

The third finding concerning a missing cultural value in air pollution research

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“[...] her ethereal attire earns her the title of “Dreamy Wings.” Her entire being is like an ethereal painting, a playful creation of nature using colors, lines, dots, strokes, and patches. One can only exclaim, “Absolutely enchanting. Is this real or an illusion?”

In "The Philosophy of Awakening"; [The Kingfisher Story Collection](#) [1]

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 [2]. Here, we attempt to examine the presence of cultural studies within the boundary of air pollution research.

Method

In what follows, we employ the bibliometric approach that has been presented in Nguyen & Vuong [3]. First, the search queries of Kolle & Thyavanahalli are used for collecting documents related to air pollution [4]. The number of publications is narrowed down according to the Research Areas appointed by the Web of Science (WoS). Eventually, the number of cultural studies is acquired. The whole procedure is displayed in Figure 1. The search is conducted on November 8, 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.

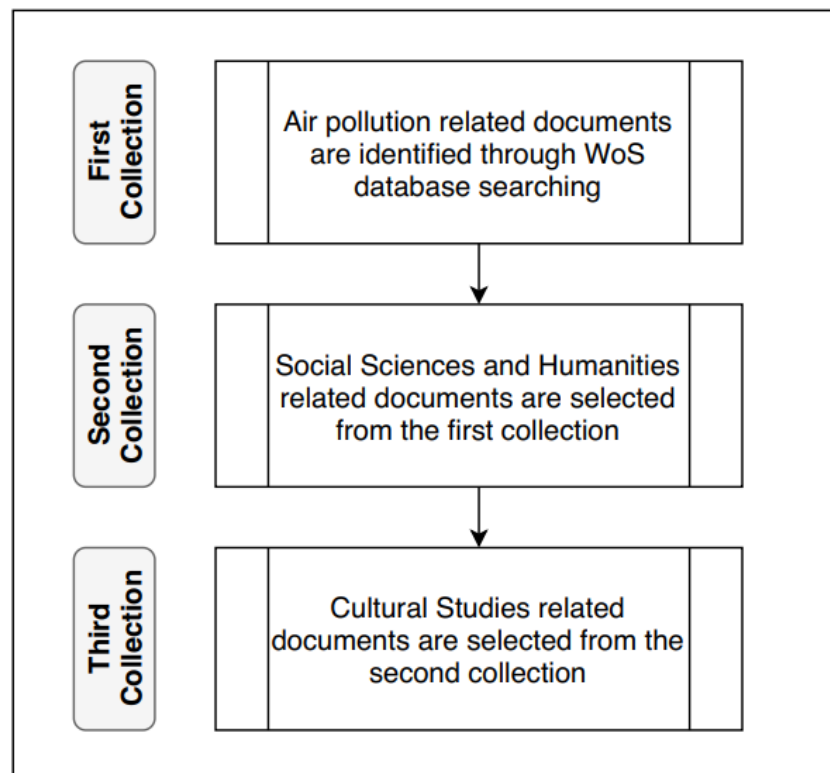


Figure 1: Searching procedure

Findings

The preliminary result shows that there are 96,712 documents related to air pollution research. When the scope is narrowed down to Social Sciences and Humanities research related to climate change, we obtain 19,573 records, which account for 20.24% of the total documents. There remain only two documents (0.00002% of the total publications) when we select solely 'Cultural Studies' research area (see Figure 2).

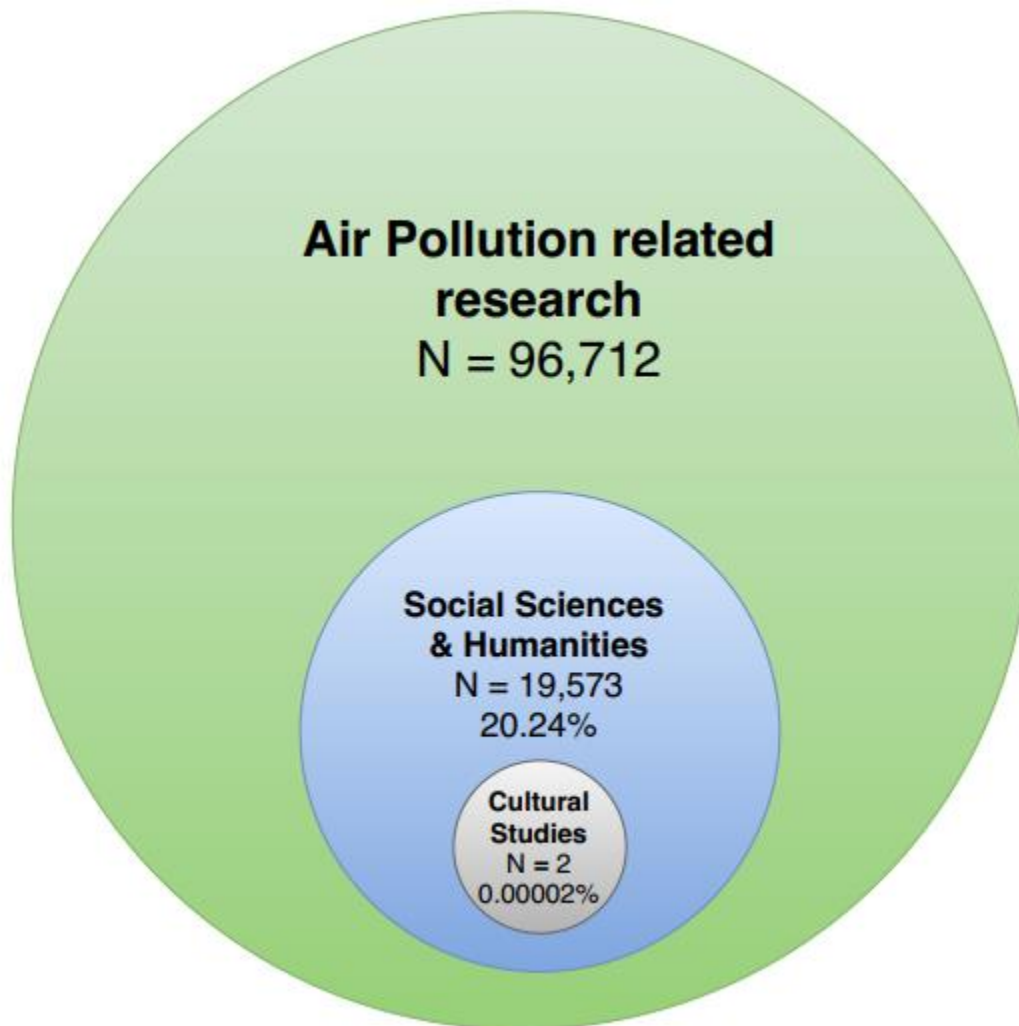


Figure 2: Percentage of Cultural Studies in air pollution research

Those two publications were all published in 2020. The study of Bogdan [5] reveals the connection between humans and nature, as well as problems of the current value systems employing narratives and practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. The author also emphasizes the demand for rediscovering more sustainable socio-economic systems that can work for both people and the planet. Another study is about the Chinese youth culture and its effects on the 2016 air pollution protest in Chengdu [6].

Remarks

We have found the existence of cultural studies within the boundary of air pollution research. Still, its portion, which is even smaller than the proportion of cultural studies within climate change and biodiversity research, is negligible. The current finding is in line with other previous results, supporting the presumption of Vuong [2] on the minor role of cultural studies in solving environmental issues. Interestingly, although there are only two documents related to cultural studies within the boundary of air pollution, they either call for a restructuring of the current socio-economic operational system or portray the importance of cultural elements in reducing air pollution. Given the emergence of cultural studies within the boundaries of climate change, biodiversity, and air pollution research in recent years (after 2009) [7,8], cultural issues are gaining more attention from global scientists. However, a convincing framework that works for both humans and nature seems to be missing.

We are aware that this finding is preliminary, and our statement in [2] 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 humanistic values for natural protection and a sustainable environment [9,10]. The future research directions will consider possible limitations (data, methods, or analytical framework), in line with [10].

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