The seventh bibliometric finding on deforestation and cultural studies

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Purpose

This short piece of communication has the sole purpose of identifying some evidence, supporting our view regarding a possible missing environment-nurturing cultural value [1]. Here, we attempt to examine the presence of cultural studies within the boundary of deforestation research.

Method

In what follows, we employ the bibliometric approach that has been presented in Nguyen & Vuong (2020) [2]. We employ the search queries suggested by Aleixandre-Benavent et al. (2018) for identifying publications related to deforestation [3].

After completing the search, the number of publications is narrowed down according to the Research Areas structured by the Web of Science (WoS). The second collection consists of the following research areas: Social Issues, History, Asian Studies, Urban Studies, Business Economics, International Relations, Psychology, Health Care Sciences Services, Geography, Communication, Geography, Development Studies, Linguistics, Public Administration, Education Educational Research, Religion, Arts Humanities other topics, Anthropology, Sociology, Government Law, History Philosophy of Sciences, Behavioral Studies, Public Environmental Occupational Health, Literature, Cultural Studies, Art, Social Sciences other topics, Women Studies, and Area Studies.

Eventually, we select papers categorized in the *Cultural Studies* research area from the second collection. The whole procedure is displayed in Figure 1. The search is conducted on November 10, 2020. It should be noted that we do not limit the search results by language, document type, or publication time when seeking the first collection in the WoS database.
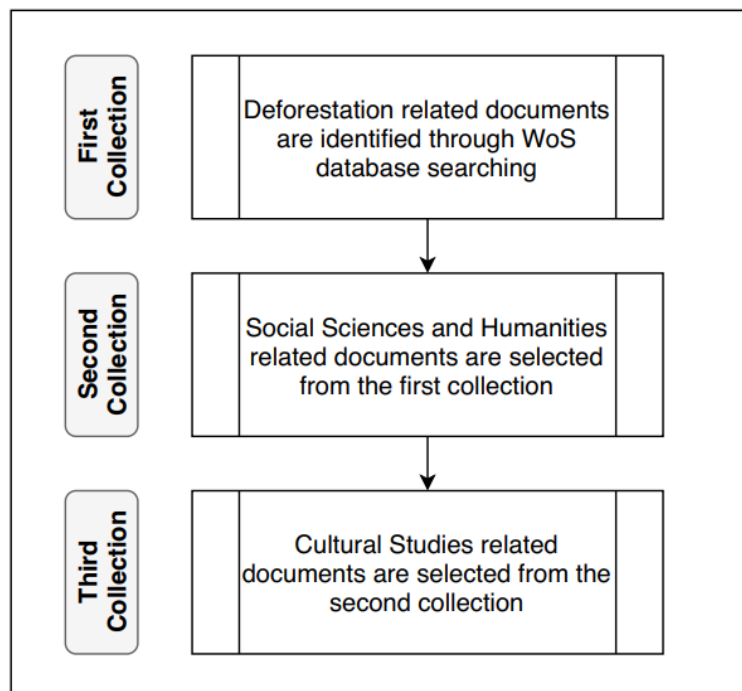
Figure 1: Searching procedure

Findings

The preliminary result shows that there are 23,054 deforestation related documents that have been published since 1901. When the scope is narrowed down to Social Sciences and Humanities research areas, we obtain 4,135 records equivalent to 17.94% of the total documents. We only detect seven publications (0.03%) classified as 'Cultural Studies' research area (see Figure 2).
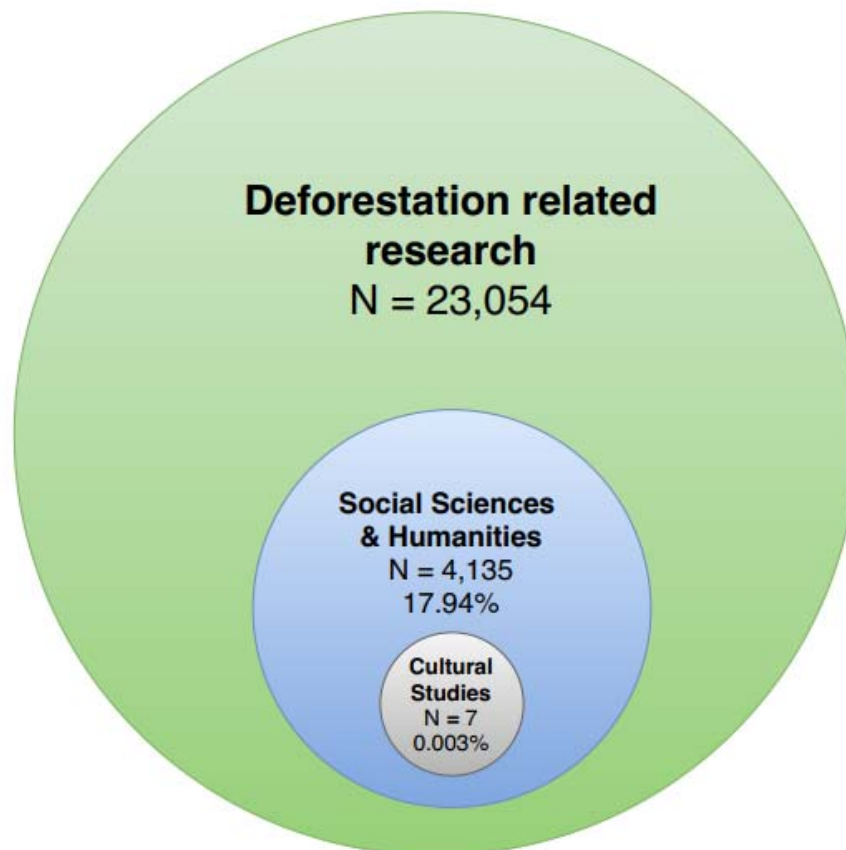

Figure 2: Percentage of Cultural Studies in deforestation research

A majority of cultural studies in deforestation research share a common ground that there exist conflicts between the socio-cultural values and the forest protection efforts. Smith & Dressler (2020) and Zhouri (2004) reveals the disputation between indigenous cultures' conservation and environmentalism [4,5].

The conflicting paradigm is integrated into film making for rendering children's "compassion for the poor in association with care for nature" [6]. However, conveying environmentally friendly values through arts is not only for enhancing knowledge but also for governmental propaganda, in some cases [7].

Remarks

We have found the existence of cultural studies within the boundary of deforestation research. Still, the percentage of research documents related to cultural studies is rather low compared to previous findings [8-13]. Cultural studies in deforestation research tend to obtain a common view regarding the conflicts and antagonisms of social life and forest conservation. Arts, such as films, are theatrical performances, are suggested as tools to either raise environmental awareness or conceal the reality of environmental destruction [6,7]. Overall, there are still no explicit theories or frameworks that have been proposed to link cultural elements to environment-healing practices.

We are aware that this finding is preliminary, and our statement in [1] can potentially be somewhat subversive by nature. Therefore, this communication has no intention of making any conclusion. It rather keeps the finding clean and clear for later use. The effort represents our approach of enabling the mindsponge process to work better and more efficiently in discovering a new paradigm that supports the nurturing of nature and a sustainable environment [14]. The future research directions will consider possible limitations (data, methods, or analytical framework), in line with [15].

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