

Editorial: expectations and acknowledgments

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This new issue of *Maskana* is published with some fantastic news: the journal has been accepted for inclusion in the prestigious *Scopus Elsevier* database.

We are now diving into the world of impact metrics, which can be indecipherable at times but are generally based on the number of citations received within a given time frame. The editorial committee greatly values the prospects that this opens up. Without a doubt, the visibility of the University of Cuenca's good research management will now be the focus of interest for a diverse group of international scientists. Expectations must be viewed with caution: the delicate exercise of predicting the future is obviously abstruse, almost esoteric. However, becoming an impact journal and ranking among the mere nine Ecuadorian serial publications currently listed in *SCImago Journal Rank* is an honor that was previously unthinkable for this small window into the world of knowledge. It is time to rejoice in the fact that journals in our region are taking off and reaching remarkable heights in spaces where, in the past, it took a great deal of effort for a Latin American publication to break through the thick storm clouds and discover itself, as strange as a black swan, in a sky filled with North American and Northern European journals, essentially in the English language.

If there is one thing we can demonstrate now, it is not arrogance or a hunger for greater aspirations. Our team is driven by no other ambition than to do

a good job in line with a set of values. The editorial process is, in this sense, certainly demanding: every paragraph passes through many reviewers, and every contingency is scrutinized, and that is no secret. The level of self-discipline we have imposed on ourselves is the absolute expression of the ethical principles we want to demonstrate. In this way, we work tirelessly, putting our heart and soul into our work, trying never to slow down the editorial process, and stepping up the pace as the publication date approaches. The result is a handful of articles that, knowing that they have demonstrated unique qualities after overcoming the rampant hurdles that lead to publication, mean the world to us.

Consistent with the responsibility of being a magazine that seeks to establish a name and personal brand, we must not forget the role of our valued readers: scholars and amateurs, enthusiasts, and experts. You are the image on the screen reflecting these advances. We are immensely grateful for your loyalty. Likewise, knowing that commitment requires sacrifice and that, in this regard, we always act with a sense of moral obligation aligned with the idea of who we want to become, it is necessary to dedicate a few words of heartfelt thanks to the members of the editorial committee, talented individuals who shine brightly behind the scenes.

Together, we keep the engine purring: thank you very much!

