

# Political risks of recovering and discovering meanings in the collective memory of a perverse religious organisation

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## ORGANISATIONAL AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS

**Volume:** 20

**Issue:** 1

**Pages:** 31-47

**Published:** SUM 2020

**Document Type:** Article

### Abstract

This article refers to the political risks that a group of five parishioners, members of an aristocratic Catholic parish located in Santiago, Chile, had to face when they recovered and discovered unconscious meanings about the hard and persistent psychological and sexual abuse they suffered in that religious organisation. Recovering and discovering meanings, from the collective memory of that parish, was a sort of conversion event in the five parishioners that determined their decision to bring to the surface of Chilean society the knowledge that the parish, led by the priest Fernando Karadima, functioned as a perverse organisation. That determination implied that the five individuals had to struggle against powerful forces in society, including the dominant Catholic Church in Chile and the political influences from the conservative Catholic elite that attempted to ignore the existence of the abuses that were denounced. The result of this article explains how the five parishioners, through their concerted political actions and courage, forced the Catholic Church to recognise, in an ambivalent way, the abuses committed by Karadima. The theoretical basis of this presentation is based on a socioanalytical approach that mainly considers the understanding of perversion in organisations and their consequences in the control of anxieties.

### Keywords

**Author Keywords:** [abuses](#); [religious organisation](#); [perversion](#); [meanings](#); [memories](#)

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**Publisher**

PHOENIX PUBL HOUSE, 62 BUCKNELL RD, BICESTER, OXFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND

**Categories / Classification**

**Research Areas:**Psychology

**Web of Science Categories:**Psychology, Applied

**Document Information**

**Language:**English

**Accession Number:** WOS:000592250100003

**ISSN:** 1474-2780

**eISSN:** 2044-3765