

An analysis of the scientific production profile of the journal Journal of Public Administration (RAP) in the period 2003-16

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In the present paper, an investigation regarding the transformations of studies published in the *Brazilian Journal of Public Administration* (RAP) from 2003 to 2016 was conducted, through bibliometric research. The main results indicate consolidation of the field, with an increase in the number of authors per article. Most authors were male, although with a high participation of female researchers, in a context where most authors are Brazilian, from public institutions. Case-studies, applied-approaches and quantitative methodology studies increased in comparison to studies published from 1994 to 2002.

Keywords: bibliometry; public administration; locus; focus, logistic regression.

Análise do perfil da produção científica da Revista de Administração Pública (RAP) no período 2003-16

Neste artigo efetuou-se uma investigação acerca das transformações dos trabalhos publicados na *Revista de Administração Pública* (RAP), no período de 2003 a 2016, por meio da pesquisa bibliométrica. Como resultados principais, observou-se a consolidação do campo, com aumento no número de autores por artigo, sendo a maioria deles de autores masculinos, mas com elevação na participação de pesquisadoras mulheres, em um contexto onde a maior parte dos autores são brasileiros provenientes de instituições públicas. Incrementaram-se trabalhos do tipo estudo de caso, de abordagem aplicada e com metodologia quantitativa, em comparação com trabalhos publicados nos anos de 1994 a 2002.

Palavras-chave: bibliometria; gestão pública; locus; focus, regressão logística.

El análisis del perfil de la producción científica de la Revista de Administración Pública (RAP) para el período 2003-16

En este artículo se efectuó una investigación acerca de las transformaciones de los trabajos publicados en la *Revista de Administración Pública* (RAP), en el período de 2003 al 2016, por medio de la encuesta bibliométrica. Como

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/0034-761220170046>

Invited article received on March 12, 2017 and accepted on September 20, 2017.

[Translated version] Note: All quotes in English translated by this article's translator.



resultados principales, se observó la consolidación del campo, con aumento en el número de autores por artículo donde la mayoría de ellos son masculinos, pero con elevación en la participación de encuestadoras mujeres, en un contexto donde la mayor parte de los autores son brasileños provenientes de instituciones públicas. Se incrementaron trabajos de tipo estudio del caso, de enfoque aplicado y con metodología cuantitativa, en comparación a trabajos publicados en los años 1994 al 2002.

Palabras clave: bibliometría; gestión pública; locus; enfoque, la regresión logística.

1. INTRODUCTION

Public Administration as a discipline has attracted considerably greater attention ever since the 1990s in Brazil, a scenario which, according to Farah (2011) is based on the exponential growth in scientific production in this area. To illustrate this, the author mentions that between the years 1998 and 2008, the number of articles on the subject of Public Administration at the National Association of Graduate Research in Administration Meeting (EnANPAD) increased more than “300%, almost double that of administration in general” (p. 832). In addition, the field of Public Administration is part of the recent boom in majors in public policy and related areas, giving rise to a “public field,” in which the main prism is the analysis of policies in terms of practice (Farah, 2016).

Corroborating this, Guerrero-Orozco (2014) has indicated a series of historic aspects which have contributed to transform Public Administration into a relevant discipline within the social science matrix. Among these is the fact that it has been the object of a considerable amount of research, teaching and publishing, which has become evident due to the quantity of literature about this subject, meaning that it can be understood as “one of the social science disciplines that has produced the most literature in the field of applied research” (Guerrero-Orozco, 2014:3). We should also note that the science of Public Administration has spread all over the world, acquiring local characteristics in each country that culturally define its development.

This study seeks to contribute to the analysis of scientific production for the *Revista de Administração Pública (RAP — Journal of Public Administration)* between 2003 and 2016. It seeks to broaden our understanding of the characteristics of academic production related to Public Administration in Brazil. Some efforts have already been made in this direction, corroborating the panorama that we intend to explain here. Silva and partners (2013) have realized a number of studies that qualitatively and quantitatively analyze scientific production related to this discipline in order to reflect on its development.

As precursors, we can cite Mezzomo and Laporta (1994), who analyzed the field of Public Administration in Brazil based on 721 articles published in *RAP*, from its founding in 1967 to 1992. To update this information, as well as make it possible to recognize contemporary topics in Public Administration and the transformations that were verified in terms of the context of the State during the subsequent years, Fleury and partners (2003) analyzed the articles published in *RAP* from 1992 to 2002, and also identified the profiles of the authors of these articles. Among these publications, Silva and partners (2013) mention the works of Souza (1998), Keinert (1994) and Pacheco (2003), who conducted analyses of scientific production in Public Administration based on academic articles in

the areas, as well as works published in Administration science events. From this perspective, they follow the bibliometric focus of Rossoni and Hocayen-da-Silva (2008), Peci and partners (2011), Fadul and partners (2010, 2011, 2012), Silva and partners (2013, 2014) and Ribeiro (2014).

These investigations of the context of Public Administration offer reflections in terms of the advances and limits of this discipline and subject, and thus they have broadened the understanding of its potential and its limitations. Silva and partners (2013) emphasize that the growth of this field is undeniable, with the salient fact being the increase in the number of publications and researchers, especially since 2004. This is because that year marked the beginning of Anpad's Public Administration Meeting (EnAPG) in virtue of the demand in this area. This area and *RAP* have been highlighted as the principal objects of investigation in bibliometric studies, because these are specific vehicles for publishing works in Public Administration.

In regard to the *RAP*, the journal of the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration (EBAPE) of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), the third oldest Brazilian journal of administration (Martins, 2007), it is one of the most important and influential journals in the area (Fleury et al., 2003). The journal has been published bimonthly since 1996 and is indexed in the main Brazilian and international data bases, with 232 issues published by the date of this investigation's conclusion. Martins (2007:54) notes that over the years *RAP* "has published some of the most important academic works on Public Administration and organizational theory in this country." Considering the 50th anniversary of the journal's founding in 2017, what stands out are the challenges facing *RAP* going forward, in terms of the multiplication of academic journals as well as changes in the nature of communication with the academic community. Among the strategies to be adopted are publishing it exclusively online and the internationalization of production — publishing in Portuguese and English, seeking publications "that bring contributions from the entire range of topics covered by Public Administration in the Brazilian as well as the international context" (Peci, 2016:1).

The relevance and representativeness of this dissemination vehicle for research in Public Administration in Brazil justified its selection as the object of investigation for the works of Mezzomo and Laporta (1994) and Fleury and partners (2003), and they have been instrumental in the realization of this study, which seeks to extend the period of analysis of these works. Considering the articles published between 2003 — the year after the last year of the analysis of Fleury and partners (2003) — and 2016, it seeks to trace the panorama of qualified scientific production in Public Administration from 1967 to 2016, comparing the updated results of this investigation with those reported by Mezzomo and Laporta (1994) and Fleury and partners (2003). To make it possible to compare these analysis periods, the analysis methodology that we have used here is a reproduction of the one applied in the previous studies.

The realization of this study is justified by reasons ranging from the search for more effective and systematic actions to understand the growth and maturation of this area, to the need noted by Fadul (2011) for initiatives that study scientific production in a manner that is not isolated, in order to promote reflection and the reading of what has been produced to construct cumulative scientific knowledge that can help develop this field.

Beyond this introduction, this article is divided as follows: Section 2 presents the work's methodology; Section 3 presents the study's results, combining a discussion of the author's profiles, the

content of the articles and the factors that influence their publication; and Section 4 presents the study's conclusions.

2. METHODOLOGY

Based on the methodology adopted by Mezzomo and Laporta (1994) and Fleury and partners (2003), this article will research and analyze articles published by *RAP* between the years 2003 and 2016, totaling an investigative panorama of 14 years. In all, 729 articles were selected for analysis, without considering the editorials and notes/comments about current topics for research purposes. With the uninterrupted publication of 6 editions annually, this study analyzes a total of 84 editions published by *RAP*.

To facilitate comparative analysis, the articles have been grouped into four three year periods: 2003 to 2005, 2006 to 2008, 2009 to 2011, 2012 to 2014; and a two year period of 2015 to 2016. In the article by Mezzomo and Laporta (1994), the analysis focused on two variables related to the profile of each article's content: its *locus* and *focus*. According to these authors (Mezzomo and Laporta, 1994:6) "the *locus* defines the empirical phenomena that constitute the research object and delineates the territory to be explored," while "the *focus* is the theoretical perspective that provides the concepts for selecting and interpreting real facts and integrated observations relevant to the principal questions" (Mezzomo and Laporta, 1994:7). Thus, the authors define six analysis groups in terms of the *focus*: 1) political science; 2) law; 3) administration; 4) economics; 5) epistemology; and 6) others); as well as 39 categories to define *locus*, which are later combined into 7 large groups: 1) social; 2) administrative; 3) infra-structure; 4) scientific production; 5) economics; 6) socio-political organizations; and 7) others.

In addition to the analysis of these two variables related to the profile of each article's content, Fleury and partners (2003) included the following characteristics: the article's size (number of pages), nature (whether the article deals with the public area and/or private area), research approach (applied or theoretical), whether the article is related to a case study or not, and how current it is (the year of the most recent bibliographic reference). In terms of the analysis of the *focus*, they include the groups anthropology, psychology and sociology which are added to those already mentioned by Mezzomo and Laporta (1994), thus forming 9 categories. In terms of the *locus* they maintained an extensive list of categories, rather than the above mentioned groups. This study will use the classifications utilized by Fleury and partners (2003). In addition, these authors analyzed the profile of the lead author (the first author), considering: sex, origin, field, education, degrees being pursued, profession and institutional ties.

With the exception of the article's nature, all of the other analysis categories proposed by Fleury and partners (2003) in terms of the article content as well as the profile of the lead author were analyzed in this investigation. In relation to the profile of the article content, the following items were included: the type of research (qualitative and/or quantitative); the profile of the author, the number of article authors, the nature of the institution (public or private) and the state where the institution is located (for foreign articles we have used the country).

To ensure a more appropriate classification of these categories, especially in terms of *locus* and *focus*, we selected a random sample of 202 lead authors who published in *RAP* during the analysis period, and sent them emails asking that they fill out a small questionnaire designed to place the

study within one of the analyzed *locus* and *focus* groups. The response rate was 29%. Based on these responses, we compared the classifications given by the researchers involved in this article with those indicated by the contacted authors. They agreed in 86% of the cases in terms of the *locus* and 91% of the cases in terms of the *focus*, percentages which were considered satisfactory for continuing our analyses. In addition, taking into account the large number of classifications realized, the researchers involved held periodic meetings to discuss the codification process, a process that made it possible to achieve a greater conceptual alignment in terms of our team. Finally, a binomial logistic regression was used to identify the indicators associated with co-authorship. For the data collection and results analysis, support was provided by Microsoft Excel®, version 2016 and R software v.2.15.3.

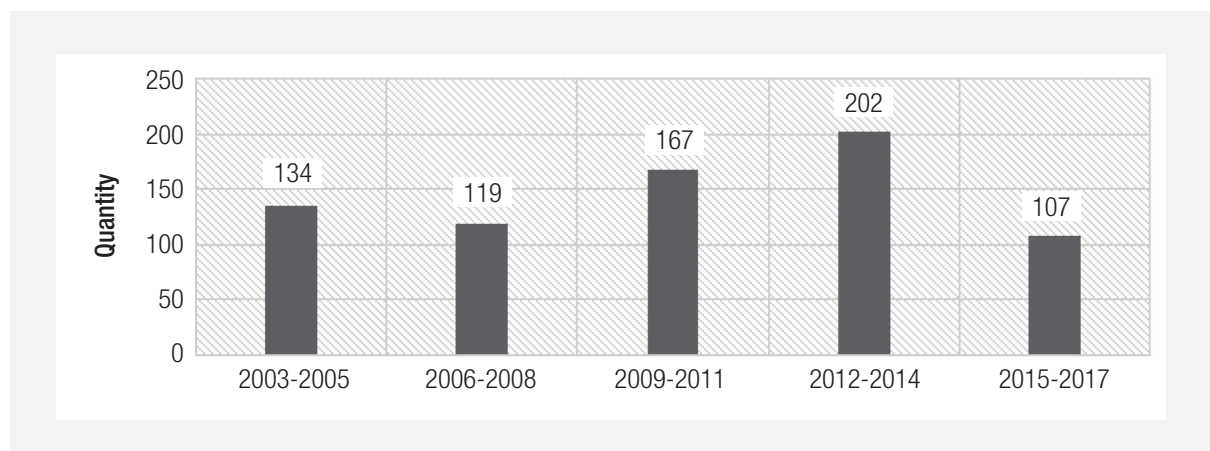
3. ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

After the collection and tabulation of data for 14 years of the *RAP*, the analysis of the results is based on three main aspects of the publications: the profile of their authors, the profile of the articles and the logistic regression. The sequence of analyses is presented in this section.

3.1 PROFILE OF THE AUTHOR

Graph 1 presents the number of articles produced in the journal for the analyzed periods, with the most prominent period being 2012 to 2014 with 202 articles. The greater number of accepted articles could be related to a change of editor, given that it was during this period that Peter Spink took over as editor with his vision of “rethinking established subjects” (Spink, 2012:1). According to the author, *RAP* would no longer play the role of evaluating graduate professors or programs, but instead authors would contribute significant works to the journal and their ideas would be read in practice.

GRAPH 1 N° OF ARTICLES ANALYZED BY PERIOD (TOTAL = 729)



Source: Study data.

In table 1 we can see the most prolific authors, including all of those with more than two participations as lead authors among the 729 articles during the entire period (2003-16). Thus those with 3 or more participations as lead author are grouped together, with Sérgio Proença Leitão being the most prolific (six articles), followed by Reginaldo Souza Santos (five articles), and Pedro Cavalcante, Sylvia Constant Vergara, Hermano Roberto Thiry-Cherques and Frederico Lustosa da Costa, all of whom had four articles published. The other 50 authors collaborated with two articles and the other 574 authors all had one article as the lead author.

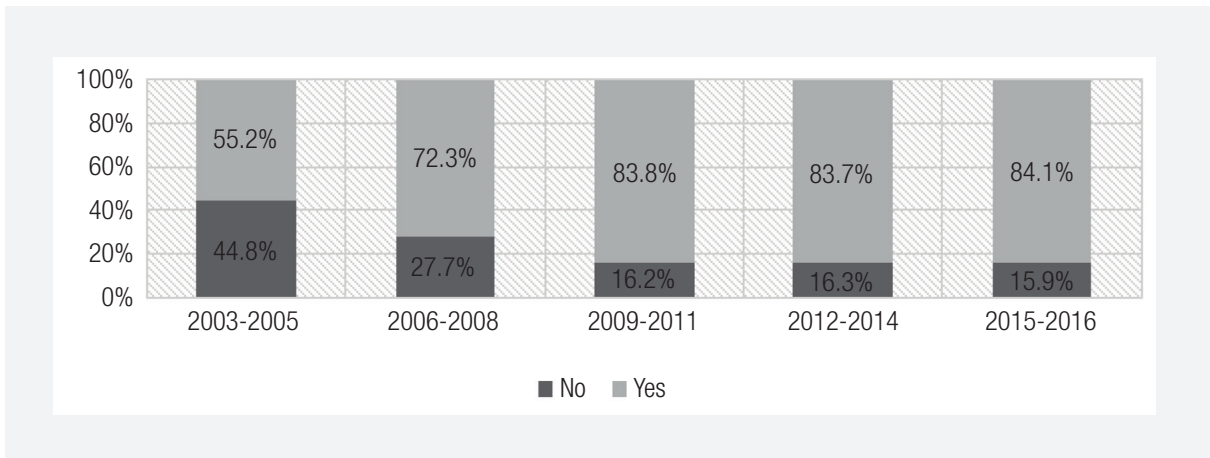
TABLE 1 MOST PROLIFIC AUTHORS

Author	Nº of Articles
Sérgio Proença Leitão	6
Reginaldo Souza Santos	5
Pedro Cavalcante	4
Sylvia Constant Vergara	4
Hermano Roberto Thiry-Cherques	4
Frederico Lustosa da Costa	4
José Osvaldo De Sordi	3
Luiz Antonio Jóia	3
Tânia Fischer	3
Denis Alcides Rezende	3
Ivan Antônio Pinheiro	3
Alberto Luiz Albertin	3
César Madureira	3
Ilse Maria Beuren	3
Isabel de Sá Affonso da Costa	3

Source: Study data.

During the entire period analyzed, joint publication represented the majority of the articles with 76.7% participation, as opposed to 23.3% of the articles which were written by a single author. Other studies confirm this characteristic increase in the collaboration between authors in the area of Administration, as pointed out by Visentini, Dill and Dalcin (2016) and Espartel and partners (2011).

GRAPH 2 JOINT PUBLICATIONS

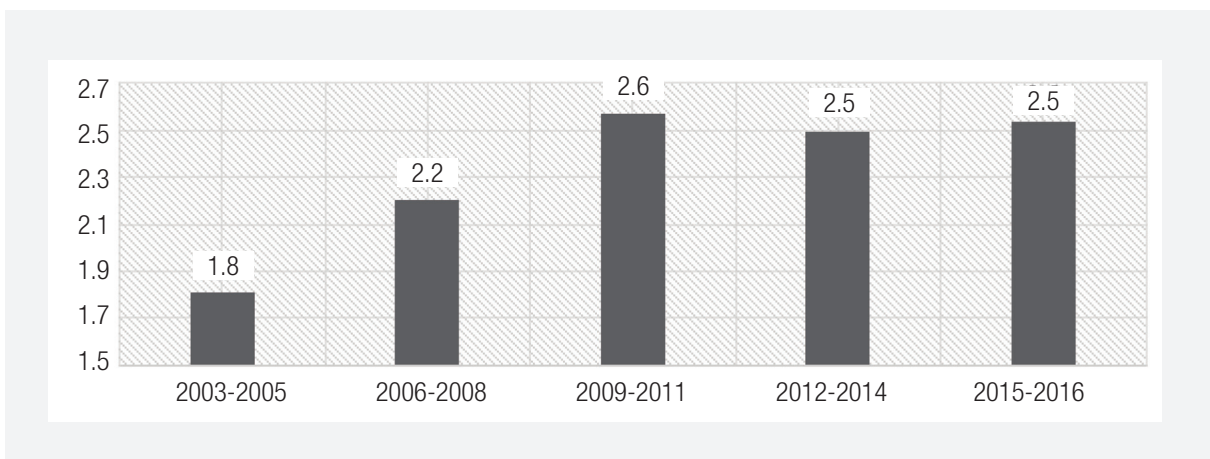


Source: Study data.

Analyzing the defined periods, we can see that over time joint publishing of papers has increased, indicating that productions are now more collaborative. During the period of 2003-05, just 55.2% of the papers were joint publications (graph 2); in 2012-14, 83.7% of the publications involved more than one author and this was confirmed by the two years period of 2015-16 in which 84.1% of the publications were not written by an individual author. As a result, the average number of authors per *RAP* article rose from 1.8 in 2003-05 to 2.5 or more from 2009 on (graph 3).

It is important to note that various studies regarding co-authorship in academic production have already found that collaboration has increased among researchers (Glanzel, 2002; Rossoni and Hocayen-da-Silva, 2008; Rossoni and Guarido Filho, 2009). Co-authorship reveals various advantages for science, including the combination of different abilities among the authors, greater speed and dissemination in terms of scientific production, and greater facility in addressing more complex articles (Espartel et al., 2011).

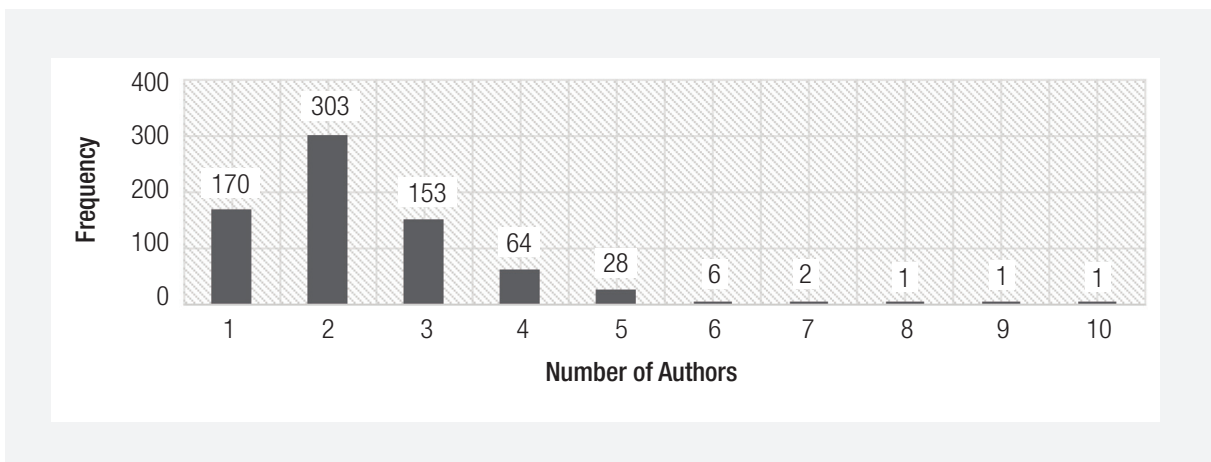
GRAPH 3 AVERAGE NUMBER OF AUTHORS PER ARTICLE



Source: Study data.

Even though the number of authors has been increasing over time in terms of *RAP* publications, the greatest concentration is still observed with two authors (303 articles), followed by one author (170), and three authors (153), as we can see in graph 4. This is quite different from the results observed by Fleury and partners (2003), when most of the published articles had a single author.

GRAPH 4 NUMBER OF AUTHORS PER ARTICLE 2003-16



Source: Study data.

Table 2 presents the data for the sex of the lead author in *RAP* articles. Note the historic prevalence of the male sex. During the entire analyzed period, 63.2% of the lead authors have been men, as compared to 36.8% of the articles with female lead authors. Looking at this data from a periodic analysis, this pattern remains, even for 2012-14 when female participation rose to 41.6%. This supremacy of male lead authors was also observed by Fleury and partners (2003), as well as by various other works in the area of Administration (Camargos, Silva and Dias, 2009; Mazzon and Hernandez, 2013; Brolio et al., 2015, Pereira, Gadelha and Lucena, 2014).

TABLE 2 SEX OF THE LEAD AUTHOR

Period	Male	Female
2003-05	64.7%	35.3%
2006-08	64.7%	35.3%
2009-11	65.9%	34.1%
2012-14	58.4%	41.6%
2015-16	64.5%	35.5%
Overall Total	63.2%	36.8%

Source: Study data.

To Melo and Oliveira (2006:324), during the period from 1997 to 2005 there was an important increase in female participation in specific areas, such as exact and earth sciences and engineering. However, according to the authors, “women are still subject to different standards in terms of their gender in the choice of professional careers that come close to female stereotyping” (Melo and Oliveira, 2006:328). However, there are indicators published by the Brazilian Research Group Directorate (CNPq) for 2010 that indicate that women are in the majority in the Human and Social Sciences, with men dominating the Exact Sciences (Lino and Mayorga, 2016:102).

According to Leta (2003), even though women have been contributing more in terms of science and technology, scientific activity has always been considered exclusively male, and changes in this scenario only began to occur during the second half of the twentieth century. “Among the complaints made was a lack of access to a scientific education and careers traditionally occupied by men” (Lino and Mayorga, 2016:99).

In table 3, we seek to analyze the origin of the lead authors of *RAP* articles. Brazilians represent 92.5% of the authors during the entire period, followed by Europeans (2.7%). Brazilian participation fell in the analyzed periods, with an important increase in authors of European origin. In fact, in comparing the results with the study of Fleury and partners (2003), European participation exceeded the contribution of Latin America, which during the period from 1992 to 2002 was the second largest area of authorship for papers in the *RAP*.

TABLE 3 ORIGIN OF LEAD AUTHOR

Origin	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Brazil	91.0%	94.1%	93.4%	93.6%	88.8%	92.5%
Europe	3.0%	0.0%	2.4%	3.0%	5.6%	2.7%
Latin America	3.0%	5.9%	1.2%	0.5%	1.9%	2.2%
North America	1.5%	0.0%	1.8%	2.0%	1.9%	1.5%
Oceania	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Africa	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%
Not identified	1.5%	0.00%	0.6%	0.5%	1.9%	0.8%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Study data.

In terms of the field of the lead author (table 4), the area of Administration is still the dominant area — with 35% during the entire period. Those with backgrounds in other areas of knowledge represent 23.3%, which shows the interdisciplinary nature of the journal; 4.9% have a background in Economics and 3.8% in Engineering. Even considering the relevance of Administration to the journal’s content, during the period analyzed this field has been ceding ground to Other fields.

TABLE 4 FIELD OF LEAD AUTHOR

Field	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Administration	43.3%	38.7%	34.7%	27.7%	34.6%	35.0%
Biomedicine	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%
Social Sciences	3.7%	2.5%	0.6%	2.0%	1.9%	2.1%
Law	2.2%	0.8%	0.6%	3.5%	5.6%	2.5%
Economics	8.2%	4.2%	6.0%	2.0%	5.6%	4.9%
Engineering	6.7%	4.2%	5.4%	1.5%	1.9%	3.8%
Psychology	1.5%	4.2%	1.2%	2.0%	0.9%	1.9%
Social Services	1.5%	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Other	29.9%	23.5%	16.8%	16.8%	37.4%	23.3%
Not Identified	3.0%	21.0%	32.9%	42.6%	11.2%	25.0%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Study data.

Table 5 presents the results related to the education of the lead author. The most common degree is a Doctorate (40.3%) during the entire analyzed period, followed by those with Master’s degrees (35.5%). Over 14 years, the percentage of lead authors with Doctorates has fallen 20.3 percent, with this gap being filled partially by those with Master’s degrees — which increased 8.6 percentage points during the same period. A possible explanation of this could be that with the increased interest in Public Administration, there has been an improvement in the quality of scientific production by authors with Master’s degrees, even (Moretti and Campanario, 2009) in terms of theses and other works completed to fulfill degree requirements.

TABLE 5 EDUCATION OF LEAD AUTHOR

Education	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Doctorate	64.2%	40.3%	39.5%	23.3%	43.9%	40.3%
Master’s	26.9%	38.7%	40.7%	35.1%	35.5%	35.5%
Specialization	3.0%	0.8%	2.4%	7.4%	2.8%	3.7%
College	3.0%	6.7%	4.8%	2.5%	0.0%	3.4%
Not Identified	3.0%	13.4%	12.6%	31.7%	17.8%	17.0%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: study data.

In terms of lead authors and the degrees being pursued, table 6 demonstrates that students pursuing a Doctoral degree wrote 14.1% of the *RAP* articles as the lead author, followed by those pursuing a Master’s with 4.4% and those pursuing Post-Doctorates with 3.7%. The largest increase was in terms of leader authors who are pursuing Post-Doctorates. Comparing this with the findings of Fleury and partners (2003), we can see an elevation in the participation of students pursuing a degree (Master’s, Doctorate, or Post-Doctorate), given that those pursuing a Doctoral degree were responsible for 10.1 % of the *RAP* articles as lead authors.

TABLE 6 LEAD AUTHORS PURSUING DEGREES

Degree being pursued	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Doctorate	9.7%	17.6%	13.8%	17.8%	9.3%	14.1%
Master's	6.0%	5.9%	3.6%	3.5%	3.7%	4.4%
Post-Doctorate	0.0%	6.7%	4.8%	2.5%	5.6%	3.7%
Not applicable/not identified	84.3%	69.7%	77.8%	76.2%	81.3%	77.8%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Study data.

In terms of the profession of the lead author (table 7), there has been a reduction in the number of authors in Teaching over time. Even so, this represents the largest total in terms of profession during the overall period (41.2%), followed by Teaching/Research and those exclusively devoted to Research (15.9%). Technical, Management and Consulting professionals represent 14.7% of the lead authors of *RAP* articles. Even though authors report that the “commercialization” of higher learning in Administration as well as public institutions (Bosi, 2007) could destabilize the relationships between teaching and research (Oliveira and Sauerbronn, 2007), it could also be responsible for the qualitative and quantitative improvement in teaching within the area of Administration in Brazil (Cirani, Silva and Campanario, 2012; Quintal et al., 2016).

TABLE 7 PROFESSION OF LEAD AUTHOR

Profession	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Teaching	50.7%	36.1%	42.5%	45.0%	25.2%	41.2%
Teaching/Research	20.1%	22.7%	18.6%	12.9%	22.4%	18.5%
Not Identified	4.5%	7.6%	15.6%	19.8%	18.7%	13.9%
Research	11.2%	21.8%	10.8%	5.0%	15.9%	11.8%

Continue

Profession	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Technical	6.0%	5.9%	9.6%	11.9%	8.4%	8.8%
Management	6.0%	3.4%	2.4%	4.0%	6.5%	4.3%
Consulting	1.5%	2.5%	0.6%	1.5%	2.8%	1.6%
Not Identified	4.5%	7.6%	15.6%	19.8%	18.7%	13.9%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Study data.

During the periods analyzed, the authors who were devoted solely to Research, most of them being students pursuing Master’s, Doctorates, and Post-Doctorates, were the ones who most increased their participation in the journal, corroborating the findings of table 6. In terms of the findings of the study by Fleury and partners (2003), the professors who conduct joint scientific research or participate in research groups and/or post-graduate programs as professors or students increased their participation in the *RAP* by 9.9 percentage points compared to this study for the period from 1992 to 2002 (Teaching/Research).

We also sought in a complementary manner to identify the evolution of the institutional ties of *RAP*’s lead authors, and these results appear in table 8. Institutions with five articles or less from 2003 to 2016 were grouped in the Others category. For the entire analyzed period, the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), the Catholic Pontifical University (PUC) and the University of São Paulo (USP) were the institutions that published most, with 13.3%, 8.6% and 4.7% of the articles respectively. Fourteen other institutions, all public, were linked to 6 or more articles in the *RAP* during this period.

TABLE 8 LEAD AUTHOR’S INSTITUTIONAL TIES

Institutional Ties	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
FGV	17.2%	22.7%	12.0%	8.9%	8.4%	13.3%
PUC	12.7%	14.3%	9.6%	5.0%	2.8%	8.6%
USP	2.2%	4.2%	10.2%	2.0%	4.7%	4.7%
UFMG	3.7%	3.4%	4.8%	4.0%	3.7%	4.0%
UFBA	5.2%	5.9%	4.2%	2.0%	0.0%	3.4%
UNB	2.2%	0.8%	3.6%	4.0%	6.5%	3.4%
UFRGS	4.5%	2.5%	3.6%	2.0%	2.8%	3.0%
UFSC	2.2%	1.7%	2.4%	2.5%	0.9%	2.1%
UFRJ	1.5%	0.8%	2.4%	2.5%	1.9%	1.9%
UFPR	0.0%	1.7%	3.0%	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%
UFRN	0.7%	1.7%	2.4%	2.0%	0.9%	1.6%
UFPE	3.0%	2.5%	1.2%	1.5%	0.0%	1.6%

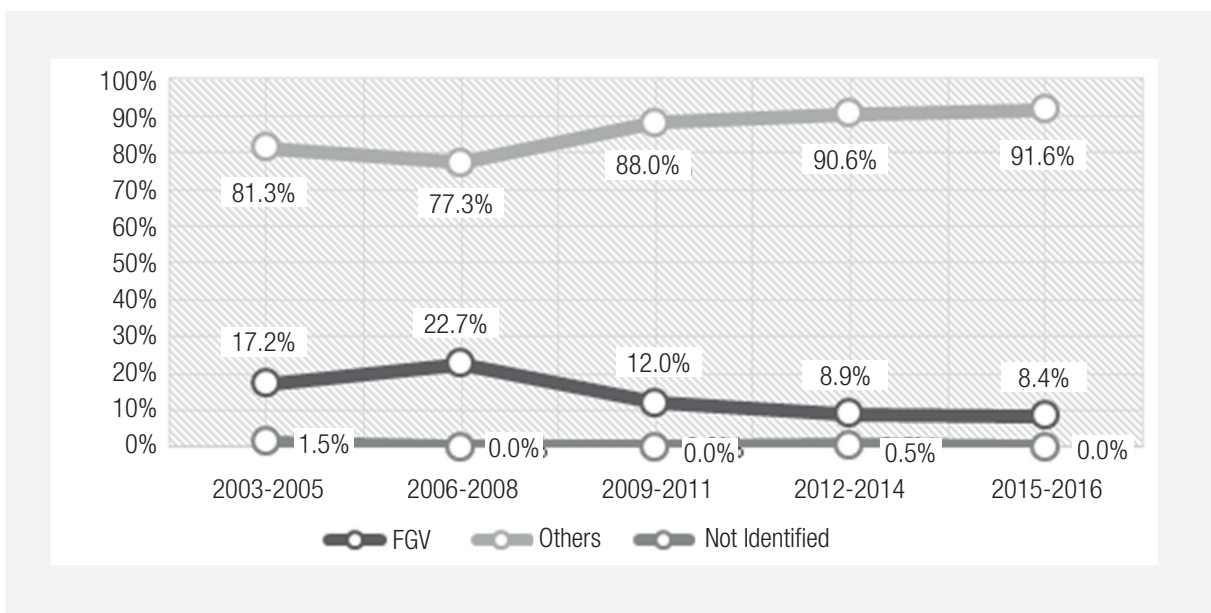
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Institutional Ties	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
FIOCRUZ	2.2%	1.7%	0.0%	2.5%	0.9%	1.5%
UFES	0.7%	0.8%	1.2%	2.5%	0.0%	1.2%
UFC	0.7%	0.0%	2.4%	1.0%	1.9%	1.2%
UFF	1.5%	0.0%	0.6%	1.0%	2.8%	1.1%
UFLA	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	1.0%
Others	38.1%	33.6%	36.5%	52.0%	59.8%	44.0%
Not Identified	1,5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Study data.

However, FGV and PUC have seen a decline in their participation, diminishing 8.8 and 9.9 percentage points respectively. The Others group, on the other hand, has increased its participation by 21.8 percentage points during this period. Among the other institutions contributing to the RAP, the University of Brasília (UNB), USP and the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) have all raised their participation by 4.3, 2.4 and 1.9 percentage points respectively.

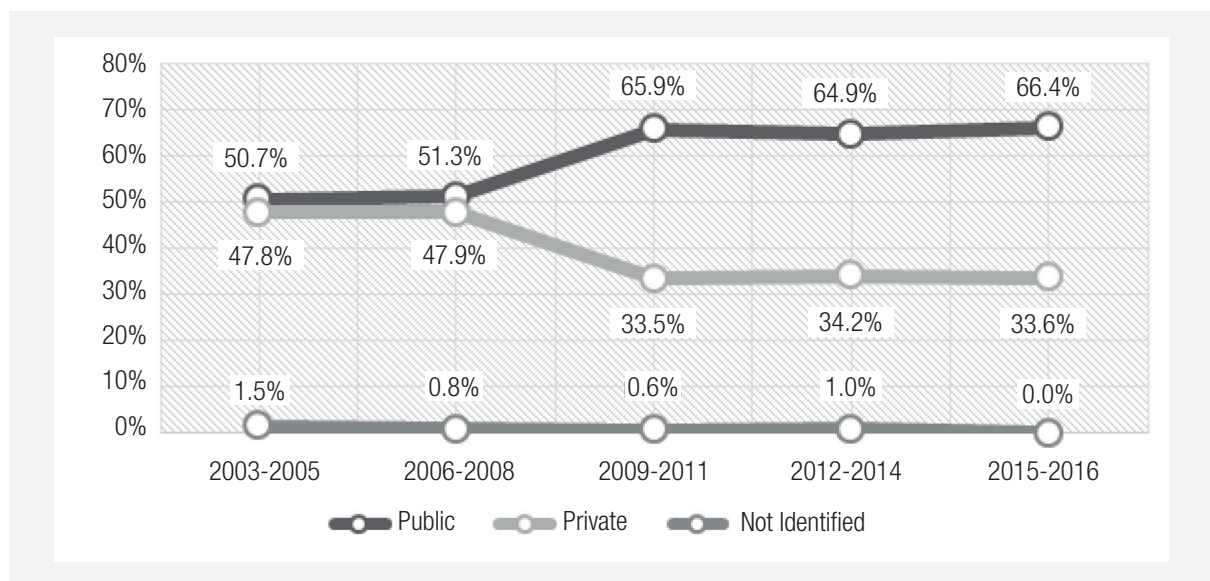
GRAPH 5 INSTITUTIONAL TIES OF LEAD AUTHORS WITH FGV, OTHERS AND NOT IDENTIFIED INSTITUTIONS



Source: Study data.

Analyzing the participation of FGV compared to other and non-identified institutions in terms of lead authors (graph 5), we can see that its participation has been decreasing over time: 17.2% of the articles produced by RAP in 2003-05 as compared to 8.4% in 2015-16. We can also compare this participation to the findings of Fleury and partners(2003), in which FGV participated in 23% of the articles. This fact illustrates that the journal now has a greater diversity in terms of the institutional affiliations of its lead authors, which has enriched its discussions of Public Administration.

GRAPH 6 NATURE OF LEAD AUTHOR'S INSTITUTION

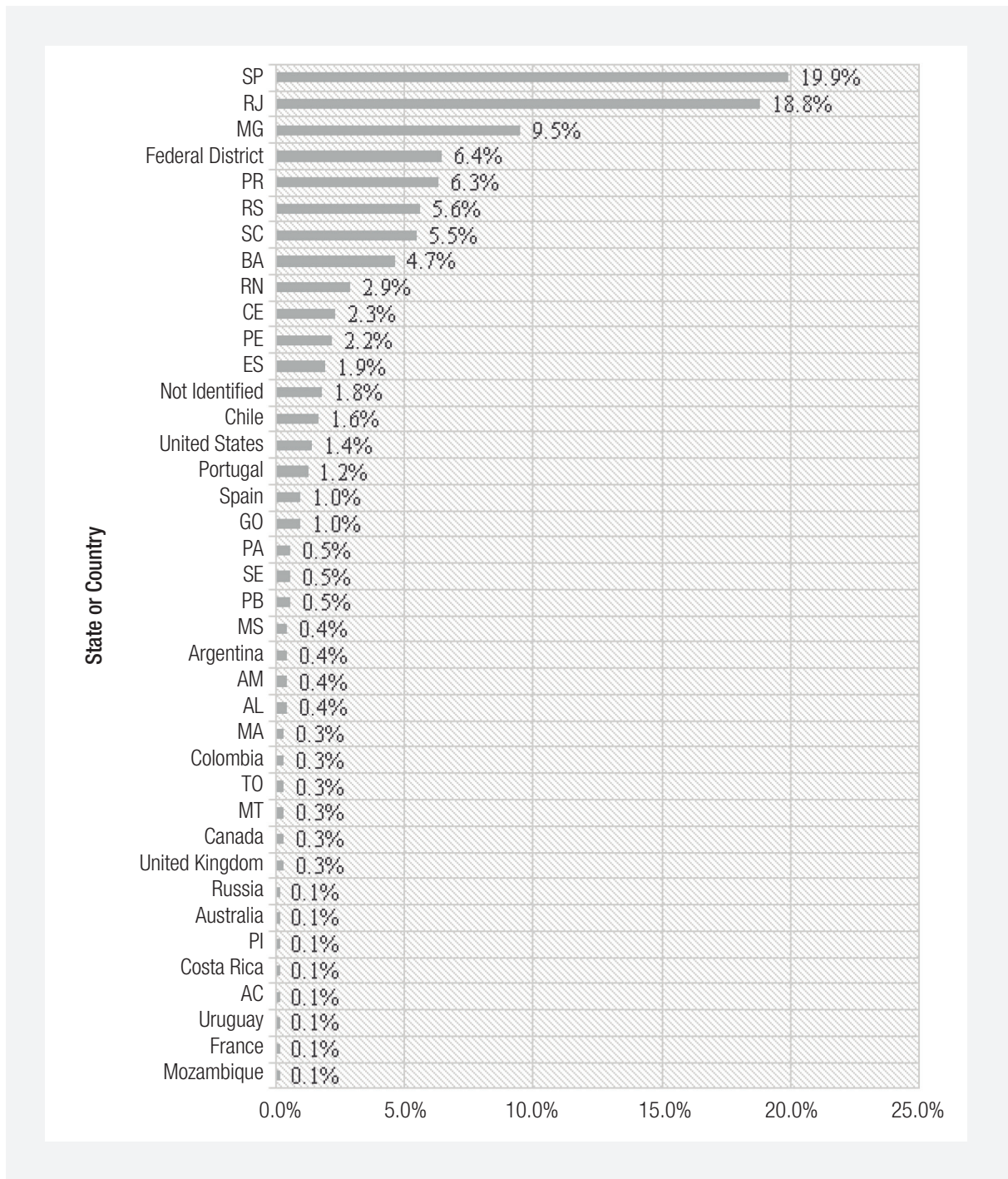


Source: Study data.

In terms of the nature of the institution of the lead author, we note a predominance of public institutions. In terms of the analyzed period, 60.4% of the articles are from public institutions, while 38.8% of them are from private institutions. Graph 6 indicates, therefore, the growth over time of the representation of authors from public institutions: 50.7% of the articles 2003-05 to 65.4% in 2015-16.

In relation to the location of the lead author's institution (graph 7), among Brazilian states the state of São Paulo appears in first position (19.9%), followed by Rio de Janeiro (18.8%) and Minas Gerais (9.5%). In terms of other countries, Chile and the United States lead with (1.6% and 1.4% respectively).

GRAPH 7 LOCATION OF THE LEAD AUTHOR'S INSTITUTION



Source: Study data.

3.2 ARTICLE CONTENT

This section analyzes the journal articles in terms of their content. Table 9 presents the results in terms of the *focus* of these RAP articles. In terms of the entire period, most of the articles fall under the prism of Administrative Sciences (56.1%), followed by Other areas of knowledge (14.4%), Economic Sciences and (10.8%) and Political Science (9.9%). Despite the primacy of Administrative Sciences, the journal has made space available to Other areas of knowledge. Juridical Sciences, Epistemology, and Anthropology are still areas of knowledge that do not appear often in the RAP.

TABLE 9 FOCUS OF ANALYZED ARTICLES

Focus	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-17	Overall Total
Administrative Sciences	57.5%	64.7%	56.3%	54.0%	48.6%	56.1%
Economic Sciences	8.2%	9.2%	13.2%	10.4%	13.1%	10.8%
Political Science	5.2%	8.4%	6.6%	15.3%	12.1%	9.9%
Sociology	3.0%	2.5%	4.2%	5.4%	5.6%	4.3%
Psychology	0.7%	3.4%	3.6%	2.0%	0.0%	2.1%
Juridical Sciences	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	7.5%	1.6%
Epistemology	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%
Anthropology	0.7%	0.8%	0,0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Others	23.9%	10.1%	15.6%	10.4%	13.1%	14.4%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100,0%	100.0%

Source: Study data.

Compared to the studies by Mezzomo and Laporta (1994) and Fleury and partners (2003), the *focus* of Administrative Sciences has continued to lose ground in terms of total publications (70.2% to 56.1% in this study), followed by Sociology (6.0% to 4.3%). In terms of areas that have increased their participation in relation to the previous study, we have Other fields of study (Others: 7.2% to 14.4%) and Economic Sciences (5.5% to 10.8%).

TABLE 10 LOCUS OF ARTICLES ANALYZED

Locus	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Science and Technology Administration	3.0%	5.0%	6.0%	4.0%	2.8%	4.3%
IT Administration	5.2%	7.6%	1.8%	5.0%	7.5%	5.1%
Municipal Administration	3.0%	0.8%	1.2%	9.9%	6.5%	4.7%

Continue

Locus	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Managerial Accounting and Control	2.2%	2.5%	7.2%	4.0%	12.1%	5.3%
Teaching and Research	6.0%	5.0%	5.4%	1.5%	0.9%	3.7%
Strategy	7.5%	1.7%	5.4%	2.0%	0.0%	3.4%
Organizational Studies	15.7%	16.8%	19.8%	13.4%	6.5%	14.8%
Federalism/Decentralization/ Local Authority	2.2%	4.2%	2.4%	2.0%	6.5%	3.2%
Finances	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	3.5%	1.9%	1.6%
Water Resource Management	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%
Hospital and Health Services Management	4.5%	2.5%	1.8%	1.5%	0.0%	2.1%
International Management	0.7%	1.7%	0.6%	0.0%	0.9%	0.7%
Public Management	3.0%	5.9%	4.2%	5.0%	1.9%	4.1%
Marketing	0.7%	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Other Public Policies	3.7%	7.6%	7.8%	6.4%	3.7%	6.0%
Governmental Planning	2.2%	3.4%	3.0%	4.0%	6.5%	3.7%
Environmental Policy	4.5%	5.9%	2.4%	2.0%	3.7%	3.4%
Social Assistance Policy	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	3.7%	2.3%
Education Policy	0.0%	1.7%	3.6%	3.0%	1.9%	2.2%
Housing and Sanitation Policy	0.7%	0.0%	1.8%	4.5%	2.8%	2.2%
Retirement Policy	0.7%	0.0%	1.2%	2.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Health Policy	8.2%	4.2%	6.0%	6.4%	5.6%	6.2%
Transport Policy	0.7%	0.8%	1.8%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Public Policy (General)	3.0%	5.0%	7.2%	5.9%	8.4%	5.9%
Social Policy (General)	1.5%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.9%	0.5%
Decision Making Process	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.0%	0.9%	0.5%
Human Resources	3.0%	2.5%	1.2%	1.0%	0.9%	1.6%
Administrative Reform /Modernization/ Reform of the State	7.5%	4.2%	2.4%	2.5%	5.6%	4.1%
Regulation	2.2%	6.7%	0.0%	2.0%	1.9%	2.3%
Non-Profit Sector/ NGOs/ Social Movements	0.7%	0.8%	1.2%	1.5%	1.9%	1.2%
Others	2.2%	3.4%	3.0%	4.0%	6.5%	3.7%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Study data.

The results of the locus analysis for *RAP* articles are presented in table 10. Organizational Studies was the most cited locus for journal publications from 2003 to 2016 with 14.8% of the articles, corroborating the bibliometric studies of Fleury and partners (2003) and Mezzomo and Laporta (1994). Next in order are Health Policy (6.2%), Other Public Policies (6.0%) and Public Policy (General) (5.9%).

This indicates that the Organizational Studies locus has lost ground comparatively in terms of *RAP* publications, because it represented 15.7% of the articles from 2003 to 2005, and only represented 6.5% of the articles in the two year period of 2015-2016, indicating movement contrary to that found for the period analyzed by Fleury and partners (2003). The fields that had the greatest increase between 2003 and 2016 were Managerial Accounting and Control (9.9 percentage points), followed by Public Policy (General) (5.4 percentage points). Another focus that has lost ground compared to the 2003 study is Administrative Reform/Modernization/Reform of the State (8.4% of total participation in that study and 4.1% in this work).

In terms of methodological approaches (table 11), they have been predominantly Applied — with 60.9% of the articles. In contrast, 36.9% are Theoretical and 2.2% are Not Applicable for this analysis (they were classified as such because they are bibliometric studies, analyses of experiences, or reports). Continuity in terms of the dominance of Applied studies conforms to the trend already pointed out by Fleury and partners (2003).

TABLE 11 ARTICLE APPROACHES

Approach	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Applied	50.7%	48.7%	56.3%	70.8%	75.7%	60.9%
Theoretical	49.3%	47.9%	41.3%	25.7%	23.4%	36.9%
Not Applicable	0.0%	3.4%	2.4%	3.5%	0.9%	2.2%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Study data.

Table 12 presents the evolution of the publication of Case Studies. During the entire period analyzed by this study, 56.4% of the *RAP* articles were Case Studies, as opposed to 43.6% which were not. It is important to note that this type of work has gained in importance over time. This is a change from the time of Fleury and partners (2003), because their findings pointed to a scarcity of this type of article. Case Studies have become more and more common in terms of articles by Brazilians based on data from the Web of Science, and have been influenced by the popularization of this methodology (Matos et al., 2016:116) and its simplicity in comparison with experimental research and studies

(Gil, Licht and Oliva, 2005:49). However, in many cases this methodology may have been used in an inappropriate manner (Matos et al., 2016; Gil, Licht and Oliva, 2005).

TABLE 12 PUBLICATION OF CASE STUDIES

Case Study	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Yes	44.8%	52.9%	51.5%	61.4%	72.9%	56.4%
No	55.2%	47.1%	48.5%	38.6%	27.1%	43.6%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Study data.

We have also sought to classify these articles as Qualitative, Quantitative or Quali/Quanti (table 13). Over the entire period, Qualitative articles have dominated with 76.4%, followed by mixed articles (13.4%) and Quantitative articles (10.2%). However, purely Qualitative works have lost ground in comparison to Quantitative works over this time. Other studies have already indicated this trend, which apparently demonstrates greater maturity in this area (Hocayen-Da-Silva, Rossoni, Ferreira Júnior, 2008).

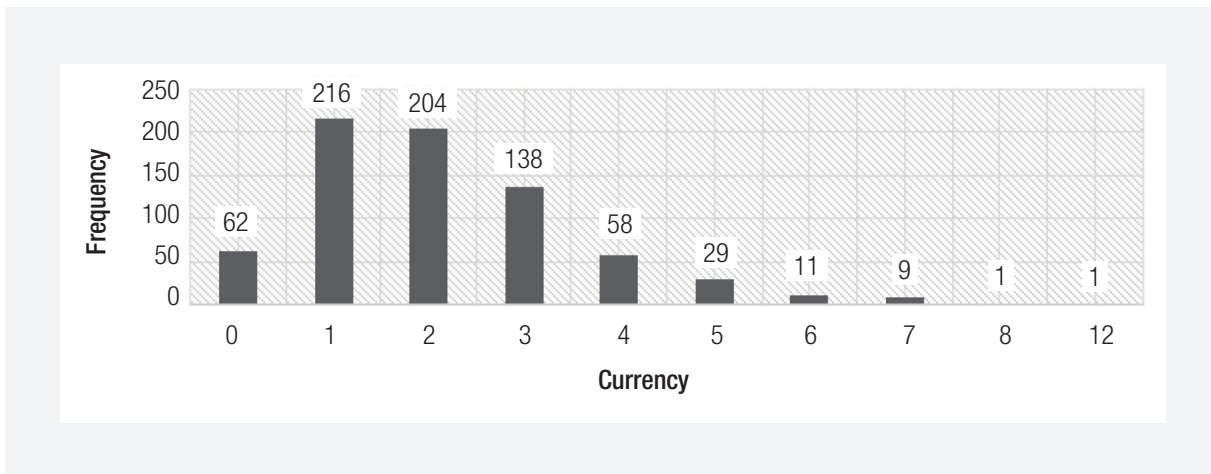
TABLE 13 METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH OF THESE ARTICLES

Type	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-14	2015-16	Overall Total
Qualitative	91.0%	91.6%	72.5%	69.8%	59.8%	76.4%
Quanti/Quali	6.0%	5.9%	15.0%	20.3%	15.9%	13.4%
Quantitative	3.0%	2.5%	12.6%	9.9%	24.3%	10.2%
Overall Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Study data.

In graph 8 we can observe the results regarding how current the references of these articles are and the number of works associated with these figures. Thus, our measurement of how up to date these articles are is based on the difference between the year of the latest reference utilized and the year of the article’s publication in the *RAP*.

GRAPH 8 CURRENCY OF THE REFERENCES



Source: Study data.

Note that 62 of the articles have a latest reference which is from the same year as the article’s publication; 216 articles have a latest reference which is from the year before, and 204 feature a latest reference from two years before the article’s publication.

3.3 ANALYSIS OF LOGISTIC REGRESSION

Table 14 presents a study of the binomial logistic regression which relates the association between joint publication in the *RAP*, given that there is a tendency towards co-authorship in Administration, and other indicators, with the significant results being compiled for each interaction. This has been done to determine differences in, or influences on, joint publications. The theoretical approach has 1.19 times less chance of being a joint publication compared to the Applied approach, which may be related to the fact that applied studies require more data and/or data collection as well as researchers with different abilities (Espartel et al., 2013; Ferreira and Serra, 2015). The field of Social Sciences has 1.54 times less chance of involving a co-authorship when compared to a publication in Administration.

Lead authors with a college education have a 2.46 times greater chance of having a joint publication than those with Doctorates. Authors pursuing a Master’s degree have a 1.08 times greater chance of having a joint publication than those with Doctorates, which could be related to the pressure for joint publications with graduate programs, especially for those who are beginning these programs (Ferreira and Serra, 2015). The International Management locus has a 3.30 times lesser chance of having a joint publication than Administration does.

TABLE 14 JOINT PUBLICATION VERSUS SIGNIFICANT VARIABLES (LOGIT BINOMIAL)

Analysis	Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	Z-Test	Pr(> z)
Approach	Theoretical	-1.2405	0.1828	-6.787	1.14e-11***
	Social Sciences	-1.545	0.5411	-2.855	0.004308**
Field	Law	-1.188	0.4999	-2.376	0.01749*
	Master's	0.8676	0.2071	4.19	2.787e-05***
Education	Not Identified	0.8151	0.266	3.064	0.002182**
	College	2.459	1.028	2.392	0.01674*
Degrees being pursued	Master's	1.077	0.6496	1.658	0.09726 .
	International Management	-3.296	1.24	-2.658	0.007851**
Locus	Social Assistance Policy	-1.553	0.7279	-2.133	0.0329*
	Administrative Reform / Modernization/Reform of the State	-2.315	0.6526	-3.547	0.0003894***
	Regulation	-2.266	0.7279	-3.113	0.001851**
Case Study	Yes	0.6044	0.1771	3.413	0.0006432***
Methodological Approach	Quanti/Quali	1.09	0.3339	3.266	0.001089**
	Quantitative	1.45	0.4364	3.323	0.0008896***
	Other	1.301	0.2498	5.209	1.902e-07***
Institutional Ties	PUC	0.8915	0.3541	2.518	0.01181*
	UFMG	1.383	0.5322	2.598	0.009387**
	UFRN	2.212	1.064	2.078	0.03767*
	UFSC	2.453	1.055	2.325	0.02007*
	USP	1.354	0.4939	2.742	0.006108**

Significance: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 '' 1

Source: Study data.

Case studies have a 0.6044 times greater chance of being a joint publication than other types of articles. Quanti/Quali articles have a 1.09 times greater chance of being a joint publication than Qualitative articles, and Quantitative articles have a 1.45 times greater chance, which could be related to the fact that quantitative studies require more data and/or specific quantitative methods which may lead to there being a greater number of researchers (Espartel et al., 2013; Ferreira and Serra, 2015). Articles by lead authors from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN) and the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) have greater chances of being joint publications in comparison to FGV in the following respective proportions (2.45, 2.21 and 1.38).

4. CONCLUSION

The use of bibliometric studies has made great contributions to the understanding of the evolution of various subjects of interest to the scientific community. That being so, the bibliometric indicators presented here have enabled us to delineate the evolution of the *Journal of Public Administration (RAP)* in Brazil. It also indicates that the field of Public Administration is developing mainly through joint publications, due to the education of researchers and the type of methodological approaches that they use. Moreover, there are indications of the predominant use of theories linked to Administrative Sciences, and a reduction in the journal's focus on analyzing organizations. In any event, it has become necessary to track this evolution, not just because of the economic and social importance of this subject, but also due to the growth of academic production, its solidification as a discipline, and its integration with related subjects.

The profiles of the 729 articles analyzed demonstrate that there are now more joint articles, the number of authors per article has increased, and there is a predominance of men in these publications, though the participation of women has increased. The majority of the studies are Brazilian, developed most often by FGV, PUC and USP. The content of these articles points to a *focus* based on Administrative Sciences, but over time it has become less dominant, showing diversity in terms of the theoretical perspectives utilized. In terms of the *locus*, Organizational Studies has been the main territory explored, but it also has ceded ground to other areas over time. Case studies featuring applied and quantitative approaches have also increased during this period.

The fact that most works have been developed through co-authorship has led us to try to understand the reasons, causes and consequences of this trend. Many of the fields and/or methodologies employed have low levels of joint cooperation, and this is a subject of paramount importance to the development of the science of Public Administration. The data indicates that joint publications are related to the education of the researcher and studies of a quantitative and applied nature, because these types of studies demand more data or different analysis techniques, which mean a greater number of researchers.

We conclude that Public Administration is evolving and consolidating, and the patterns observed in the studies of Mezzomo and Laporta (1994) and Fleury and partners (2003), have been changing in terms of the author's profiles, the theoretical bases utilized, and the territory explored. Therefore, the analysis presented here reveals the importance of following the evolution of *RAP's* technical-methodological production for the academic community, because it enriches the process of internationalization sought by this journal, and the importance of using logistic regressions to improve the quality of bibliometric studies.

Thus, we recommend that future studies compare these results with other journals and research areas, using them to analyze the international experience as well as cooperation between different countries, and that they analyze the citations of these works as well.

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