An Exploration of Recent Developments in Public Policy Management: A Bibliometric Study

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ABSTRACT

Public policy management is a vital area in government decision making that affects society at large. In an effort to understand the latest developments in this domain, bibliometric studies are a relevant and effective approach. This article aims to explore current research trends in public policy management through bibliometric analysis of documents indexed in the Scopus database. Through careful searching and application of strict inclusion criteria, we identified 111 documents relevant to this topic. The analysis results show a significant increase in publications since 2000, peaking in 2022. The University of São Paulo emerged as the institution with the most important contribution, while Brazil dominates publications by country. This study also found that the field of Social Sciences is the most dominant, followed by Business Management, Accounting, and Environmental Sciences. Keyword analysis using the VosViewer application revealed core themes such as public policy, public health, governance, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as specific issues such as gender, citizenship, and democracy. This research highlights the multidisciplinary nature of public policy management and the importance of evidence-based approaches to inform more effective policy and practice. These findings guide researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in developing innovative and sustainable solutions to modern societal challenges.
Keywords: Bibliometric, Public Policy Management, Scopus

INTRODUCTION

Public policy management is at the core of the decision-making process at the government level, which influences various aspects of people's lives (Berry-James et al., 2023; Bovaird & Löffler, 2023; Knill & Tosun, 2020; Ranerup & Henriksen, 2022). With the complexity of social, economic, political and environmental dynamics continuing to change, a deep understanding of the latest trends and developments in public policy management is crucial for decision makers, practitioners and researchers.

Public policy management is a discipline related to planning, implementing, and evaluating policies made by the government to address social, economic, and political problems in society (Ayuningtyas et al., 2021; Head, 2022; Valle-Cruz et al., 2020). Substantially, public policy management involves a complex and continuous decision-making process, involving problem

identification, policy creation, resource allocation, policy implementation, and evaluation of results (Ruiz & Guevara, 2020; Valle-Cruz et al., 2022; Vargas et al., 2022). Apart from that, public policy management also includes aspects such as coordination between government agencies, interaction with civil society and the private sector, and the use of managerial instruments to achieve policy goals.

In practice, public policy management involves various stakeholders, including government officials, academics, community groups, and the private sector. Decision making in the context of public policy management is often based on data analysis and empirical evidence, but is also influenced by complex political, cultural and social factors (Madan & Ashok, 2023; McDonald III et al., 2022). Therefore, public policy management does not only include technical aspects, but also demands the active involvement of

various stakeholders in an inclusive and transparent decision-making process.

In an era of globalization and increasing complexity, public policy management is becoming increasingly important in efforts to face complex challenges such as climate change, economic inequality and social conflict (Blum & Neumärker, 2021; Cosens et al., 2021; Rizvi et al., 2022). With a systematic and evidence-based approach, public policy management can be an effective tool for formulating innovative and sustainable solutions to the problems faced by modern society.

Public policy management also includes a number of key concepts such as agenda formation, namely the process of identifying and selecting issues to be given attention by the government; policy making, which involves the process of formulating solutions or concrete steps to respond to these issues; and policy implementation, which requires effective coordination between various government agencies, stakeholders, and available resources (Herweg et al., 2023; Petridou & Mintrom, 2021; Zuiderwijk et al., 2021). In addition, policy evaluation is also an important stage in public policy management, where the effectiveness and impact of policies are systematically evaluated to determine whether the desired goals have been achieved and whether changes need to be made. The importance of public policy management is not only reflected in the decisions made by the government, but also in the ability to influence broader social, economic and political processes, thereby encouraging sustainable and resilient change in society (Meuleman, 2021; Shawoo et al., 2023; Tichenor et al., 2022). Thus, public policy management is not only the domain of policy makers and researchers, but is also an important involvement for citizens in building a more just, sustainable and inclusive society.

In recent years, bibliometric studies have emerged as a powerful tool for exploring trends and patterns in the scientific literature (Muhammad et al., 2023; Triansyah, Gunawan, et al., 2023; Triansyah, Mulyadi, et al., 2023;

Triansyah, Ugli, et al., 2023). By analyzing the number of publications, citation patterns, and collaboration networks between researchers, bibliometric approaches can provide valuable insight into recent developments in a field of study. In the context of public policy management, bibliometric analysis can provide a deep understanding of research focus, shifting trends, and the contributions of researchers from various parts of the world (Chawla & Goyal, 2022; Liu et al., 2022; Xie et al., 2021).

In this context, this article aims to explore the latest developments in public policy management through a bibliometric approach. By collecting and analyzing data from a variety of sources, we seek to present a comprehensive picture of research trends, contributions of leading researchers, and existing patterns of collaboration in the academic literature on public policy management. Through a better understanding of recent developments in this domain, it is hoped that this article can provide guidance for researchers, practitioners and decision makers to inform more effective policies and practices in public policy management.

METHOD

At this stage, we explain the procedures we use to collect data and analyze literature related to public policy management. First, we obtained data from a leading academic database, namely Scopus on 28 April 2024, which provides access to various journal articles, conferences and related scientific literature. We used relevant keywords such as "public policy management" to search the database.

After conducting the search, we applied predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria to filter documents that fit the scope of our research. Documents included in our analysis must have high relevance to the topic of public policy management and have been published in accredited scientific journals or forums.

Next, we carried out the data collection process by taking important information from each selected document, including title, authors' names, abstract, year of publication,

and citations. This data is then entered into a format suitable for bibliometric analysis, which includes counting publication frequencies, citation analysis, identifying research trends, and creating graphical visualizations.

The results of our search showed that there are a total of 111 documents that met our inclusion criteria. These documents cover various aspects of public policy management, from basic theory and concepts to case studies and practical applications. We then proceed to

analyze these data in depth to identify relevant patterns in the academic literature on public policy management. By using a systematic and standardized approach, we are confident that the data we collect and the analysis we perform will provide valuable insights into the latest developments in the public policy management domain, as well as the contributions of leading researchers in this field.
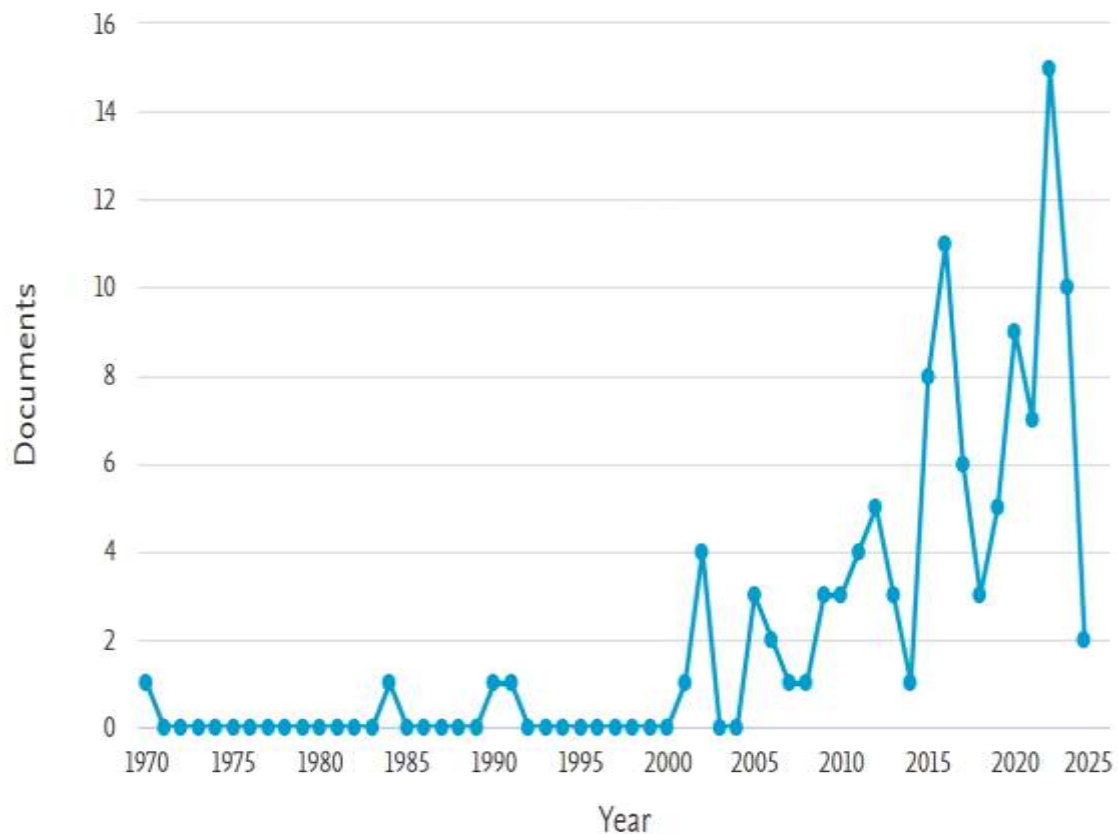
RESULT and DICUSSION

Documents by Year

Figure 1. Trend by Year

Publication trends related to the theme of "public policy management" show significant variations throughout the years. From 1970 to the early 1990s, the number of publications was very low with only one or no documents published each year. This period reflected little interest or development in the field. However,

since 2000, there has been a gradual increase in the number of publications. The years 2006 and 2008 showed a slight increase with two and one documents respectively. A more noticeable increase occurred after 2010, with considerable fluctuations. 2016 was the year with the highest number of publications in a

decade, reaching 11 documents. After 2016, there was a drop to 3 documents in 2018, followed by a continued increase. The year 2022 recorded the highest number during the observed period with 15 documents, indicating increased attention to this theme. The year 2023 declined slightly with 10 documents, and the beginning of 2024 already recorded 2 documents, indicating the potential to continue the upward trend. This data illustrates that the field of public policy management has experienced considerable growth in the last decade, suggesting increased interest and research in this area, particularly after 2010. Fluctuations may reflect responses to global policy developments and dynamic management needs.
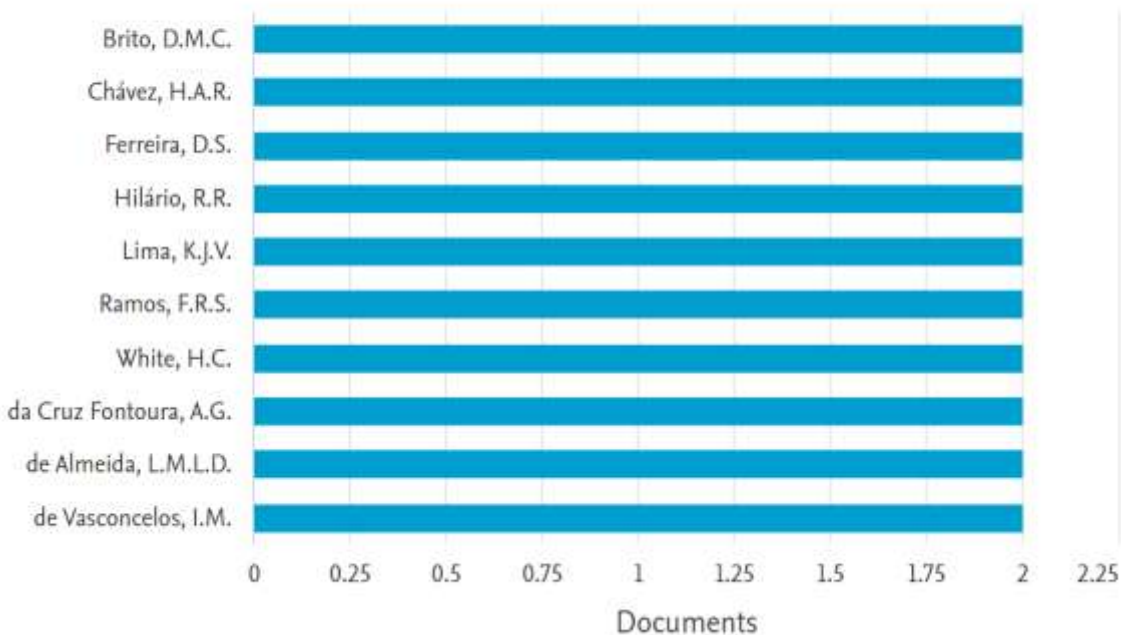
Document by Author

Figure 2. Trend by Author

Publication data related to the theme of "public policy management" by author shows a fairly even distribution among several authors. There are ten authors who have each published two documents related to this theme, namely Brito, D.M.C., Chávez, H.A.R., Ferreira, D.S., Hilário, R.R., Lima, K.J.V., Ramos, F.R.S., White, H.C., da Cruz Fontoura, A.G., de Almeida, L.M.L.D., and de Vasconcelos, I.M. This shows that contributions in public policy management research are not focused on one or two individuals, but are spread among several researchers. In addition, there are five other authors who each published one document: Abreu, A.L., Ali, M., Aligica, P.D., Almanza Vides, K., and Almeida, C. This suggests that there are also more sporadic contributions from other authors, who may have focused on research in this area at one particular point in time. This data reflects the relatively wide collaboration in public policy management research. The research is not dominated by a small number of authors, but rather supported by the contributions of a wide range of researchers, demonstrating the diversity in perspectives and approaches to this theme.
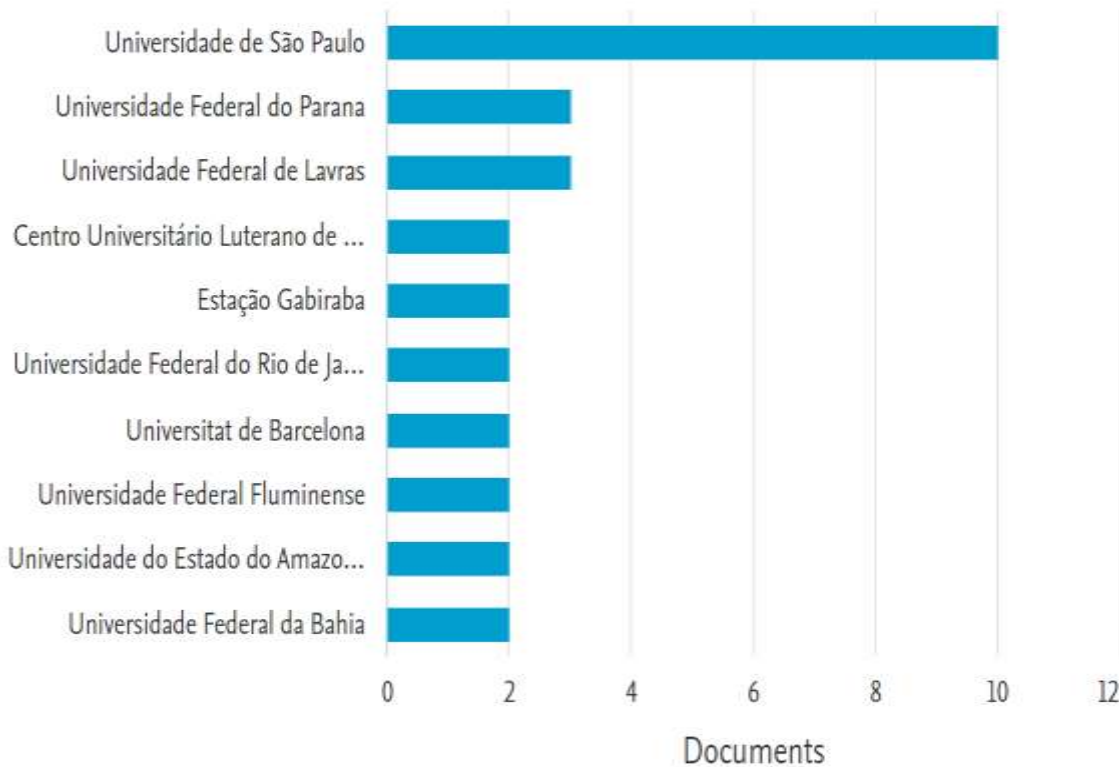
Document by Affiliation

Figure 3. Trend by Affiliation

Publication data related to the theme "public policy management" based on affiliation shows a clear dominance by the Universidade de São Paulo with 10 documents. This suggests that these institutions are major contributors to research in the field of public policy management, which may reflect greater research resources or a stronger academic focus on the topic. Under the Universidade de São Paulo, there are two institutions with equal contributions, namely the Universidade Federal do Parana and the Universidade Federal de Lavras, each with 3 documents. These two universities demonstrate a significant role in research, although not as large as the Universidade de São Paulo. A number of other institutions, each with 2 documents, also demonstrate active involvement in public policy management research. These include Centro Universitário Luterano de Manaus, Estação Gabiraba, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Universitat de Barcelona, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Universidade do Estado do Amazonas, and Universidade Federal da Bahia. The involvement of various universities shows that research in this field is multi-sited and is receiving attention in various higher education institutions. This distribution of affiliations indicates that public policy management research is a field of study that receives widespread attention at various universities, both at home and abroad. The dominance of the Universidade de São Paulo underscores its important role in advancing research in this field, while contributions from other universities show that this research is widespread and diverse.

Document by Country

Documents by country or territory

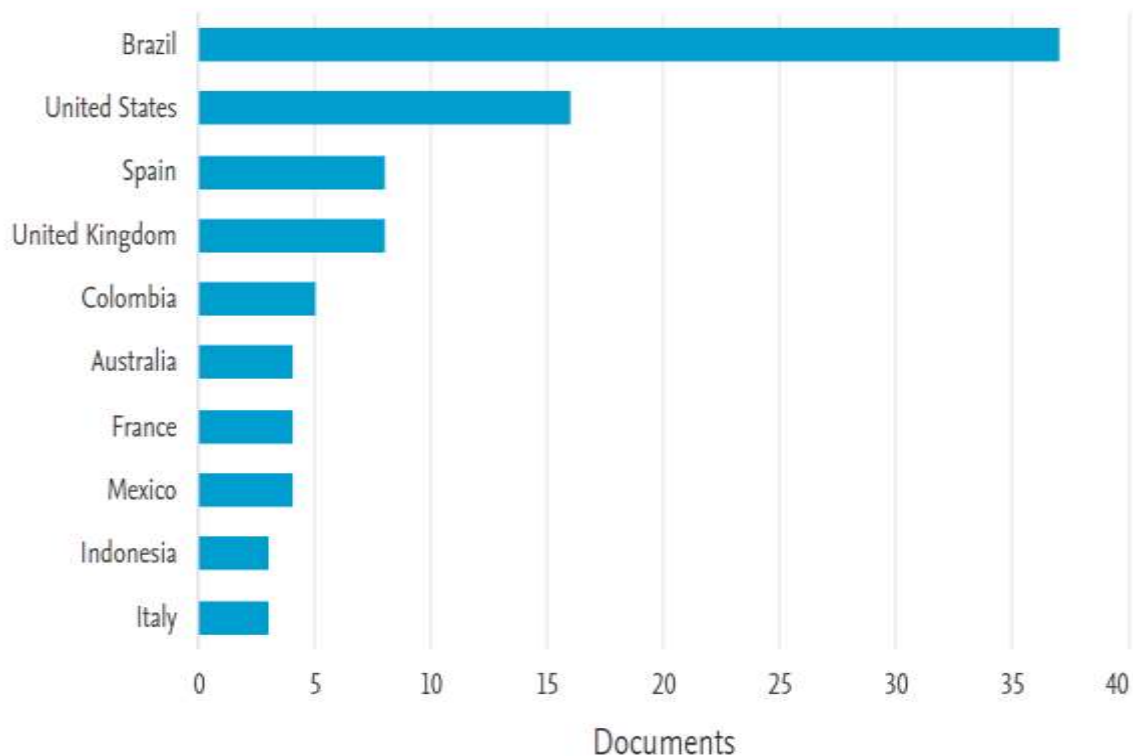Compare the document counts for up to 15 countries/territories.

Figure 4. Trend by Country

Publication data related to the theme "public policy management" by country shows that Brazil dominates with 37 documents, indicating very high research interest and activity in this area. This reflects that issues related to public policy management may be very relevant and a major focus among academics and researchers in Brazil. In second place, the United States contributed 16 documents. Although the numbers are much smaller than in Brazil, this still shows that this topic is also significant in the United States, which is known to have a strong tradition in public policy research. Spain and the UK each have 8 documents, placing them in third place. This suggests that these two European countries are also active in research in the field of public policy management, with a possible focus on their own as well as international policy contexts. Colombia with 5 documents, and Australia, France and Mexico each with 4 documents, also demonstrate important contributions in this field. This shows that public policy management is a relevant and important field on various continents, from South America to Europe and Oceania. Indonesia and Italy each contributed 3 documents. Although the numbers are smaller, this still shows that there is research activity and interest in this topic in Southeast Asia and Southern Europe. These data illustrate that research in public policy management has a broad global distribution, with significant contributions from many countries. Brazil's dominance indicates a strong focus on Latin America, while contributions from the United States and various European countries demonstrate the international relevance and attention to this theme.
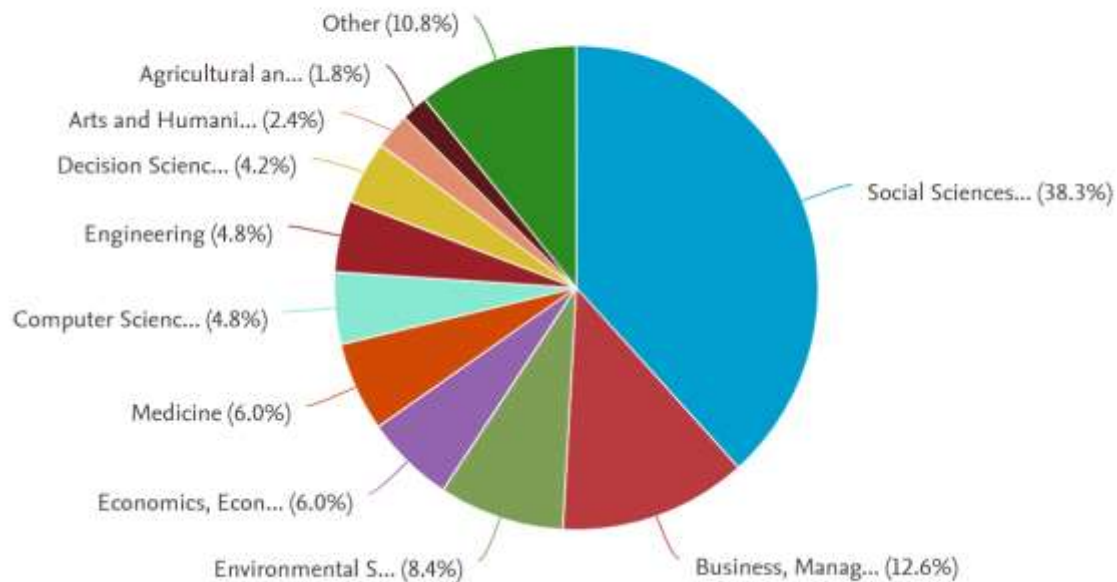
Documents by Subject

Figure 5. Trend by Subject

Publication data related to the theme "public policy management" based on subject area shows that the majority of research is in the field of Social Sciences with 64 documents. This is not surprising, considering that public policy management is intrinsically closely related to social, political and governmental aspects. The field of Business, Management and Accounting ranks second with 21 documents, reflecting the importance of managerial and economic approaches in public policy. This field may include the study of organizational effectiveness, resource management, and policy implementation. Environmental Science with 14 documents showing significant attention to environmental issues in the context of public policy, such as natural resource management and climate change. Economics, Econometrics, and Finance and Medicine, each with 10 documents, highlight the importance of economic analysis and health implications in public policy. Computer Science and Engineering, each with 8 documents, indicate

the application of technology and innovation in public policy management, for example in big data analysis or infrastructure. The field of Decision Science with 7 documents demonstrating the use of decision analysis and predictive models in public policy. Arts and Humanities with 4 documents, and Agricultural Sciences and Biology, Energy, and Psychology each with 3 documents, show how various scientific disciplines contribute to the understanding and management of public policy. Biochemistry, Genetics, and Molecular Biology and Mathematics each with 2 documents showing contributions from more technical and specific fields of science. Other fields such as Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Health Professions, Materials Science, and Multidisciplinarity each contributed one document, indicating that although their contributions are smaller, they remain relevant in the broader context of public policy management. This data reflects that public policy management is a multidisciplinary field

that receives attention from various scientific disciplines, with the largest contribution from Social Sciences. This shows the complexity and need for diverse approaches in public policy research and implementation. Focus Study
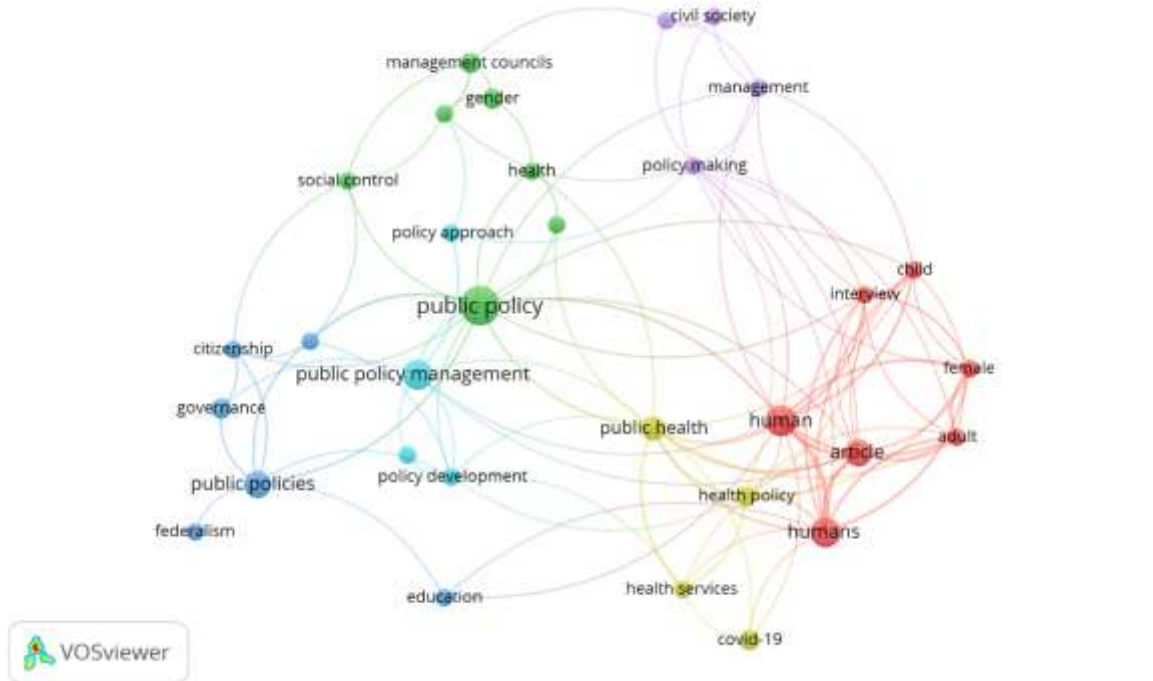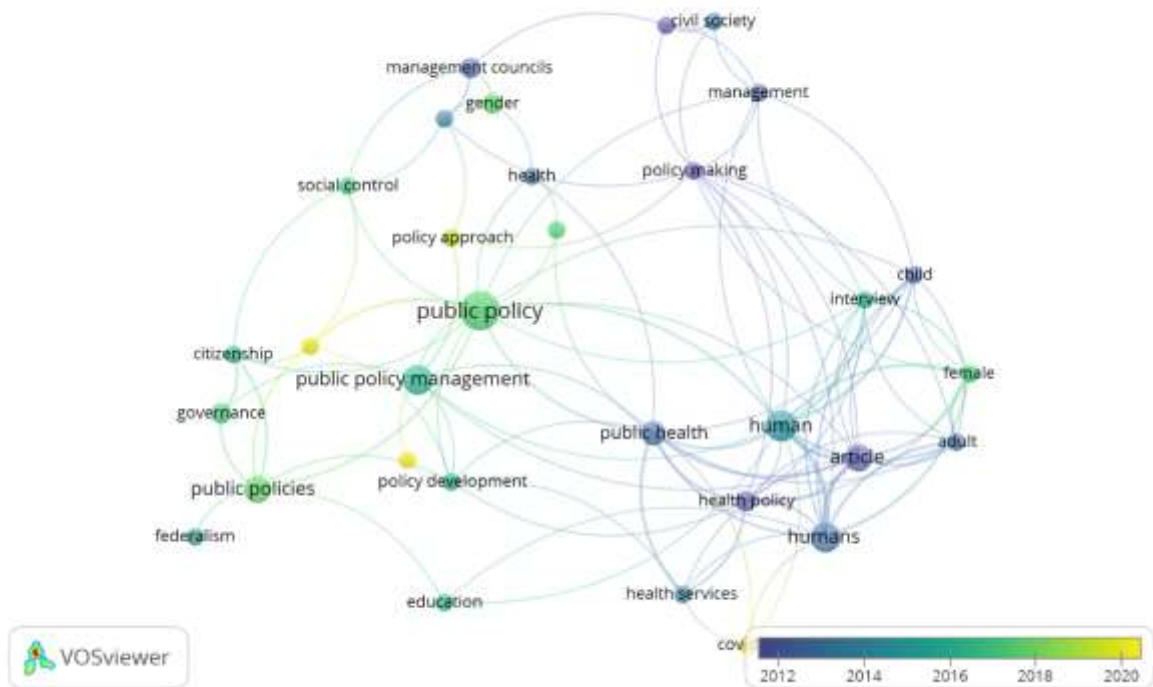

Figure 6. Network Visualization (Keywords)

Figure 7. Overlay Visualization (Keywords)

Figure 8. Density Visualization (Keywords)

Table 1. Reseacrh Focus

Keyword	Occurrences	total link strength
adult	3	17
article	7	31
brazil	7	26
child	3	14
citizenship	3	7
civil society	3	5
covid-19	4	4
democracy	3	6
education	3	3
federalism	3	2
female	3	15
gender	4	3
governance	4	5
health	3	5
health policy	4	14
health services	3	9
human	10	39
humans	9	34
interview	3	15
management	3	8
management councils	4	5
participation	3	6
policy approach	3	4
policy development	3	9

policy making	3	13
policy management	3	8
public health	6	24
public policies	7	11
public policy	15	21
public policy management	9	11
social control	3	5
social policy	3	4
sustainable development	3	3

The results of research visualization using the VosViewer application related to the theme "public policy management" show various research focuses with several keywords that have different occurrences and strength of relationship. The keyword "public policy" appears most often (15 times) with a total link strength of 21, confirming that this is a main topic in public policy management research. The keywords "human" and "humans" also appear frequently (10 and 9 times) with high total link strength (39 and 34), indicating that the human aspect is a central focus in this study, perhaps related to how policies affect individuals and society. The country of Brazil appears 7 times with a total link strength of 26, indicating that much research on public policy management is conducted in or focuses on the Brazilian context. The keyword "public health" also appears quite often (6 times) with a total link strength of 24, indicating that public health is an important area in public policy management discussions.

Other keywords such as "article" (7 occurrences, link strength 31) and "policy management" (3 occurrences, link strength 8) indicate that research is often documented in academic articles that highlight various aspects of public policy and its management. The COVID-19 pandemic was also a significant topic with 4 appearances, although the total link strength was lower (4), indicating research on the impact of the pandemic on public policy. Specific issues such as "health policy" (4 occurrences, link strength 14), "gender" (4 occurrences, link strength 3), and "governance" (4 occurrences, link strength 5) indicate that aspects of health, gender, and governance is an important part of discussions about public policy. There is also a focus on concepts such as "citizenship" (3 occurrences, link strength 7), "democracy" (3 occurrences, link strength 6), and "civil society" (3 occurrences, link strength 5), indicating the importance of participation society and democratic principles in public policy management. Other topics such as "education" (3 occurrences, link strength 3), "sustainable development" (3 occurrences, link strength 3), and "social policy" (3 occurrences, link strength 4) indicate attention to policy in the field of education , sustainability, and social welfare.

Other keywords such as "adult" (3 occurrences, link strength 17) and "child" (3 occurrences, link strength 14) indicate research that focuses on certain age groups in the context of public policy. This may reflect attention to policies that impact different demographics, such as education, health, or social policies. "Female" (3 occurrences, link strength 15) and "gender" (4 occurrences, link strength 3) show that there is attention to gender issues in public policy, although the link strength for "gender" is relatively low. This suggests that while this issue appears frequently, its connections and linkages with other topics may be limited in the existing literature. "Health" (health) with 3 occurrences and link strength 5, and "health services" (3 occurrences, link strength 9) show that health policy and health services are important areas of research, closely related to public policy and its management. "Management" and "policy making" (with 3 occurrences and link strength 8 and 13 respectively) indicate a focus on the processes of management and policy making, important in the study of how policies are designed, implemented and evaluated.

Keywords such as "social control" (3 occurrences, link strength 5) and "participation"

(3 occurrences, link strength 6) indicate research on the role of social control and community participation in public policy management. This shows attention to how the public interacts with policy and their role in the policy process. "Policy approach" (3 occurrences, link strength 4) and "policy development" (3 occurrences, link strength 9) indicate research that focuses on policy approaches and development, showing how policy theory and practice develops. "Management councils" (4 occurrences, link strength 5) indicates a focus on management councils as an important structure in implementing public policy. Overall this analysis shows that the theme of "public policy management" covers a broad range of issues and perspectives, including specific demographics, health, governance, gender, and community participation. This research not only focuses on policy theory but also on practical application and impact on various groups of society. The distribution of link strength and keyword occurrences indicates that while some topics are highly connected and frequently discussed, others may still be developing or not yet fully explored in the current literature.

CONCLUSION

The research on "public policy management" reveals diverse focus areas, showing significant variations and trends over the years. The publication trend indicates a gradual increase in interest and research activities since 2000, with a notable peak in 2022. The analysis by the author highlights a relatively even distribution of contributions, indicating wide-ranging collaboration among researchers. In terms of affiliation, the Universidade de São Paulo stands out as a major contributor, reflecting its significant role in this field. Geographically, Brazil leads in publication volume, followed by the United States and various European countries, showcasing the global relevance of public policy management. The subject area distribution predominantly focuses on Social Sciences, with substantial contributions from Business, Management, Accounting, and Environmental Science. The keyword analysis, visualized using VosViewer, underscores core themes such as public policy, human aspects, public health, governance, and the impact of COVID-19, as well as specific issues like gender, citizenship, and democracy. This comprehensive bibliometric study highlights the multidisciplinary nature of public policy management, its evolution, and the broad interest it garners from global academia and various scientific disciplines.

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