

## ***Patient time: a sociological approach to the perception of time in “waiting rooms”***

**Susana Rodríguez Díaz**

[srodriguez@madrid.uned.es](mailto:srodriguez@madrid.uned.es)

**Soledad Alonso**

[solalonso@gmail.com](mailto:solalonso@gmail.com)

Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia

### **Abstract:**

This article outlines a theoretical and methodological framework to understand the perception of time by people who are in the "waiting rooms" of medical consultations and hospitals, waiting to be attended and diagnosed by healthcare professionals. We will lean towards a qualitative methodology that allows us to inquire about the ways of perceiving time as shown in the language that people use to talk about it; more specifically, we will pay attention to the metaphors used to talk about time. In this sense, socio-metaphorical analysis constitutes a privileged method of discourse analysis, since metaphors carry connotations that come both from the beliefs and expectations of the individual and from the sociocultural context in which they are found.

**Key words:** Social time, waiting time, socio-metaphorical analysis, qualitative methodology.