

The Governance Map in the Context of the Global Indicators

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ABSTRACT: At ambit of legality, legitimacy and their socio-environmental impacts, this article aims to highlight the importance of the institutional environment in the context of governance for the positioning of countries in the global scenario. The research is based on the scientific literature about the Global Indicators of Governance (GIG) published in Scopus journals over a period of 10 years, assisted by application of the Bibliometrix software and the textual analysis performed in that literature. The aggregate global governance indicators are monitored by the World Bank that bring the performance and comparative ranking of nations since 1996. The bibliometric analysis included: annual evolution of the theme, most relevant journals, collaboration network between authors from diverse nations, works with the greatest impact on the scientific community with their approaches, most significant keywords and countries with the highest quantity of academic institutions involved with the topic. Due the data generated, complementary textual and statistical analyzes were performed, which led to creation of a structure of categories associated with the thematic axis of the works and the disposition of the subject, in the world geographic space. The results suggest that, as a measure of accuracy, GIGs provide a practical and consistent compendium of the evident differences in the quality of governance found in countries. The study provides significant examination regarding the impact of governance performance for socioeconomic development and the growing participation of emerging countries in the development of knowledge, since this process proved to be supported by the literature found, which we associate with North and South Global geographic space, generating such reflexion.

Keywords: Global Governance Indicators; Global North and South; Economic Development; Bibliometrics

RESUMO: No âmbito da legalidade, da legitimidade e seus impactos socioambientais, o presente artigo tem como propósito destacar a importância do ambiente institucional no contexto da governança para o posicionamento dos países no cenário global. A pesquisa fundamenta-se na literatura científica acerca dos Indicadores Globais de Governança (IGG) publicada nos periódicos da base *Scopus* no período de 10 anos, auxiliada pela aplicação do software Bibliometrix, e pela análise textual realizada na referida literatura. Os indicadores agregados mundiais de governança são monitorados pelo Banco Mundial que trazem o desempenho e a

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classificação comparativa das nações desde 1996. A análise bibliométrica incluiu a evolução do tema, periódicos mais relevantes, rede de colaboração entre autores das diversas nações, trabalhos com maior impacto no meio científico com suas abordagens, as palavras-chave mais significativas e países com maior quantitativo de instituições acadêmicas envolvidas com o tema. Em virtude dos dados gerados, análises complementares textuais foram realizadas, que levaram a criação de uma estrutura de categorias associadas ao eixo temático dos trabalhos e a disposição do assunto, no espaço geográfico mundial. Os resultados sugerem que, como medidas de precisão, os IGG fornecem um apanhado prático e consistente das evidentes diferenças da qualidade de governança encontradas nos países. O estudo fornece significativo exame referente ao impacto do desempenho da governança para o desenvolvimento socioeconômico e a crescente participação dos países emergentes no desenvolvimento do saber, uma vez que este processo se mostrou apoiado pela literatura encontrada, a qual associamos ao espaço geográfico Norte e Sul Global gerando tal reflexão.

Palavras-chave: Indicadores globais de governança; WGI; Norte e Sul global; Desenvolvimento econômico.

1 INTRODUCTION

Considering the importance of the subject for the Nations, the concept of governance gains importance from the point that it becomes a fundamental component for development policies, acting with significant potential influencer in the process of economic growth (Roy, 2006, p. 3).

Governance is, according to Kaufmann et al. (1999, p. 1), related to the set of traditions and norms through which authority is exerted in a country. For Roy (2006, p. 5), in this sense, governance refers to "... the performance of government including public and private sectors, global and local arrangements, formal structures and informal norms and practices, spontaneous and intentional systems of control. ”.

The report Our Global Neighborhood, of 1994, presented by the Commission for Global Governance, understands, from a set of integrated structures, Governance as the sum of the many institutional and individual manners, public and private, adopted to manage common interests.

Paraphrasing a concept given to economics, Peter McCawley (2005, p. 2) adjusts it to governance as being "who controls what and for whom". For being these many subjective manners and seek objectivity for appreciation of the functioning of governance in countries, numerical indicators are applied, as a form of accessible knowledge, which, by excluding embedded theories and ambiguous interpretations,

rely on the magic of numbers, the appearance of certainty and the objectivity they convey (Merry, 2011, p. 584).

Leaning in the premisses of the indicators, as standardized forms, Kaufmann et al., in 1999, from the content compiled from a database with more than 300 governance indicators, from different sources, build six corresponding aggregate indicators to six basic concepts of global governance, which allow comparison between countries. And for being aggregated, these indicators, “[...] become a useful way to combine, organize and summarize information from alternative sources and thus reduce the influence of measurement error on any individual indicator.” (Kaufmann and Kraay, 2007, p. 26). Thus contributing, each dimension to the improvement of the performance conditions of the other dimensions (Kaufmann et al., 2010, p. 5).

It is understood that governments are not the only ones responsible for generating mechanisms about Governance in the Global scenario, but they are fundamental sources of answers to current issues that affect people and, in a way, the global community. However, it is necessary to align institutional practices with the demands of the global market, which has come to judge organizations not only for the excellence of their services, but also for their excellence in the way in which they exercise their political, environmental and social responsibilities (Bovaird and Löffler, 2003, p. 315).

The relevance of this study, in addition to filling a gap identified in the field of governance indicators, is justified by considering the growing value of governance studies and the effect brought by this knowledge, as an additional support and influential component for economic development policies and their effects. in the social and environmental field, even as insights for new research trails

The article aims to point out the importance of the institutional environment in the context of governance for the positioning of countries in the global scenario. The research is based on the scientific literature about the Global Indicators of Governance (GIG) published in the journals of the Scopus database over a period of 10 years, aided by the application of the Bibliometrix, open software for mapping and analysis of scientific production and by the textual analysis carried out in the referred literature, offering a new structure of thematic categories adopted in the researches and presenting a reflexion about the association of researches with the North-South

geographic space at the international level, bringing to the discussion studies that analyze countries seen as on the periphery of capitalism (Gomes and Mechan, 2017, p. 100).

This research is divided into five sections. In addition to this introduction to the theme with objective and relevance, we present in the second section, the theoretical substantiation, with the main themes addressed in this study. In the third, the exposition of the methodology used to meet the stated objective. In the fourth section, the results are presented and analyzed. Lastly, final considerations are presented, including limitations and suggestions for future research.

2 THEORETICAL REFERENCE

Governance - Definitions and Context

In this section we analyze concepts of global governance that include the dimension of the competitiveness of nations.

The concept of governance gains importance from the point that it becomes a fundamental component for development policies, acting with significant influencing potential in the economic growth process (Roy, 2006, p. 3). The World Bank (1992) supports this importance by stating that "Governance is the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development".

In a broad sense, governance is, according to Kaufmann et al. (1999, p. 1) related to the set of traditions and norms through which authority is exercised in a country. Being engaged in this practice:

- (a) the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced;
- (b) the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies, and
- (c) the respect of citizens and the State for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them. (Kaufmann et al., 1999, p. 1)

Macclavey (2005, p. 6) adds to the three points mentioned above, the need for the executive, legislative and judicial powers to be interacting with their adjusted and stable power functions.

Roy (2006, p. 5) refers to governance as “performance of the government including public and private sectors, global and local arrangements, formal structures and informal norms and practices, spontaneous and intentional systems of control.”

A very interesting view on the concept of governance comes from Gomes and Merchán (2017, p. 88), when they relativize the definition of the concept to the context and to the theoretical perspective adopted in that context, therefore it is difficult to standardize. But, regardless of the context, even at the global level, according to the author, the concept is linked to empirical actions that, thus, have implications for society. Mendes et al (2021, p. 2) add that let there be apparatuses that effectively guarantee the well-being of society.

It is here that we promote the understanding of the term Institutions, as being a law, practice or established custom. Most of the literature follows North's definition (1990, p. 3) who describes it as “the rules of the game in a society; (and) more formally, (as) the humanly conceived constraints that shape human interaction.”. Hodgson (2007, p. 331) also defines it as “lasting processes of socially ingrained norms”. Rodriguez-Pose (2013, p. 1037) conceptualizes it as being “more subjective, less clear, more controversial and, precisely because of this, much more difficult to operationalize”. With this, we want to remove the idea of giving the term the material meaning of an Institution or an Organization.

Inspired by Earl Babbie's argument (1999, p. 180) in which “Such unspecified concepts are often said to have a richness of meaning, in the sense that they combine a variety of elements, summarizing a complex phenomenon.”, this study uses the composition of Kaufmann et al. (1999, p. 7) which specifies governance as consisting of 6 dimensions: Voice and Accountability, Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law and Corruption Control. A fact to be highlighted is the issue of terrorism, where initially, in 1999, this topic was not addressed in research. From 2001, it becomes part of the question forms and in 2010 it takes on the designation of one of the dimensions.

The authors also point the interdependence of the dimensions, when they deach that better accountability mechanisms lead to less corruption; more effective governments can provide a better regulatory environment and that the fair conduct of

the law leads to more honest processes in the selection and replacement of governments, as well as less abuse of public power for private gain.

In view of what has already been presented, in this reference on Governance, we follow Babbie's (1999, p. 180) statement that "the majority of the interesting concepts for social researchers have no real meaning, nor ultimate definition." we therefore believe that measuring it is more valuable than defining governance.

Assess Governance through Global Indicators

Even though there is no consensus, in the understanding, as to which potential indicators portray the certainty of the object to be studied, for the creation of constructs referents to the demands of society, indicators are widely used mechanisms, which grow, both at the level nationally and transnationally, to analysis, comparisons and scenario constructions.

By making the indicators visible, in the social field, violations of human rights and inequalities foster strategies and reforms for social justice around the world (Merry, 2011, p. 585).

Social relations, today, as well as political and economic, have surpassed the borders of nations and continents, strengthened and intensified by globalization, which has revealed new forms of politics and governance now presented regionally, internationally and globally (Held, 2000, p. 394). In the global context of governance, as long as the research focuses on the evaluation and promotion and reputation of countries through indicators "introduces a new form of knowledge production with implications on the relations of power between rich and poor nations and between governments and civil society." (Merry, 2011, p. 583).

In this debate about global governance and the monitoring of its performance through indicators, the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) monitors, since 1996, global indicators grouped into six dimensions, drawn from public and private sector sources around the world, in which the collected data reflect the opinions of experts and Non-Governmental Organizations (Kaufmann et al., 2010, p. 20).

Kaufmann et al report in their article Aggregating Governance Indicators (1999, Summary Finding section), that "These aggregate governance indicators are useful because they allow countries to be sorted into broad groupings according to levels of governance, and they can be used to study the causes and consequences

of governance in a much larger sample of countries”. Table 1 explains the operational scope of each of the six dimensions monitored by the World Bank.

Table 1- Operational Scope of Dimensions in WGI

Dimensions	Operational Range
Voice and Accountability	Reflects perceptions of the degree to which a country's citizens are able to participate in the selection of their government, as well as freedom of expression, freedom of association and a free media
Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism	Measures perceptions of the possibility of political instability and/or politically motivated violence, including terrorism.
Government Effectiveness	Reflects perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the private service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of government commitment to such policies.
Regulatory Quality	Reflects perceptions of the government's ability to formulate and implement effective policies and regulations that enable and promote private sector development.
Rule of Law	Reflects perceptions of the extent to which officials are trustworthy and respect societal norms, in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police force and the judiciary, as well as the likelihood of violence and crime.
Controle of Corruption	Reflects perceptions of the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, including both trivial and grandiose forms of corruption, as well as the "control" of the state by elites and private interests.

The importance of evaluating these indicators is, in the understanding of Kaufmann et al. (1999, p. 1), that there is a strong causal relationship between the style of governance and the consequent development of the nation.

When we choose the WGI in this study, was took into account the fact that as a measure of precision, it provides a practical and consistent bunch of the evident differences in the quality of governance found across countries.

Bibliometric Analysis

With the exponential growth of serial scientific publications in the mid-twentieth century (Stumpf, 1996, p. 3), occurs a need to intensify the use of tools that accompany this evolution examining, concurrently, approaches, behaviors and trends.

Initially defined by Hulme, in 1923, as “statistical bibliography”, which according to Araújo (2006, p. 12) consisted of “the application of statistical and

mathematical techniques to describe aspects of literature”, the term Bibliometrics was created in 1934 by Otlet and popularized by Pritchard in 1969 in an article in which pointed the benefits of using quantitative methods in the analysis of scientific productions.

Araujo (2006, p. 12) interprets Bibliometrics as being:

Initially focused on the measurement of books (number of editions and copies, number of words contained in books, space occupied by books in libraries, statistics related to the book industry), it gradually turned to the study of other formats of bibliographic production, such as journal articles and other types of documents, and then also deal with author productivity and the study of citations.

For Sharma (2012, p. 162) bibliometrics is seen as a research method that, beyond to map the knowledge structure of a scientific field, is used to analyze the behavior of researchers in their decisions in the construction of knowledge. For such, the journal became a global and essential reference in bibliometric research to obtain an overview of the intellectual structure of a field of knowledge. (Hill and Carley, 1999, p. 10).

Bibliometrics, still in its initial phase, was developed from the creation of three basic laws about the performance of literary production: Lotka's Law (authors' scientific productivity), Bradford's Law (journals productivity) and Zipf's Law (frequency of occurrence of words).

Lotka's Law, from 1926, referent to the productivity of authors, where in general terms, it proposes that a few authors produce a lot and can be matched by a large number of authors who produce little. It is also known as the Inverse Square Law due to its premise: the number of authors who have published exactly (n) works is inversely proportional to (n²). For Guedes and Borschiver (2005, p. 5), the applicability of this principle “is verified in the evaluation of researchers' productivity and also in the identification of the most developed research centers” in the theme.

Bradford's law, from 1934, is also known as the Law of Dispersion “allows, by measuring the productivity of journals, to establish the core and areas of dispersion on a given subject in the same set of journals” (Vanti, 2002, p. 153). This principle also serving, according to Beuren and Souza (2007, p. 46) as “an especially useful

instrument for the development of policies for the acquisition and disposal of periodicals”.

Zipf's Law (1949) is related to words and their respective frequency. It is also known as the Law of Least Effort. It focuses on measuring the frequency of the appearance of words in various texts, generating a ranking of words with their respective frequencies.

3 METHODOLOGY

We resorted to the combination of a methodological continuum between the qualitative and the quantitative. This decision-making was consonant for both an interpretative and positivist investigation (Lessard-Hebert et al., 2008, p. 34) In line with the objectives, the research is characterized as exploratory and descriptive. Regarding the approach, it is classified as a research of combined methods, ie quantitative and qualitative As for the technical procedures adopted, it is referred to as bibliographic and the discrete method of content analysis. (Leavy, 2017, pages 5-15).

For the extraction of the dataset and the proper mapping, the scientific production in the multidisciplinary base of Scopus scientific journals, classified as high level and frequently used by the academic community, was considered. We used the search tools available in that system, within the Boolean logic, for the following group of expressions: “Worldwide Governance Indicators” OR “WGI” OR “World Governance Indicators” OR “Global Governance Indicators” OR “Global Governance Indicators” ” OR “Global Governance Indicators” OR “Global Governance Indicators”. The search considered publications from January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2022, in the Title, Abstract and Keywords fields, only in peer-reviewed articles published in English and Spanish in the Business, Management and Accounting categories; Social Sciences; Economics, Echometry and Finance and Decision Sciences.

Considering the above criteria, the result was 184 articles that, after the process of excluding 14 articles, as they dealt with another research topic, the final basis for an effective bibliometric analysis consisted of 170 articles.

In this dataset, the first tool used was Bibliometrix, an open software for mapping and analysis of scientific production (<https://bibliometrix.org/index.html>), which systematically identified for our analysis: the volume and growth of publications in the period; the most productive and relevant journals; the authors' production and the international collaboration between them; highlighting the most frequent terms; the most relevant research in the academic environment and the institutions in the geographic space involved with the theme.

However, later on, in order to provide a peculiar assessment, we used the method of content analysis, initially in the abstracts and, when necessary, a complete examination of the article to resolve any disagreements. The textual analysis made it possible to create new reports, in addition to those generated by the Bibliometrix, reaching points of interest on the subject not listed in the tool, such as: a) the core of the research converge mostly to discussions linked to qualified countries in geopolitics, such as countries in the Global South; b) grouping into 36 thematic axes, the objects of interest to researchers with strong participation of the corruption factor linked to the results achieved; and c) the position in order of frequency of these categories.

It should be noted here that, although the Bibliometrix software is an excellent tool for analysis, as well as the Scopus database, recognized for the excellence of its associated journals, we found that there were some mistakes regarding the insertion of data provided by the authors, when including your searches in the Scopus database. Thus, generating reports that did not reflect the reality of the production on the selected theme.

Through the recount and manual examination of the documents in the sample, frequent errors were found, especially in the identification of the academic centers to which the authors are affiliated at the time of publication of their works. This suggests that, in the database, there is no standardization in the fields for filling in the information, referring to the articles deposited there.

The results achieved, after corrections, generation of a new dataset and textual examination, are presented in the following sections.

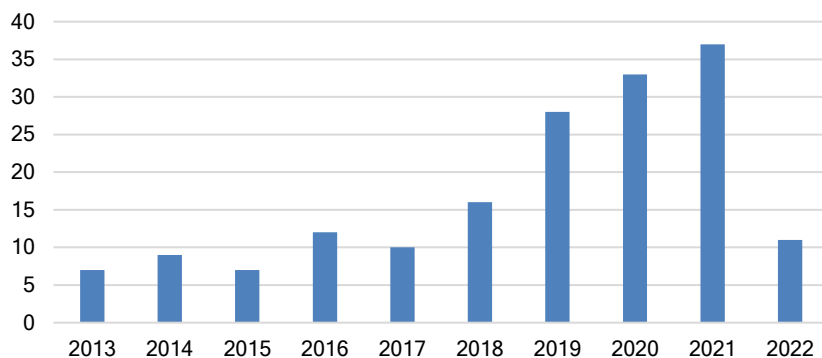
4 RESULTS

From the sample considered, we highlight the results generated by the software and complemented with our analyzes and findings.

Publications and global trend in the period

As a result of 170 articles, concentrated in 66 nations, we realized that the topic expands in academic society over a period of ten years. As well as, in the analysis of this evolution, we perceived the tendency to an annual growth seen the search took place in the first quarter of 2022, presenting a comparatively significant partial value (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Evolution of the theme in the period



We understand that the significant increase of 75% in 2019, represents the progressive interest of the academy to include in the global debate the accentuated impact of governance on the structures legitimized by societies, for the relationships of the daily life.

Periodicals - Production and relevance

In sense of to check the journal's productivity, the Bradford's Law, in its definition, is the appropriate instrument to verify in which journal there is greater concentration about given subject. Of the 170 articles on the topic, distributed in 131 periodicals, according to the aforementioned Law, the most productive periodicals with publication equal to or greater than 3 articles in the period are presented in Figure 2.

Another indicator regarding the merit of the scientific journal is based on its Impact Factor. Classifying criterion of the journal's relevance, to the academic world and internationally recognized, based on all the citations that its articles received in a given period divided by the number of articles published in the same period - Figure 3 (GALOÁ, 2017).

Figure 2 - Most productive journals

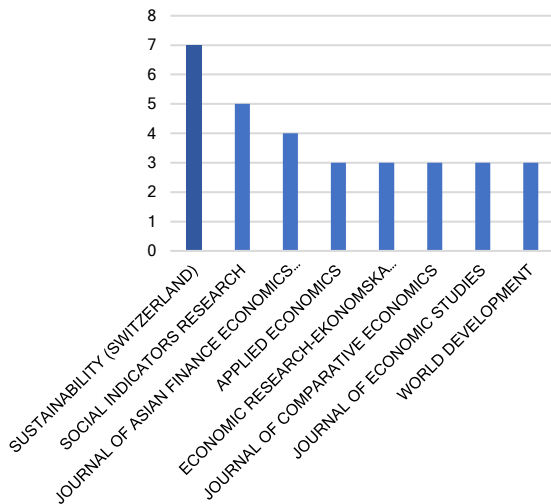
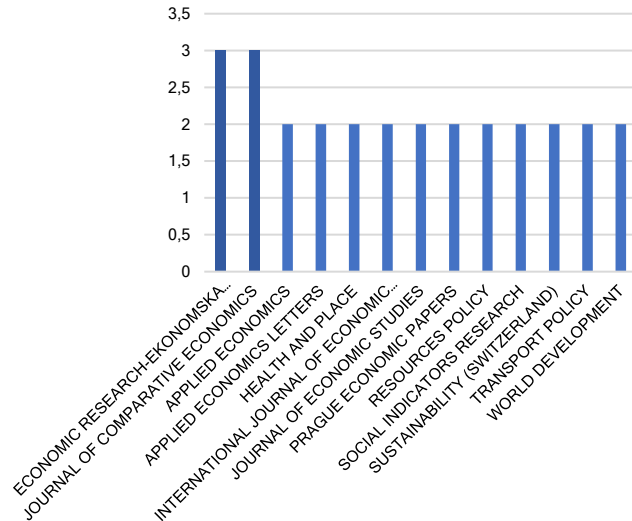


Figure 3 - Most relevant journals



Most relevant group of journals with greater relevance. Being the Economic Research - Ekonomska Istrazivanja and the Journal of Comparative Economics the journals with the highest values in the Impact Factor, considered the most prestigious (Figure 3).

Authors - Collaboration and Provenance

Regarding to research productivity, it was identified that the 170 articles were prepared by 420 authors. There are not many researchers with a high concentration of authorship in relation to the topic, in view of that for this study, there was a delimitation of 10 years of publication. The authors with the highest production are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Most productive authors

Authors	N. of Articles
DIMA, B.; KAYA, H. D.; LAW, S.H.; NAZ, M.; UYAR, A.	3
AKISIK, O.; JAWAD, M.; MAROOF, Z.; MOMBEUIL, C.; OSABOHIEN, R.; SCHNFELDER, N.; WAGNERH.	2

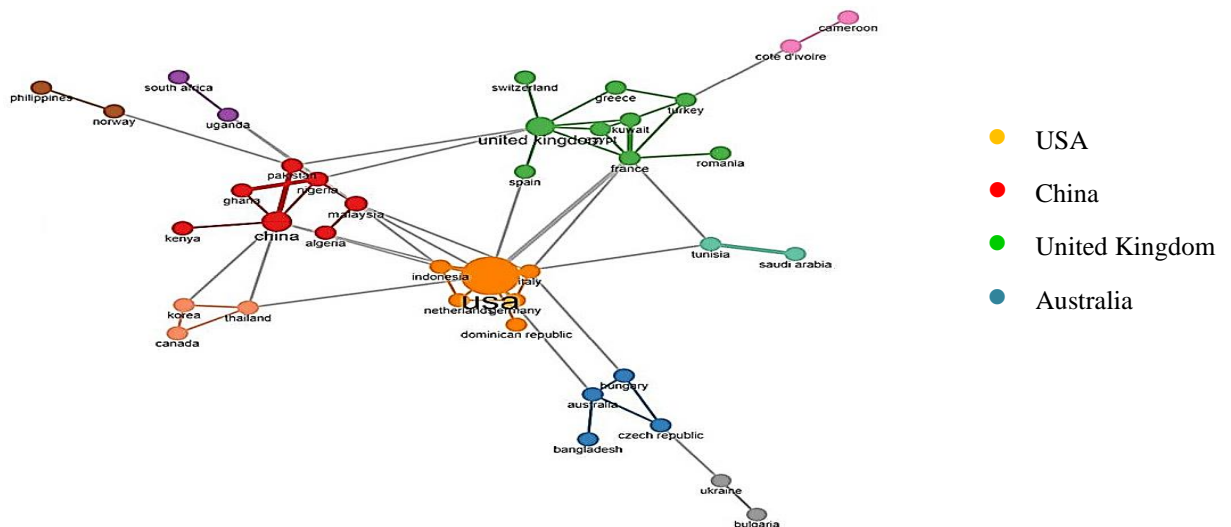
Approaching the exposed by Lotka about the quantity of production, we evidenced the disproportion between authors with three and two productions for those with only one production, with a large number of authors with few works (Lotka, 1923), Table 3.

Table 3 - Production quantity by author

420 Authors	N. Articles	% of Authors
5	3	1,2
7	2	1,7
408	1	97,1

Another point to be considered is the structure of collaboration between the authors' nations in the productions, where 78% of the research was developed by two or more authors.

Figure 4 - Collaborative network between nations



Note: Developed by authors using the Bibliometrix plataforma.

The collaborative network related to the authors' countries has 10 clusters. It is evident that the work was done mainly with the USA, China, United Kingdom and Australia. The strongest clusters are explained by the fact that these countries have the largest number of academic institutions involved with the topic in question, as shown in Figure 4.

James Moody (2004, p. 213) infers that "Scientists embedded in collaboration networks share ideas, use similar techniques, and otherwise influence each other's work." by targeting the researches about social welfare are more likely to be developed in co-authorship. These ties between scholars, from the academic community, favor the formation of knowledge and the construction of mental models because they have the same interpretations regarding a given situation (Hill, and Carley, 1999 p. 2).

This theory is supported on our result presented in table 4, where we can see a significant volume of works inserted in the thematic axes that address social inequalities and the influence of corruption, as well as the lack of control of this one, in the dynamics of society. We illustrate with this how representative we understand to be the data set considered in this work.

The broad collaborative network, related to the countries of the authors involved in the elaboration of the research, we refer to as an attempt by researchers, from countries of the South allied to those of the North, to permeate the global board, for treating it of a common interest, the importance of governance for social, economic and environmental improvements, narrowing the gap in economic development between countries.

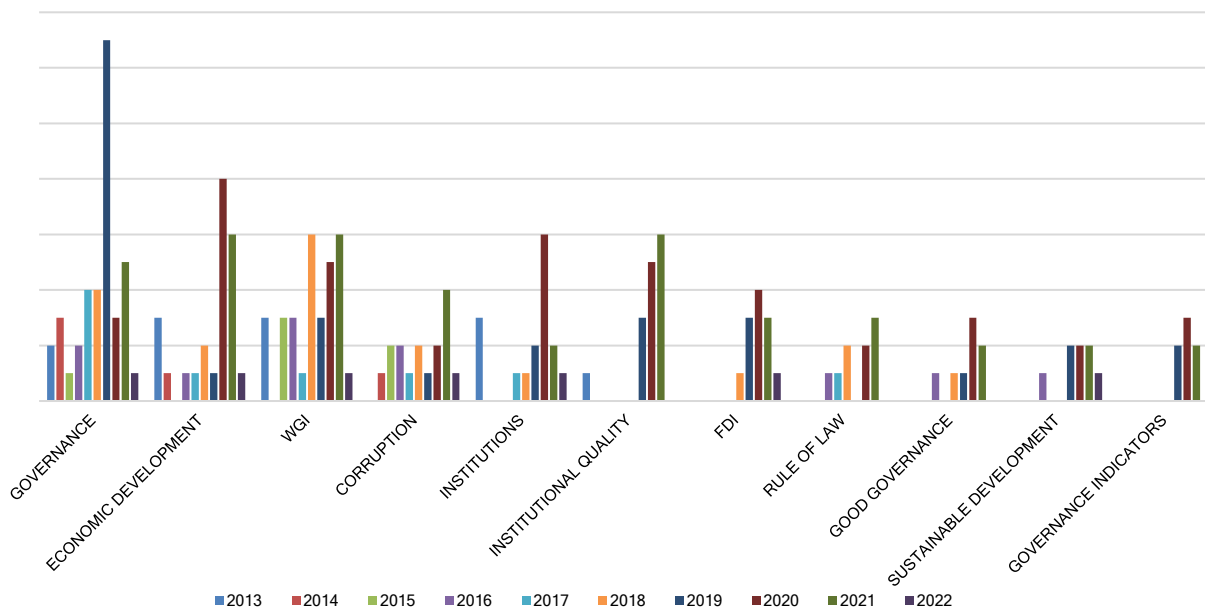
Keyword frequency

Of the authors' total of 525 keywords, considering the 170 articles, we defined the minimum occurrence limit of the keyword as five. Thus, based on Zipf's Law, about the frequency of the appearance of words, 11 items were analyzed (Figure 5).

The term "governance" stands out with 38 occurrences, followed by "global governance indicators" with 31, "economic growth" with 24. Even as "corruption" and "institutional" appear with 16 occurrences each, "institutional quality" with 15 and "foreign direct investment" with 12 occurrences.

The annual perspective of the most relevant keywords is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5 - Annual perspective of the most relevant Keywords



The analysis based on the occurrence of keywords revealed the intensity of the term governance associated to the economic development, especially for the years 2019/2020, showing the breadth of the discussion in this period.

This provides information about the term, connecting it with the scenario found that year, given the political crises linked to the governments of nations. For example, the impeachment process of Donald Trump (USA), the parallel government of Juan Guaidó (Venezuela), the socioeconomic protests in Chile and Haiti, the Brexit of the European Union (United Kingdom), revealing the concern in the works, with better institutional governance and its effect on socioeconomic performance.

Research - Relevance and Approaches

One of the most important metrics in productivity research is taken by the evaluation of the most visible works. Hill and Carley (1999, p. 10) call this external view of work of "in-degree", where many authors are influenced by work external to what they are producing.

Considering this analysis, at a global level, we carried out the visualization, in Table 4, of the 12 works with the highest number of citations and their respective intended objectives.

Table 4 - Works with the highest number of citations

Citations	Article	Research Intent
44	Empirical linkages between good governance and national well-being (2018)	Analyzes how much the quality of governance in countries impacts the quality of life of people in that country
43	Poverty Reduction and Good Governance: Examining the Rationale of the Millennium Development Goals (2014)	Examines the relationship of good governance and poverty reduction, one of the millennium goals for global development
42	Extractive industries and corruption: Investigating the effectiveness of EITI as a scrutiny mechanism (2016)	It investigates the effectiveness of the Extractive Industries Transparency initiative as a mechanism for controlling corruption. In addition to which factors lead countries to join the TIE and whether membership leads to greater control of corruption
40	Institutions and economic development: A Granger causality analysis of panel data evidence (2013)	It examines the causal relationship between economic development and the institutional framework of the country, through indicators of global governance and the International Guide to risk in the country.
37	Institutional complementarity for social and economic Development (2019)	It analyzes how the quality of governance in countries impacts the quality of life of people in that country.
35	Divining the level of corruption: A Bayesian state-space approach (2015)	It proposes a new methodological framework combining the Corruption Indicators provided by the World Bank, the Global Governance Indicators and the Corruption Index
32	Open Economy, Institutional Quality, and Environmental Performance: A Macroeconomic Approach (2016)	It examines the extent to which the openness of a market economy and institutional quality affect the nation's environmental performance.
28	Natural resources curse: A reality in África (2019)	It analyzes the paradox that countries endowed with natural resources tend to have lower GDP per capita and worse development outcomes than countries with less.
28	Governance and Globalisation (2013)	Analyzes the effect of a nation's level of democracy on the level of its flow of foreign direct investment
28	Can institutions explain cross country differences in innovative activity? (2013)	Analyzes the significant effect of institutional quality on RandD intensity.
27	Targeting, accountability and capture in development projects (2014)	Through a set of data between countries, projects and investment diversion and the problems of corruption and diversion in financing.
25	(De)politicizing good governance: the World Bank Institute, the OECD and the politics of governance Indicators (2014)	It examines the evolving field of measuring good governance through analysis of the WGIs established by the World Bank and its recent competitor, the OECD project "Government at a Glance", which claims to provide an alternative to existing classifications.
22	Institutions and the financial development–economic growth nexus in sub-Saharan Africa (2020)	It examines the effect of financial development on economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa, using the International Country Risk Guide and Global Governance Indicators.
20	Corporate governance and firm performance: an empirical evidence from Syria (2018)	It combines company-level Syrian Arab Republic corporate governance indicators with country governance indicators and examines the performance of all companies listed on the Damascus Securities Exchange.
19	Quantitative assessment of political fragility indices and food prices as indicators of food riots in countries (2015)	It assesses indices of political fragility to see if they are good indicators of propensity for eating disorders and food riots. The most accurate are the WGI Political Instability and Absence of Violence Indicator.

In the field of this investigation, the work most often in the substantiation of other researches, can be seen in “Empirical linkages between good governance and national well-being” of 2018, where it deals with a subjective well-being required by society, which correlates with the institutional quality in the country, the product of social and economic progress.

This fact was perceived as a result of the change identified in people's assessment of how they value and perceive quality in their lives. Thus, identifying that the good governance affects the lives of these people through channels other than those captured by the value of GDP and per capita income, allowing them to reach high levels of personal satisfaction from something that is important to them. An example of this impact is the good level of trust in social relations between citizens, further to their good relationship with the government. With this same perspective, Berggruen and Gardels (2013, p.) understands that institutional policies, cultural habits and the economic system must be aligned to provide the quality of life desired by the people.

Research - Thematic Axes

The unit of analysis used here was the summary section data set of all 170 documents. As we look at this textual analysis, which according to Bardin (1977, p. 28) “implies an exhaustive work with divisions, calculations and incessant improvements of the métier.”, the classification of works is elaborated according to the researched object within the dynamics of the society. The categorization is an operation of classifying elements of a set, by differentiation and, later, by regrouping according to the common characters of these elements, their analogies (Bardin, 1977, p. 117).

In sequence, we proceeded to choose the analytical categories and the works were regrouped, enabling the creation of a framework by thematic axes.

Considering such analysis, since codification is mainly an interpretative act (Saldana, 2009, page 4), we found in the 170 articles, 36 thematic axes linked to the three dimensions that inseparably support sustainability: economic prosperity, social justice and quality environment (Elkington, 1997, page VII).

Table 5- Thematic axes in the three dimensions of sustainability

TEMATICS AXIS	FRE QEN CY	DIMENSION
Financial and capital market efficiency, regulation and stability	19	ECONÔMIC
Rules and Regulations on Foreign and Domestic Investment	17	
Consistency of institutional quality and economic development	14	
Trade flow import and export of goods	7	
Performance of corporate business activity - correspondence between leaders	5	
The dynamics of the economic convergence process between nations	5	
Public debt dynamics	4	
Availability and accessibility of financial services	4	
The multinational's relationship with host countries	3	
Stability and competition in the banking sector	3	
Tax revenues and return to public services	2	
Reliability in police services	2	
Cost of Starting a Business and Time to Start a Business	1	
Prevalence of non-tariff barriers in food trade	1	
Reforms of Privatization	1	
Regulatory quality of fiscal factors	1	
Incidence of corruption	26	SOCIAL
Social inequalities between nations (gender, ethnicity and income)	12	
Dynamism towards to entrepreneurship, ICT, innovation and disruptive ideas	8	
The panorama of poverty and food deficiency	8	
Health standards and level of social welfare	7	
The Robustness of the Democratic System	5	
Situational environment in the post severe regional and global crises	4	
Analyzes the methodology used to measure global governance indices	4	
Property rights protection	4	
The dimension of interference of cultural values	3	
Knowledge and Critical Thinking in the Political System	3	
Professional confidence in corporate leadership	2	
Revolutionary popular mobilizations	2	
Aspects of the Agenda for Financial Remittance of Migrants	1	
Extension of the e-government system	1	
Terrorism Incidence	1	
Readiness for Environmentally-Related Agreements in force	7	ENVIRONMENTAL
Regulation for energy resource efficiency	2	
Norms and attitudes of families in relation to the treatment of water for domestic use	1	

The frequency helped us to identify the distribution and interaction between some of the thematic axes classified by us. For example, the axis referring to Social Inequalities is correlated with three others: Regulation for FDI; Efficiency and Stability of Financial Regulation; and Institutional Conduct in relation to Entrepreneurship, ICT and Innovation. Thus demonstrating a growing participation of social issues in the design and formulation of public policies. Supported by Almatarneh and Emeagwali (2019, page 1040) when stating the impact that governance has on attracting foreign

direct investment, which will promote entrepreneurship and innovation with consequences for increasing human development.

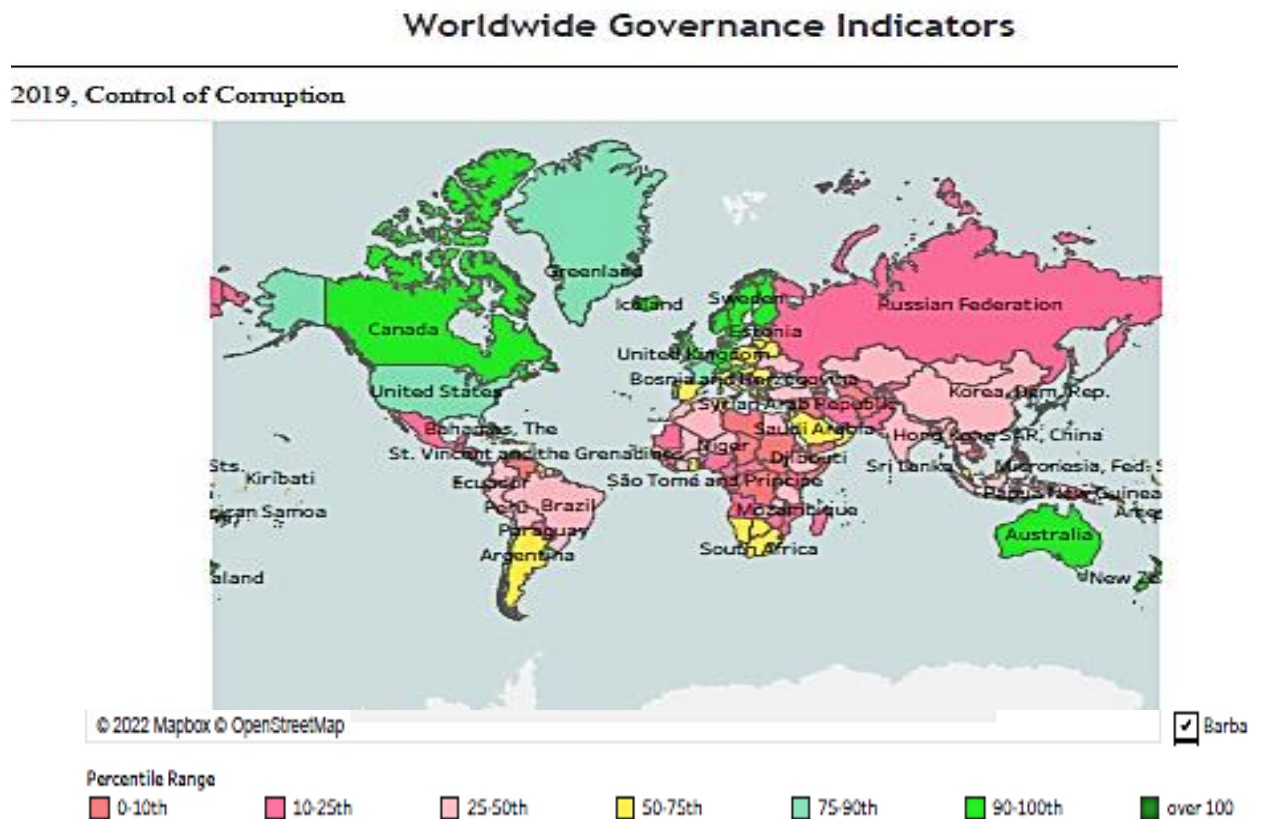
A trace identified in the Economic dimension is the question of to be the financial investments, in a broad way, more sensitive in terms of the stability of this market, in its relationship with the institutional performance of the country. Security and accreditation for the volume of investments are associated with a democratic governance model that offers political stability and solid macroeconomic conditions, acting as a strong attraction for the contribution of financial investments (Teeramungcalanon et al., 2020 p. 63). At the same time, deficient institutional quality is identified as responsible for the capital escape generated by economic and political uncertainty (Das et al., 2021 p.. 43).

In the social dimension, the most recurrent axes were Corruption and Social Inequality, especially addressed in research involving less developed and/or developing countries. Where it shows there is less commitment to the standard of quality of life, economic well-being and the reduction of social inequality.

On the thematic of corruption, we also found that it is an intense field, as it emerges with a strong participation in most of the results achieved by the research, demonstrating to be the corruption, over time, a destabilizing factor for good governance in countries. Accordingly, we can see in Figure 6, presented by the WGI, on its website, referent to the indicator of control of corruption in countries in 2019, that this variable has a low percentage of control in a large portion of countries, denoting a great systemic effort to be carried out by public and private sector agencies.

Such categories identified respond to what Caixeta (2014b) recognizes, that, in addition to the existence of representative and democratic structures and institutions, there is a need of “the application of pragmatic policies that respond to circumstances and opportunities including the deepening of the role of States in development, meaning investment in human development and, at the same time, openness to trade and innovation.”

Figure 6 - Controle de Corrupção in the World



For Roy (2006, p. 20), the corruption, the lack of transparency, and misallocation of resources, not only in the public but also in the private sphere, result in a loss of well-being for society, with corruption being in part a reflection underpinning of weak institutional structures. In this point of view, corrupt environments are also predictors of a low institutional standard (Jones and Fraser, 2021, p. 3).

National origin of institutions and Division in geographic space

Considering the analysis, in the period, the 420 authors are affiliated to 242 teaching and research institutions in 66 countries.

As for the 66 countries comprised in the research, we highlight the first 39 countries, with the highest number of academic institutions involved with the theme, based on the origin of the authors (Table 6).

Table 6 - Countries with the highest number of academic institutions

39 Nations	Institutions Involved
USA	34
UK	15
Pakistan	14
Australia	8
Malaysia, China, Italy, Nigeria, Spain, Turkey	7
Croatia, India, Indonesia, South Korea	6
Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Romania, Taiwan	5
Canada, South Africa, Vietnam	4
Austria; Egypt; France; Ghana; Will; Thailand; Tunisia; Ukraine	3
Bahrain; Bangladesh; Cameroon; Japan; Kuwait; Netherlands; Switzerland; Syria; Uganda	2

The researches are, for the most part, affiliated with North American institutions, followed by those of the United Kingdom and Pakistan. The remaining 27 countries are not shown in the table due to each having the participation of only one teaching and research institution, such as: Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Chile, Cyprus, Ivory Coast, Slovakia, Russian Federation, Philippines, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Norway, New Zealand, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Kenya, Dominican Republic, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Sweden.

An issue observed in this analysis concerns the association of the researches with geographic space at the international level. Taking into account the issues of economic development, the world geographic space is delimited in two groups of countries, as being: Global North and Global South (Lewis, 2010; Kaltmeier, 2015, p. 10). The North, formed by highly industrialized countries, a high GDP per capita, with low social inequality and with some history of power, while, despite its heterogeneity, the South is formed by the most economically disadvantaged regions, ex-colonies, with late industrialization, dependent on the sale of commodities and inequalities in the social, political and economic areas (Caixeta, 2014a, p. 22).

We identified that of the total number of institutions involved in the research, 57% are in the global North region and 43% in the global South region. What calls our attention is the fact that, despite the publications being more concentrated in educational institutions in developed countries, the core of the research converges, for the most part, to discussions linked to countries that are in the Southern economic group. In geopolitics, these countries are included in the group on the fringes of the

center of power and with economic dependence, table YY. This stance converges with Caixeta (2014b) in inferring that “[...] the South is on the rise in studies, research and global consultations.” This phenomenon, which until then had been put aside, reveals a milestone in the scientific community in making space for knowledge from countries and peoples of the South (Caixeta, 2014b).

This circumstance reinforces Guarido Filho, Machado-da-Silva and Gonçalves’s (2009, p. 300) argument that “... from the point of view of the sociology of knowledge, it is considered important to understand the social processes involved in the construction of scientific knowledge in relation to the intellectual program of the field.”

Table 7 Region investigated in the researches

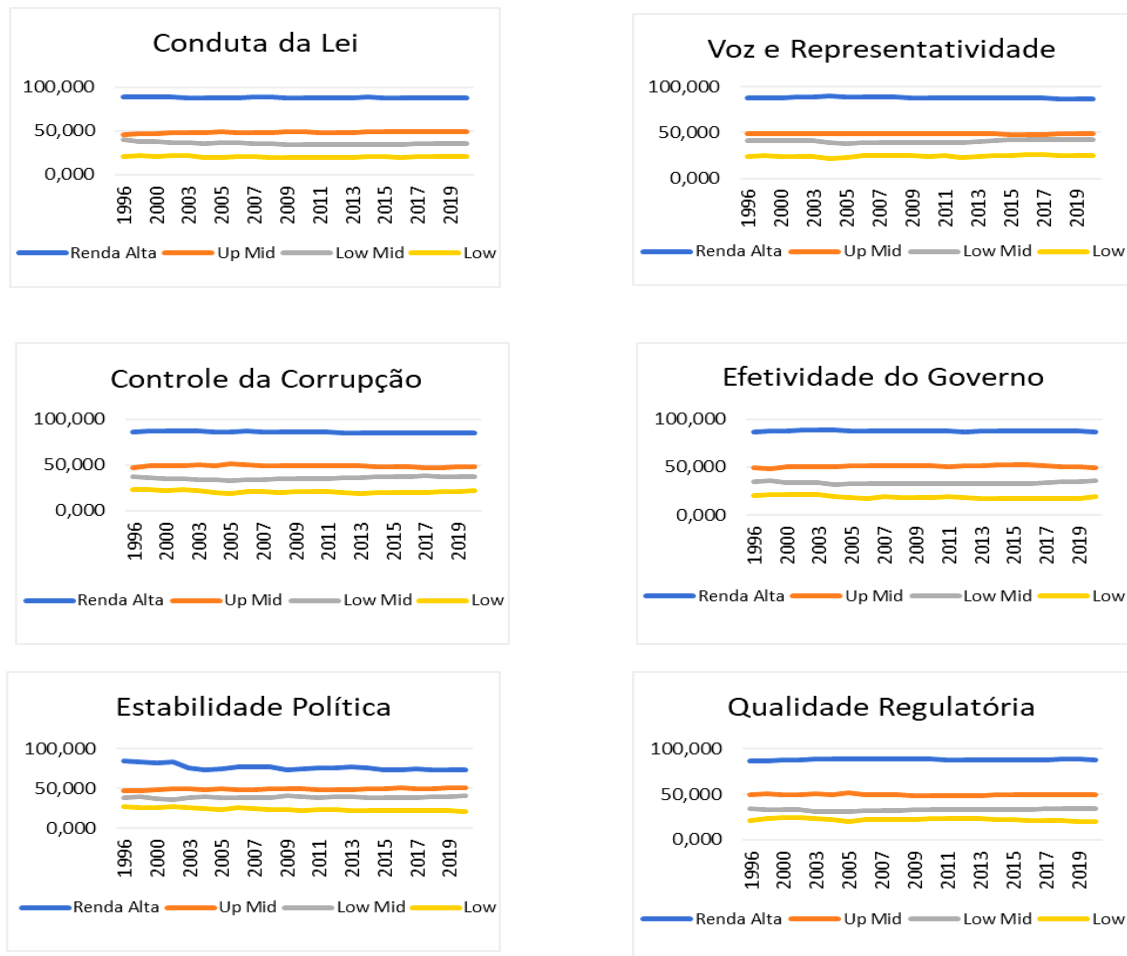
Region	Quantitative
Global South	85
Global North	19
Global North and South	65
Does not analyze countries	1

By submitting the articles to this comparative analysis, these findings in the social field, made visible the hypothesis that we are facing a new theoretical perspective when they bring, the studies of global governance indicators, assumptions about the growing change in the basic values of society. Introduced there, the understanding of socioeconomic inequalities, human rights violations and the shortage of indispensable social reforms.

Still within the Global North and South division explained above, the World Bank divides economies into four types of economic classes, namely: high-income, associated with the Global North, upper-middle-income, lower-middle-income and low-income associated with the global South context (Hamadeh, Van Rompaey and Metreau, 2021).

At the level of this geographic grouping, comparing each profile, based on their positions in the dimensions of the IGG, published by the World Bank since its first edition in 1996, we perceive notable differences, between the class of high-income countries, inserted in the Global North group and the other classes inserted in the Global South group, which, by the way, remain in similar positions over the years (Figure 7)

Figure 7 - Historical position of economic classes in the six dimensions of the WGI



This visible distance, in positions, between the North and the South countries provides further evidence that there is a strong correlation between economic development and good governance. Another point to be noted is the constancy of inequality in the dispositions of the groups, in all six dimensions, over the period of 26 years. Allusion to this finding is presented by Kaufmann et al (1999, page 13) and Almatarneh and Emeagwali (2019, page 1040) when they state that institutional governance, when portraying a system of beliefs, norms and cognitive aspects and being binded to the country's political and social history, especially in those who inherited the institutional configuration of the former colonizing power, requires more time to change and be observed.

With the result, we also understand that there is a very strong correlation between the variables, where the performance of one facilitate or hang the operation of the other.

5 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study sought, in the scientific literature, to map the intellectual outlook in the field of research related to WGIs and to support the evident difference in the quality of governance found in the countries.

In this contribution, bibliometric methods and textual analysis were used to analyze and highlight how representative and revealing, at the current moment, the WGI are, when used in an embracing way, to monitor and comparatively reveal the institutional structure adopted by countries and their participation, in the development of knowledge when associated with the division of the world's geographic space.

Based on the textual analysis performed in the sample, we noticed that there were researches that addressed more pragmatic concerns with society. This fact allowed us to draw up, based on the proximity and variety between the approaches, a representative table grouping the themes developed into categories and with that to present a ranking detaching the themes most considered in the research. We also evidence that the issue of corruption emerged strongly in the researches results, as a destabilizing factor for good governance, due to the low level of corruption control by countries, especially those of the Global South.

In the identification of the large collaborative network, related to the countries of the authors involved in the elaboration of the researches, we refer as being an attempt, by researchers from Southern countries allied to those of the North, to permeate on the global board, because it is a common interest, the importance of governance for social, economic and environmental improvements, decreasing the gap in economic development between countries.

Regarding the differences and distance of positions in the WGI, between countries, it is clear the effects of the institutional structure for economic development, and what changes in this scenario should be considered, as they require a long time to be perceptible, given the panorama presented by the World Bank in their annual reports over a 26-year period.

The analysis based on the occurrence of the keywords revealed the intensity of the term governance combined with that of economic development, especially for the years 2019/2020, indicating that, for us, the strong correlation between the terms

comes to be a suggestion for studies futures with the expansion of the scope in the literature review, strengthening the evidence of this observed phenomenon. This is also an important limitation in this study, that despite Scopus being a base of scientific journals, with great representativeness and international ambit, evidently does not contain all publications referring to the object of this research.

In conclusion, we can say that, despite the studies being more concentrated in educational institutions in developed countries, the core of their research converges, for the most part, to discussions attached to countries that are in the economic group called Global South and that this fact is showing that there are, in this context, some limitations in the institutional structures that must be taken into account by policy makers, for the balance of good governance, together with the context of these countries.

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