ABSTRACT

This study is an extract of the research study conducted in the framework of a dissertation for a Master's degree in Social Sciences (Sociology of Modernization), entitled “The State’s Regulatory Processes in Higher Education in Chile during the period 1980 - 2002”, presented at the School of Social Sciences, Universidad de Chile.

The purpose of the study is to determine the regulatory mechanisms applied to higher education in Chile, in the framework of university accreditation in the 1990s. The study was carried out from a theoretical perspective in accordance with certain interpretative analytical categories in order to go beyond statistical analyses that currently exist in our country. From this perspective, it is based on the theoretical model developed by Pierre Bourdieu, viewing social reality as a scenario of fields. This structuralist approach allows us to approach the understanding of higher education as a structured social space of positions and objective relations, of struggles and powers developed historically.