

Research in Sport and Exercise Psychology Between 2003 and 2013: An Analysis of the English-Speaking Publication Trends Before the Field's 50th Anniversary

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RESEARCH IN SPORTS AND EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY BETWEEN 2003 AND 2013: AN ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING PUBLICATION TRENDS BEFORE THE FIELD'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

KEYWORDS: Content analysis, Description, Gender, Research, Subject.

ABSTRACT: Sports and exercise psychology as a scholastic field was officially inaugurated in 1965 in Rome on the occasion of the first World Congress on Sports Psychology. As it nears its 50th anniversary in 2015, we have conducted a content analysis of the existing six subject specific English-speaking international journals in the field to obtain an overview of research and publication trends. Articles ($n = 2276$) published between 1 January 2003 and 1 January 2013 were examined. The type of publications, subject of the articles, institutional and national origin, and authors' gender were examined. Results revealed that the subject matter of the articles could be grouped into 45 areas. The majority (79.6%) of the work was empirical. Articles originated from 725 institutions located in 43 nations. Most publications (75%) over the decade reviewed stemmed from only five, mainly Anglophone, nations. First and second authorships were largely by male scholars (64.7% vs. 68.2%). Compared to 2003, in 2012 significant changes took place in authorships and the subject areas of the articles. It is concluded that research and publications in the field of sport and exercise psychology are dynamic and growing. At present, the work is largely dominated by English-speaking contributions and male scholars. However, input from British and German scholars was nearly three times higher in 2012 than in 2003.

Sport and exercise psychology, as a new branch of Psychology, was officially born in Rome in 1965 with the occasion of the first 1st World Congress in Sport Psychology. (Work in the field has started earlier, but this event marked the establishment of the first scientific society in the area, namely the International Society for Sport Psychology (International Society for Sport Psychology (ISSP, 2015)). Five years later, upon the initiative of Ferruccio Antonelli, the first scholastic publication, entitled International Journal of Sport Psychology, has been released in Rome, Italy (Edizioni Luigi Pozzi, 2010). This credit, unfortunately is not always granted to the European initiative, since some textbooks and even the currently highly relied-on Wikipedia (Wikipedia, 2014a) lists the Journal of Sports Psychology (a publication that was published nine years later in the USA) as the first academic journal in the field. Clearly, this is an erroneous information.

Researchers in the area of sport and exercise psychology have shown limited interest in the publication trends in their field. Twenty years ago, Allen (1994) published a reference list of authorships in sport psychology. Later, Markland (2001) examined the psychology publication trends in a non-specialized but related outlet, in the Journal of Sport Sciences. In the same year, Spence and Blanchard (2001) have looked at publication bias in sport and exercise psychology. Qualitative research in three sport English Speaking psychology journals, over a 10-year

period, was examined by Culver, Gilbert and Trudel (2003), who concluded that there is a conservative effort in this type of approach. Guillén (2004a,b) has published two extensive reference lists of sport psychology publications emerging from English and non-English scholastic sources. Recently, Szabo (2014) has examined the two highest impact factor journals in the field, over a period of 11 years, and found that more than 50% of the publications emerge from English speaking nations, while also presenting a link between research effort in the field and Olympic success. However, to date, a more thorough inspection of the work across a range of relevant journals has not been performed.

Since the publication of the first specialized journal (1970 - International Journal of Sport Psychology) 45 years ago, research and publication has grown substantially. Other English Speaking international journals have appeared in the field: the Journal of Sports (& Exercise) Psychology (1979), The Sport Psychologist (1987), Journal of Applied Sport Psychology (1989), Psychology of Sport & Exercise (2000), and International Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology (2003). In spite of the continuous growth, it is little known about the publication and, therefore, indices of research interest in this area at this time. A focused analysis of the output characteristics may be essential in obtaining a reliable view of this relatively new scholastic field before the 50th anniversary of its *official* inauguration, marked by the 1st World

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Congress of Sport Psychology in 1965.

The aim of the current content analysis was to provide figures, over a ten year period, about the type of publications, topics of interest grouped into subject categories, most active affiliations and their national origin, as well as the sex of the first and second (if applicable) author in six English Speaking international journals with target focus on sport and exercise psychology. Another aim of the study was to compare the figures obtained at the beginning and the end of the 10-year spectrum (2003 vs. 2012) to assess changes and trends in the field. The work was exploratory, so no specific hypothesis was tested.

Methods

Six scholastic English Speaking international journals from the area of sport and exercise psychology, that 1) were circulated *for at least ten years*, 2) were *research-oriented* journals, and 3) *had an impact factor* as based on the list published at sportsci.org (<http://sportsci.org/2013/wghif.pdf>, Hopkins, 2013); except the “International Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology”, which was included because it is the official journal of the ISSP, or the first scientific society in sport psychology, were included in the analyses. The resources examined in the current work are presented in Table 1. A total of 2276 articles from 273 issues of six sport and exercise psychology journals were included in the study.

Title of the Publication	Volumes	Number of Issues	Number of Articles	Impact factor 2012
International Journal of Sport Psychology	34(1) - 43(6)	45	282	0.867
Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology	25(1) - 34(6)	52	419	2.452
The Sport Psychologist	17(1) - 26(4)	40	364	1.018
Journal of Applied Sport Psychology	15(1) - 24(4)	40	300	1.159
Psychology of Sport & Exercise	4(1) - 13(6)	56	600	1.719
English Speaking International Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology	1(1) - 10(4)	40	311	N/A

Table 1. Publication sources included in the content analysis over a ten year period (2003-2013).

The type of article was operationalized as *empirical* if it was based on observation or experience and as *theoretical* if it lacked any form of observation or data analyses. The latter also included book reviews, announcements, commentaries and the like, since these forms of publications were also included under a separate category. The institute and nation of the first author was adopted as data for institutional and national origin of the article. This coding was done not only for the first authors, but also for the second author (if applicable). Based on the name, the sex of the first and second author was determined by using the help of the gender checker web-resource (<http://genderchecker.com>) containing 97,500 international names. If a name could not be matched, or if it was unisex (i.e., Andrea or Yusuf) the author was excluded from the “sex of the author” analysis.

The 2276 articles were grouped into 45 subject categories based on their central themes. This was accomplished through careful reading of the abstracts by the first author and checked by a second author. If necessary, the full article was read to ensure its best match into the most representative subject-category. A

100% percent agreement between the two authors doing the classification was required for all articles. The first 24 subject categories were adopted - in order - from the 24 chapters of Foundations of Sport & Exercise Psychology (5th ed.; Weinberg and Gould, 2011). This textbook is the most sold academic textbook in the field, and, therefore, it was considered an “academic authority” in the area. However, this source did not include all the subject areas published in the studied research-report outlets. The other 21 subject categories, including 902 articles, had to be generated, because the topics were either too specific and/or because they were presented from a different perspective than the chapters-based subject categories (Table 2).

All data were numerically coded including journals (1 - 6), article numbers (1 - 2276), and an individual number-code was assigned to every author, every institution, and every nation. The type of the article was coded as “1” if it was empirical and as “2” if it was theoretical. The same coding was used for sex (1 = male, 2 = female). The subject-categories were coded from 1 to 45 as illustrated in Table 2.

Subject coding	Title of the Subject-Category
1	General Issues in Sport and Exercise Psychology
2	Personality
3	Motivation
4	Arousal, Stress and Anxiety
5	Competition and Cooperation
6	Feedback, Reinforcement, Evaluation of Performance, Instruction and Intrinsic Motivation
7	Group and Team Dynamics
8	Group Cohesion
9	Leadership
10	Communication
11	Psychological Skills Training
12	Arousal Regulation, Intervention
13	Imagery
14	Self-confidence, Self-concept, Self-esteem
15	Goal-setting, Flow
16	Concentration and Attention
17	Exercise and Psychological Well-being
18	Exercise Behavior and Adherence
19	Athletic Injuries, Pain and Psychology
20	Addictive and Unhealthy Behaviors
21	Burnout and Overtraining
22	Children and Sport Psychology
23	Aggression in Sport
24	Character Development and Good Sporting Behavior, Moral Behavior
25	Editorials, Book Reviews, Commentaries, etc.
26	Diagnosis, Measurements, and Methodology
27	Changes and New Developments in Sport Psychology
28	Referees, Judges, Evaluators
29	Cognitive Functions (memory, learning, decision making) in Sport
30	Emotion, Mood and Performance in Context of Exercise
31	Neuroscience, Psychophysiology and Sport Participation
32	Sex, Sexual Identity, Gender Stereotypes and Sport
33	Sport Fans, Home Advantage, Social Support, Media, Club Identity
34	Transition in Sport, Athletic Identity, Sporting Career
35	Exercise and Cognitive Performance
36	Culture, National Identity
37	Self-talk
38	Physical Self- concept, Body Image, Eating Disorders, Obesity
39	Risk-taking, Extreme Sports
40	Self-efficacy
41	Self-handicapping
42	Attributions, Personal perceptions
43	Music in Sport and Exercise
44	Choking
45	Other (non classifiable topics, 0.6%)

Table 2. Coding the central theme of the articles in the most pertinent subjects category.

Results

The six international sport and exercise English Speaking psychology-specialized journals, having a history of at least 10 years, have published 2276 articles between January 01, 2003 and January 01, 2013. The publications have emerged from a total of 725 institutions located in 43 nations. About two-thirds of the first- and second authors were males (men to women ratio = 64.7% - 35.3% for the first authors, and 68.2% - 31.8% for second authors). The majority of the articles was empirical (79.6%) while about one-fifth was theoretical. The topics (i.e., the central themes) of the articles fitted into 45 subject-categories. Two of the 45 categories (25, 45) represented editorials, book reviews,

commentaries, etc., or writings that could not fit well into any other subject-category.

Close to half (48%) of scholastic articles were represented by seven subject-categories, each accounting for at least five percent (5%) of the total examined articles. These subject areas were, in order: 1) Diagnosis, measure, methodology¹ (9.6%), 2) Exercise behavior and adherence (7.9%), 3) Editorials, book reviews, commentaries etc. (7.9%), 4) Leadership (5.9%), 5) Children and sport psychology (5.5%), 6) Arousal, stress and anxiety (5.0%), and 7) Motivation (5.0%). The other subject-categories represented each less than 5% of the total publications within the ten year period (Figure 1).

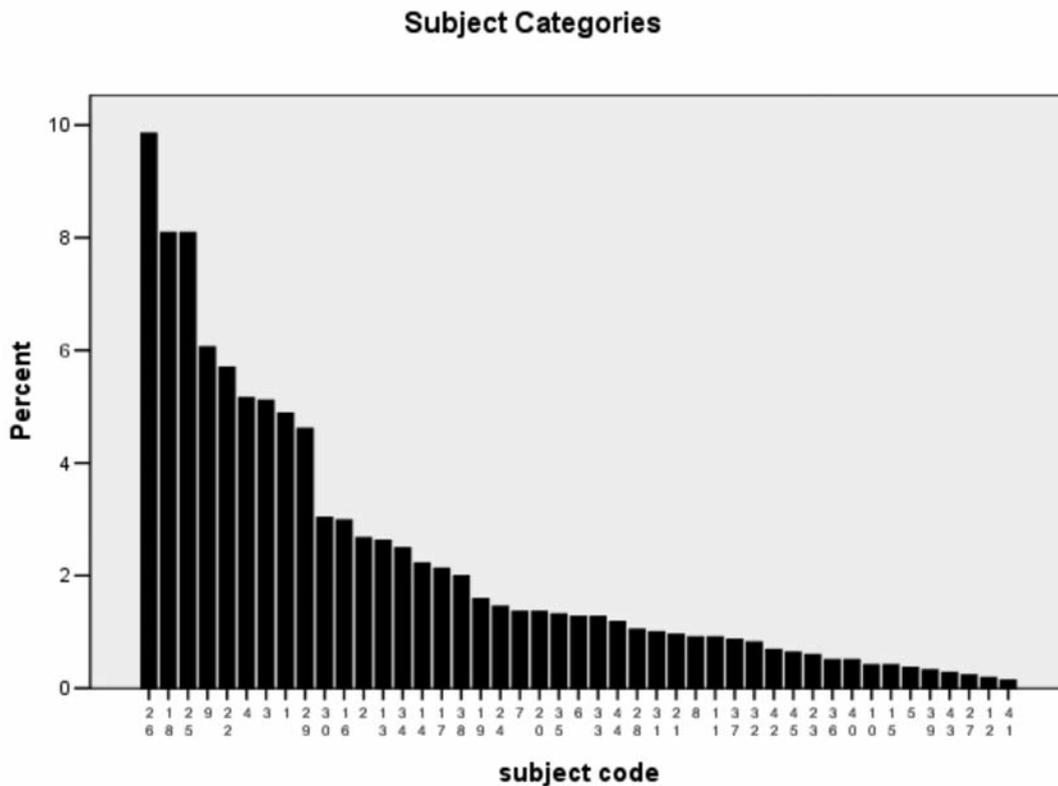


Figure 1. The most popular subject areas of interest to scholars in the field of sport and exercise psychology, over a period of ten years, between 2003 and 2013. The interpretation of the subject code (X-axis; read the number vertically) can be found in Table 1.

There were 54 institutions publishing at least 10 articles (a minimal average of one article per calendar year) in the examined journals over the 10 year period. These institutions are listed in Table 3. Their total contribution to the publications in the six specialized journals accounted for 45.7 percent. The rest of the

articles (54.3%) emerged from the other 671 institutions, each contributing from 1 to 9 pieces of publications over the examined period. It is notable that 40 of the 54 institutions (74.1%), listed in Table 3, were from the USA, UK, Canada and Australia.

¹ This is a large category that included reports on the development and testing of new tools or interventions. Evaluation of existing assessment tools or questionnaires, new assessment or intervention methods, the re-validation of questionnaires in other languages, and the development of new research methods were also included here.

Institutions	Articles in 10 yrs	Institutions	Articles in 10 yrs
University of Birmingham (UK)	61	University of Otago (New Zealand)	16
Loughborough University (UK)	41	Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (Norway)	15
University of Alberta, Edmonton (Canada)	38	KU Leuven (Belgium)	15
University of Exeter (UK)	31	Pennsylvania State University (USA)	14
Florida State University (USA)	30	Brunel University (UK)	14
Victoria University (Australia)	30	University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)	13
The University of Western Australia (Australia)	30	Staffordshire University (UK)	13
University of Ottawa (Canada)	29	University of Portsmouth (UK)	13
Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam (Netherlands)	24	Miami University Florida (USA)	12
University of Western Ontario (Canada)	21	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)	12
German Sports University at Cologne (Germany)	20	Springfield College (USA)	12
University of Thessaly (Greece)	20	Brock University (Canada)	12
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UK)	20	Purdue University (USA)	12
Bangor University (UK)	20	Ghent University (Belgium)	12
University of Florida (USA)	19	University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis (France)	11
The University of Montana (USA)	19	Halmstad University (Sweden)	11
Swansea University (UK)	19	McMaster University (Canada)	11
University of Wales (UK)	18	University of Toronto (Canada)	11
Queen's University (Canada)	18	Institut National du Sport et de l'Éducation Physique, Paris (France)	10
University of Queensland (Australia)	18	The University of Hull (UK)	10
Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)	17	University of North Texas (USA)	10
University of Saskatchewan (Canada)	17	Liverpool John Moores University (UK)	10
Michigan State University (USA)	16	Technical University of Lisbon (Portugal)	10
Laurentian University (Canada)	16	University of Ballaratt (Australia)	10
California State University (USA)	16	York University (Canada)	10
University of Tennessee (USA)	16	Leeds Metropolitan University (UK)	10
The University of British Columbia (Canada)	16	University of Washington (USA)	10

Table 3. The 54 institutions publishing an average of at least one article per year in 6 specialized English Speaking journals between 2003-2013.

The 725 institutions, publishing at least one article over a decade in the six English Speaking journals, were located in 43 countries, representing only 20.9% of the world's nations (Wikipedia, 2014b). The examination of national contributions revealed that on the bases of both first and second authors' affiliation the ranking order of the most productive nations was the same: 1) USA (first and second authorship over 10 years: 25.9% and 24.3%), 2) United Kingdom (22.9% and 24.2%), 3) Canada (13% and 15%), 4) Australia (7.4% and 7.5%), and

France (5.8% and 5.8%). Six of the 43 contributing nations, including Republic of South Africa (RSA), Philippines, Nigeria, Russia, Romania, and Macedonia were represented only by second authors. Figure 2 shows the percent (%) contributions by nations on the first authorship basis. The five most productive nations' contribution has accounted for 75.0% of all articles in the six English Speaking journals, as based on the first authors' affiliation, and for 76.7% of publications when it was calculated on the bases of the second authors' institutions.

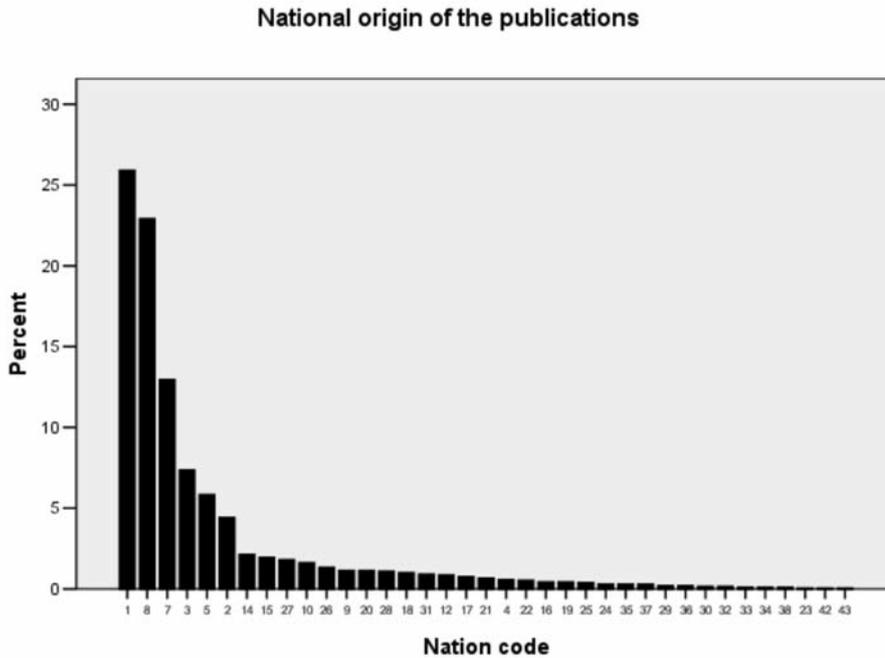


Figure 2. Nations contributing to scholastic publications in six English Speaking international specialized English Speaking journals between 2003-2013. The graph is generated on the basis of the first author's national affiliation; the codes are: 1 = USA; 2 = Germany; 3 = Australia; 4 = Israel; 5 = France; 7 = Canada; 8 = UK; 9 = Italy; 10 = New Zealand; 12 = Singapore; 14 = Greece; 15 = The Netherlands; 16 = Japan; 17 = Portugal; 18 = Sweden; 19 = Finland; 20 = Taiwan; 21 = China; 22 = Switzerland; 23 = Botswana; 24 = Estonia; 25 = Brazil; 26 = Norway; 27 = Belgium; 28 = Hong Kong; 29 = South Korea; 30 = Iran; 31 = Spain; 32 = Poland; 33 = Austria; 34 = Hungary; 35 = Ireland; 36 = Denmark; 37 = Turkey; 38 = Slovenia; 42 = Lithuania; 43 = Iceland.

A comparison between the first and last full year examined (2003 vs. 2012) has revealed that the number of publications was 56.3% higher (174 vs. 272; $\chi^2(1) = 21.5, p < .001$) in the last year examined. The number of empirical articles was higher, while the number of theoretical papers was lower in 2012 in contrast to 2003 ($\chi^2(1) = 27.8, p < .001$; Table 4). Another analysis yielded a statistically significant difference ($\chi^2(1) = 4.6, p = .03$) in the ratio of male to female first authors, but not second authors, as shown

Table 4. In 2003, six nations contributed 90.4% to the total of all publications in the six English Speaking journals. The same six nations were leading the list in 2013, however their contribution has decreased to 75.9% and the ratios of national outputs were statistically significantly different ($\chi^2(5) = 13.4, p = .02$; Table 4). The frequency of publications in various subject areas was also statistically significantly different ($\chi^2(7) = 15.8, p = .02$) between 2003 and 2012 as illustrated in Figure 3.

Sex of the authors	2003	2012	Difference
Men first authors	112	157	+ 40.2%
Women first authors	50	110	+ 120%
Men second authors	85	157	+ 84.7%
Women second authors	34	92	+ 170.5%
Type of articles			
Empirical	119	244	+ 105%
Theoretical	50	27	- 46%
National contributions			
United States (USA)	57	55	- 3,5%
Canada	24	33	+ 37.5%
United Kingdom (UK)	23	61	+ 165.2%
Australia	11	19	+ 72.7 %
France	9	16	+ 77.7%
Germany	8	21	+ 262.5 %

Table 4. Comparison between the number of male and female authors, type of articles, and the number of leading national contributions (number of articles) between 2003 and 2012.

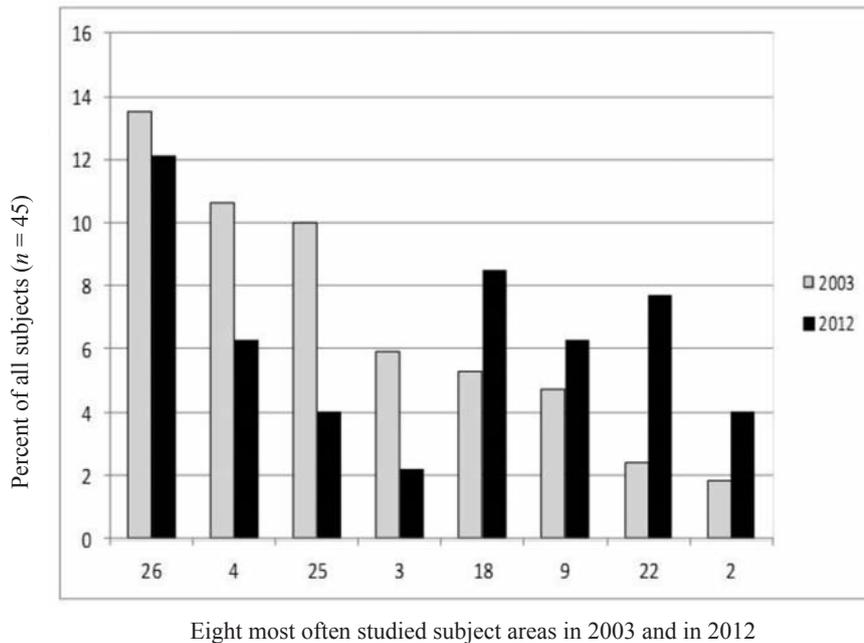


Figure 3. The eight most popular subject areas of interest to scholars in 2003 and 10 years later in 2012 - representing 54.2% and 51.1% respectively, of all subjects areas - in the field of sport and exercise psychology. The codes are: 26 = Diagnosis, measurement, and methodology; 4 = Arousal, stress and anxiety; 25 = Editorials, book reviews, etc.; 3 = Motivation; 18 = Exercise behavior and adherence; 9 = Leadership; 22 = Children and sport psychology; 2 = Personality and sport.

Discussion

Reaching the 50th anniversary of the official inauguration of the scholastic field of sport and exercise psychology, the data obtained in this content analysis present snapshots of the recent publication trends, likely mirroring scholastic effort, in this young field of study. Clearly, increased work in the area has generated increased number of publications. Three out of the six English Speaking journals explored in the current work (Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology, Psychology of Sport & Exercise, and International Journal of Sport Psychology) have increased their output from 4 issues per year to bimonthly publications during the examined period. The four to one ratio of empirical and theoretical articles suggests that substantial data-based research is going on in the field. More recently, in 2012, the publications were dominated by empirical articles (90%) in contrast to 2003 (70.4%), suggesting the journals' preference for data-based reports.

In considering the coverage of the topics in the 24 chapters of perhaps the most popular textbook in the field of sport and exercise psychology (Weinberg and Gould, 2011), the current analysis of over 2000 articles suggests that there may be substantially more subject-categories in the field (refer to Table 2). However, it should be noted that there is some overlap between the subject-categories and some of them may have surfaced just recently with few relevant articles (e.g., 39, risk-taking and extreme sports, or 43, music in sport and exercise).

Further, two of the 45 categories (25, editorials, book reviews, etc. and 45, non-classifiable topics) are not subject-specific, but they were included in the analysis because they are integral part of the publications in the scrutinized journals. Nevertheless, the leading subject area 26 (diagnosis, measurements, and methodology) is not part of the reference textbook's subject-categories (or chapters), yet it appears to be the subject-category receiving the most attention in the field.

The work interest seems to be shifting. In 2012, articles dealing with exercise behavior and adherence (18), leadership (9), children and sport psychology (22), and personality in sport (2) have outnumbered those in 2003. However, articles dealing with arousal, stress and anxiety (4), motivation (3), as well as editorials, book reviews, etc. (25) were less in 2012 in contrast to 2003 (Figure 3). The observed trend may be due to the fact that anxiety, arousal and motivation were among the first subjects examined in the field and relatively lesser new knowledge may be available in contrast to the still emerging or growing subjects in which new research effort may generate further questions.

The results support Szabo's (2014) findings in that Anglophone institutions and nations dominate the publication in the area. In his recent study, Szabo looked at the two highest impact factor journals' origin of articles and has found that over 50% of the articles, published between 2000 and 2011, emerged from USA, UK and Canada. In this more recent 10-year analysis, with four additional scholastic journals, we have found a similar trend. More than two-thirds (69.1%) of work stemmed from USA, UK, Canada, and Australia (Figure 2). While the US was leading,

scholastic reports from the UK and Germany were more than double in 2012 in contrast to 2003. In fact, in the last year of the analysis British scholars have published the most articles in the six specialized journals (refer to Table 3). These figures suggest that scholastic works from English nations and/or institutions dominate the field. There may be at least three explanations for this observation. First, the affluence and research opportunity in the leading nations may be greater than in other countries. Second, given that six international English language publications were scrutinized, it may be assumed that Anglophone scholars could publish their work more easily. Last but not least, language mastery assures access to more and better understood background knowledge upon which research work can be built. A fourth tentative explanation may be linked to publication bias in the area, but that would not be independent of the other three explanations.

While male authors dominate the field, the ratio of male to female scholars publishing in the six English Speaking journals examined, was notably different in 2003 and 2012. The gap in 2012 was only 42.7% while in 2003 it was 124% (refer to Table 4). This difference suggests that more women scholars are becoming interested to work in the field of sport and exercise psychology. The over 100% increase in both first and second women authors in 2012, substantiates this contention.

In conclusion, substantial increase in the number of publications, in a set of six subject specific English Speaking journals, suggests that work in the area of sport and exercise psychology is increasing. There are about 45 different subject-categories, revolving around different themes, in the area. Measurement and methodology issues receive the most attention. The number of empirical publications outnumber theoretical articles in a four to one ratio over the ten year period, and in 2012 this ratio was nine to one. Two European (British) universities, with over 40 publications each, lead the work in the field as based on the examined outlets. The largest number of articles emerged

from the USA over the ten year period examined, however, in 2012 British scholars published more work than their fellow Americans and input from Germany has nearly tripled. This trend demonstrates that European psychologists are becoming increasingly involved in sport and exercise psychology. The bulk of publications emerge from Anglophone nations, accounting for about three-quarters (75%) of all work in the analyzed journals over the ten year period. Six nations yielded over 90% of all output in the six English Speaking journals in 2003, but the figure - in spite of an increased number of articles from most of these nations - was more near 75% in 2012, suggesting that other national scholars are making effort to have their input. While male authors outnumber female authors, women representation in 2012 was over 100% higher than in 2003 in both first- and second authorships, suggesting the increased involvement of female scholars into the ongoing work in the field. Overall, it appears that major, fast-occurring and dynamic changes are taking place in the field as we approach the 50th anniversary of its official inauguration.

The limitations of the current study need to be recognized in the interpretation of the results. First, only journals that have been around for at least 10 years were scrutinized. Some newer journals may have specialized orientations that may attract specific topics, which - as a consequence - would be less represented in the established general sport and exercise psychology journals. Second, five out of the six English Speaking journals studied here, had an impact factor. Some established journals show bias in their publication practices, which may also be evident in the data presented in the current report. Finally, non-English language journals, by not meeting the delimitation of the study, were not included in the current evaluation. Future research and content analyses should be more inclusive and select their resources more broadly, without imposing severe delimitations like in the current work

LA INVESTIGACIÓN EN PSICOLOGÍA DEL DEPORTE Y DEL EJERCICIO ENTRE 2003 Y 2013: UN ANÁLISIS DE LAS TENDENCIAS DE PUBLICACIÓN EN REVISTAS ANGLOPARLANTES FRENTE AL 50AVO ANIVERSARIO DEL CAMPO

PALABRAS CLAVE: Análisis de contenido, descripción, Sexo, Investigación.

RESUMEN: La psicología de la actividad física y del deporte inauguró oficialmente como un campo académico en 1965 en Roma, con ocasión del primer Congreso Mundial de Psicología del Deporte. Se acerca su 50 aniversario en 2015, por lo que se ha realizado un análisis de contenido de las seis revistas internacionales específicas existentes en el campo para obtener una visión general de las tendencias de investigación y publicación. Se han analizado un total de 2276 artículos publicados entre el 01 de enero de 2003 y 01 de enero de 2013, examinando el tema de los artículos, el origen institucional y nacional, así como el género de los autores. Los resultados revelan que las temáticas tratadas podrían agruparse en 45 áreas temáticas. La mayoría de los trabajos son de naturaleza empírica (79.6%). Los artículos se originaron a partir de 725 instituciones ubicadas en 43 países distintos. La mayoría de las publicaciones (75%) durante la década revisada provenían de sólo cinco países, principalmente de habla inglesa. Respecto a los autores, los dos primeros firmantes son hombres (64.7% vs. 68.2%). En comparación con 2003, en 2012 tuvieron lugar cambios significativos en la autoría y en las áreas temáticas de los artículos. Se concluye que la investigación y publicaciones en el ámbito de la psicología de la actividad física y del deporte se encuentra en crecimiento, manifestando en la actualidad un dominio preponderante de publicaciones en lengua inglesa y por varones. En la comparación de 2013 y 2012, destaca que la aportación de autores británicos y alemanes se ha triplicado.

A INVESTIGAÇÃO EM PSICOLOGIA DO DESPORTO E DO EXERCÍCIO ENTRE 2003 E 2013: UMA ANÁLISE DAS TENDÊNCIAS DE PUBLICAÇÃO EM REVISTAS DE LÍNGUA INGLESA FACE AO 50AVO ANIVERSÁRIO DA ÁREA

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Análise de conteúdo, Descrição, Sexo, Investigação.

RESUMO: A psicologia da actividade física e do desporto foi inaugurada oficialmente como um campo académico em 1965 em Roma, por ocasião do primeiro Congresso Mundial de Psicologia do Desporto. Aproxima-se o seu 50 aniversário em 2015, pelo que se realizou uma análise de conteúdo das seis revistas internacionais específicas existentes na área para obter uma visão geral das tendências de investigação e publicação. Foram analisados um total de 2276 artigos publicados entre 01 de Janeiro de 2003 e 01 de Janeiro de 2013, analisando os temas dos artigos, a origem institucional e nacional, assim como o género dos autores. Os resultados revelam que as temáticas tratadas poderiam ser agrupadas em 45 áreas temáticas. A maioria dos trabalhos são de natureza empírica (79.6%). Os artigos são originários de 725 instituições sediadas em 43 países distintos. A maioria das publicações (75%) durante a década revista provinham apenas de cinco países, principalmente de língua inglesa. A respeito dos autores, os primeiros dois autores são homens (64.7% vs. 68.2%). Comparativamente com 2003, em 2012 ocorreram mudanças significativas na autoría e nas áreas temáticas dos artigos. Pode então concluir-se que a investigação e as publicações no âmbito da psicologia da actividade física e do desporto se encontra em crescimento, manifestando na actualidade um domínio preponderante de publicações em língua inglesa e por homens. Com base na comparação entre 2013 e 2012, é destacada a contribuição de autores britânicos e alemães que triplicou.

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