COGNITIVE STYLES IN THE DIMENSION OF FIELD SENSIBILITY-INDEPENDENCE (FSI) IN PROCESSES OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN.

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1. Abstract
Cognitive styles are associated to forms of processing and responding to the environment, according to previous schemes of perceiving, processing and storing information. The article presents the results of a research Project aimed at making a characterization of Cognitive Styles (CS) in the dimension of field sensibility-independence (FSI), of a sample of 126 Industrial Design students of the Jorge Tadeo Lozano University (JTLU) in Colombia.

The guiding approach of our project is the Theory of Psychological Differentiation in the Hederich et al. (1995) version of the Sawa, Gottschadt, Embedded Figures (SG-EFT). The results of the SG-EFT tests are crossed to some variables of individual, eco-cultural and social study identifying the conditions of cognitive styles that favor processes of innovation. These indicate a trend toward students with a field independent style. The results support some correspondence to those of Hederich et al. and other researchers in the field independence trend. However, further analysis of other variables when researching education processes in design is recommended.

The Relevance to design practice is expected that this project contributes pedagogy and didactics within the university context, add guidance to future generations in the development of design abilities and play a role in the processes of innovation within an scholar inclusion.

2. General Purpose
The general purpose is to make a characterization of the Cognitive Styles in the dimension of field sensibility-independence, of a sample of Industrial
Design students of the Jorge Tadeo Lozano University in Bogotá, Colombia. Some elements of the complex and systemic structure of relations that influence shaping of the cognitive style are presented. Dimensions (sociological, psychological and pedagogical) that are crucial to project personal and social innovation and to the individual and eco-cultural variables that are explored in this study.

2. Methodology
The Hederich et al (1995) version of the SG-EFT (Sawa, Gottschadt - Embedded Figures Test) was applied to 126 students selected through a random probability sample. This instrument has a Cronbach alpha reliability of (0.91 to 0.96) and a Spearman – Brown (0.9412). The particularities of the validity of the test can be studied in Hederich (2007; pp. 259-262).

References