

Pedro Morandé Court



Date and place of birth: 3 August 1948, Santiago, Chile

Wife and children: María Vivianne Dättwyler; María Vivianne (1972), Margarita María (1973)

Appointment to the Academy: 19 January 1994

Scientific discipline: Sociology

Academic title: Professor

Most important awards, prizes and academies Member of the Academy of Social, Political and Moral Sciences of Chile; Member of the editorial board of *Revista Humanitas*, Chile (1989-1993); Member of the International Council of the Pontifical Council for Culture; Visiting professor at the Pontifical Lateran University, at the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla, México, at the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón de San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Summary of scientific research Within the field of “the sociology of culture”, the main line of research developed over the last twenty-five years has been the study of the relationship between oral, written and audiovisual cultures, especially with reference to Latin-American cultures. These last have sought to develop their own ways of conciliating the Baroque tradition – which has been the basis of their historical identity – with the mega-trends of contemporary modernisation. These ways centre around the functional organisation of their activities and the rationalisation of their social processes. Particular attention has been devoted to the study of religious meaning and its social legitimation through important social activities such as: producing, saving and spending; the formation and maintenance of political and social leadership; the upholding of the “rule of law” and the defence of respect for human rights; taking care of the health of the population; the promotion of the leading role of the family in education and in the transmission of values; and many other activities associated with the family. The religious factor has been of great importance in the history of Latin-American countries and has helped to shape a special religious consciousness, which, indeed, is the most important hermeneutic key by which to understand their cultures.

Main publications Publications from 1976 to 2010 amount to over 150 and cannot therefore be listed here. The main topics addressed are: the cultural role of Catholics in Latin-American countries (language, symbols, arts, music, educational system, universities, people's self-organization, solidarity support for the poor and the underprivileged in all categories); religious sense and consciousness as the hermeneutic key to Latin-American history; paradigm discussion in the social sciences: system theory and phenomenology, system theory and structuralism, sociology of culture as sociology of history; meaning and significance of orality and literacy in Latin-American cultures; theories of social modernization. **Books:** *Synkretismus und offizielles Christentum in Lateinamerika*, München, 1982; *Cultura y Modernización en América Latina*, Santiago, 1984; *Iglesia y Cultura en América Latina*, Lima, 1989; *Persona, Matrimonio y Familia*, Santiago, 1994; *Familia y Sociedad*, Santiago, 1999; *América Latina: Identidad y Futuro*, México 2007.