EDITORIAL

Chile: A critical look to research on management in Latin America over the last 25 years

131 years ago academic management discipline was born. Therefore, analyzing its evolution and impact on both, countries and regions, is a call to the scientific community to strategize for future development. Latin America is considered among the most important emerging economies in the world. However, the study of the impact of research on management in the region is scarce and the results appear fragmented. The Analysis of the entries of the classification in the categories “articles” in the “management” and “business” of the ISI Web of Knowledge (ISI) in the last 25 years shows a significant increase in the number of articles of authors from the region. While in 1990 only 6 items appeared in top tier journals, included in the Journal of Citation Reports (JCR) in 2010, the number increased to 241. A major 70.10% was conducted through collaboration with authors from North America or Europe, which shows the dominance of the transfer upon technological innovation, or what is the same, poor performing frontier research on the discipline in the region is exposed. Only 5.90% of Latin American literature on management appears in journals placed in the first quartile (JCR) and only 18.25% appears in journals with an impact factor above 1. This pattern confirms that research does not relate to the main new lines of investigation at international level.

In the last decade, seven Latin American journals on management achieved their indexing to the prestigious ISI database. It is contradictory, however, that within five years of successful annexing, three of them were excluded from it. The answer to this instability can be found in the study of Collazo-Reyes, Luna-Morales, Russel and Pérez-Angón summarized as: poor international low visibility, low quality material, lack of institutional support, low recognition to researchers who publish their research in these journals. These articles appear mainly in Spanish or Portuguese language, which are little read by the scientific community from the network core research discipline. The behavior described above has important practical implications for future visibility of Latin American Research on Management, because it represents a major threat to regional magazines to keep their indexation in major databases of international recognition.

In the context of Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile is one of the countries having a greater development in research on management. As shown in Table 1 in the last decade Chile shows a steady increase in scientific output in ISI journals. This trend has allowed placing it second in the region after Brazil to contribute with 17.50% of the total scientific production in the region on this discipline.

The elements that have favored this result were: collaboration between the main Chilean universities (38.76%), which is a proper behavior of many developed economies according to the report by Adams. Secondly, international collaboration with institutions mainly from North America (22.14%) and Europe (11.40%). Thirdly, 80% of Chilean management articles are published in English language and the 78.82% in journals outside the region, mainly from North America. An element to reflect on in the future is that

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53.77% of the articles did not receive quotes, which shows a low impact, on the whole, of the scientific research management community.

The main topics that Chileans scholars have published in ISI journals on the discipline in the last 25 years (Figure 1) are the study of the development of enterprises and the implementation of problem solution. Two clusters appear as mainstreams of investigation.

While the major research topics published in journals of the first quartile of ISI category “business” and “management” (Figure 2) revolve around the competitive advantages of enterprises, entrepreneurship, and strategic management. There is no correlation $r=0.05, p=0.20^4$ between what is being researched on management in Chile and what is published in mainstream journals of the discipline. Is this a possible cause of the low level impact of Chilean publications on management?

An equally important element is the use of research methods. At present, research on management shows the existence of interdisciplinarity and complexity. It is detected that it shifted from longitudinal studies to dynamic studies with complex data. From the analysis of variance and regression to structural equation modeling, network analysis, development of content analysis and scientometrics research in this discipline. Empirical studies are less common; however experiments and simulations are arousing even more, methods fairly used by Chilean researchers in particular and Latin America in general. So, how

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$^4$ $r$ is defined: Pearson ’s correlation coefficient. $p$: the significance of the probability of occurrence.
to improve the impact of research on management in the region? The road is known and so the means. It is imperative to place Latin America and Chile between the great disseminators of new knowledge about management in the international arena.

Guillermo Armando Ronda-Pupo, Carlos Díaz-Contreras
Escuela Universitaria de Ingeniería Industrial, Informática de Sistemas
Universidad de Tarapacá
Arica, Chile
E-mail: grondap@uta.cl; cdiaze@uta.cl