

Bibliometric Study on Social Capital Articulated with Representative Democracy

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Abstract

Original Research Article

This article deals with the analysis of the scientific review on the articulation between social capital and representative democracy, having as parameters the relationship of the following articulated terms: Social Capital & Democracy in the Scopus & Web of Science databases. The analysis responds to the review of authors, citations, types of product, keywords, country of origin, and area of knowledge, for this purpose, the study focuses on the review of the products generated in the categories of social sciences, arts, and humanities, economics and political science. A descriptive methodology is developed based on the technique of bibliometric analysis, developed from the selection and documentary exploration, as well as recurrence in the citation generated by scientific nodes. As result, it is observed that production prevails in the United States, about the linking of terms, concentrated in social sciences and political science, expressed in the publication of a high percentage of scientific articles, followed by Europe, which observed a discreet production in Latin America. Likewise, a low density in the generation of broad citation networks is evident, which makes visible a relatively atomized scientific context in this field.

Keywords: Social capital, democracy, bibliometric study, associativity, civility.

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INTRODUCTION

The close link between democracy and social capital can be expressed in different scenarios, which allow knowing the efficiency of governments by analyzing the factors that enhance the relationship between resources, capacities and state management (Boix & Posner, 2000). Trust is identified as one of these links, assumed as a characteristic in which many social scientists agree that they classify it as the basis of social relations and the generation of democracy, as stated by (Kenneth, 2001), (Fukuyama, 2018) and (Putnam, 2011) among others.

Contemporary globalization has made visible a close relationship between political and economic issues as a basis for understanding the dynamics of current democratic development, making visible as a paradigm a close relationship between the participatory role of the citizen and political awareness in the public arena (Schelkunov *et al.*, 2022). In this sense, studies

from a transdisciplinary perspective in political and social science have increased in recent years in relation to social capital and democracy, making visible different theoretical constructs, which account for the role they have in building a more democratic, participatory and equitable based on associativity, in a contemporary environment that demands the strengthening of the political scene and the greater construction of civility through networks.

The political dimension of social capital by virtue of democratic studies becomes visible in theoretical terms at a global level since the beginning of the 20th century, from the perspective of Hanifan, (1916) who develops regional studies on the civic behavior of society and its participation in decision-making and political control, a reality evidenced from the development of regional empirical studies in the United States.

In the sixties (Putnam, 1994) addresses the behavior of democratic institutions and the link with economic development and the relationship with the construction of citizenship. Likewise, Deth Van *et al.*, (2008) analyzes the construction of representative democracy as one of the main challenges of society, since it is the basis of any interaction in a community, which permeates the productive and economic capacities based on the generation of social capital. In this scenario, this article plans to review the volume of scientific production that has been generated from the existing correlation between social capital and democracy as a basis for understanding the construction of cohesive societies, seeking to identify a political perspective that relates the benefits of social capital in closed or community settings (González López-Valcárcel & Ortún, 2022).

The bibliometric study is held as the methodological basis of this research exercise, which allows the use statistical techniques to analyze indicators that allow knowing the impact of citation, origin, networks, recurrence of keywords of publications in a period of time around the topic, showing the scientific relevance of the generated production, as well as the proposed discipline affinity and the trends of research generation in the field (Arbeláez-Gómez & Onrubia-Goñi, 2014).

In this sense, it should be noted as a starting point that this research recognizes social capital as a resource that has great effect, from the perspective of (García-Ojeda, 2012) that affects the construction of society and its productivity, responding to the current dynamics of the social sciences, permeating recommendable democratic behaviors and, therefore, favoring the consolidation of societies with a strong social fabric.

Theoretical Review of Social Capital

The first sources on social capital can be identified from the ideas published in the American democracy, in 1840, where research on the behavior and consolidation of the model of representative democracy in the American Union is outlined, in a society made up of natives and immigrant Europeans, where cultural diversity marks a challenge for the realization of democracy (Tocqueville, 2019). Subsequently, Durkheim's ideas at the end of the 19th century study the concept of social solidarity that gives rise to a ramification of the term generating two categories, on the one hand, mechanical solidarity that addresses the social subject that shares similarities with a group, on the other hand, the mechanical solidarity that recognizes the individuality of the person that develops under a collective spectrum recognized collectively (Schettino, 2017).

From the propositions of (Hanifan, 1916) adopted by Portes in 1999, some local studies are

developed in the state of West Virginia that sought to know the dynamism of neighborhood bonding and the behavior of citizens in the face of local problems, highlighting the relevance of associative networks in the consolidation of a community.

In this sense, (Lu & Peng, 2019) see social capital from its intrinsic characteristics as a necessary intangible resource in the construction of society, one that affects the understanding of the new paradigm. Secondly, social capital is based on a sense of associativity as the basis for building networks that demand the recognition and sharing of values such as trust and solidarity in an environment regulated by regulations, enabling the interaction of subjects, who from their individuality share interests with the collective at an economic, social, and political level.

In accordance with this perspective, on the basis of rational choice theory (Coleman, 1990) states that subjects act for interests identified from their particular rationality, which motivates participation in the dimension of collective action, which entails generating exchanges with other subjects who share interests and can become positive or negative for society. In this sense, the generation of social capital is made possible as a collective construct that makes possible the achievement of goals that are not achieved from individual management, assuming it as an intangible resource inherent to the social organization.

From the studies made by (Putnam, 2011) the author recognizes in the rational choice theory of action a component that directly affects social capital, which generates behaviors that promote the actions of subjects in structures in political and civic environments. In this way, he poses his ideas from the use and accumulation of social capital to evaluate the performance of public management in different Italian regions based on evaluating the formal networks available, their scope and acceptance, as well as the trust in the governability of local public bodies that potentiate the consolidation of unity in a democratic environment.

In the perspective of (Bourdieu, 2000) social capital has an instrumental sense developed mainly in the economic environment, since it enables subjects from accumulation expressed in the achievement of socioeconomic benefits, from the use of lasting relationships that are shaped by culture and allow the fulfillment of individuals goals leveraged in the use of links that strengthen structures necessary for the development of the environment. Along that same line of reasoning, in the view of (Edwards, 2018) social capital is based on and developed in networks of institutionalized relationships that are conceived from the individual environment to a community perspective, generating benefits in its field of influence from the recognition of institutionalized rules.

According to Becker, quoted by (Kilpatrick *et al.*, 2013) social capital is conceived as a construct of the social sciences that articulates dimensions of political science, economics and sociology that, through associativity, potentiate the use of available capital that generates a greater specialization of work in the sphere of production in society. Postulates consistent with the theory proposed by Bourdieu and Woolcock on the structures, and how they influence the interaction of people with institutions, relationships that affect various actors reciprocally from the use and recognition of symbolic and economic capital and that come before cultural differences (Nicholas *et al.*, 2019).

In the eighties, with the work of (Putnam, 2011), the study of social capital is addressed in the dimension of politics and its impact on the public management of local governments, showing how the democratic participation of citizens affects the collective realities of the territory, improving development conditions, and strengthening civic sharing in the community sphere as posed by (Coleman, 1990), who takes up Bourdieu's ideas, in terms that social capital is constituted as a network of networks that are deployed vertically (formal) and horizontally (informal), justifying the scope of social capital with rational choice theory, explaining how the subjects from the individual sphere are motivated to articulate with others, and thus, potentially impact the collective interest.

In the same way, in addition to institutionalized norms, another priority component of social capital are values such as trust, reciprocity and culture that, in terms of (Fukuyama, 2018) strengthen the interaction capacity of subjects in specific groups of society, which promotes the generation of perishable and stable relationships by virtue of mutual benefit.

Trust as a collective value favors decision-making in democratic contexts determined as a subjective dimension of social capital or also recognized as cognitive social capital, which directly transgresses the conception and attitudinal behavior that shape relationships between subjects and promote collaborative work as proposed by (Kenneth, 1997).

Other currents of institutionalist thought study community social capital in a broader setting (Atria *et al.*, 2003), articulating social capital and local progress, highlighting that it affects the economic and democratic development of communities, and enables citizen participation and control. In the same line (Durston, 2002) proposes that social capital starts from the recognition of the social consensus between different actors that interact by virtue of an objective with a collective impact that demands external and internal resources in the group, which is developed from the recognition of a pre-established order, generating a

reduction of transaction costs for society contributing to the common welfare (Boat *et al.*, 2022).

Several social scientists from the perspective of ECLAC recognize that social capital can be assumed as raw material to build democracy in current societies, recognizing the particularities of each culture, its degree of maturity and civic and economic development, taking into account that social capital is not equally distributed in society. Therefore, this concept serves to analyze the use and impact of those assets or resources, from a community perspective, that are highly relevant in vulnerable social sectors that are not being fully bolstered in terms of development, and therefore generate inequality and problems that affect social and democratic stability. "The mobilization of the social capital of the poorest sectors must be complemented with a dynamic and inclusive economic system" (Ocampo, 2003).

From the recognition of these approaches, social capital can be understood as a dynamic resource that affects the subject in their individual and collective sphere, modifying their context based on the links and possibilities generated by formal and informal relationships between actors in the dynamics of the social structures that, as stated by (Adler & Kwon, 2002), modify the possibilities of a society in its capacity to generate networks and increase competitiveness and greater generation of social fabric expressed in greater democracy (Algotson & Svensson, 2021)

From the sociological perspective of (Kliksberg, 2002) social capital favors the cohesion of the community on the basis of recognizing its cultural characteristics and the normative system that regulates its relations based on the expression of its values internalized through education, which allow the construction of identity that accumulates and transfers between generations. Social capital is expressed as a group of connections that articulates available capitals, as stated by (Halpern, 2005) who recognizes the existence of other capitals and their articulation with social capital as the basis for endogenous development. Its availability in a social group improves the conditions of a subject or a group, which can potentially transform capacities and strengthen culture and idiosyncrasies (Restrepo-Mieth, 2023).

From an economic perspective (Bluc *et al.*, 2017) assumes that social capital is justified from the intrinsic capacity of organizations that, based on their capacities and resources, increase associativity by increasing formal links, favoring the generation of networks that favor citizen participation in social structures. On the other hand, (North, 2016) states that the relevance of social capital focuses on its ability to strengthen institutions by creating economic ties between private and governmental actors, thus

proposing an order that allows the economic and social development of a community based on the recognition of institutionalism.

In this context, we can recognize that social capital allows reducing the impact of poverty in marginal social groups who share coincident elements such as access to networks, values and norms that are assumed as fundamental components of social capital, which can be bolstered through networks (Kenneth, 1997b) Likewise, from the individual or collective sphere, social capital, permeated by ethics and civic relations and in favor of a collective beneficial transformation, builds communities with greater potential in their endogenous economic development, favoring representative democracy (Harrison *et al.*, 2019).

In short, it is noteworthy that social capital can, from its creation and accumulation, transform scenarios in specific groups, through the use of associations between various actors and public and private entities, which favor access and optimization of the use of resources, as well as the strengthening of institutionalized networks, showing a link between society, governance and development.

Consolidation of Democracy for a New World

The development of the second half of the 18th century, hosts events of great relevance to strengthen democracy, in the first place, the beginning of the process of independence of the American Union, a fundamental event for the liberal conception. An event that allows modern society to show that another mode of government other than the old absolutist monarchical regime is possible; a more participatory government based on reason, respectful of the fundamental rights of people among others. This ideological approach will gradually influence the Latin American colonies and nascent states, in the sense that it reconsiders power relations with the metropolis, the conception of freedom, civil rights, as well as evaluating the influence of Eurocentric thought in these territories through ideological, religious and political level, as is well stated by (Tocqueville, 2019).

This new paradigm gives meaning to democracy, in the territory of the United States, because it is connected to individual rights considering the strengthening of the collective, through the institutionality that favors democratic governments and privileges the individual rights of citizens, thus creating a federal system that recognizes the importance of local organizations (civil society) and cares about the education system. This new concept of government undoubtedly raises a new sense of social wellbeing for Americans, compared to the political and social situation that Europeans lived in the 19th century, but at

the same time, it strengthens a high sense of individualism in the nascent American society.

Secondly, the development and consolidation of the French Revolution gave Western civilization an important period of transformation around political, economic and social relations that undoubtedly began to bring about the end of a long historical monarchical process, initiated since the fall of the Western Roman Empire, a regime consolidated as a solid hierarchical structure that, on the one hand, limited access to the sphere of power to a few and, on the other, restricted the possibilities of autonomous development of the individual, conditioning it to the interests of the groups in power, the church, the state, the monarchy (Hobsbawm, 2000).

Said process was not easy to face for the society of the eighteenth century, since within the revolution and with the influence of the Enlightenment, in many cases the meaning of the revolution was lost, replaced by violent and chaotic actions, generating as consequence the setbacks and negative effects on the population. In this sense, as a consequence of the new ideological liberal approach of the French Revolution, the democratic state begins to be idealized, tending to exalt from the principles of equality, fraternity and freedom a means for the consolidation of a plural society as proposed in the "Social Contract", recognized as a clear reflection of Enlightenment thought, considered a fundamental basis for the consolidation of democracy (Requeijo, 2005).

According to Sabine (2006) the consequences of the old regime that took place throughout Europe show government regimes clinging to despotic political models, generators of great social inequalities, a situation visible since the Middle Ages with feudalism, its later evolution to absolutist monarchies, which later boosted the aristocracy, thus consolidating a regime condemned to its disappearance, incapable of guaranteeing the freedom and organization of a more equitable and participatory society.

During the 19th century, political evolution allowed the transition to a democratic model in several countries where democracy was assumed as an ecumenical option for the development of political systems; this process showed the transformation of dictatorial regimes to democratic ones, favoring an evolution in governance and, therefore, greater recognition and capacity for participation of the population, offering greater freedoms (García-Jurado, 2003).

The consolidation of democracy, according to Putnam, (2011) demands the generation of horizontal links between government and civil society, which allows the creation of bridges that increase the political participation of society expressed in a greater number of

people exercising their citizen rights; however, herein lies the complexity of the process, since that discontent with the results of the democratic regime has been observed in some territories (Steiner *et al.*, 2009) because representative democracy can be a bit surreal in functional terms as it regards the means of political control, and a bit abstract for the ordinary citizen (Posner, 2003).

METHOD

Following Olivé, (2013) the theories put forward by professors Thomas Kuhn and Karl Popper revolve around the approach of research structures that allow a better interpretation of the world. On the other hand, the analysis proposed by Kuhn focuses mainly on the analysis of the concept of paradigm, which comes from a historical and social recognition on the part of the scientific communities to rethink new ways of interpreting reality or the physical world and the ideas that it raises, arguing that normal science is a justification of the paradigm that allows addressing enigmas of science which are not solved from the development of a set of rules or with the results of previous research; likewise, his theory says that everything cannot be explained or resolved, modern science must face realities in different contexts and must gradually shape itself, according to the variables that make it up and the paradigms faced by the scientific society. Kuhn and Popper agree on the

creation of scientific communities called community of professionals supported by sharing similar scientific interests that are bolstered in networks and allow knowledge to be socialized to generate recognition of paradigms validated collectively. In this sense, bibliometric studies potentiate said meaning and visibility in the environment of the social sciences, the field of this research.

The methodology used is descriptive, based on the development of bibliometric analysis., (Álvarez-Gayou, 2003) a process that starts from selecting and defining the concepts that are articulated for the analysis, assuming social capital and democracy as two major scientific categories within the field of social sciences that have great effects in the development of institutionalized relationships and collective development. After this selection, we proceed to determine that the review will be carried out in the *Scopus & Web of Science* databases, which are classified as having great scientific recognition globally. In these databases, different metrics will be reviewed.

In Scopus, a total of 1455 documents published in the period 1962-2022 were initially observed in a general review, based on the articulation of the terms "social capital" and "Democracy" using the equation:

(TITLE-ABS-KEY (social AND capital) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (Democracy)) AND (EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA, "PSYC") OR EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA , "AGRI") OR EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA, "MATH") OR EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA , "HEAL") OR EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA, "BIOC") OR EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA, "NEUR") OR EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA, "NURS") OR EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA , "CENG") OR EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA , "MATE") OR EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA, "CHEM") OR EXCLUDE (SUBJAREA , "PHAR"))

In the case of Web of Science, initially it identifies 1045 items that comply with the proposed association of terms; after a review we observed that many of these are developed in the field of health sciences, demography, psychology, communications

and others; therefore, it filters down to the fields of social sciences, arts and humanities, economics and political science, recognizing its associativity (Kerlinger & Lee, 2008), identifying 561 in the period of 1999 - 2022, items under the equation:

You searched for TOPIC: (social capital and democracy Refined by: WEB OF SCIENCE CATEGORIES: (POLITICAL SCIENCE OR ECONOMICS OR SOCIOLOGY OR SOCIAL SCIENCES INTERDISCIPLINARY) Timespan: All years. Indexes: SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC.

From the definition of the search equations, generated by the combination of criteria in English, "social capital" and "Democracy" which characterize the selected articles recognized in the title and keywords, filtered by the area of disciplinary interest, where administration, political science, social sciences, business, economics, management, political science stand out. It should be noted that, due to the selected methodology, only two scientific databases, Scopus & Web of Science, are used, which potentially excludes from the analysis other publications from period in question, which means that this analysis does not

represent the entire production in the topic, since the results are conditioned to a window of time and some defined search criteria.

Said characterization is based on Bradford's law, also recognized as the law of dispersion, which addresses the distribution of the units or articles reviewed on the clearly defined disciplinary fields analyzed in several categories with the same number organized, according to relevance criteria (variables) of the articles established for the proposed bibliometric analysis (Koskinen *et al.*, 2008).

The analysis of the bibliometric indicators mainly utilized the VOSviewer and Excel tools. The variables analyzed from the two already identified databases are listed below:

Referencing: Author, Addresses, ISSN /DOI, Funding Information Pub Med ID Research areas, title. **Bibliography:** Cited References, Times cited, Language, Accession Number, Open Access. **Abstract and keywords** Sour Abstract, Document type, Keywords, Source Abbrev, Autor identifier, Sponsor. In terms of scientific research, as proposed by (Hernández *et al.*, 2006) the exclusion criteria are those items (documents) that do not have a title in their header, that lack an abstract and keyword, that do not present a methodology, results related to social capital and democracy, the variables used are listed in the illustration. No 1.

The research process generated a set of data in the different scientific bases reviewed, said results under the previously exposed criteria are processed in an Excel document, which allows an appropriate management of the results, which will be processed through the VOSviewer platform, a tool that allows the generation of graphs and maps according to the determined variables.

RESULTS

At first, after a general review In the SCOPUS database, a total of 1455 documents published in the period 1962-2022 were initially observed based on the articulation of the terms "social capital" and "Democracy" using the equation: (TITLE-ABS- KEY (social AND capital) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (Democracy)), which allows determining the generation by type of product and quantity.

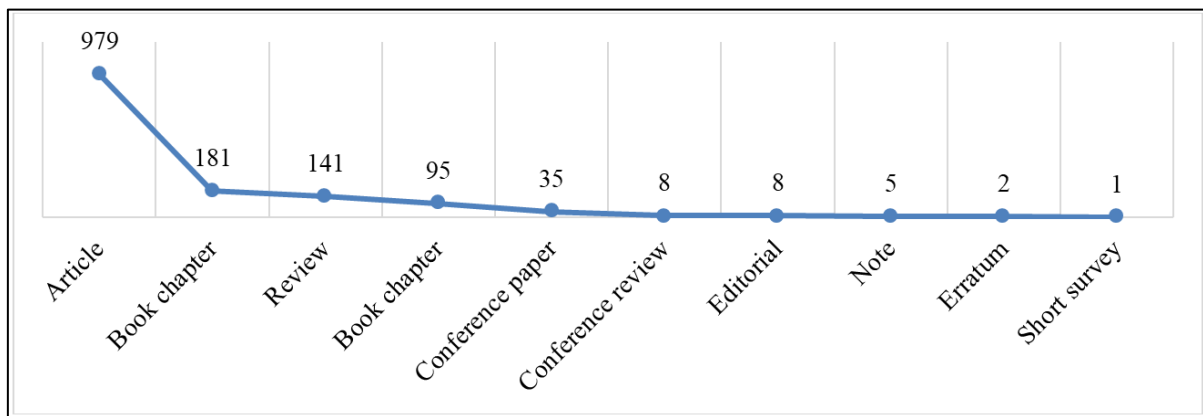


Figure 1: Production in Scopus by type of product
 Source: Author’s construction based on source data from Scopus, 2022

Observing that the publication of scientific articles prevails at 67.28%, and in second place, by a considerable difference, the production of books with 12.43%, and afterwards, with less significant

percentages, other types of products. This shows that the generation of scientific articles published in journals with a global scope is the most used alternative for the dissemination of research results.

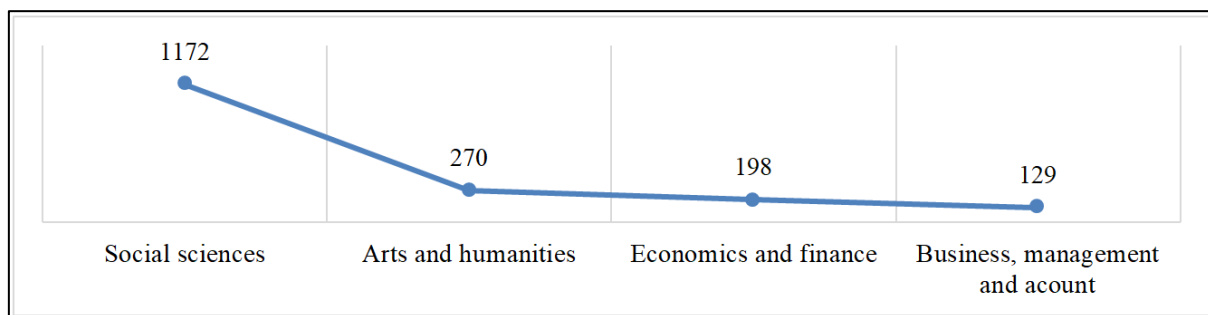


Figure 2: Production in Scopus by area of knowledge
 Source: Author’s construction based on source data from Scopus, 2022

In relation to the areas of knowledge with the highest production of the articulation of the terms "social capital" and "Democracy", it is observed that to a large extent, the publications are concentrated in social sciences with 80.54%, arts and humanities with

18.55%, economics and finance with 13.60%, and business management and accounting with 8.86%, among the most recurrent. This trend can be explained since the social sciences involve other disciplines such

as sociology, anthropology, political science, among others.

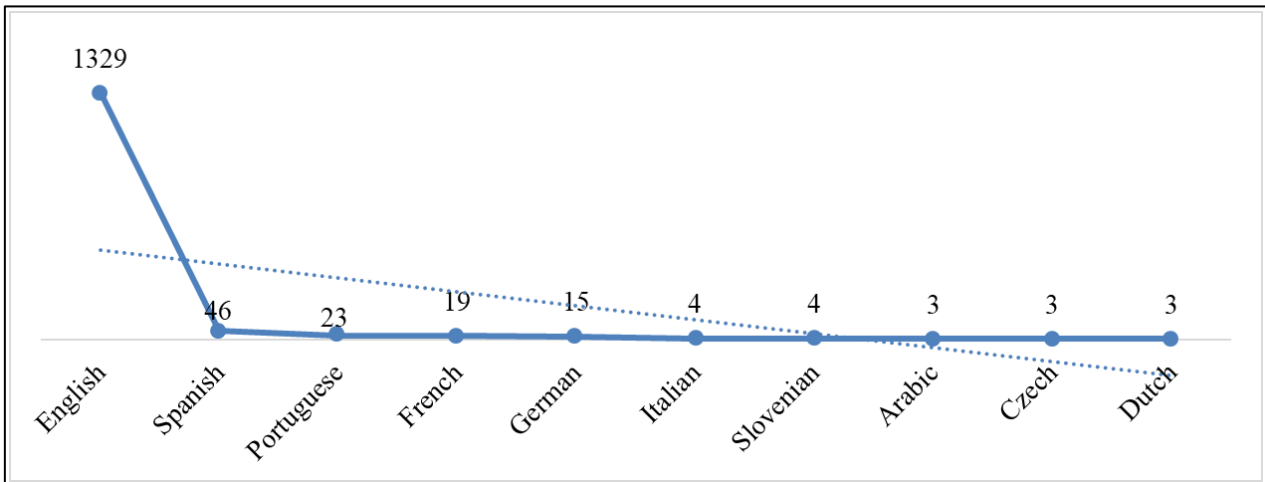


Figure 3: Production in Scopus by language

Source: Author's construction based on source data from Scopus, 2022

Likewise, it is observed that the production in the English language prevails at 91.34%, followed by Spanish and others with average percentages below 3.0%, which shows a high gap in the production in

different languages indexed in this database, which can have an impact on the generation of new knowledge and access to it for the non-English speaking population.

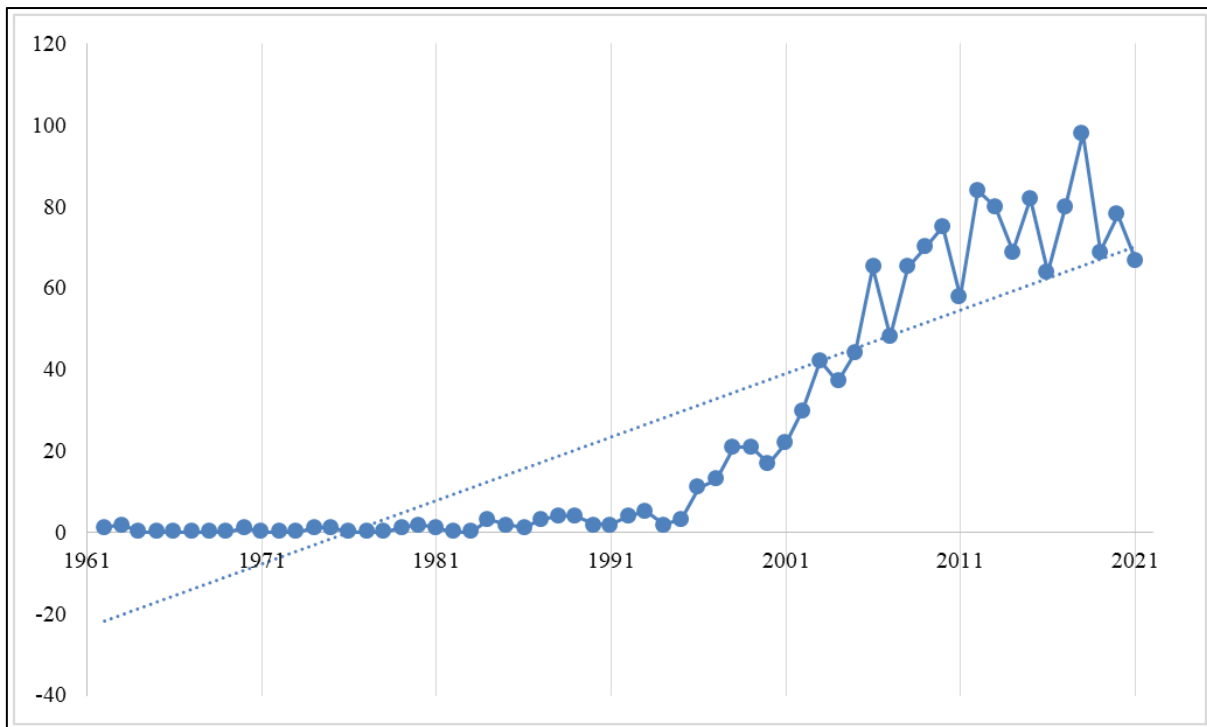


Figure 4: Scopus production per year

Source: Author's construction based on source data from Scopus, 2022

It is observed that in relation to the production classified by year in "social capital" and "Democracy", it presents an increase in an ascending curve going from

5 products in 1993 to 98 in 2018, which shows a high interest in the relationship of both terms as a basis for scientific research.

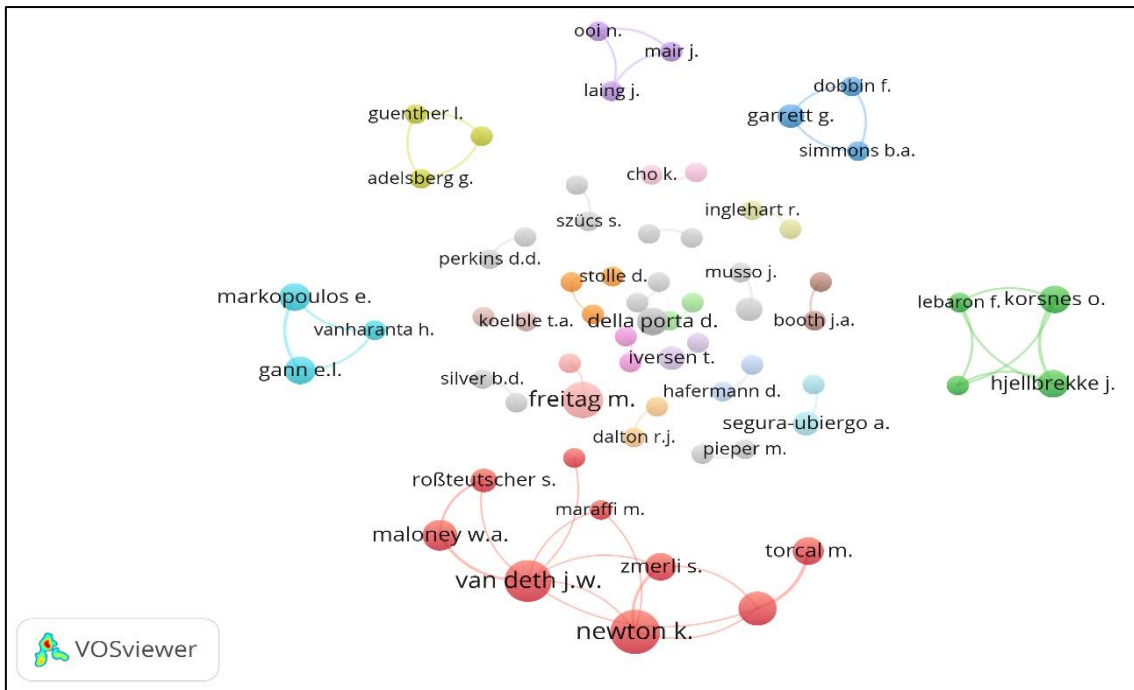


Figure 5: Scopus authors with more than two documents
Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

From the productivity review in the Scopus database, this research identified 135 authors who are articulated under the topological maps created using the VOSviewer tool, where authors such as Newton stand out with 10 products, Van-Deth with 9, Maloney with 5,

and they belong to the same productivity node, noting that there is not a wide network of associativity between authors; however, it is possible that exogenous variables such as geographic region or membership influence the generation of collaborative work.

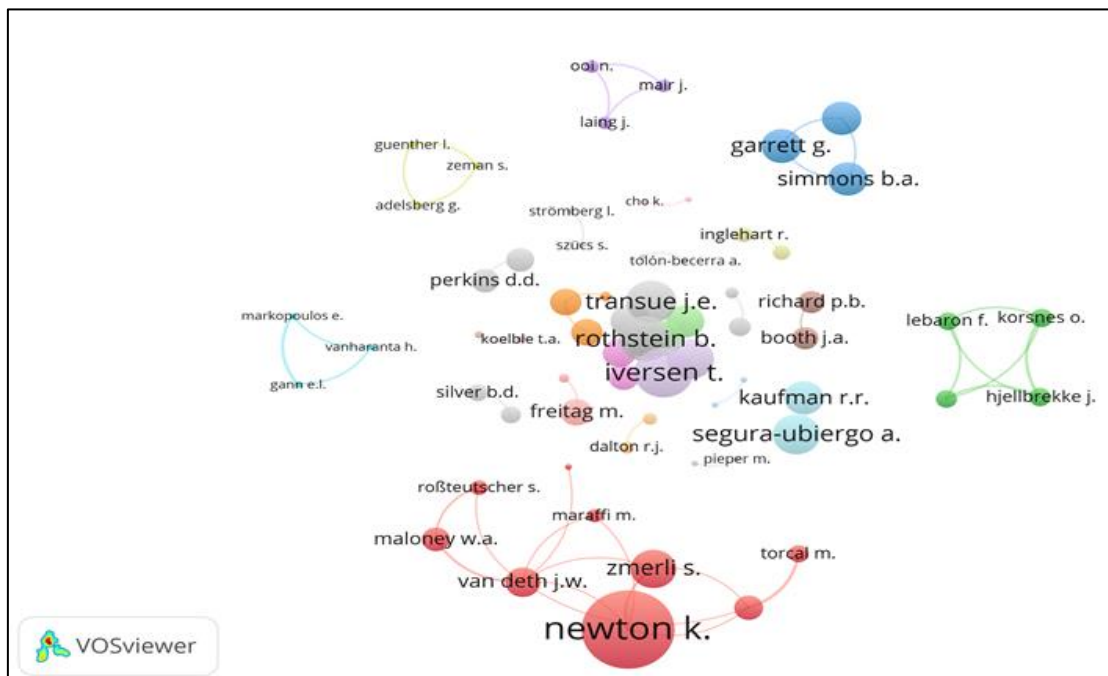


Figure 6: Authors with the highest number of citations in Scopus
Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

Based on the referencing review by author, Newton stands out with 1721 citations, being a recognized scientist in the field of publications in

relation to "social capital" and "Democracy". In second place, there is Garrett with 333 citations. Both authors are located in different nodes of scientific communities.

In third place, there is Van-Deth with 254 citations. This phenomenon allows us to identify how there is no wide network of scientific construction, but rather the production and recognition of authors are segmented into different nodes, a situation that can be generated by

developing research in different disciplines such as economics or social sciences or administration, among others in which social capital and democracy play a prominent role.

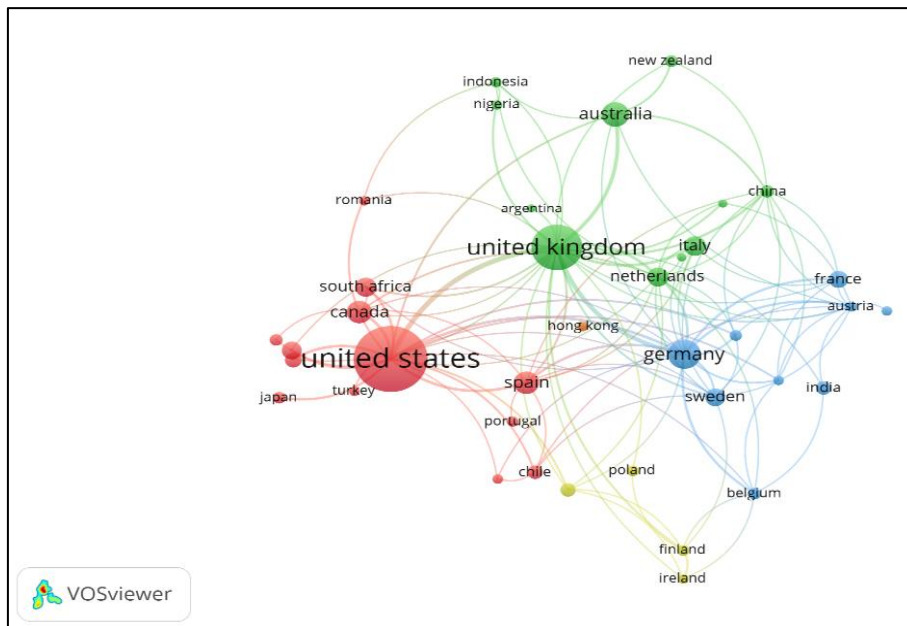


Figure 7: Production by country in Scopus
 Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

It is observed that the scientific production in relation to the articulation of "social capital" and "Democracy" is generated mainly in the United States and the United Kingdom, followed by Germany, Australia and France to a lesser extent, a reality that is

evidenced by the map generated, where in Latin American only Argentina and Chile are relevant, observing a concentration of production on the matter mainly in developed countries.

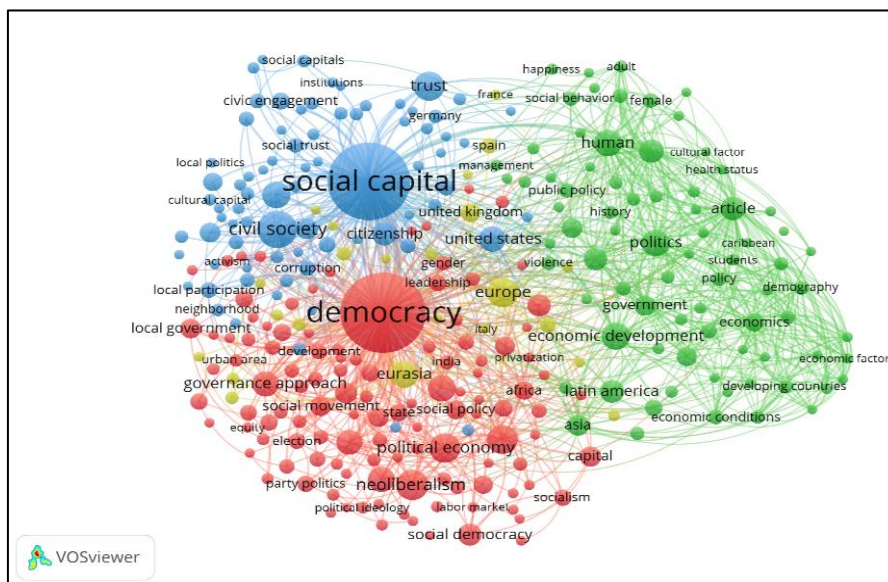


Figure 8: Recurring keywords in Scopus
 Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

A wide use of keywords such as "Democracy" with 338 and "social capital" with 319 can be observed

in the majority of published articles, "civil society" also stands out with 73 recurrences, "neoliberalism" with 49,

"political economy" with 47 being the most prominent; this research allows us to recognize how these constructs generate nodes or clusters of terms related to the scope of the product related to its subject of study, linking "social capital" and "Democracy" with a strong connection that allows addressing problems in different fields of social and economic sciences.

Secondly, the review of the Web of Science database will be addressed, where 1045 products that

comply with the association of the terms "social capital" and "Democracy" were identified. Unlike SCOPUS, they are developed in different fields such as health sciences, demographic studies, psychology and human sciences. In this exercise, the scope has been restricted to the field of social, human and economic sciences, generating a total of 551 products after filtering them under the equation defined in methodology.

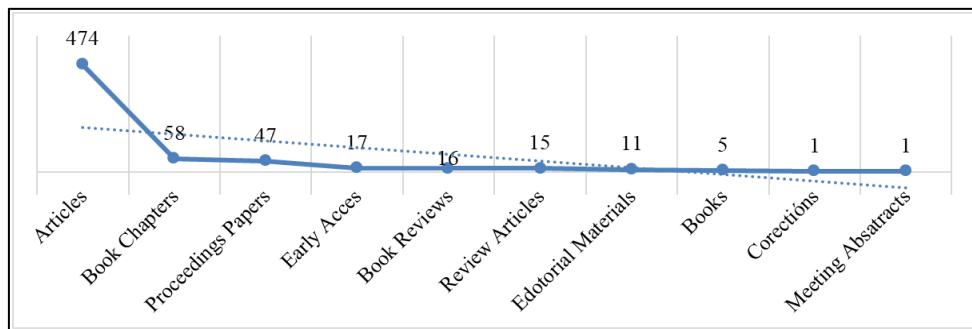


Figure 9: Production in Web of Science by type of product
 Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

Based on the review generated in Web of Science, it can be concluded that, like Scopus, the publication of scientific articles prevails at 86.02%, in second place, by a considerable difference, the production of books with 10.52%, and with less significant percentages other types of products. This

shows that the generation of scientific articles becomes the most recurrent option to spread new knowledge. This behavior is similar in the Scopus database according to the review carried out against the associated criteria "social capital" and "democracy".

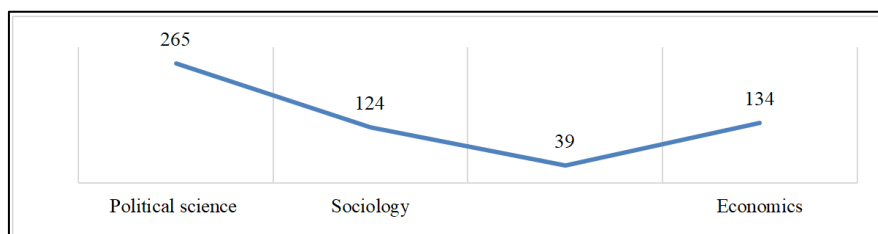


Figure 10: Production in Web of Science by area of knowledge
 Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

Based on the analysis of the Web of Science database, it can be observed that in the disciplinary areas, the publication in political science prevails at 48.09% regarding the articulation of the terms "social capital" and "Democracy". In second place, economy is

identified at a 24.31% followed by sociology at 22.51%; low production is observed in administrative and management fields, unlike Scopus where they have a significant percentage.

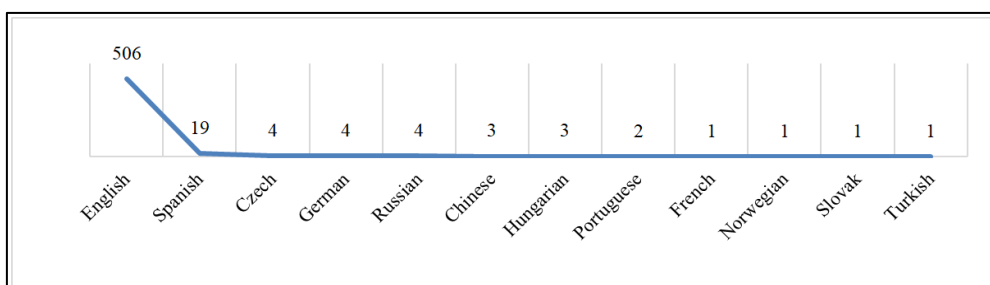


Figure 11: Production in Web of Science by language
 Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

On the Web of Science platform, production in English prevails at 91.83% followed by Spanish with an average percentage of 3.4%, a trend very similar to that observed in the Scopus database, a reality that allows us to confirm that high-impact production is generated in

English language in most recognized products. This generates a negative impact on the global community that does not speak English, as is observed mainly in Latin America.

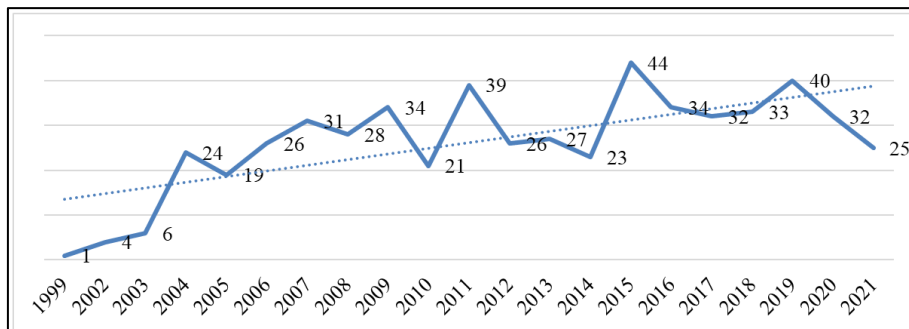


Figure 12: Production in Web of Science by year
 Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

In the Web of Science database, the production related to the associated terms "social capital" and "Democracy" began practically from the year 1999, increasing visibly until 2005, reaching its highest

production in 2016, data that allows highlighting the relevance and interest generated by studying social capital and democracy analyzed in different disciplines.

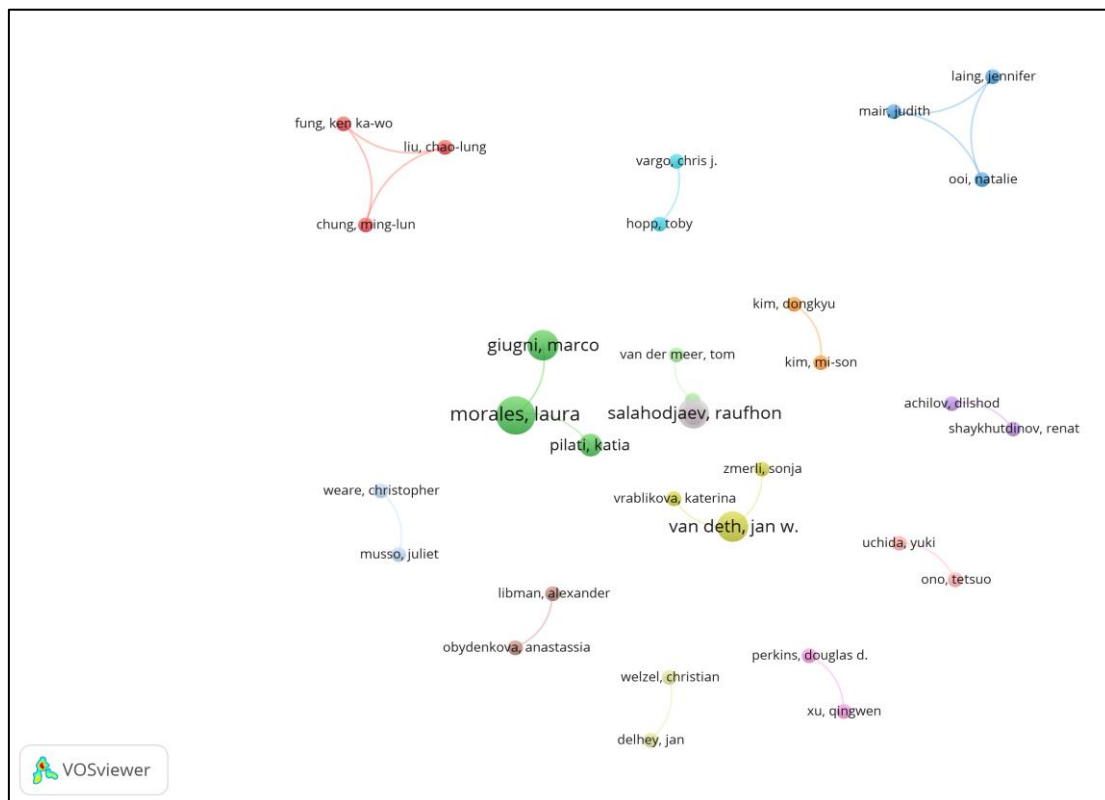


Figure 13: Web of Science authors with the highest citation index and more than two products
 Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

From the identification of productivity, where 87 authors were identified in the Web of Science database, the topological maps created under the VOSviewer tool show that authors such as Morales stand out with 5 products and 63 citations, Van-Deth with 4 products and 78 citations, Giugni with 4 products

and 62 citations. It should be noted that there are authors such as Welzel with 2 products and 374 citations or Delhey with 2 products and 374 citations. Most of these authors belong to different productivity nodes, noting that there is not a wide network of associativity between authors, but it is possible that

exogenous variables such as geographic region or membership influence the generation of collaborative

work; a similar trend was observed in the review of the Scopus database.

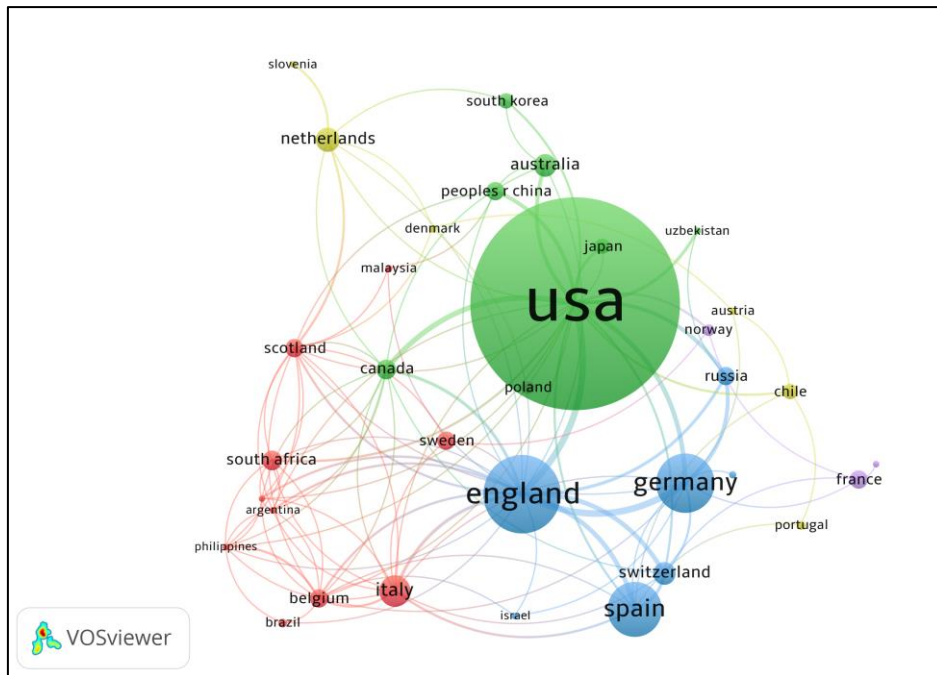


Figure 14: Production in Web of Science by country
Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

It is observed that the scientific production registered in Web of Science in relation to the articulation of "social capital" and "Democracy" is mainly concentrated in the United States and the United Kingdom, followed by Germany, Spain and the

Netherlands, a reality that is evidenced by the map, where Asian and Latin American countries generate production, but in low volume, observing a concentration of production on the matter mainly in developed countries.

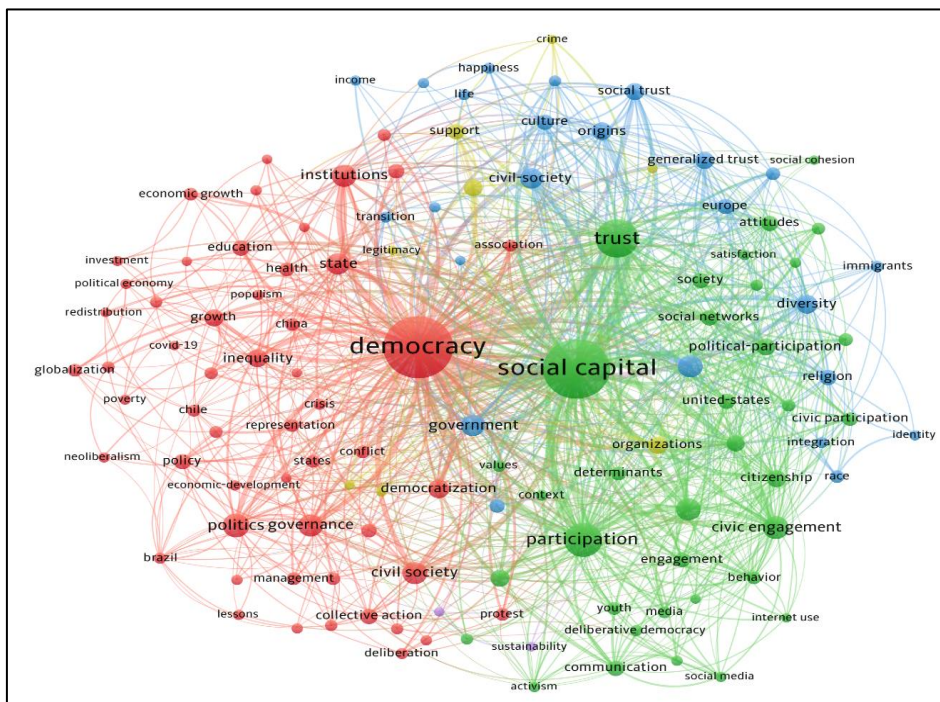


Figure 15: Recurring keywords in Web of Science
Source: Scopus 2022 database processed with VOSviewer

The review in Web of Science shows in relation to the articulation of terms that "Democracy" has been identified 215 times as a keyword and "social capital" has been identified 199 times, observing a network generation that articulates them with other criteria, followed by "trust" selected 82 times, and "participation", 64 times. These are the terms most identified in this database against the equations defined under "social capital" and "Democracy".

CONCLUSIONS

Below are the findings considered relevant based on the study carried out in the bibliometric review related to the articulation of the terms "social capital" and "Democracy" in the Scopus and Web of Science databases by 2022. The study carried out shows a positive trend of increased productivity in relation to the articulation of the selected terms since the end of 1999 with a significant increase per year in Scopus until 2018 with 98 products equivalent to 6.73% of the total production on the matter and in Web of Science until 2015 with 44 products equivalent to 7.98%, these years being the years with the highest number of publications in each of the indexes analyzed. The Scopus index shows a maximum number of articles produced of 979, equivalent to 67.28%, compared to 476 for other categories of editorial material, which is equivalent to 32.72%. This trend is maintained in the Web of Science database with 476 articles, equivalent to 86.02% and with 75 products from other categories that are equivalent to 13.98% of production.

The average production of articles per author is 2.6% for 71.02%, identifying 135 authors in the Scopus database; however, some authors stand out with 10, 7 and 5 publications. Web of Science shows a similar trend. In the two databases, it is observed that the production in English prevails at 91% on average compared to other languages. Likewise, it was observed that in the recurrence of words in Scopus "Democracy" takes precedence with 338 with "social capital" at 319, followed by "civil society", "neoliberalism", "political economy". In Web of Science, "Democracy" takes precedence with 215 and "social capital" is at 199, followed by others such as "trust" and "participation". Likewise, it is observed that the majority of production in the two indices comes from countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany mainly.

Social capital is an influential factor in the construction of democracy and is recognized as a flexible resource that can be studied and correlated with other knowledge in different sciences to understand and explain contemporary problems, gradually gaining visibility and relevance in recent years among social scientists, as is evidenced in the increase in the production and publication of research results in various scientific journals related mainly to political and

economic social sciences. In the particular case of the interrelation of the terms "social capital" and "Democracy", it has been possible to show the creation of new knowledge and ideas that have allowed production to increase in this field in a sustained manner, as evidenced in the research carried out that shows an increase in the indicators of literature generation, particularly in high-impact journals, mostly originating in developed countries and in the English language. This implies, to a certain extent, that the non-English-speaking society falls behind in accessing this new knowledge.

Bibliometric analysis has gained wide relevance as a methodology since it allows an objective understanding of the structure and trends of productivity and generation of new knowledge in various disciplines, recognizing in its disciplinary nature its capacity for "intra" and "inter" disciplinary interaction, thus bolstering new research topics.

This bibliometric analysis shows a diagnosis of growth in the production and contribution of publications generated between the articulation of two conceptual categories such as "social capital" and "Democracy", finding a positive trend mainly since 1999 in the two databases reviewed. The results obtained in general terms show the potential of bibliometric studies to identify new research options for the future in various fields of scientific knowledge in political and social sciences.

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