

A HISTORIOGRAPHICAL DIMENSION OF GENERIC RELATIONSHIPS OF THE CATEGORY “SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS”

Ihor Popovych

Department of Psychology, Kherson State University
ul. Universytetska 27, 73003, Kherson, Ukraine
E-mail address: ihorpopovych999@gmail.com
ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-1663-111X>

Phil Langer

Department of Psychoanalytic Social Psychology and Social Psychiatry
Psychoanalytic University
Stromstraße 1, 10555, Berlin, Germany
E-mail address: phil.langer@ipu-berlin.de
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6930-1766>

ABSTRACT

Aim. The aim is to examine a historiographical dimension of generic relationships of the category “social expectations”; determine the initial scientific category; and create a graphical visualisation of social expectations of an individual in a historical dimension.

Methods. The paper presents a retrospective analysis of social expectations of an individual.

Results. It highlights that historiographical scientific research and investigation of the source literature allowed for identifying an incredibly huge array of the concepts under study. The research establishes generic relationships of the category “social expectations” in the dimensions of the source literature of the global scientific theory and practice. It substantiates the preconditions and the features of the origin and development of the scientific category “social expectations”. The research determines the initial scientific category under study as the basis for the development of the category “social expectations”. It presents a graphical visualisation of the category “social expectations” in a historiographical dimension of the research.

Conclusions. The study generalises the complexity and importance of the research for modern science. It outlines a historical aspect of the investigation of the category

“social expectations” and determines the range of usage, differentiating it from other concepts similar in content and scope.

Keywords: historiography, source literature, human expectations, expectatio, factors of social expectations

INTRODUCTION

The problem of social expectations demonstrates an increasing interest and attention from scientists in various fields to this phenomenon. The development of scientific and categorical vocabulary undergoes permanent qualitative and quantitative changes. “Social expectations” are a research subject not only in the field of sociology, but special attention is also paid to it by researchers in the technonomic field, in particular, in the context of anticipation studies of the ergatic systems “a human–technology” (Blair-Loy et al., 2025; Goropečnik et al., 2025). It should not be forgotten that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has made essential changes to a social-psychological reality and had a considerable impact on human social expectations (Dabija et al., 2025). The diversity of terms, similar in meaning and interpretation, complicates the investigation of this scientific problem and prompts us to examine the generic relationships, perform a number of scientific measurements, including a retrospective analysis with elements of semantic analysis and qualitative identification of the generic relationships. This algorithm will contribute to the systematisation of knowledge about human social expectations.

Thus, social expectations are an extremely complex phenomenon that requires systematic analysis and fundamental research. It should be emphasised that the complexity of social expectations lies in the fact that they are a research subject of a number of sciences: history, psychology, pedagogy, management, economics, and also philosophy and sociology (Popovych, 2017). Each of the aforementioned sciences identifies a research subject and object of social expectations and suggests investigating them according to the methodology of each particular science. In scientific studies, researchers pay attention to social expectations as an auxiliary element. They are mentioned in relation to other phenomena within the category “social expectations” (Haas et al., 2025). Social expectations are involved in the interpretation of other scientific phenomena (Nomikos et al., 2025). We can state that the category “social expectations” has been auxiliary and served for interpretation of other scientific phenomena for a long time. However, it has been an indispensable component of an action, a behavioural act, interaction, and activity that has been proven in the studies of education (Amaruddin et al., 2024; Kasüschke & Reinhard, 2025; Kocot et al., 2024), learning (Popovych & Blynova, 2019; Quadlin & Lopez Colorado, 2025), sports (Nikander et al., 2022; Wilkins et al., 2025), and other types of human activities (Popovych et al., 2021).

Historiographical scientific research, examining the source literature related to the outlined scientific problem, allows for identifying a considerable number of concepts. These concepts are identical or similar to the category “social expectations” in terms of meaning, content, pronunciation, interpretation, or linguistic features. They are parts of a whole, indicating an individual classification feature or a characteristic. We have established that the identified concepts supplement or highlight an individual facet of the category “social expectations”. The complete list of these concepts is given in compliance with a historical aspect of the research: “adequate expectations”, “active expectations”, “open expectations”, “generalised expectations”, “group expectations”, “bilateral expectations”, “awaiting”, “existential expectations”, “expectancies”, “expectancies-predictions”, “emotional expectations”, “ideal expectations”, “probable expectations”, “life expectations”, “closed expectations”, “career expectations”, “collective expectations”, “communicative expectations”, “latent expectations”, “vain expectations”, “interpersonal expectations”, “possible expectations”, “appropriate expectations”, “inadequate expectations”, “normative expectations”, “obligatory expectations”, “unilateral expectations”, “organisational expectations”, “personal expectations”, “expectations”, “passive expectations”, “hopefulness”, “forecasting”, “professional expectations”, “real expectations”, “reflective expectations”, “role expectations”, “self-expectancies”, “self-expectations”, “secondary expectations”, “situational expectations”, “specific expectations”, “social expectations”, “social-psychological expectations”, “social-judicial expectations”, “hoping”, “value-based role expectations”, “waiting” etc. (Popovych, 2017). Though at first sight the analysed source literature and the identified historical aspect outline the invariability of the categorical space of the fundamental concept of the research, they still cause a number of problems. We should state the following: firstly, the classificational and typological features overlap; secondly, some concepts supplement, match, and substitute each other; thirdly, the logic of an etymological component of the research on the fundamental category “social expectations” is eliminated.

Hypothesis. The researchers assume that a historiographical dimension of the research on the generic relationships may clarify and specify the concept “social expectations”.

The aim of the research into a historiographical dimension of the generic relationships of the category “social expectations” is to establish the initial scientific category and create a graphical visualisation of human social expectations in a historical dimension.

METHODS

Methodology

The essence of the methodology of our study lies in the fact that a historiographical dimension of the research into the category “social expectations” is an attempt to sys-

tematise theoretical and empirical studies, outline chronotopes, identify a historical component of the tendencies in the development of the scientific problem, and clarify the extremely complex nature of the phenomenon under study. We believe it is logical to analyse the generic relationships from a historical perspective. It will allow detecting the genesis and development of the problem of social expectations of an individual.

It is appropriate in terms of methodology to outline a historical aspect of the research into the category “social expectations”, determine the range of usage, differentiate the phenomenon from others similar in content and scope, and perform scientific-categorical analysis of it.

The primary research methods employed are a historiographical approach and a method for examining source literature. Theoretical analysis and systematisation were applied to work with the content. The obtained results were generalised and substantiated. The study contains elements of semantic and comparative analyses. Special attention is paid to the method for identifying the generic relationships.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Historians and philosophers claim that the future, like expectations, never arrives and never becomes the past, since events that occur do not entirely correspond to the expected outcomes. In this aspect, the present that comes in terms of an expectation is always unexpected. An expectation remains the unrealised past or the future of the past (Turner & Sharpe, 2022).

In the late 19th – early 20th century, new studies about the self-consciousness of an individual, the problem of “the Self”, and interpersonal interaction appeared. The authors of these studies mentioned and later studied the phenomenon known as “expecto” or “ex(s)pectatio” in the Latin language literature and as “expectation” in the English language literature (Mead, 1967; Parsons, 1937). We will refer to dictionaries of scientific terms, whose definitions are considered a model, although they are not entirely free from contradictions. These dictionaries legalise and register the meaning of a concept in language and the categorical-terminological vocabulary of science. In the philosophical dictionary, “expectation” or “expectancy” (from Latin “expecto” – “expect”) reflects one of the aspects of interpersonal relationships of an individual in the group – awaiting something or someone; also from Latin “ex(s)pectatio” – “waiting” – the concept of a social-psychological theory defining the feeling of waiting for a particular way of verbal and real behaviour of an individual in a small group” (Shinkaruk, 1986). In the English language literature, the term “expectancies” (from English. “expectation” – “awaiting”) means an active process of waiting. It is also referred to as a normative expectation (O’Brien, 2025). In the Ukrainian and Russian language scientific literature, we can find

“*ochikuvannya*” (singular and plural), “*ozhidaniye*” (singular), “*ozhidaniya*” (plural) (Tyshkovsky, 1999). In the Ukrainian language scientific literature, the term “*ekspektatsiyi*” or “*ekspektatsiya*” is used along with the term “*ochikuvannya*”. We should note that these concepts are used in both singular and plural forms. We believe that the application of this interpretation involves borrowing a foreign term that is widely used in scientific literature. Thus, the terms “*ochikuvannya*” and “*ekspektatsiyi*” are considered to be identical, as the concepts they represent in Latin and English transcriptions are expectations. They share a common root, “expect”, and the same origin. In the dictionary, “expectation” is a concept which is used in linguopragmatics and discourse analysis for examination and description of the processes of understanding in speech communication, means expectations of communication participants towards a course of actions, the ability “to predict” what will happen further based on the previous speech context, on their life experience and communication experience (Shinkaruk, 1986).

As modern science develops, the concept “social expectations” becomes especially widespread and widely used. It is used only in plural. No study has been found in which this concept is used in singular as “a social expectation”. Social expectations are partly considered subjective orientations, ideas, and informal regulators of interpersonal interaction; therefore, it is not appropriate to discuss one social expectation in this context. We should emphasise that social expectations are permanent projections; there are many of them, they are multiple and undergo constant approbation. In particular, the concept “social expectations” is viewed as the subjective orientations shared by members of a social group towards a predicted course of action, ensuring the cognitive, emotional, and behavioural readiness of individuals for these events. It should be mentioned that social expectations towards stable small groups reflect the objective necessity of concerted actions (Shinkaruk, 1986).

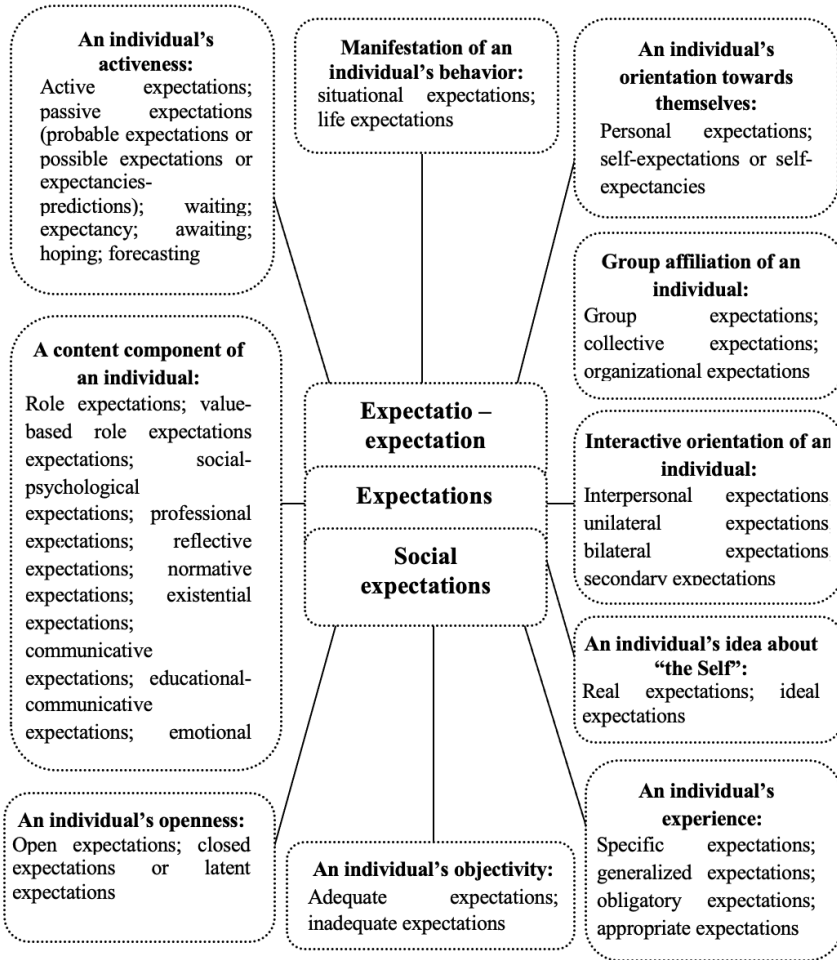
We can draw a conclusion that the concept “social expectations” has a generic relationship with the above concept. The initial concepts are “*expectatio*” and “*expectation*”. The concept “social expectations” is a derivative of these concepts. It encompasses a broad semantic field and is partly used as a generalising concept.

GRAPHICAL VISUALISATION OF THE GENERIC RELATIONSHIPS OF THE CATEGORY “SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS”

The concept “social expectations” is a category under study that is being developed and has a number of characteristics and qualities. We will create a graphical visualisation of the generic relations of the category “social expectations” to provide a better understanding of it in Figure 1.

Figure 1

Graphical visualisation of the generic relationship of the category “social expectations”



Source. Own research.

The largest field, “expectatio – expectation”, is the initial semantic field. The category “expectations” is a transitional and generalising category. “Social expectations” is the category under study whose semantic field encompasses all the other expectations that emerge as a result of scientific research and the development of the initial category. By determining the generic relationships of all the other expectations, we have identified the characteristics of social expectations, systematised them based on these characteristics, and shown how these or those expectations emerged and developed as varieties of social expectations. We have identified characteristics regarding the research into social expectations of an individual, rather than general ones.

The characteristics of social expectations are as follows: an individual's activeness; manifestation of an individual's behaviour; an individual's orientation towards themselves; group affiliation of an individual; interactive orientation of an individual; an individual's idea about "the Self"; an individual's experience; an individual's objectivity; an individual's openness; a content component of an individual.

The research into the characteristics of social expectations allows for systemising a comprehensive list of similar concepts and is the first step in developing a typology of social expectations. Based on the characteristic "an individual's activeness", we can differentiate between active and passive expectations. Passive expectations include probable expectations, waiting, hoping, awaiting, hopefulness, and forecasting. All the other expectations are referred to as active expectations in this dichotomous division ("active expectations – passive expectations"). In our opinion, there is no use in enumerating all of them. We should examine the varieties of passive expectations. In scientific literature, "expectancy" – "probable expectation", or "waiting" – also means "expectation", but in terms of awaiting somebody or something. The probable expectation is passive forecasting, such as waiting for someone or something (Jasper, 2003). Hopefulness or hope is defined as waiting for something favourable, expecting something positive and at the same time confidence in its realisation. It is the most important condition for human existence. When hoping for something, an individual imagines the desirable future and draws it nearer in a certain way. According to Erich Fromm (1968), one of the definitions of a human is *homo esperans* (a human who hopes). In the author's opinion, the Spanish word "esperar" means simultaneously "wait" and "hope" and definitely relates to a special type of passive hope. Passive expectations, unlike group social expectations, often referred to as potential requirements of a social group towards an individual, and sometimes group expectations, are closely related to the self-consciousness of an individual. Certainly, all human expectations are social, as they emerge within society; therefore, the characteristics we identified in this context are appropriate. Secondary expectations, interpersonal expectations, unilateral expectations, and bilateral expectations are identified based on the characteristic of an individual's interactive orientation. Expectations in relationships of a subject and an object are characterised by concurrence and are directed from a subject to an object (Popovych, 2017). A number of characteristics are dichotomous and identified relatively, in particular, by an individual's objectivity: "adequate expectations" and "inadequate expectations"; by an individual's openness: open expectations and closed expectations or latent expectations.

The largest group consists of social expectations, identified by a content component of an individual. Expectations referred to this group are characterised by a wide variability since a content component indicates that expectations can be referred to any area of personality, have integrative content and specify the initial generic concept. It should be mentioned that "value-based role expectations" specify "role expectations", and "educational-communicative expectations" specify "communicative expectations";

therefore, we can draw an unexpected but logical conclusion that “social-psychological expectations”, investigated in this study and by a number of other scientists (Harutyunyan, 2025; Omilion-Hodges & Sugg, 2018; Royka et al., 2022), are a specification of the initial generic concept “social expectations”.

We have reached the initial stage of scientific-categorical analysis, utilising a historiographical dimension in the research on generic relationships. Further research will be related to the semantic analysis of the problem under study.

CONCLUSIONS

A historiographical dimension of the research into the generic relationships of the category “social expectations” allowed for establishing that social expectations are a scientific category at the intersection of many sciences. Researchers in socioeconomic and technonomic fields examine the category “social expectations” from the perspective of methodology, scientific-categorical vocabulary, purpose, and tasks specific to each science. We have clarified the generic relationships of the list of concepts related to expectations, identified the characteristics of expectations, and systematised them. The origin, formation, and development of the categories of expectations, as varieties of the initial category of expectations, have been examined. The generic relationships of the category “social expectations” have been visualised graphically in the historiographical dimension of the research. We have established that “social-psychological expectations” are the specification of the initial generic concept “social expectations”. We can state that the hypothesis has been confirmed and the purpose has been achieved since a historiographical dimension of the research on the generic relationships has clarified and specified the meaning of the concept “social expectations”. The initial scientific category has been identified, and its graphical visualisation has been presented.

COGNITIVE VALUE

The research establishes generic relationships of the category “social expectations” in the dimensions of the source literature on the global scientific theory and practice. It substantiates the preconditions and the features of the origin and development of the scientific category “social expectations”. The research determines the initial scientific category under study as the basis for the development of the category “social expectations”. It presents a graphical visualisation of the category “social expectations” in a historiographical dimension of the research. The study generalises the complexity and importance of the research for modern science. It outlines a historical aspect of the investigation of the category “social expectations” and determines the range of usage, differentiating it from other concepts similar in content and scope.

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