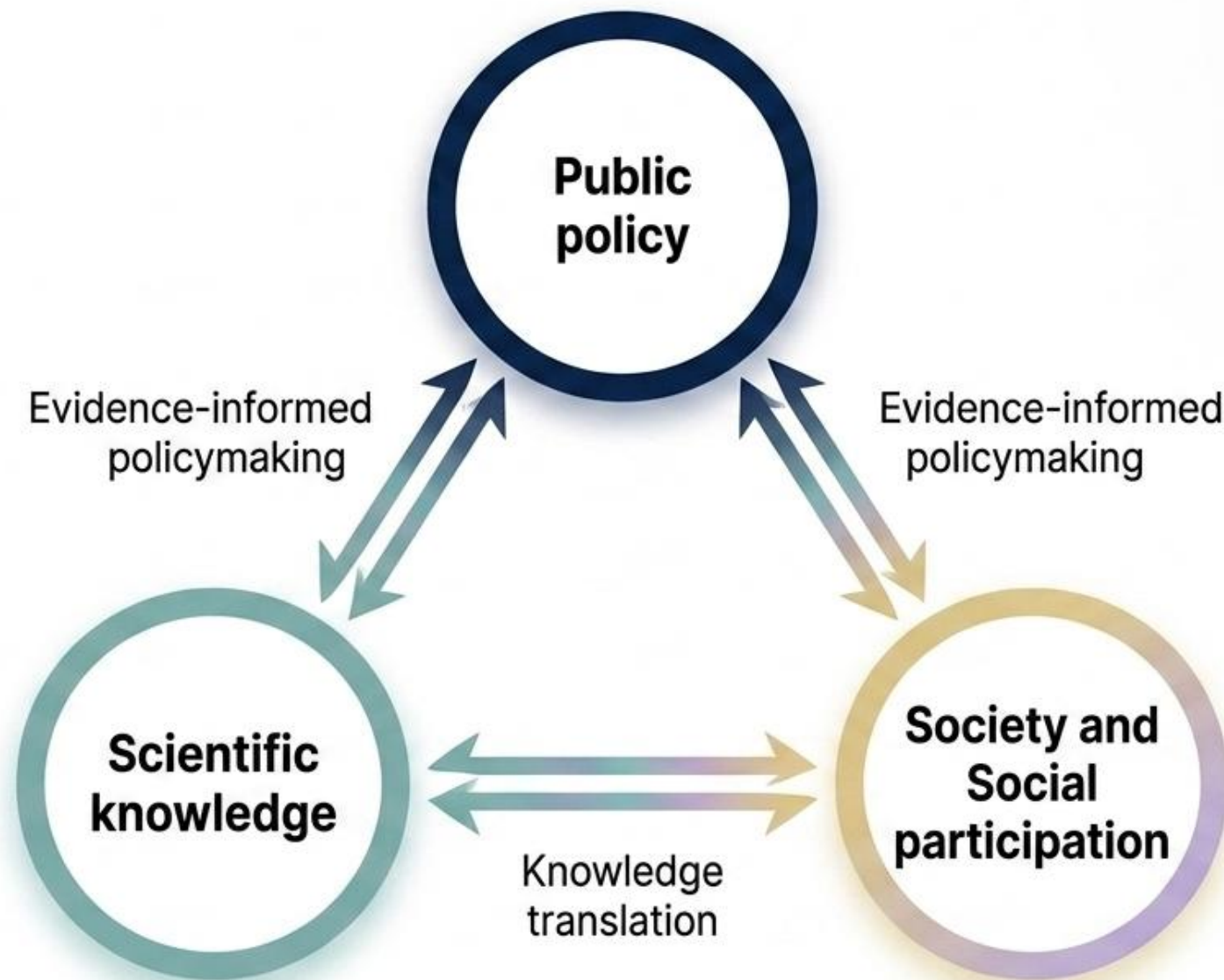
2024



a permanent team of 18

a consolidated, influential academic space

A virtuous triangle: politics, science and society



Psychology in Uruguay, late 1990s

- A strongly clinical orientation
- Weak connections with population issues
- Population – Psychology – human rights: only just emerging



ICPD – Cairo, 1994

UN International Conference on Population and Development

- Challenged national development models
- Health, gender equality and SRHR at the centre of its Programme of Action

What did Psychology have to say? How would it contribute to advancing the ICPD agenda in Uruguay? Why should it do so?

Five keys to the process

Axis 1:

Building alliances among diverse actors to define research priorities.

Axis 2:

Building evidence for policy design.

Axis 3:

Evaluative research on policy implementation.

Axis 4:

Communication strategies for different audiences.

Axis 5:

Regional and global academic alliances.

Axis 1 — Building alliances



Axis 1 – Building Alliances

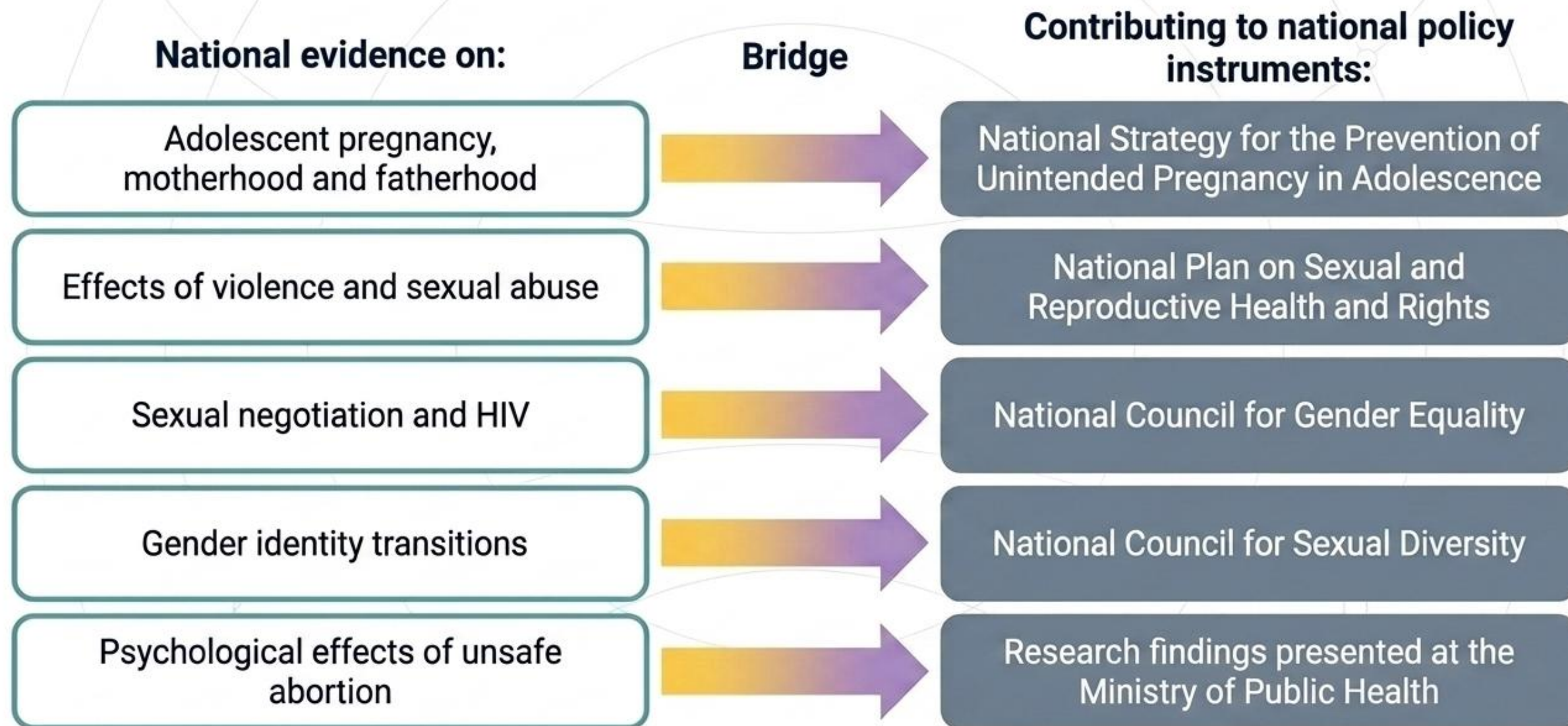


Civil society and academia:
a shared roadmap to strengthen
access to rights.

Women's, feminist and LGBTIQ+
movements alongside professionals
in health, education, and justice.

Two actors of a different nature
navigating different logics,
languages, and positions of power.

Axis 2 — Building evidence for policy design



Axis 3 — Evaluative research on implementation

What works, what does not work — and why.



Si yo fuera Juan (If I Were Juan) — comprehensive sexuality education engaging boys and young men in the prevention of unintended adolescent pregnancy.



Violentómetro — Validation of risk and harm assessment instruments in digital dating violence, gender-based, and sexual violence.

Prevention devices addressing the effects of abortion stigma.



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Axis 4 — Communicating science to different audiences

Audience Translation Funnel



- Different skills, languages, styles, and contents without ever losing rigour or credibility.



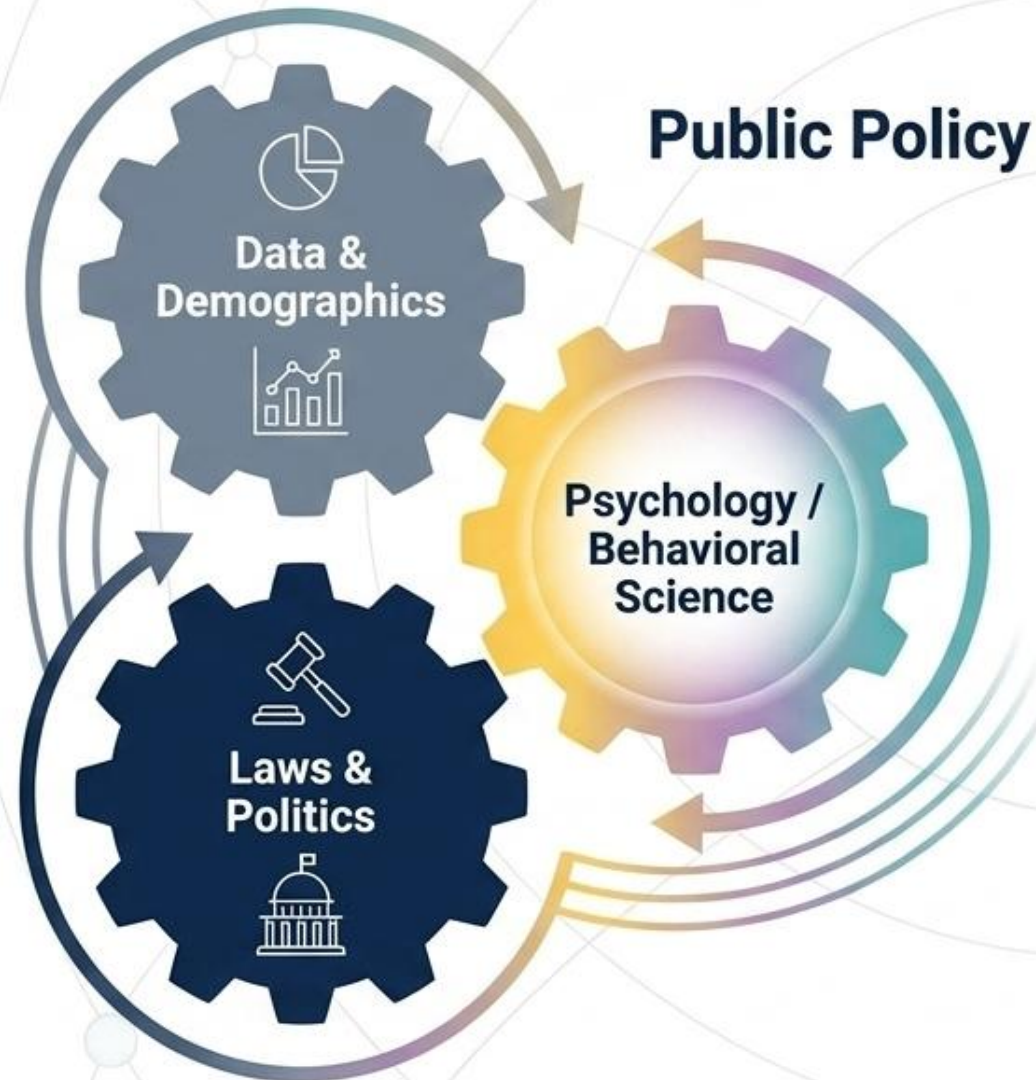
Axis 5 — Regional and global academic alliances

Interdisciplinary networks across the Global North and South:

Multi-country collaborations, comparative perspectives, and dialogue with international agencies (demography, public health, psychology, anthropology).



The Synthesis & The Challenge Ahead



A case in point

It is possible to develop and sustain social and political advocacy grounded in Psychology—expanding access to rights on complex, contested issues with evidence that is rigorous, transparent, and credible.

The challenge ahead

Training psychologists and researchers with the specific skills required for interdisciplinary and intersectoral dialogue in both undergraduate and graduate education.



Thank you — Grazie — Gracias

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