

Inequalities in the Production and Visibility of Educational Research in Ibero-America: A Justice-Oriented Comparative Analysis

This symposium reports on the outcomes of an international project as part of the 2024–2027 International Research Network (IRN) cycle under the auspices of the World Education Research Association (WERA). The project revisits and builds upon existing knowledge on the production, circulation, and assessment of educational research in Ibero-America by prioritizing an analysis of structural asymmetries in the editorial visibility afforded to these writers, as a proxy for social and epistemic justice. According to the project documents, educational research is not only an exercise of description but also a practice that ought to help change power relations, promote epistemic justice, and honor cultural and language pluralism.

The symposium integrates three coordinated studies conducted by research teams from Mexico, Chile, and Spain. In a review of 181 education journals from 21 countries, 11 researchers were included in the analysis. Shared inclusion criteria applied, i.e., journals have to be double-blind peer-reviewed and indexed in the respective recognized bibliographic databases (Latindex 2.0, Scopus/SJR, DOAJ, Redalyc, and SciELO). Methods used are descriptive documentary analysis (primarily quantitative), comparative interpretation, and gap analysis. The analysis, as is indicated in the project description, functions on three levels: a) descriptive, b) comparative, and c) one aimed at exposing disparities in internationalization and academic recognition.

In the region, the study unveils a large, predominantly open-access editorial landscape funded primarily by universities, associations, and public agencies. The Diamond Open Access model, which is particularly well represented here and involves zero fees for authors/entire publication, or readers. The journals followed regional standards, notably Latindex 2.0, with very high visibility in Redalyc and DOAJ but lower participation in SciELO. But the main structural gap consists in high-impact international indexation (Scopus/SJR) where visibility is highly concentrated to few countries.

The symposium features three papers that each present a unique regional analysis but fit together within a single interpretive framework.

Mexico Group: editorial production in Mesoamerica y el Caribe: concentration, gaps, and challenges of visibility

Researchers: Lya Sañudo Guerra, Cecilia Medel Villafaña, Enrique Domínguez Ruiz, Guillermo Humada Camacho, Rocío del Carmen Arreola Flores y Martha Vergara Fregoso. It focuses on journals from Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Within the working group, 21 journals were identified: Mexico (10), Panama (4), Dominican Republic (3), Cuba (1), Guatemala (2), and El Salvador. The dataset confirms that all journals are open access (OA) and nearly all are indexed in Latindex, but only 7 are indexed in Scopus, all of which are Mexican. } The analysis draws attention to the asymmetric establishment of editorial infrastructures, limited professionalization in journal management, and the lack of national policies to promote international visibility. Authors claim that these gaps limit regions' ability to participate in global knowledge orders, thereby reproducing systems of epistemic marginalization.

Chile Subgroup: Editorial Ecosystems in the Southern Cone and Andean Region: Expansion, Diversity and Persistent Inequalities

And the researchers are Juan Pablo Catalán, Isabel Medina Guajardo, Julieta Fuentes Núñez, and Paula Riquelme Bravo. The journals analyzed come from Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras, Uruguay, and Puerto Rico. The subgroup identified 54 journals, with important variation by country: Chile (6), Argentina (10), Bolivia (2), Colombia (22), Ecuador (7), Honduras (1), Uruguay (3), and Puerto Rico (3). Colombia is relevant for its volume and editorial stability. On the other hand, nationally analyzed by Scopus/SJR visibility, it shows a higher degree of international integration. Project documentation indicates that, from a broader sample of journals in this sub-region, only 96 (6.53%) are Scopus-indexed. National science policies, funding structures, and linguistic barriers create the patterns discussed in the paper.

Spain group, Europe, and Latin America: contrasts in international visibility and editorial concentration

The researchers are; Francisco Miguel Aliaga Abad (España) y Laura Marcela Gueta Solis (México). This study examines journals from Brazil, Costa Rica, Spain, Paraguay, Peru, and Portugal (n = 107: Brazil (n = 54), Costa Rica (n = 6), Spain (n = 34), Paraguay (n = 0); Peru (n = 9), and Portugal (n = 4)). This block has the highest density of Scopus-indexed journals in our whole study. We describe 129 journals indexed in SJR: 82

(63.1%) from Spain and 37 (28.5%) from Brazil; only Spain has Q1 journals (13). In this, the authors look at how editorial traditions, stable institutions, and public investment sustain that concentration. It also addresses the implications of European–Latin American asymmetries for world systems of knowledge.

Symposium Contribution

The three papers reveal a paradox: Ibero-America has constructed an open, regionally regulated editorial environment that is robust, yet its presence in high-impact international circuits is modest and irregular. The symposium contends that rectifying these inequities requires coordinated strategies for editorial professionalization, sustainability, multilingualism, and science policy reform within a justice-centric perspective on knowledge production.