

# The Critical Epidemiology of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and cyberspace\*

## *A Epidemiologia Crítica do século XXI e o ciberespaço*

José da Rocha Carvalheiro<sup>1</sup>

Since the very first issue of the Brazilian Journal of Epidemiology, the Ecuadorian epidemiologist Jaime Breilh has been a frequent contributor. For decades, he has developed original ideas in health studies in the society. He introduced long ago the idea of critical epidemiology that pushes the boundaries of conventional epidemiology, which encompasses only the search for associations between risk factor and diseases.

With the social novelty of a world increasingly dependent on the astonishing development of Information and Communication Technologies, in particular, but not only, the Web and social networks. The results of social interaction in the virtual sphere (the second life lead us to the question: how far will we watch the distortion of existence in the physical space (the first life, or the real life)?

Three commentators have accepted the challenge the author and initiated a debate, which we hope will bring new contributions for the future. All of them are professors at the Universidade de São Paulo: José Ricardo Ayres from the School of Medicine, Marcos Barbosa de Oliveira from the Institute for Advanced Studies, and Cassia Baldini Soares from the School of Nursing.

We hope you all have an uplifting reading and respond to the author's challenge sending comments for the next issue.

<sup>1</sup>Medicine Department of the Medical School of the Universidade de São Paulo (USP) – Ribeirão Preto (SP), Brazil.

\*Cyberspace is an existing space in the communication world where the physical presence is not required to build the dialogue as a basis for relationship. The emphasis is on the imagination needed to create an anonymous image in tune with others. It is the virtual space for the dialogue enabled by technology. Source: Wikipedia. Ciberespaço. Available in: <<https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ciberespa%C3%A7o>>. Accessed on: Sep 23 2015