



Bibliometric analysis of legal culture and legal education research

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Abstract. *Introduction.* The assessment of legal culture plays a significant role in shaping the identity of law students and improving the legal systems of various countries. *Aim.* This study aimed to analyse the scientific literature on legal culture and to identify influential authors, emerging trends, collaborative networks, and key topics that connect legal culture with the educational process. *Methodology and research methods.* A bibliometric analysis was conducted following PRISMA guidelines, utilising the Scopus and Web of Science databases. The study included 2106 documents from Scopus and 442 from Web of Science. Data were processed using Microsoft Excel and R-studio, with analysis focusing on annual trends, top-cited authors, and collaboration networks. *Results and scientific novelty.* The study revealed a consistent increase in scientific output, particularly from 2020 to 2023, with articles and books being the predominant forms of publication. Key topics included the professional identity of law students, emotional regulation in the legal profession, and the role of values in shaping legal education. The most influential authors were David Nelken in Scopus and Avi Rubin in Web of Science. Collaborative networks demonstrated robust international research connections. *Practical significance.* The research findings highlight the necessity of incorporating legal culture into legal education to improve the educational experience of law students. This integration emphasises the significance of emotional, ethical, and cognitive skills in their professional training.

Keywords: learning, law, education, identity, bibliometrics, values

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Библиометрический анализ исследований в области правовой культуры и юридического образования

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Аннотация. Введение. Оценка правовой культуры играет важную роль в формировании личности студентов-юристов и совершенствовании правовых систем различных стран. Цель. Данное исследование направлено на анализ научной информации по правовой культуре и ее взаимосвязи с юридическим образованием, на выявление влиятельных авторов, тенденций, сетей сотрудничества и ключевых тем, которые связывают правовую культуру с образовательным процессом. Методология, методы и методики. Библиометрический анализ проводился в соответствии с рекомендациями PRISMA с использованием баз данных Scopus и Web of Science. В исследование было включено 2106 документов из Scopus и 442 из Web of Science. Данные обрабатывались с помощью Microsoft Excel и R-studio, при этом основное внимание уделялось ежегодным тенденциям, наиболее цитируемым авторам и сетям сотрудничества. Результаты и научная новизна. Исследование показало последовательный рост объема научной информации, особенно в период с 2020 по 2023 год, причем доминирующее положение занимают статьи и книги. Ключевыми темами стали профессиональная идентичность студентов-юристов, эмоциональная регуляция в юридической профессии и роль ценностей в формировании юридического образования. Самыми влиятельными авторами оказались David Nelken в Scopus и Avi Rubin в Web of Science. Сети сотрудничества продемонстрировали прочные международные исследовательские связи. Практическая значимость. Результаты исследования свидетельствуют о необходимости интеграции правовой культуры в процессы юридического образования для повышения уровня подготовки студентов-юристов, подчеркивая важность эмоциональных, этических и когнитивных навыков в их профессиональной подготовке.

Ключевые слова: обучение, право, образование, идентичность, библиометрия, ценности

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Introduction

Legal culture is a phenomenon that includes meanings, experiences, and awareness of the perception of law in a given environment, region, or country [1]. In turn, the importance of legal education lies in the formation of identity in law students [2]. Therefore, it is important to recognise research that considers values applicable

in a social context, for which it is essential to understand the relationship between legal culture and legal education in the training of future legal professionals [3, 4].

In this regard, researchers D. P. Rahayu, Faisal, F. M. Siregar et al. [5] and A. V. Shutaleva, M. V. Golysheva, Y. V. Tsiplakova et al. [6] argue that legal education is key to the consolidation of legal culture in society and recognise that educational programmes and pedagogical strategies are required to include the population in access to justice, without distinction. In this sense, the present study contributes to filling an existing gap and thus improving the legal system and the training of future justice operators.

Comparative law also recognises that every country has a legal culture. This is possible due to the differences in the legal systems of each society, i.e. the conception of culture should not be pigeonholed into a geographical space [3]. The challenge is to identify the influence and development of different cultural constructions of law.

The role of legal culture in the education of law students is fundamental and this is corroborated by previous research by R. Cotterrell [3] and A. Jakubiak-Mironczuk [16].

At the beginning of the 21st century, it was argued that ignorance of the variety of cultures affected academic performance and limited the perception of individual identity in each legal system [2]. In the last two decades, it has become clear that legal education is developing pedagogical approaches aimed at including and transforming traditional learning methods [7]. The literature review reveals gaps in educational programmes, especially in the development of emotional and ethical competencies that are essential in professional practice.

The future lawyer, in addition to knowing the law, must learn to interact in different social and cultural contexts. This is a characteristic that is rarely mentioned and is not integrated into the curricula [1, 8]. Therefore, there is a gap to be considered as a research topic.

In that vein, it is expressed that the present topic of study has potential because it focuses on improving the relationship between law and society. To achieve this, an analysis of different social groups and cultures is required [9, 10]. Understanding different legal cultures will improve the design of policies and legal reforms, which will be in line with local realities to provide greater legitimacy in the exercise of citizens' rights [7, 11]

This study aims to analyse the scientific production of legal culture and to identify the annual trend, the most influential authors and institutions, and the collaborative networks.

Literature Review

The role of legal culture is fundamental because it relates to economic stability and promotes the development of digitalisation in society. Some authors argue that by understanding legal institutions the next step is the process of their adaptation to digital transformation. For example, G. Arginbekova, G. Zhushupova, R. Kyndyba-

yeva et al. perceive the conjugation between law and technology is perceived; therefore, the need arises to protect rights in the face of the incursion into the digital context [12].

According to N. Žiha [13] and M. Buffa [14], it is undeniable to question the importance of legal education in the process of forming a legal culture in a society. In this respect, some authors argue that legal terms must have a foundation, ideally that which is part of values and critical thinking. This premise will represent a balance between learning and the process of professional training, i.e. the teaching of law must be consistent with pedagogical innovation.

Regarding the formation of legal culture, some authors such as Z. Ashirova, Z. Sydykova, Z. Yerkeku et al. [15] and A. Jakubiak-Mironczuk [16] consider that it is essential to educate young people on the approach to justice, in this way; it will be possible to build solid foundations for the preservation of the rule of law. It is also useful to encourage autonomous learning to cross borders and identify common features of legal culture in different countries.

In relation to the use of technology as part of legal education, A. V. Shutaleva, M. V. Golysheva, Y. V. Tsipakova et al. support the importance of the recognition of human rights in media education. In this way, a globalised approach to the social situation is obtained, which the media can disseminate exponentially [6].

On the other hand, M. G. Sergeeva, S. N. Rozhnov, V. V. Zotov et al. [17], J. Timmer [18], S. Bogojević [19], S. Supriyadi & S. Suriyati [20] consider that implementing legal literacy contributes to constructing a democratic state. This initiative will benefit students of all educational levels), i.e. the formation of legal culture is not limited to higher education.

Methods

Protocol Used

The present study is carried out taking into account the guidelines of the PRISMA declaration, which guided the bibliometric analysis of the scientific production of legal culture.

Databases

The two most representative databases that bring together high-impact multidisciplinary journals were considered: Scopus and Web of Science (WoS) [21]. The decision to compare articles published in Scopus and Web of Science is to obtain a broad, multidisciplinary view of the topic of study.

Search Formula

The following keywords were considered in the search formula: “legal culture” or “juridical culture” or “law culture” or “culture of law”, which implied the inclusion of the title, abstract, and keywords. The bibliometric indicators of production, visibility, and collaboration were used [22].

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion criteria were final publication status, English language, and the period between 2000 and 2023. In the case of WoS, the core collection (Social Sciences Index) was considered. Any document other than the above was excluded.

Tool Used

Microsoft Excel and R-studio 4.1.0 software – Biblioshiny interface were used for data analysis.

Research Questions

The following research questions were posed:

RQ1: What is the annual trend of scientific production on legal culture from 2000 to 2023?

RQ2: What are the 10 most representative authors of the scientific production on legal culture from 2000 to 2023?

RQ3: What are the 10 most representative journals or sources that stand out for their scientific production on legal culture from 2000 to 2023?

RQ4: What are the 10 most cited documents in the scientific production on legal culture from 2000 to 2023?

RQ5: What are the documents dealing with the relationship between legal culture and education from 2000 to 2023?

Procedure Used

The following procedure was used in this research:

1. The research topic was selected taking into account the professional experience of the authors. After discussion, the search term was considered to be legal culture.
2. The search formula was established as: “legal culture” or “juridical culture” or “law culture” or “culture of law” and was applied in the title, abstract, and keywords.
3. The two most representative databases were considered due to their multidisciplinary nature: Scopus and WoS.
4. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were established.
5. The selected documents were related to the research objective.
6. Documents extracted from Scopus and WoS were collected and entered into the R-studio 4.1.0 software, the bibliometrix package, and the Biblioshiny interface, which contributed to the respective analysis.

Results and Discussion

Annual Trend of Scientific Production on Legal Culture

The bibliometric analysis identified a total of 2,106 documents in Scopus and 442 in Web of Science (WoS). In both databases, scientific articles and books predominated over other types of documents, underlining the importance of these formats in the dissemination of knowledge on legal culture.

Figures 1 and 2 show the annual trend in scientific production on legal culture. In the case of Scopus, it can be seen that the growth is sustained and symmetrical,

with a considerable increase from 2020 onwards, and it is in 2023 that it stands out notably. This result indicates that in recent years there has been an interest in the subject of study. In contrast, in the case of Web of Science (WoS), the growth is linear and reached notoriety in 2017. In recent years, growth has been variable. The increase in the latter database is lower.

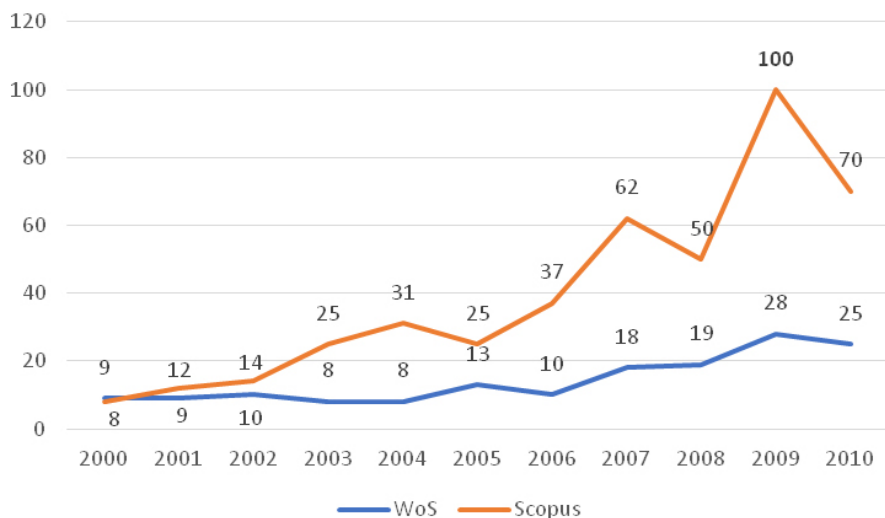


Fig. 1. Trend in scientific production (2000–2010)

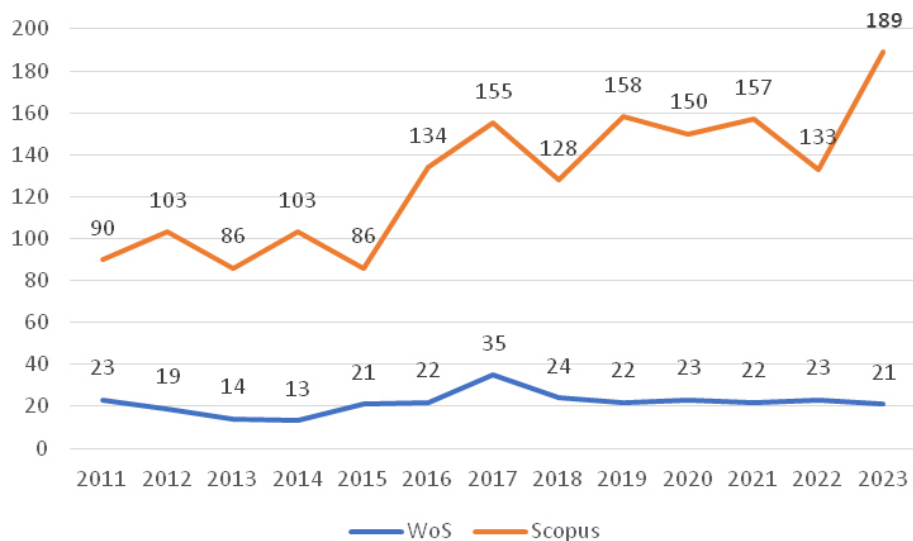


Fig. 2. Trend in scientific production (2011–2023)

In this regard, it can be seen that since 2020 there has been a greater concern among researchers to further explore the topic of legal culture and education. This demonstrates an overall trend towards the integration of legal education in the training activities of university students.

It should also be borne in mind that there is a need to identify the specific areas of the educational programmes that require the most attention. To this end, it is important to complement the present analysis with empirical studies assessing pedagogical approaches and the level of competencies acquired by university students.

Most Representative Authors and Journals of Scientific Production on Legal Culture

The tables 1–2 show the list of the most representative authors of the scientific production of the Scopus and WoS databases. In the first database, the author David Nelken stands out with a total of 19 documents, and in WoS, the most representative author is Avi Rubin with 4 documents. Likewise, Scopus has a greater number of publications and WoS stands out for the number of citations.

There is a difference in the impact of the authors' H-index and the total number of citations received. For example, in Scopus, author Lawrence M. Friedman stands out with an H-index of 12 and 86 citations, while in WoS; author Luca Enriques stands out with an H-index of 14 and 49 citations. In this regard, it is essential to bear in mind that despite the relatively low number of documents in WoS, authors who publish in this database tend to receive greater recognition in terms of citations, suggesting greater visibility or impact in the academic community.

Table 2 shows the list of the most representative journals in Scopus. For example, the journal "Law Culture and the Humanities" leads with 58 documents and an SJR (2023) of 0.157, while in WoS, the journal "Law and Social Inquiry-Journal of the American Bar Foundation" stands out, with 20 publications and a Journal Citation Indicator (2022) of 1.63. It can also be seen that more than 40% of the journals that appear on the Scopus list are not currently active, a situation that highlights the stability of the publications in WoS.

Table 1

Most representative authors in Scopus and WoS

N°	Scopus				WoS			
	Author	H-index	Total citations	Documents	Author	H-index	Total citations	Documents
1	David Nelken	19	144	19	Avi Rubin	6	76	4
2	Evandro Menezes De Carvalho	2	2	7	Man-Chung Chiu	2	4	2
3	Lawrence M. Friedman	12	86	7	Vladimir I. Chuprov	4	-	2

4	Sören Koch	3	15	7	Madeline Donaghy	2	14	2
5	Alexandra Mercescu	2	2	6	Luca Enriques	14	49	2
6	Kjell A. Modéer	4	6	6	Lawrence M. Friedman	30	20	2
7	Anne Wagner	11	56	6	Rhys Hester	6	37	2
8	Jørn Øyrehagen Sunde	4	19	5	Angela Littwin	5	3	2
9	Mark van Hoecke	6	45	5	Gregory P. Magarian	7	21	2
10	Csaba Varga	4	15	5	Rabindra K. Mohanty	15	1	2

Table 2

Most representative journals or sources in Scopus and WoS

Ranking	Scopus			WoS		
	Journal/Source	Documents	Impact factor SJR (2023)	Revista	Journal	Journal Citation Indicator (2022)
1	Law, Culture and the Humanities	58	0.157	Law and Social Inquiry-Journal of the American Bar Foundation	20	1.63
2	International Journal for the Semiotics of Law	35	0.332	American Historical Review	19	3.68
3	Ius Gentium	30	-	American Journal of Comparative Law	10	1.11
4	Handbook on Legal Cultures: A Selection of the World's Legal Cultures	27	-	Social & Legal Studies	10	1.58
5	German Law Journal	17	0.500	Journal of American History	9	3.28
6	Law and Social Inquiry	17	0.534	Law & Society Review	9	2.22
7	Law and Philosophy Library	16	0.355	Law and History Review	9	1.58
8	Journal of Advanced Research in Law and Economics	15	-	Icon-International Journal of Constitutional Law	8	1.56
9	Onati Socio-legal Series	14	0.173	Review of Central and East European Law	8	0.22
10	Comparing Legal Cultures	12	-	South African Journal on Human Rights	7	0.78

In this order of ideas, the results show the trend of growth in scientific production on legal culture, which is linked to the first research question. Likewise, it can be seen that the interest of researchers has increased since 2020, a result that is linked to the stated research objective. David Nelken and Avi Rubin stand out for

their total number of citations in the scientific production analysed, which demonstrates the concentration of citations in just a few authors, according to the study carried out.

Most Cited Documents in the Scientific Production on Legal Culture

Table 3 shows that in Scopus, books stand out as the main type of scientific production, while in WoS scientific articles are the main type of scientific publication. Among the most cited documents in Scopus are Richard Swedberg's "Principles of Economic Sociology" (372 citations) and Wael B. Hallaq's "The Origins and Evolution of Islamic Law" (333 citations). On the other hand, in Table 4 the WoS list includes "Indigenous Movements in Latin America 1992–2004: Controversies Ironies New Directions" by Jean E. Jackson and Kay B. Warren, with 178 citations.

Figures 3(a) and 3(b) show the collaboration networks between countries. In the case of Scopus, three well-established collaborative clusters were identified, while in WoS only two were found. It can also be seen that the interconnection between countries in Scopus is denser, suggesting greater international interaction in research related to the selected topic.

Table 3

Most cited documents in Scopus

Author (year)	Title	Journal/Book	Total citations
Richard Swedberg (2009)	Principles of Economic Sociology	Principles of Economic Sociology	372
Wael B. Hallaq (2004)	The Origins and Evolution of Islamic Law	The Origins and Evolution of Islamic Law	333
John Borrows (2010)	Canada's Indigenous Constitution	Canada's Indigenous Constitution	271
Juana María Rodríguez (2003)	Queer Latinidad: Identity Practices, Discursive Spaces	Queer Latinidad: Identity Practices, Discursive Spaces	214
Jean E. Jackson & Kay B. Warren (2005)	Indigenous movements in Latin America, 1992–2004: controversies, ironies, new directions	Annual Review of Anthropology	192
Lorna Hutson (2008)	The Invention of Suspicion: Law and Mimesis in Shakespeare and Renaissance Drama	The Invention of Suspicion: Law and Mimesis in Shakespeare and Renaissance Drama	158
Jane Burbank (2004)	Russian Peasants Go to Court: Legal Culture in the Countryside, 1905–1917	Russian Peasants Go to Court: Legal Culture in the Countryside, 1905–1917	151
Chandra Lekha Sriram (2007)	Justice as peace? Liberal peacebuilding and strategies of transitional justice	Global Society	148
Jing Lu & Wang Jun (2021)	Corporate governance, law, culture, environmental performance and CSR disclosure: a global perspective	Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money	132
Carrie Yang Costello (2005)	Professional Identity Crisis: Race, Class, Gender, and Success at Professional Schools	Professional identity crisis: Race, class, gender, and success at professional schools	124

Table 4

Most cited documents in WoS

Author (year)	Title	Journal	Total citations
Jean E. Jackson & Kay B. Warren (2005)	Indigenous movements in Latin America, 1992–2004: controversies, ironies, new directions	Annual Review of Anthropology	178
Miles Kahler (2000)	Legalisation as strategy: the Asia-Pacific case	International Organisation	134
Jing Lu & Jun Wang (2021)	Corporate governance, law, culture, environmental performance and CSR disclosure: a global perspective	Journal of International Financial Markets Institutions & Money	115
Franck Duevell (2011)	Paths into irregularity: the legal and political construction of irregular migration	European Journal of Migration and Law	86
Sally Engle Merry (2006)	New legal realism and the ethnography of transnational law	Law and Social Inquiry-Journal of the American Bar Foundation	79
Adam D. Kessler (2005)	Our inquisitorial tradition: equity procedure, due process, and the search for an alternative to the adversarial	Cornell Law Review	77
C. Scott Hemphill & Jeanni Suk (2009)	The law, culture and economics of fashion	Stanford Law Review	73
Terry A. Maroney (2002)	Emotional regulation and judicial behavior	California Law Review	65
Zhiwu Chen (2003)	Capital markets and legal development: the China case	China Economic Review	61
Jens Dammann & Heny Hansmann (2008)	Globalising commercial litigation	Cornell Law Review	61

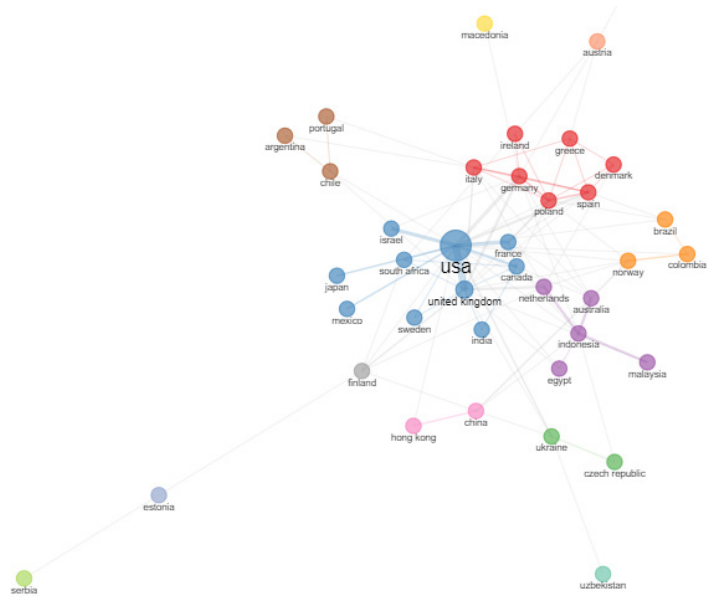


Fig. 3a. A collaborative network of countries, according to Scopus (Biblioshiny software was used)

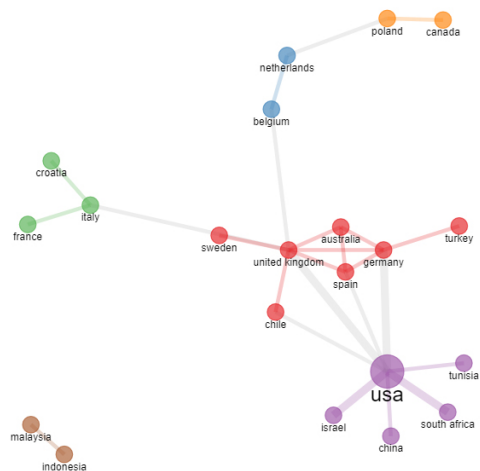


Fig. 3b. A collaborative network of countries, according to WoS (Biblioshiny software was used)

Documents Dealing with the Relationship between Legal Culture and Education

In Table 5, there are documents that explore the connection between legal culture and education, which arise in different contexts. Such is the case of research that expresses the influence of education in the consolidation of legal culture, which was analysed from a human rights perspective. It also highlights the importance of academic performance in the formation of identity and commitment to justice.

This relationship identifies the importance of the decision-making process in daily actions linked to justice, which requires the strengthening of critical thinking and education in values, this binomial being the starting point in formative education.

Table 5
Identifying the main ideas of the documents on legal culture and education

Author	Main idea	Total citations
Carrie Yang Costello (2005)	This study argues that the legal culture of students from underprivileged backgrounds suffers from identity dissonance when entering law school, so integration through education is necessary.	124
Terry A. Maroney (2011)	There is no guidance on how to regulate judges' emotions; education does not include training on this point. This is a field of action that should be taken up by the legal culture.	73
Supriyadi and Siti Suriyati (2022)	It focuses on the influence of legal culture on judges in their decision-making, i.e. it considers education in values, which will be a characteristic in the performance of their duties.	10
Anna V. Shutaleva et al. (2020)	The importance of education for the consolidation of a legal culture linked to human rights is recognised.	7

Alexander A. Kerimov et al. (2020)	This study highlights the relationship between legal culture and people's cognitive processes.	6
Derita Prapti Rahayu et al. (2020)	It focuses on the need to promote legal culture by educating the population on compliance with the law.	6

The discussion of this study revealed the growing trend of scientific production that addresses the relationship between legal culture and education. This corroborates the research by D. Nelken, who argues that through legal culture it is possible to make individuals literate, i.e. it generates the balance to understand the social context and its link with the exercise of rights [23]. Likewise, the data obtained are consistent with research that argues that legal culture is associated with law and social relations [1].

The results show the importance of legal culture in education. Authors such as S. S. Silbey and S. Engle Merry highlight the influence of legal culture on the perception of the population [1, 8]. Similarly, research by the aforementioned authors has shown that this figure is beneficial for the exercise of human rights. Therefore, there is a correspondence between legal culture and education, both of which are aimed at protecting the interests of society. In this regard, according to the authors A.V. Shutaleva et al. and A.A. Kerimov et al., authorities should implement more effective educational strategies that are in line with the use of technology and innovative pedagogical practices [6, 24].

The need to identify the coexistence of different legal spheres in countries is recognised as a recurrent finding. This is corroborated by S. Engle Merry's research that determines the importance of recognising the functionality of legal culture in effective access to justice. A pattern of privileging a certain sector of the population should not be established [8].

The results reflect that not all sectors of the population have a uniform connection to legal culture, which can lead to disorder and imbalance in society. For example, authors such as D. P. Rahayu, Faisal, F. M. Siregar et al. argue that in certain fishing communities, the conception of legal culture is influenced by spiritual beliefs, i.e. there is a priority on local wisdom [5]. On the other hand, C. Y. Costello states that it is necessary to acquire identity in legal professionals, which is why education plays a fundamental role in establishing a common denominator based on the consolidation of social and cultural factors [2].

A. V. Shutaleva, M. V. Golysheva, Y. V. Tsiplakova et al. [6] and A. A. Kerimov, O. N. Tomyuk, M. A. Dyachkova et al. [24] highlight the interest of the media in shaping legal culture and awareness. Support from the education sector can shape legal awareness for the benefit of society. Public and private sector institutions should promote the consolidation of legal culture as an indicator of a country's democratic practice.

The results are consistent with previous research. For example, R. Cotterrell [3] and D. Nelken [23] recognise that the conception of the term legal culture dif-

fers across countries. This may be encouraging, insofar as it is approached from a comparative law perspective. In turn, J. Chan [25] and B. Ahlering & S. Deakin [26] add that the diversity of legal systems can impact on lawyers and create a stressful situation, making it a challenge for the education sector to promote the transformation required by future generations. The importance of legal culture in judges' decision-making is also recognised; therefore, the lawyer must acquire the ability to make decisions with human values in mind.

Reality shows that not all countries have implemented education policies in line with comparative law, which creates a disadvantage in the exercise of rights and obligations of the population. It is recommended to contextualise local identity in order to standardise the legal culture. This is a gradual process that reaffirms the protection of the population.

In the same vein, it is important to recognise that each country has its own cultural identity, which is why it is important to establish legal guidelines to promote respect and tolerance. This coincides with the research carried out by C. Y. Costello, who proposes that the education sector should play a leading role in the education of future generations in order to protect this identity and ensure that it survives over time. C. Y. Costello [2], Z. Chen [27], K. Campbell [28] and S. I. Balyaev, D. A. Burkova, N. N. Morozova [29] point out that the role of the lawyer is to defend cases, which implies compliance with the law, respect and tolerance of the democratic exercise of rights.

In this sense, it is important to understand that training in legal culture has benefits for the citizens and encourages justice operators to take an integral stance in their decision-making. Ethical performance is the hallmark of any good professional and is therefore a challenge for lawyers and law students.

On the other hand, it should be considered that the teaching process, although it is learned by semesters or academic cycles, is applied as a whole, that is to say, it is reaffirmed that the essence of university education is to understand that legal culture is fundamental for the encounter with justice and legality that is sought through the application of law.

Limitation

Only two databases were considered: Scopus and WoS.

Conclusion

The bibliometric analysis confirms the increasing trend of scientific production in the period 2000–2023. The Scopus database is the database with the highest scientific output. From 2020 to 2023 the highest level of production was recorded, suggesting that the selected topic is gaining relevance in the legal and educational systems. This conclusion answers the first research question and confirms the interest of researchers in legal culture in the university context. The results demonstrated the increase in scientific production and the consolidation of international

research collaboration. This is vital for the incorporation of legal culture in educational programmes.

This study identified the authors who contributed the most to the field of legal culture. Such is the case of David Nelken and Laurence M. Friedman, who also stand out for their high number of citations in Scopus and WoS. Likewise, the most representative journals are Law Culture and the Humanities in Scopus and Law and Social Inquiry in WoS. This conclusion is related to the objective of the research.

The review of the most cited documents shows the connection between legal culture and legal education, thus contributing to the formation of the professional identity of future lawyers. The findings of the study respond directly to the research questions posed. Furthermore, a growing trend in the scientific production on legal culture was identified. The studies analysed highlight the importance of including legal culture in the education of university students. Emotional training, critical thinking and ethical values reinforce professional competencies.

The findings demonstrate the need for educational reform that integrates legal culture into university curricula. It is important that educational institutions promote the understanding of legal systems and the strengthening of justice operators.

Education is fundamental in shaping the legal culture of law students. Equality in access to justice and in the exercise of citizens' rights must be promoted. Inclusion and trust in legal institutions is the guarantee of a democratic society. The individual actions of people linked to the legal world must be from an ethical perspective.

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