

Mapping the Concepts of Spiritual Knowledge and Integral Knowledge

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Abstract: The question of knowledge permeates our society since the days of the Greek philosophers. According to some, knowledge is what allows man to equate the problems of daily life. In the knowledge society, this can also be linked to spiritual knowledge, aiming an area that transcends human existence and integral knowledge in the connection of knowledge of the human being as a whole. Therefore, the objective of this article is to map the concepts of spiritual knowledge and integral knowledge. For this, the bibliometric analysis was carried out, based on a systematic search in the online Scopus database. As a result, it has been identified that the research emerges in the medical field intersecting the discussions of Medicine, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Nursing intersecting with Psychology, Environmental Science, Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Engineering, Health Professions, Business, Management and Accounting, Multidisciplinary, Economics, Econometrics and Finance Mathematics and Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutical.

Keywords: Spiritual knowledge; Integral knowledge

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I. INTRODUCTION

The knowledge society, interconnected in megabytes where information occurs at various times and situations through digital communication technologies, knowledge has come to be understood in many ways. Thus, knowledge can be explained according to the theory of autopoiesis as emerging from those connecting networks that connect and complement each other, that is, a system of complex connections that unite and relate to each another. Knowledge is shared through this network of relationships and is validated by that same network.

In these networks of communications associated with various knowledges, different lenses, originating from interdisciplinarity, cognitive science is used to understand the disciplines of the academic and social universe. Here we can explain that there are several types of knowledge, but in this article we will concentrate on integral knowledge and spiritual knowledge. The integral knowledge is that originating from the articulation of all forms of knowledge linked to technology. According to Machado and Fialho (2016), integral knowledge is part of this great universe of connections and interactions of man with this network of digital communication. Spiritual knowledge is articulated in some grounds that transcend logic since it sustains itself in "Revelation" as a source. Thus, spiritual knowledge transcends technology, emerging from the cosmic universe.

Based on this contextualization, the objective of this study is to map the concepts of spiritual knowledge and integral knowledge. To do so, the article is organized in five sections. The first one, presented here, introduces a context of research. In the second section, the methodological procedures traced in the research are described. In the third section are presented data, results and a bibliometric analysis. In the fourth section, the final considerations presenting concepts about integral and spiritual knowledge. And finally, in the fifth section, the references used to construct this article are listed.

II. METHODOLOGICAL TRACK

In order to meet the problematic of this research, we worked on an exploratory-descriptive view with inductive method with the objective of delineate the theme and increase the familiarity of the researchers with the fact from sufficient data allowing the researcher to infer a truth (MARCONI; LAKATOS, 2010).

As a method of literature research, we used systematic search in an online database, followed by a bibliometric analysis of the results. Bibliometrics is an information science methodology that uses mathematical and statistical methods to map documents and publication patterns (FEATHER; STURGES, 2003; SANTOS; KOBASCHI, 2009).

Bibliometrics enables the organization and quantitative analysis of relevant data such as: production by region; timeline of publications; research by area of knowledge; study citation count; impact factor of a scientific publication among others. This analysis allows the systematization of the results of a research and the minimization of the occurrence of possible biases when looking at a certain theme.

III. PROCEDURES FOR DATA COLLECTION

For the bibliometric analysis, the study was organized in three distinct steps: planning, gathering and result. These steps happened in an integrated way to answer the guiding question of the research: What is the concept of spiritual knowledge and integral knowledge?

Planning began in June 2017, when the research was conducted. In the planning scope, the Scopus database was defined as relevant <<http://www.scopus.com>>, due to its contribution in the academic world, its interdisciplinary character, its constant update and also because it is one of the major bases of abstracts and references of peer-reviewed scientific literature.

Considering that the research problem was delimited in the planning phase, the search terms were: integral knowledge and spiritual knowledge. As basic principle for the search, we chose to use the terms in the "title", "abstract" and "keyword" fields, without any temporal restriction, language restriction or other restrictions that may limit the result.

Based on the research planning, the **data collection** recovered a total of 86 indexed works, with the first record dated from 1961 and the last one from 2016.

As **result** of this data collection, it was identified that the works were written by 142 authors, linked to 113 institutions. 72 keywords were used to identify and index the publications, which are distributed in 14 areas of knowledge. It was identified that of the universe of 86 scientific papers, all distributed in 55 articles, 14 book chapters, 11 revision articles, 3 books, 2 reference documents and one editorial compose the sample for a bibliometric analysis that allows to weave the state of the art theme from the database consulted.

IV. PRESENTATION OF DATA AND DEBATES

Initially the temporal distribution of the works was analyzed, which allowed to identify that the first publication dates to 1961 with one article and then 31 years without any publication, that is, from 1962 to 1993 there were no articles published. In 1994 there was one publication, in 1995 another, in 1996 two, 1997 did not have publications. In 1998 there were three publications. In 1999 no publications. The next two years (2000 and 2001) there were two publications each year. 2002 no publications. In 2003 there was one publication as well as in 2004, but in 2005 there was an increase with four publications. In 2006 there were three publications and 2007 four. 2008 there was a significant increase with ten publications and 2009 there was a decrease, being published four articles. 2010 there were five publications. In 2011 there was an increase to ten publications and 2012 ten publications as well. 2013 there was decrease in publications with only four documents and 2014 followed with seven publications. In 2015 there was a small decrease with only four indexed documents, but in 2016 an increase again with seven published documents. This frequency shows discontinuity and lack of research in the area. For better visualization chart 1 was elaborated.

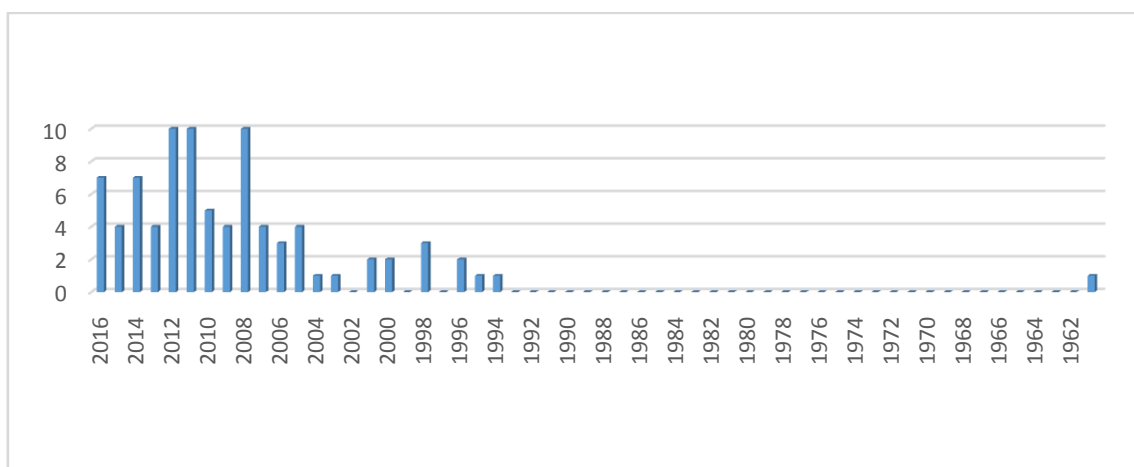


Chart 1- Distribution of work per year
Source: Authors (2017).

The first article was published in 1961 entitled "Another Note on Counseling and the Nature of Man", CGKemp. In this article the author argues that there is a growing consensus that the counselor belief is a basic

and integral part of the counseling relationship. The character of the counselor's belief is based on what he believes about the nature of man. Accepting a belief that considers the harmony of nature or the coherence of the mind as the final state of being is insufficient. Our belief must recognize the interrelation of the natural, rational and spiritual. The article argues that we should have full knowledge of man's unique capacity for self-transcendence and the heights and depths of human freedom.

From a systemic and directed look at the eighty-six works, there is a varied list of countries that stand out in the research regarding spiritual knowledge and integral knowledge. With a significant spot the United States has an average of 30% of publications, a total of 27 articles. Coming in second is "Undefined" (of different nationalities) with 20% of the publications, that is, 11 works. Australia and Germany follow with 10% of publications, i.e. 7 articles. Chart 2 shows the countries involved in publications indexed in the Scopus database.

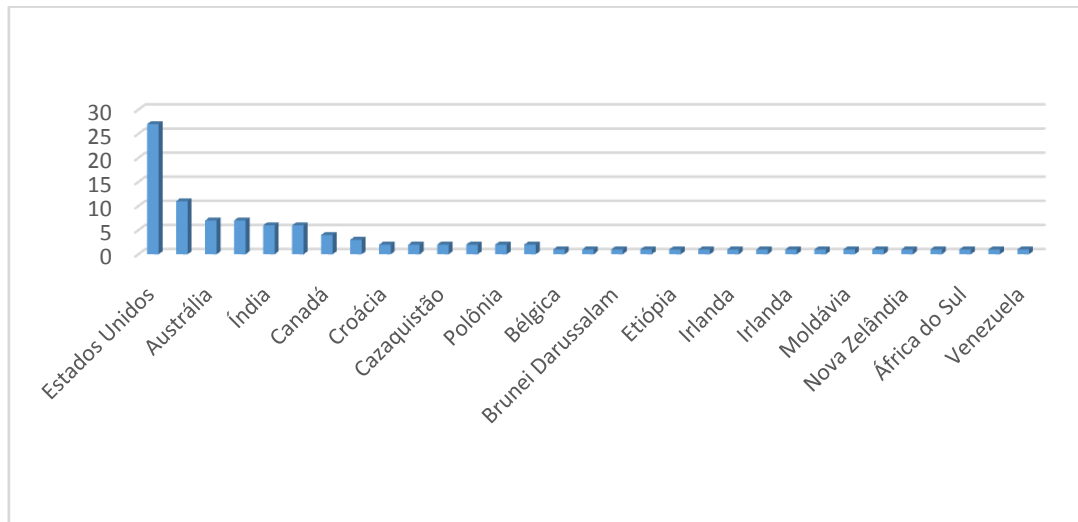


Chart 2 - Distribution of research by country
Source: Authors (2017).

Another quantitative analysis performed from a bibliometric look is related to the number of authors that appear in the result of this search, which allows to affirm that there is no author that stands out in this line of research. The area is under construction and development and the researchers who work in it are still varied in numbers. In Table 1 we organized the main authors in this area, being mentioned for having at least 2 publications indexed in the Scopus database.

Author	# of Publications	Affiliation	Country
Peters, S.O.	4	Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein Campus Lubeck	Germany
Wagner, T.	4	Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein Campus Lubeck	Germany
Rauduvaite, A.	2	Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, Department of Music,	Lithuania

Table 1 - Authors with the highest number of publications in the area, their affiliations and countries
Source: Authors (2017)

On table 1, the number of publications, university and the respective country are described, and it can be observed that of the three authors who stand out with discussions and publications on this subject two are from Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein Lubeck Campus, in Germany.

Based on the general survey, it was possible to analyze the areas of concentration of the articles are in the following knowledge fields: Medicine, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Nursing intersecting with Psychology, Environmental Science, Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Engineering, Health Professions, Business, Management and Accounting, Multidisciplinary, Economics, Econometrics and Finance Mathematics and Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutical, as illustrated in chart 3:

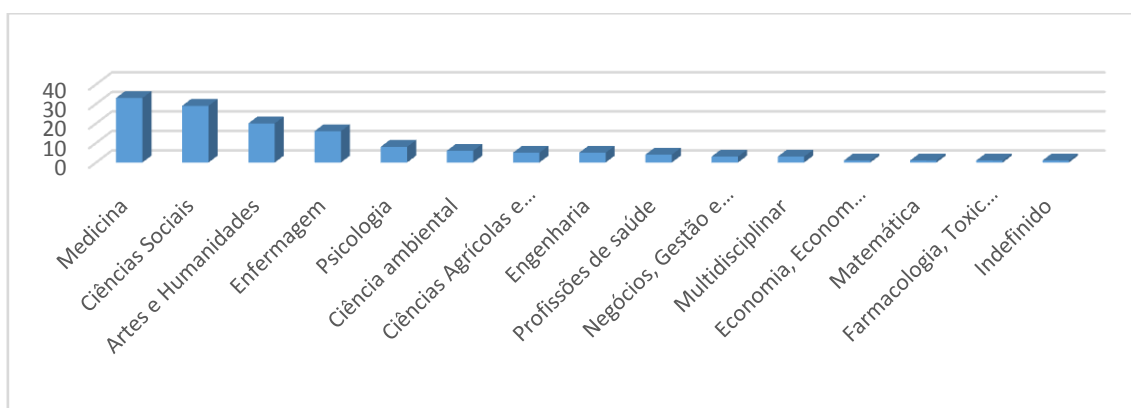


Chart 3 - Areas of knowledge of the publication
Source: Authors (2017)

It should be noted that the highest concentration of publication is in the Medical area with 24% of publications, followed by Social Sciences with 21% and Arts and Humanities with 15%.

Another analysis conducted, from the bibliometric analysis, based on the group of works retrieved in the Scopus database, were the keywords used that synthesized 72 different words. The highlight was the keyword human with 31 occurrences followed by the words humans with 25, religion with 22, article with 22, spirituality with 18, female with 12, male with 12, review with 11, Health Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice and psychological aspect with 10 and learning with 10, Attitude to health with 9, Philosophy with 8, Attitude of Health Personnel with 7, methodology with 7, quality of life with 7, Counseling with 6, education with 6, attitude of health staff with 6, middle age with 7 and palliative care with 6. The other occurrences were not considered in this article, because they appear with considered low frequency being them 5 or 4, or 3, or 2 or 1 time only.

In the analysis of the keywords, the discussion about spiritual knowledge and integral knowledge brings together the themes "human", "attitudes", "education" and "religion", with emphasis on an active proposal of knowledge that aggregates the health of the human being.

Finally, searching for a qualitative analysis, it was noticed that this debate still involves the concern with the health and well-being of the human being. Permeating in these discussions the evolution of spiritual knowledge aggregated to multidisciplinary areas and medicine.

V. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Dealing with spiritual and integral knowledge implies discussing aspects related to health, linked to issues related to the quality of life and well-being of the human being. In addition, it is also a tool for medicine because the use of this knowledge allows diseases to be treated differently in the context of the knowledge society.

Thus, spiritual knowledge can be conceptualized as that which transcends the human being and it is connected to the transpersonal dimension connected to the unconscious, to the higher self, involves intuition, higher energies emerging from the cosmic universe.

Integral knowledge is linked according to Machado and Fialho (2016), to neural networks to the collective brain, originating from the articulations of knowledge complementing the human knowledge dimensions of the knowledge society.

The scientific mapping of the production related to the theme "spiritual and integral knowledge", made in the Scopus database, allowed a bibliometric analysis of the theme describing the main discussions of contemporaneity and the intersection between the areas. As a result, it has been identified that the research emerges in the medical field intersecting the discussions of Medicine, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Nursing intersecting with Psychology, Environmental Science, Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Engineering, Health Professions, Business, Management and Accounting, Multidisciplinary, Economics, Econometrics and Finance Mathematics and Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutical. It is suggested that studies in the different areas be analyzed and amplified by an integrated view of action on the wellbeing of the human being.

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