

Mapping Academic Knowledge Landscapes of Beijing in Arab States: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract: This present paper aims at explore the evolution and status quo of Beijing-centered Arabic studies by conducting a computer-mediated SSCI/A&HCI literature bibliometric analysis. The authors argue that such researches are still in its infant period with inadequate article amount, limited research areas, centralized academic community. And the three characteristics of Arabic studies are summarized as inadequate amount, insufficient social science literature visibility and obvious path dependence.

1. Introduction

In the wake of Beijing Winter Olympic Games and in the new ear of a community with a shared future for mankind, Beijing image (both as a cosmopolitan city and China's capital city) studies is of crucially importance in these days. And the Arab States, as a whole regional stakeholder or separated in different countries, play a significant role in China's international communication campaign. However, Beijing in Arabic academic papers, especially the SSCI/A & HCI-indexed English-writing Arabic literature, all around the Arab States is not clearly known to all (both Beijing local government publicity department and Chinese academia-centered field). Against this background, Academic papers and their corresponding literature data render it possible for us to mapping the trending research area, major topic and specific research questions at one time via bibliometric analysis.

2. Distribution of Beijing image-oriented Arabic researches

The authors used Web of Science (SSCI and A & HCI database) to search for the Arabic researches about Beijing image. Specifically, advanced search formula is *AD= 22 Arab countries AND TS=Beijing*, and further limitation is full-length articles. That is to say, book chapter and conference papers are not included. Only 39 academic papers pop out in the search process.

2.1 Science-focused research areas

The Beijing related Arabic academia basically concentrate on natural science and manifest a multi-faceted research area. (see Figure 1) The Arabic researchers usually highlight the environment science issues, say, green sustainable technology and engineering and environmental ecology. And social science is more or less overlooked in Arabic researches. Despite of this, economics and area studies enjoy a relatively high visibility in the overall database. As we can see from the figure, social science is substantially inadequate, for example, cultural and communication studies can barely be found in the database.

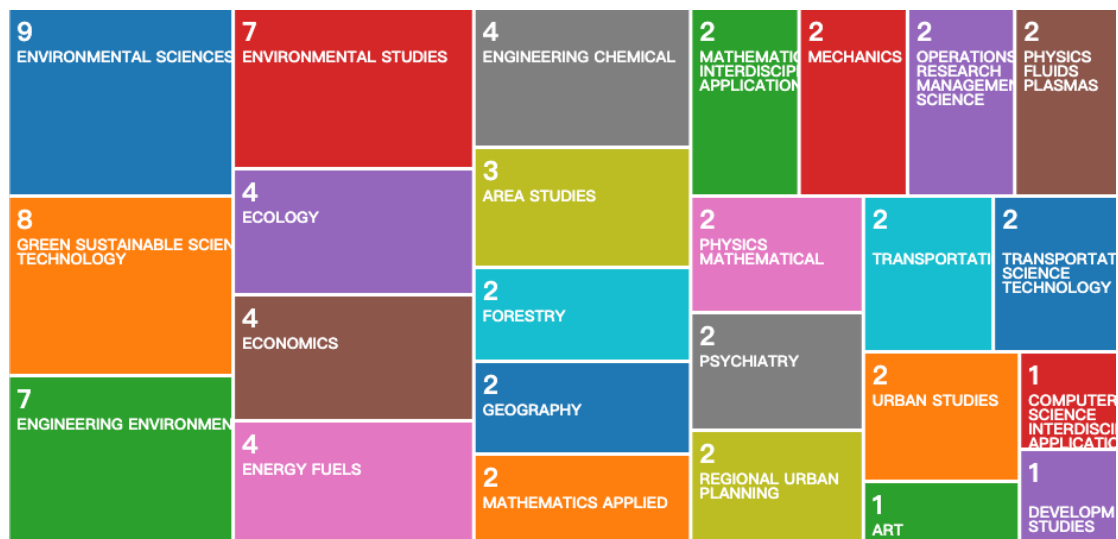


Figure 1 Research areas and subject structure of Arabic academia Source: Web of Science

2.2 Diversified publishing journals

The journal distribution shows a similar tendency, *Journal of Cleaner Production* ranks No.1 for publishing 6 Beijing related research papers. And *Applied Energy* ranks in the second place with 4 papers. And other studies are scattered in various journals. (see figure 2) The authors find out founder of *Journal of Cleaner Production* is an overseas Chinese science-major scholar and *Sustainability* (ranked 4th in publishing journals) also shares the same founder. In this sense, Chinese-rooted platform plays a vital role in the academic marketplace and exchanging process.



Figure 2 Publishing journals distribution of Arabic academia Source: Web of Science

2.3 PRC Saudi Arabia and Palestine leading regional layout

The place layout analysis shows that mainland China is the biggest partner of Arabic scholars when they conduct their study, and out of 39 papers, 29 studies are relevant with Chinese researchers (the author affiliated with a Chinese institution or Chinese scholar(s) is/are listed as an author(s)) which exceeds USA (10), England (5) and France (4). (see figure 3) Saudi Arabia and Palestine display their deep research interest in Beijing-related topics and ranked as the second and third place. Scholar from Saudi Arabia conduct 21 articles and over 80% of them are economic studies arranging from macroeconomic development over the Sino-Saudi Arabia partnership to mutual customer behavior analysis. In contrast, Palestine scholar take social interaction among China and Arabic organizations into consideration and study the socio-economic issues among China and the Arabic States as a whole. The Arabic researchers cooperating with developed countries like USA, show their research curiosity with Chinese political issues which is totally in a self-orientalism way (Ashcroft,

Bill and Pal Ahlawalia, 1999).



Figure 3 Co-working place layout of Arabic academia Source: Web of Science

2.4 Chinese scholars-centered academic community

In order to penetrate into the academic community, the authors used HistCite, a Web of Science citation analysis toolkit to dig up the co-author network among different authors, be they Arabic or international scholars. (see table 1). From LCS (local citation score, which shows the article influence in the realm of Beijing-related studies), it is obvious that Chinese scholars actively join the research and listed as an author, even the first author in 4 of the top 5 articles.

Table 1 Top 5 Highly Cited Arabic Paper (data source: Web of Science)

#	Date / Author / Journal	LCS	GCS	LCR	CR
1	508 Zheng S, Kahn ME Land and residential property markets in a booming economy: New evidence from Beijing JOURNAL OF URBAN ECONOMICS. 2008 MAR; 63 (2): 743-757	20	146	0	26
2	315 Choi KH, Gibson DR, Han L, Guo YQ High levels of unprotected sex with men and women among men who have sex with men: A potential bridge of HIV transmission in Beijing, China AIDS EDUCATION AND PREVENTION. 2004 FEB; 16 (1): 19-30	17	132	1	23
3	212 Zhou YX, Ma LJC Economic restructuring and suburbanization in China URBAN GEOGRAPHY. 2000 APR-MAY; 21 (3): 205-236	16	166	2	95
4	399 Shen YC, Zhang MY, Huang YQ, He YL, Liu ZR, et al. Twelve-month prevalence, severity, and unmet need for treatment of mental disorders in metropolitan China PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE. 2006 FEB; 36 (2): 257-267	16	194	0	19
5	469 Ma XY, Zhang QY, He X, Sun WD, Yue H, et al. Trends in prevalence of HIV, syphilis, hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and sexual risk behavior among men who have sex with men - Results of 3 consecutive respondent-driven sampling surveys in Beijing, 2004 through 2006 JAIDS-JOURNAL OF ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROMES. 2007 AUG 15; 45 (5): 581-587	15	167	2	22

Aiming at the 39 documents, the authors carried out a cluster analysis. The specific parameter was set to LCS and the limit value was 30. The full co-author network is calculated and the results still show a highly scattered and disjointed research trend. (see figure 4) All the linked lines in figure 4 have at least one Chinese author.

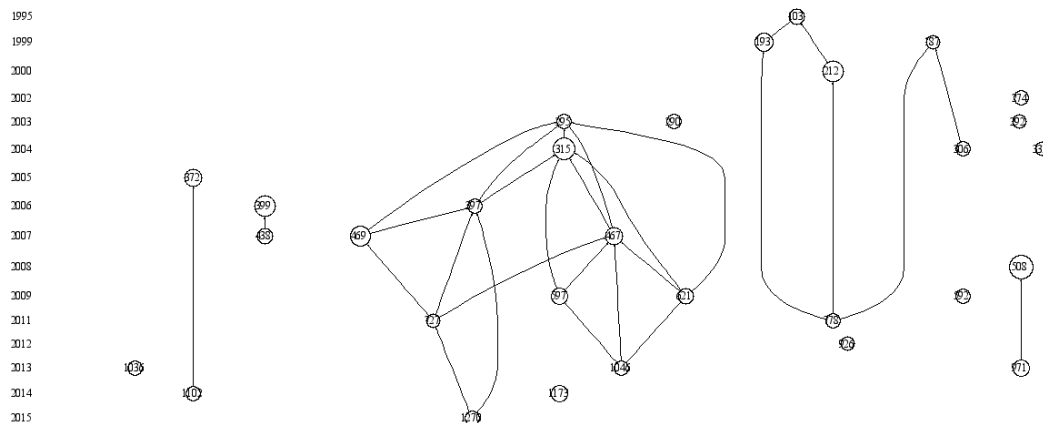


Figure 4 Co-author network of Arabic academia

Source: Web of Science

It can be seen that from the above figure, articles in the local database formed two distinct clusters, and the research dimensions were relatively discrete, resulting in a research coupling network with slightly less cohesiveness, low connectivity, and limited spatial citation frequency. The first category of author is concerning on Beijing's macro-environment and second type of author concentrates on Beijing's local citizens and socio-economic circumstances. And one interesting thing is that Beijing is usually entwined with China's capital city and sometimes is regarded as a representative of super-large Chinese international city without much local cultural and humanity characteristics, which double check the self-exoticism phenomena (without many Arabic features left).

2.5 China as the biggest Grant provider

As for academic support, especially in terms of research grant, China's NSFC (National Natural Science Foundation) provides 19 of the total 39 papers and make NSFC the largest grant provider. Various of other Chinese organizations or programs also show up in top of the supporting list. (see figure 5) And Saudi Arabia once again plays a leading in the academic supporting, just like the of article distribution.

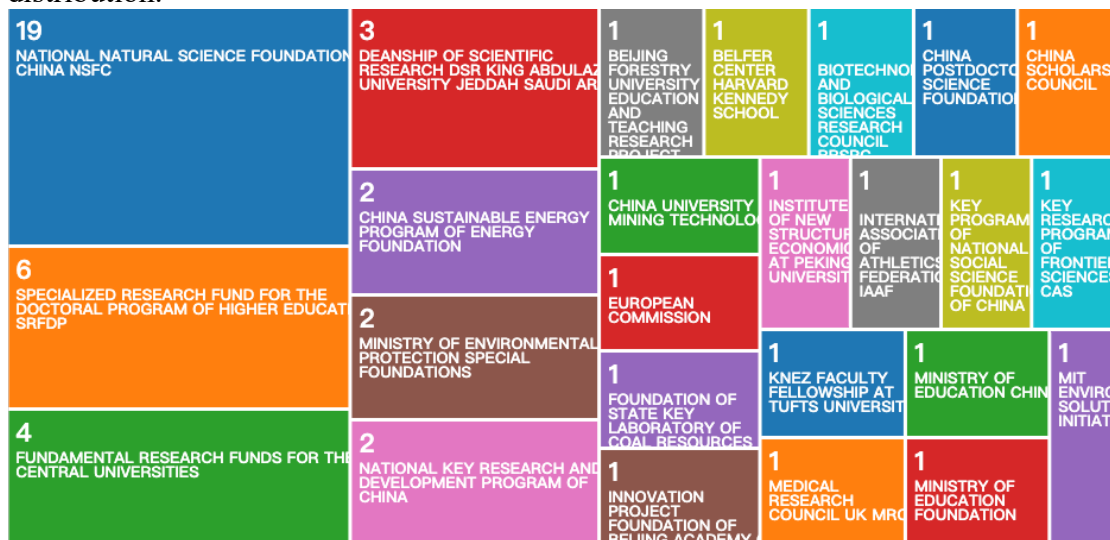


Figure 5 Research grant providers of Arabic academia

Source: Web of Science

3. Findings and discussions

It can be concluded Arabic studies is characterized by three distinctive features. To be specific, Chinese scholar and grant support play a significant part in the Arabic studies, both in publishing platforms, academic community and research orientation. It can be predicted that China-penetration phenomena will remain unchanged for a long period of time in the future.

What is more, Science studies is the major research area and social science researches are considerably inadequate both in terms of article amounts, visibility and research areas and topics as well as research potentials.

At last, research path dependence(David, P. A., 2007)and self-orientalism is obvious in Arabic Beijing related academia. It is true that developed countries is somewhat leading the academic idea market, however, nearly nobody is able to put an Eastern city in a Western agenda-setting(Weaver, D. H., 2007) approach.

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