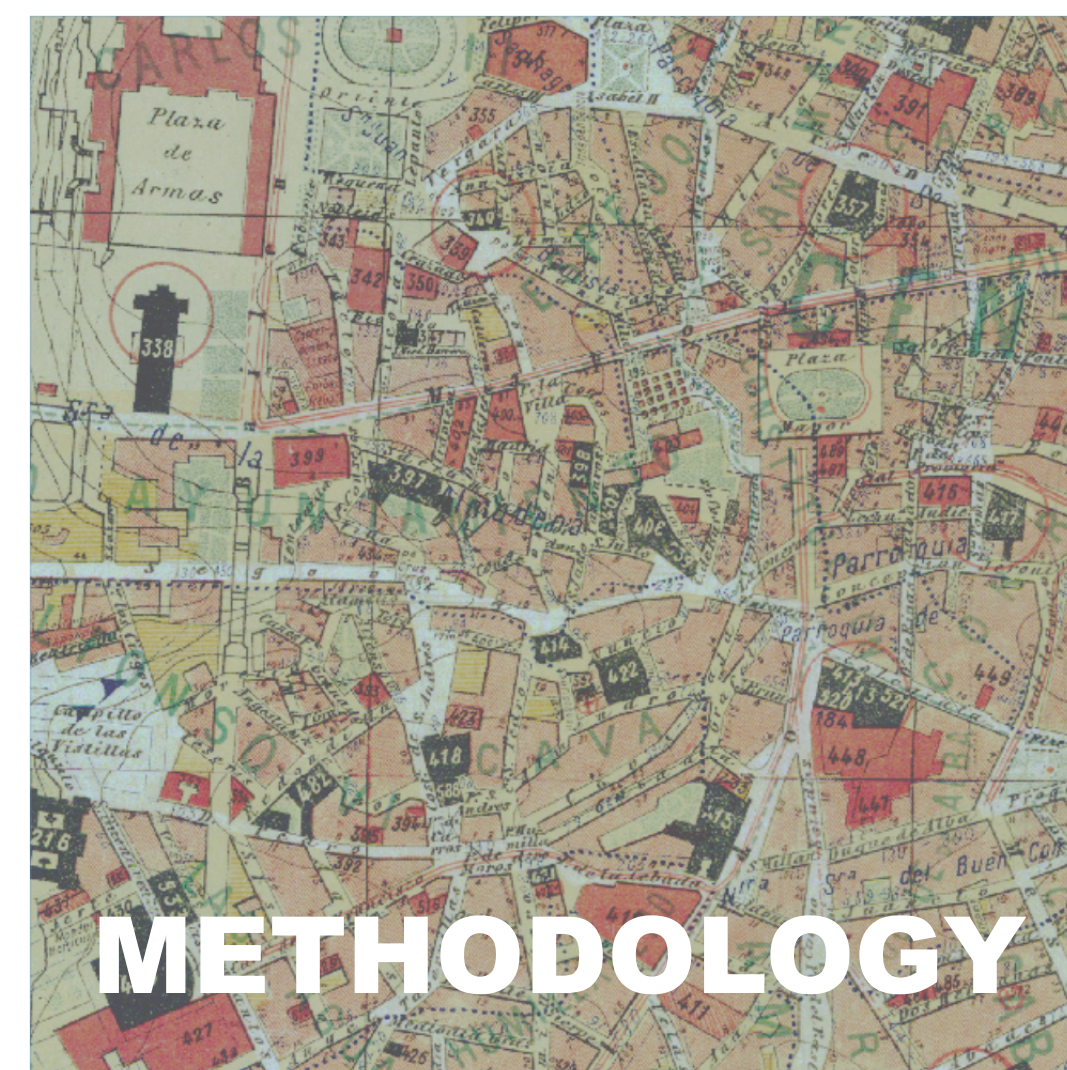
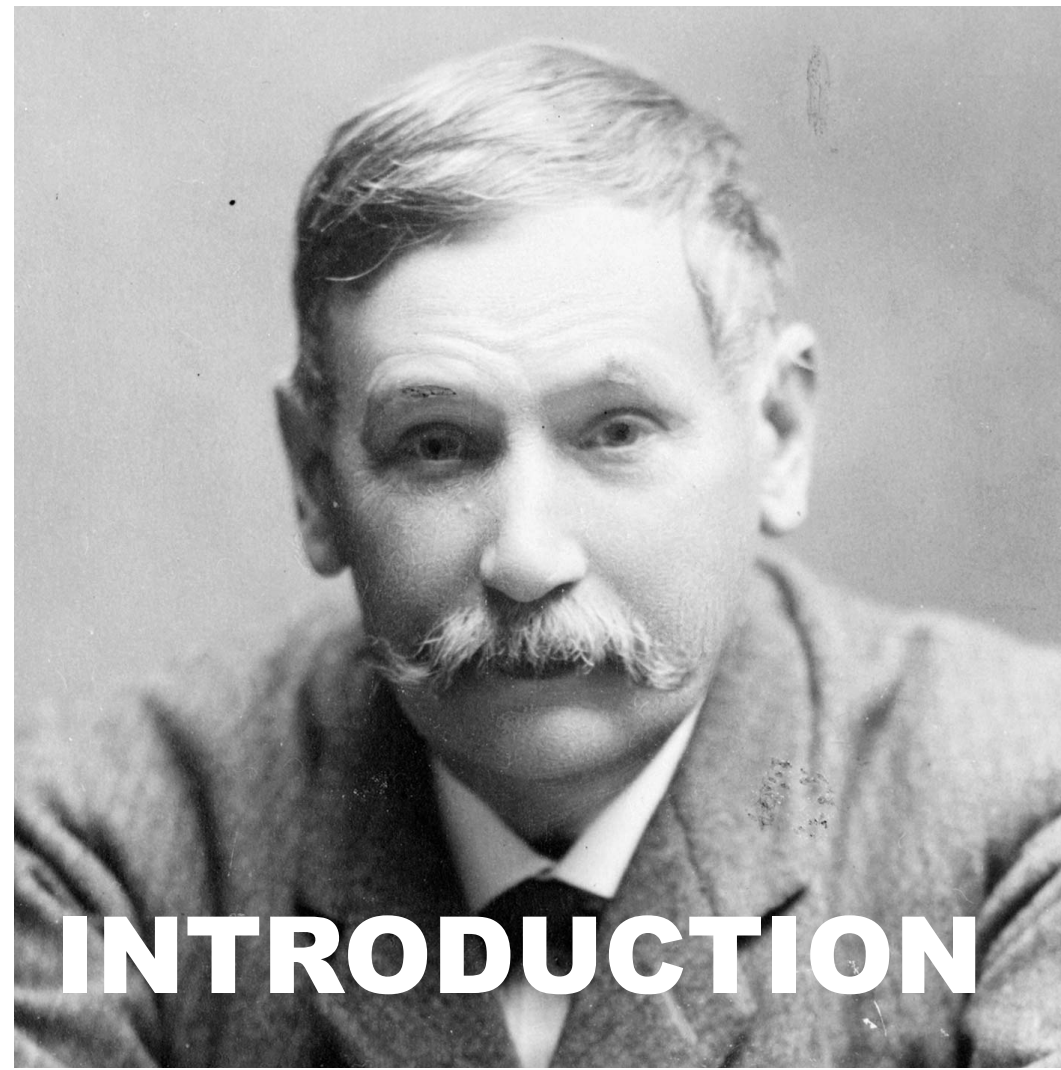


# Mapping the Quixotic Imagination: Madrid in Galdós's "Misericordia"

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- **THIS PROJECT** maps the wanderings through 19th-century Madrid of the main characters of Galdós's famous novel, "Misericordia".

- **THE AUTHOR AND HIS NOVEL:** Originally published in 1897, "Misericordia" became one of the most influential novels of the Spanish writer Pérez Galdós, who was regarded as "the Cervantes of the 19th century" and as an unequalled chronicler of Spanish society and history.

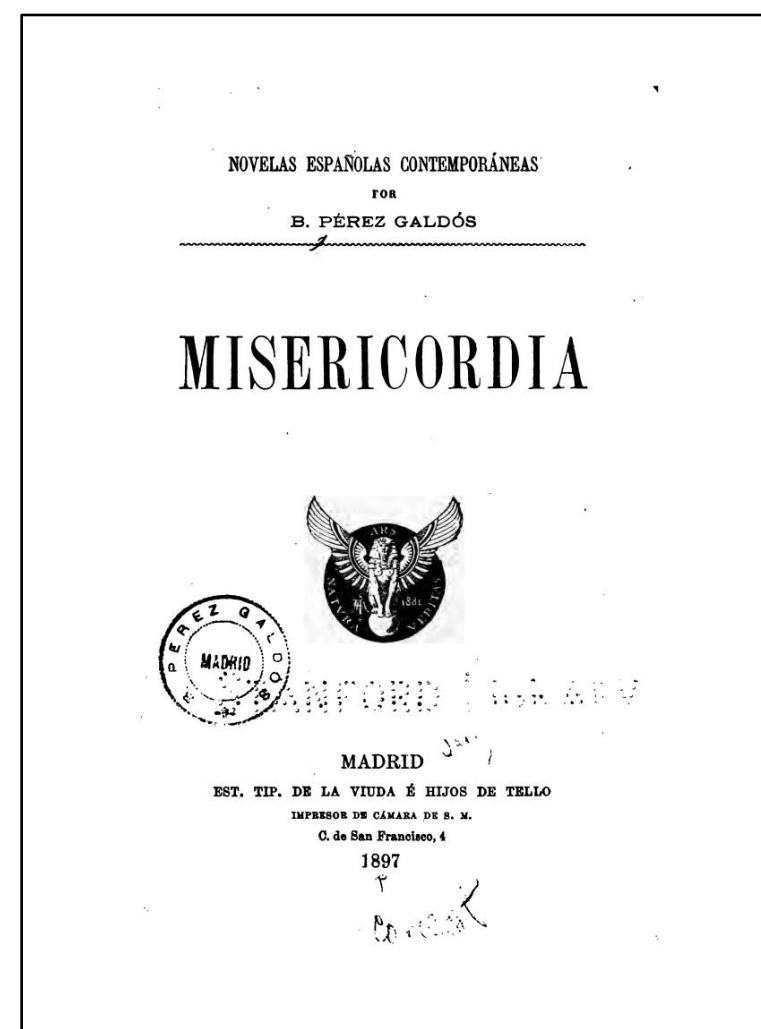
- **Google Maps** and **ArcGIS** were employed to trace the characters' whereabouts, interactions, and ranges of emotions throughout the novel.
- Material enrichment and social ascension are geographically traced and documented as directly proportional to the characters' spiritual (and physical) demise. Conversely, the protagonist undergoes a spiritual purification and finds the true meaning of **charity** in the suburban slums of Madrid.

- The **constant interplay of reality and fiction** in the novel, which denotes a clear influence from "Don Quixote", is evidenced by the characters' capacity to craft their own world through the power of words, thus reimagining more equitable and inclusive urban spaces.

- "Misericordia" constitutes Galdós's ultimate **vindication of the narrative genre** –and literature in general– as a space of dialogue to contribute to the ideological foundations of social progress (specifically in 19th-century Spain).



For bibliography and bilingual versions of the poster, scan the bar code on the left.



- **HISTORICAL CONTEXT:** The novel takes place in Madrid, in the late 1800's. The capital of the country was then a pre-industrial city whose underdeveloped economy was unable to cater for the increasing demand for work. After the failed revolution in 1868, the old elite regained its economic and social power, preventing a real entrepreneurial *bourgeoisie* from developing. The control of mendicity through public and private charity, which was seen at the time as a social stabilizer, failed to deal with the explosion of mendicancy as a result of the high unemployment rates.

- **PURPOSE:** To examine Galdós's views on social regeneration of 19th-century Spain through the quixotic characters of "Misericordia". The protagonist, a beggar struggling to survive in 19th-century Madrid, challenges the cartographic power and the conceptualization of space imposed by a middle class seeking to control urban growth.

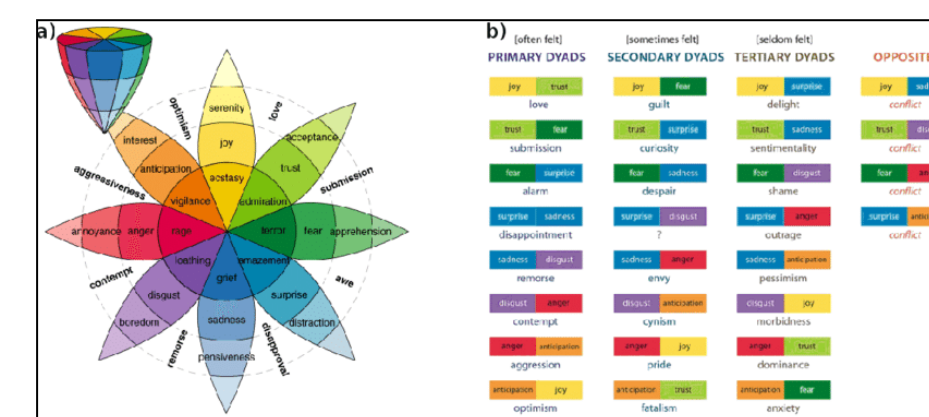


Figure 1 Plutchick's color wheel and dyads of emotions

Character	Location	Chapter	Emotion	Northing	Easting
Almudena	Plazuela del P	1	4	40.41236	-3.70417
Almudena	Iglesia de San	2	4	40.41352	-3.70148
Almudena	Calle de la Enc	3	43	40.41072	-3.70579
Almudena	Cambroneras	4	31	40.40086	-3.71433
Almudena	Cambroneras	5	31	40.40086	-3.71433
Almudena	Asilo de San B	6	76	40.4367198	-3.7186279
Almudena	Asilo de El Par	7	76	40.4274072	-3.7107195
Almudena	Cambroneras	8	76	40.40086	-3.71433
Almudena	Antiguo domici	9	43	40.41005	-3.71144
Almudena	Benina lleva a	10	31	40.41459	-3.70695
Almudena	Nuevo domicil	11	7	40.41363	-3.70702
Almudena	Paseo en cabé	12	7	40.42024	-3.72041
Almudena	Paseo en cabé	13	31	40.45555	-3.74434

Figure 2 Characters' dataset

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