

Latin American Production on Gender Violence on Scopus, 2010 - 2019

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Abstract: The study describes the characteristics of publications on gender violence written by authors affiliated with Latin American institutions, in journals indexed to Scopus during the period 2010-2019. A descriptive and retrospective analysis of 2,568 articles is carried out. Latin American scientific production represents 5.3% of world production. Brazil is the country with the highest production, followed by Mexico and Chile. Latin American scientific production has been published in 572 journals. *Ciencia e Saude Coletiva* (Brazil) is the journal with the largest number of publications, followed by *Cadernos de Saude Publica* (Brazil) and *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* (United States). Besides, the authors are mainly affiliated with the Universidade de Sao Paulo - USP, followed by the Fundacao Oswaldo Cruz Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul. Finally, the keywords, domestic violence, intimate partner violence and gender violence present an increasing trend of studies since 2016. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen and stimulate the generation and dissemination of scientific studies by Latin American researchers.

Keywords: Latin America, Scientific production, Gender violence, Domestic violence.

INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence is that exercised by a partner or another person of the opposite sex, is a serious public health problem and a violation of women's human rights; this type of violence is based on the beliefs, attitudes, feelings, values and behaviors that make a difference between women and men, through a process of social construction; manifested in the imbalance of power relations that gives more value to male roles produced by the socialization of men and women from the theory of patriarchy (Rodrigues & Cantera, 2012).

As of 2018, 1 out of every 3 (35%) women worldwide reported having suffered some type of violence at some point in their lives. This violence affected women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health and could even increase the risk of contracting HIV (World Health Organization, 2020). In 2020, during confinement by COVID-19, reports of gender-based violence have increased; even in the last 12 months before confinement worldwide, 243 million women aged 15-49 reported having suffered sexual or physical violence from a partner, and less than 10% of these women sought help. This type of violence has generated a cost of US\$1.5 billion worldwide, and may

have increased with confinement (United Nations, 2020).

The presence of gender violence in the population is one of the major problems at present, because we live in an unequal and sexist society, where there are gender roles and stereotypes (Zurbano, Liberia, & Campos, 2013). The magnitude and severity of the consequences of exposure to gender violence create a negative climate where physical and emotional abuse towards the "weak" gender is promoted (Alcántara, López, Castro, & López, 2013). Its increase is probably due to the increase of disruptive behaviors and consumption of psychoactive substances that generate an alarming concern in society, which has been modeling people to assume the profile of aggressor and victim in others (Molero, Sánchez, Barragán, Pérez, & Gázquez, 2016).

Technological tools such as social networks play a double role in gender violence; firstly, they help to detect and raise awareness on the part of the victim and aggressor of the macho behaviors that occur in their relationship and, secondly, they offer resources and support so that the victim can escape from this situation, which is centred on equality and the teaching of values in educational institutions (Martos *et al.*, 2016). The consequences of this are manifested in learning disabilities, low self-esteem, depression and suicidal tendencies, among others (Miranda, 2017).

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On the other hand, SCOPUS is the largest database of scientific literature worldwide, which contains literature with the highest scientific quality even on gender violence. This is due to its high standards of evaluation of the journals it indexes (Cjuno & Taype-Rondan, 2016). In addition, the fact that Latin American countries are not alien to the world report on gender violence (UN Women, 2020), it is necessary to show the panorama of scientific progress in the study of this problem from the scientific publications made in magazines indexed to Scopus; which will allow researchers and interest groups to see the opportunities to seek solutions to the problem of gender violence, based on what has already been done.

Therefore, the objective of the study was to describe the global scientific production on gender violence in journals indexed in SCOPUS in the last 10 years.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A retrospective descriptive study, it considered as a unit of analysis 2568 articles on gender violence, in journals indexed in Scopus, during the period 2010 to 2019 and whose authorship mentions affiliations of Latin American institutions. Six types of publications were included in the analysis (see Table 1). To search for articles, key words related to gender violence were used in the "Title", "abstract" and "keywords", and it was also considered that they should be included in the controlled vocabulary Thesaurus, such as: "Gender violence", "Domestic violence", "patriarchal violence", "intimate partner violence", "partner violence", "sexist violence", "violence against women", "battered women", "Partner abuse", "femicide".

The first search yielded a total of 75622 results. After an exploratory analysis of the content of the articles, the existence of documents whose subject matter was not related to partner violence was detected. A second exploratory analysis was then performed, considering all those publications that are in the field of medicine, psychology and social sciences, finding 48203 contributions on the study variable. We evaluated the frequency of publications per year, the evolution of production per country, an affiliation of authors, journal and keywords as publication subject. Each of the publications found was reviewed by choosing those that met the criteria for research on gender-based violence, and each of the documents was examined through content analysis.

Table 1: Types of Contribution of Publications on Gender-Based Violence

Type of publication	n
Articles	2334
Revisions	177
Editorial	18
Letter to the Editor	17
Note	17
Conference article	5

Global production on gender violence is represented by 48,203 (forty-eight thousand two hundred and three) publications in the period studied. Latin America represents 5.3% of this production, represented by 2568 articles. There is an annual increase in publications, with 2019 being the year with the highest production (see Table 2).

The representation of Latin American countries in this field is very low and, compared to the fields of social sciences and humanities, production is still limited in all countries of the region.

Brazil is the Latin American country that contributes the most scientific production on gender violence, representing 2.39% of world production, followed by Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Peru, countries that have more than 100 publications.

There are three Latin American countries (El Salvador, Paraguay and Honduras) that have fewer than 10 publications on the variable studied. Finally, there is a constant evolution of scientific production in 12 countries (Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Ecuador, Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Haiti and Guatemala), those that have always published at least one article in the period studied (see Table 3). In general terms, Latin America has very little scientific weight in relation to world scientific production. One of the factors that most influences this behavior is the low investment in R&D in the countries of the region, which only reaches approximately 0.54% of GDP, compared to 2% and almost 3% of high-income economies.

We found 582 Latin American institutions which were declared by the authors as affiliations. Table 4 indicates the 20 main institutions, mainly Brazil, followed by Mexico and Chile.

Table 2: Latin American Scientific Production on Gender Violence Versus Global Production

Year	Total publications worldwide	Publications with Latin American authorship	% Publications with Latin American authorship
2010	3065	137	4.5
2011	3391	176	5.2
2012	3570	181	5.1
2013	4033	193	4.8
2014	4615	247	5.4
2015	4899	254	5.2
2016	5021	238	4.7
2017	5712	350	6.1
2018	6320	368	5.8
2019	7577	424	5.6
Total	48203	2568	5.3

Table 3: Evolution of Scientific Production by Country on Gender-Based Violence

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% country contribution
Brazil	67	80	94	99	111	107	116	163	156	157	2.39
México	22	28	27	30	52	50	37	55	58	70	0.89
Chile	9	16	12	12	24	25	19	28	34	43	0.46
Colombia	9	14	11	10	19	19	22	31	36	48	0.45
Perú	5	6	10	6	7	10	10	18	24	17	0.23
Argentina	2	3	3	7	7	14	7	8	10	20	0.17
Ecuador	1	2	2	3	2	2	1	11	12	10	0.10
Cuba	5	7	2	5	5	2	2	4	5	2	0.08
Jamaica	0	2	4	3	3	3	2	4	5	6	0.07
Puerto Rico	0	4	2	4	2	3	1	3	2	5	0.05
Trinidad and Tobago	5	3	0	1	1	1	1	5	3	5	0.05
Haití	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	8	0.05
Guatemala	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	3	2	0.05
Nicaragua	0	1	6	1	2	3	2	4	0	2	0.04
Uruguay	0	1	1	3	1	2	0	1	4	6	0.04
Panamá	1	1	1	2	1	0	3	1	2	5	0.04
Dominican República	2	1	0	1	1	2	3	1	3	2	0.03
Barbados	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	2	1	4	0.03
Costa Rica	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	1	2	2	0.02
Venezuela	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	2	0.02
Bolivia	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0.02
El Salvador	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	2	0.02
Paraguay	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	2	0.02
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0.01

Table 4: Affiliations of Latin American Authors in Published Articles on Gender-Based Violence

Afiliation	Country	Articles
University of Sao Paulo - USP	Brazil	239
Foundation Oswaldo Cruz	Brazil	122
Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	97
Federal University of Sao Paulo	Brazil	84
National University Autónoma of México	Brazil	77
Federal University of Minas Gerais	Brazil	71
Federal University of Santa Catarina	Brazil	64
Estate University of Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	63
Federal Estate of Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	55
Brasílian University	Brazil	50
National Institute of Psychiatry Ramón de la Fuente	México	49
Peruvian University Cayetano Heredia	Brazil	47
State University of Campinas	Brazil	44
Federal University of Bahia National Institute of Public Health Pontifical Catholic University of Chile	Brazil	43
Instituto Nacional of Public Healt	México	43
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile	Chile	42
University of Chile	Chile	39
Federal University of Pelotas	Brazil	34
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul Federal University of Pernambuco	Brazil	34
	Brazil	34

Table 5: Journals where Latin American Authors Publish on Gender Violence

Title	Contry	H index	N
Science and colective Healt	Brazil	39	127
Public Health Booklets	Brazil	66	84
Journal Of Interpersonal Violence	USA	93	43
Feminist Studies Magazine Public Healt Journal	Brazil	13	39
	Brazil	68	37
Interface Communication Health Education	Brazil	16	36
Child Abuse And Neglect	Holland	119	34
Healt and Society	Brazil	17	33
Lancet	United Kingdom	700	28
Lancet	Holland	90	25
Psychologica University	Colombia	18	25
Brazilian Journal of Epidemiology	Brazil	26	24
Pan American Journal Of Public Health	USA	51	24
BMC Public Health	United Kingdom	117	22

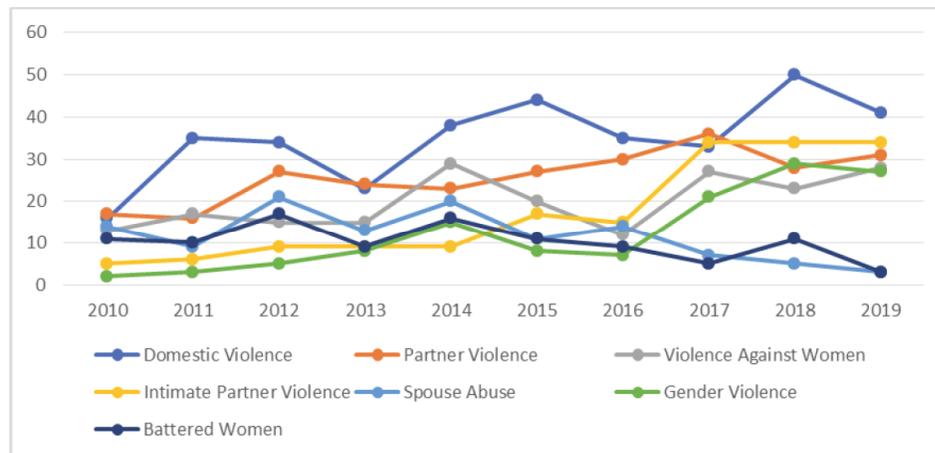


Figure 1: Gender-based violence keyword registers.

Latin American scientific production has been published in 572 journals. Science and collective health is the journal with the highest number of publications on the gender violence variable ($n = 127$).

Table 5 shows the first 15 journals with the highest production. We can see that Latin American authors do not only publish in local journals, but also in foreign journals such as the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, *Lancet* and others that publish research by Latin American authors. Although the number of journals is increasing every year, emerging countries are the main drivers, with new systems of scientific management widely predominant.

Based on the registration of key words on gender violence, it is found that the concepts of domestic violence, intimate partner violence and gender violence show an increasing trend over time, the latter having maintained an exponential increase since 2016, this data can be directly linked to the entry of laws, of Integral Protection Measures against Gender Violence. Concepts such as battered women and spouse abuse have decreased in the number of publications appearing (see Figure 1).

DISCUSSION

There is a growing interest in researching the phenomenon of gender violence worldwide, so much so that the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014) in the first European Union report on violence against women highlights the importance of adopting measures to prevent violence against women, research that shows alarming figures where 53% of women have experienced sexual and physical violence; this situation has not been alien to Latin American researchers who have increased their

scientific production in recent years, the year of the greatest boom in 2017. Likewise, a slight decrease in research has been identified in the years 2018 - 2019, with a difference of 0.5 compared to 2017.

In this regard, a study conducted on the profile of the scientific literature on domestic violence against women and coping strategies during the years 2000 to 2013 in Brazil, found an increase in production in recent years, a situation that reflects the growing interest in researching this psychosocial phenomenon, which affects more women every day (Parra and Netherlands, 2016). Likewise, a bibliometric study on scientific production in gender violence related to nursing during the years 2000 to 2016 found in the CUIDEN® Plus database that from 2000 to 2003 there were few publications, and they began to produce more in 2012 (Fernandez and Romero, 2018).

With respect to the evolution of scientific production by country, it was found that, at the level of Latin America, Brazil is the country where most research is carried out, representing 2.39% of world production. These results could be due to the fact that Brazil is the only country in Latin America that spends more than 1% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on science and research (UNESCO, 2018). Likewise, there are other countries where publications are developed, such as Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Peru, where over the years these countries have presented more than 100 publications.

The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2018) ranks Brazil as the country with the most cases of femicide in 2018, with a figure of 1,206 (1206), followed by Mexico with 898 (898), these regrettable figures support the growing

concern to investigate and understand this problem, which is not only related to the cold numbers of direct victims who have lost their lives, but also generates a whole psychosocial situation that leaves indirect victims such as children and relatives who mourn the unexpected loss.

Different results were found in a study conducted by Ladrón, Berrocal and Tezón (2016) who found that the countries of Colombia (23.5%), Chile (23.5%) and Argentina (13.6%) present greater frequency of publications on gender violence. The countries with the lowest production are Peru, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Paraguay and Brazil.

The difference in these results could be because researchers only searched for information on gender-based violence in psychology databases.

In terms of Latin American researcher affiliations, Brazil is identified as the main country where most institutions are considered to be affiliated, followed by Mexico and Chile, respectively. A previous study confirmed Brazil as the leader in scientific production, followed by Colombia (Parra and Holland, 2016). Arechavala (2011) refers that the social and economic value of knowledge can be greatly recognized, managed and cultivated in countries that have greater economic dynamism; therefore, the success of a country like Brazil in improving economic capabilities is based on knowledge, since its state invests systematically in research, encouraging universities to participate actively

The magazine with the most publications on gender violence is "Collective Science and Health" with 127 publications; likewise, some Latin American authors publish in foreign magazines in countries such as the United States with the Journal of Interpersonal Violence occupying third place with 84 publications.

This is probably because current research provides a better picture of how gender violence has been evolving, as well as scientific interest in understanding this psychosocial phenomenon, seeking other publication alternatives that will enhance the research carried out (Hernández, Flores-Cueto, Garay-Argandoña, Carranza, Mamani, Turpo & White, 2020). One study mentioned that 46.3% of articles published on violence are in Portuguese, 32.04% in Spanish and finally 16.67% are published in English (Fernández and Romero, 2018).

Finally, concerning key words in research on gender violence, concepts such as domestic violence, intimate partner violence and gender violence show an upward trend over time, with gender violence showing an exponential increase since 2016. However, other concepts such as spousal abuse and battered women show a statistical decline in the emergence of new research. Arias, Velazco and Novo (2016) found that the most frequently searched keywords were partner violence, violence, and gender, women, dating violence, adolescence, sex abuse, depression and violence against women.

In terms of the evolution of the most searched words over the years, they were partner violence and domestic violence. Likewise, Ladrón, Pérez, Castillo and Berrocal (2017) reported that the variables with the greatest scientific production were gender perspective, gender violence and gender difference.

Therefore, we conclude that gender violence as a research topic is still on the rise, so there is an increase in Latin American researchers who are interested in this issue that affects not only the female population but is a public health and state policy problem that must be addressed from different perspectives, where social participation must be the fundamental axis to eradicate violence from the foundations of the family as a society.

Finally, it is recommended that public policies be established that is appropriate to the context of each country and that contribute to reducing the effects of gender-based violence on the general population, taking into account the research carried out in Latin America.

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