A Multi-Technique Bibliometric Review of the Leader-Member Exchange Research

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Abstract

In this study we examine the evolution of leader-member exchange (LMX) research, analysing the extant literature published from the beginning of the construct development. Using bibliometrics, we identify the most influential topics, understand the underlying structure of the field and recognize emerging topics. We complement existing qualitative and meta-analytic reviews of the LMX field using a combination of three different bibliometric techniques: document co-citation analysis, co-word analysis and bibliographic coupling. Important implications are methodological and theoretical, suggesting emergence of new sub-fields and opportunities for new connections between existing substreams of research.

Keywords: leader-member exchange (LMX), review, bibliometric analysis, science mapping