Testing Social Science Publications for Multiple Perspectives:

Using citation network analysis to assess U.S. scholarship on security strategy towards Afghanistan

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Abstract

This study develops a generalizable multiple perspectives validity index model that can be used to test to what extent various researchers that publish on the same subject incorporate multiple perspectives. This mechanism is mainly intended for evaluating stocks of knowledge created around different policy issues. Based on this model publications on each policy issue are treated as a knowledge production system that can be visualized as an evolving group of networks using ORA visualization software. The data is gathered using Citation Network Analyzer tool. Next, the data is processed through ORA to create visualizations. Once elicited, the visualizations can be used for analysis. Citation Network Analysis method is employed to draw inferences about core and peripheral researchers, their citation patterns and their affiliations. Finally, the publications are analyzed on the subject of multiple perspectives. The model is applied to assess scholarship on the U.S. security strategy towards Afghanistan from 1990-to present and to evaluate how this scholarship evolved in terms of its core authors, authors' commitment to multiples perspectives and their outreach for alternative hypotheses.