

# **Partnership Dynamics and Publication Practices: A Critical Inquiry into Latin America's International Collaboration**

**CGHE Geopolitics of HE Symposium II**

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UCL, 25 March 2024

# Problem

- Epistemic imbalances. Most studies about global science tend to focus on science, technology, engineering, mathematics & medicine (STEMM) disciplines (Kwiek, 2022, 2021; Marginson, 2021, 2018)
- Immediate economic impact. Innovation. Prestige, rankings.
- Largest number of publications in high ranked journals and patents (Kwiek, 2021).
- ‘Soft sciences’ humanities, social sciences. Less impact. Invisibility.
- Geopolitical imbalances: Humanities SS in LATAM:long tradition. Spanish & Portuguese. Books, publication in low ranked journals. English.
- Southern theories. Colonial and postcolonial relationships.
- Little research in the SS on research collaboration.

# Partnerships & collaboration

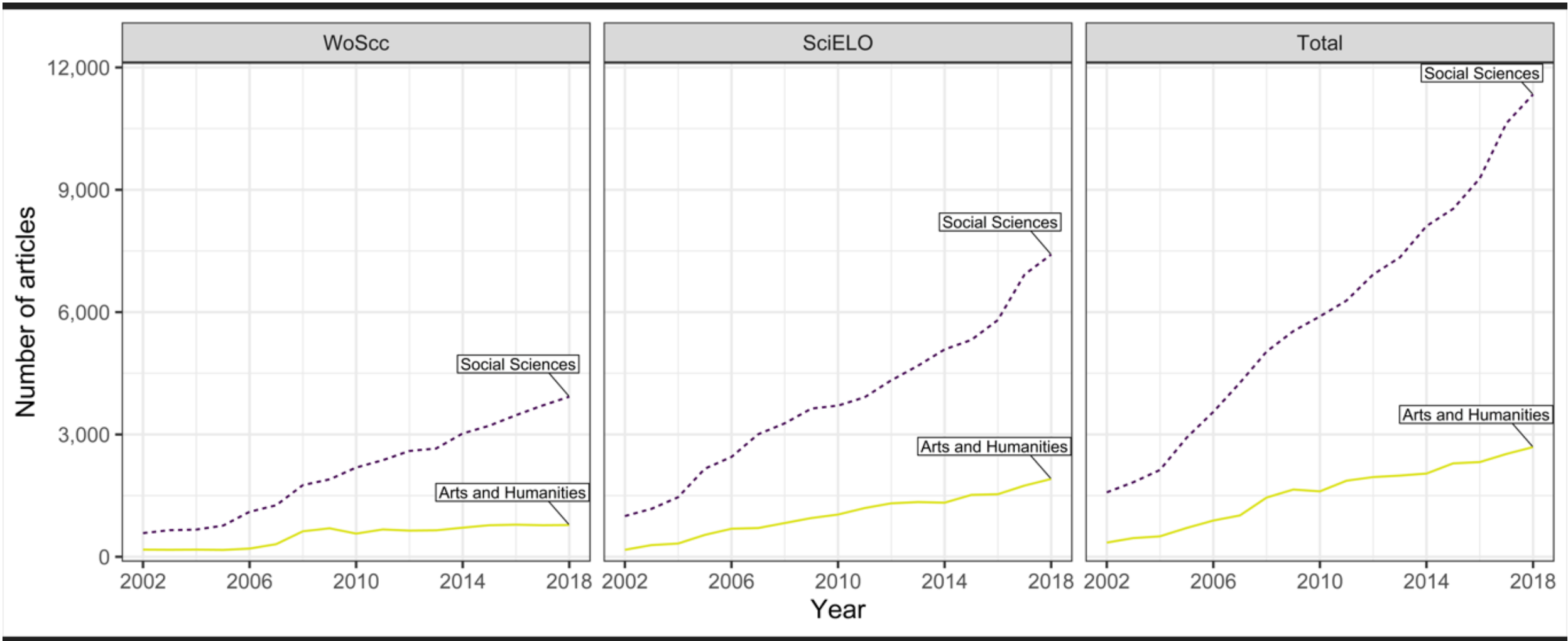
- ‘Collaboration’ and partnership have a positive connotation.
- Through a joint effort, individuals, groups, organisations and countries work together to pursue a shared goal.
- They are a highly valued activity by governments and universities.
- They entitle economic value (Business Expenditure on Research and Development (BERD-OECD)).
- Social interactions involve relationships of power.
- Context of great financial and social inequalities, what is partnership/collaboration?
- Asymmetries in collaboration between the North and the South.

# Partnerships & collaboration

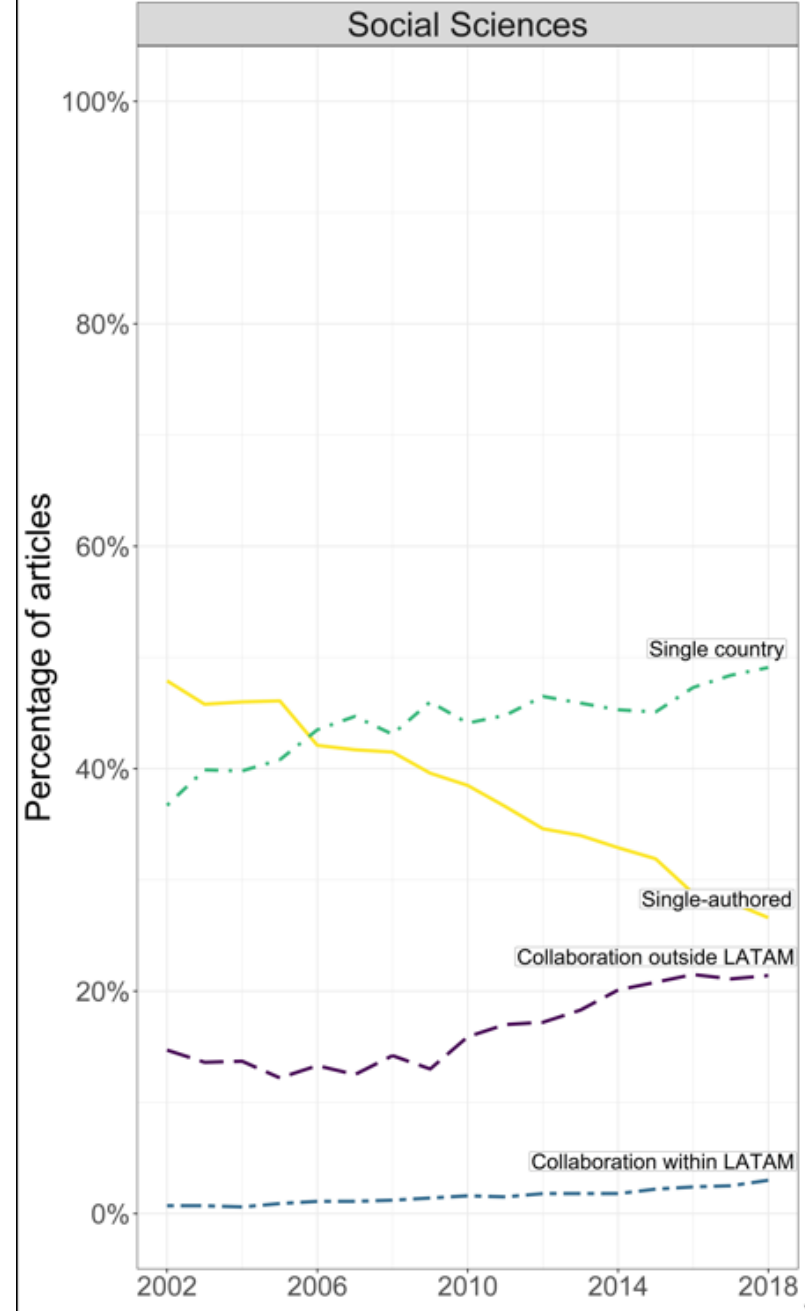
- They may involve 'varying configurations of power and resource flow asymmetries and geopolitics by promoting benevolent ventures designed to assist weak southern researchers' (Obamba and Mwema, 2009:349-366).
- In some cases, the establishment of these partnerships have been accepted by the poorest countries and institutions due to financial pressures. As a result, relationships of mutual need and dependency have been promoted.

- Examination of articles (WoS & SciELO ) in the social sciences with at least one author affiliated to a Latin American university between 2002-2018.
- WoS: The most extensive and well-recognised index that includes the main scientific publications of any discipline.
- SciELO: The Scientific Electronic Library Online has been known as the leading index for emerging economies such as Latin America and South Africa and includes freely available journals.
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- **Final sample** : 127,515 articles, of which **94,837** articles are in teh SS and the rest in the Humanities.

# Methodology



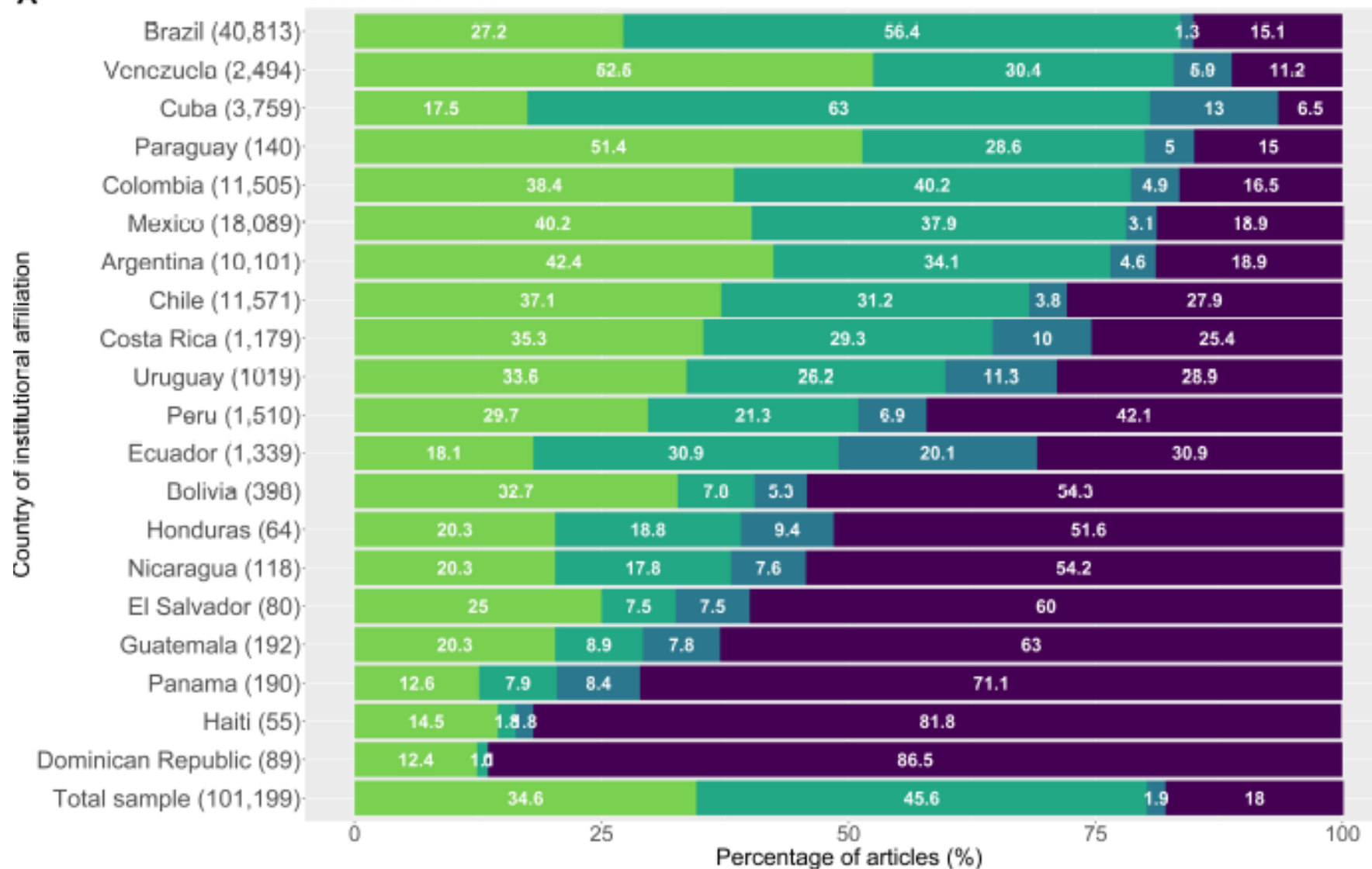
**Publications LATAM (2002-2018)**



**Authorship**

A

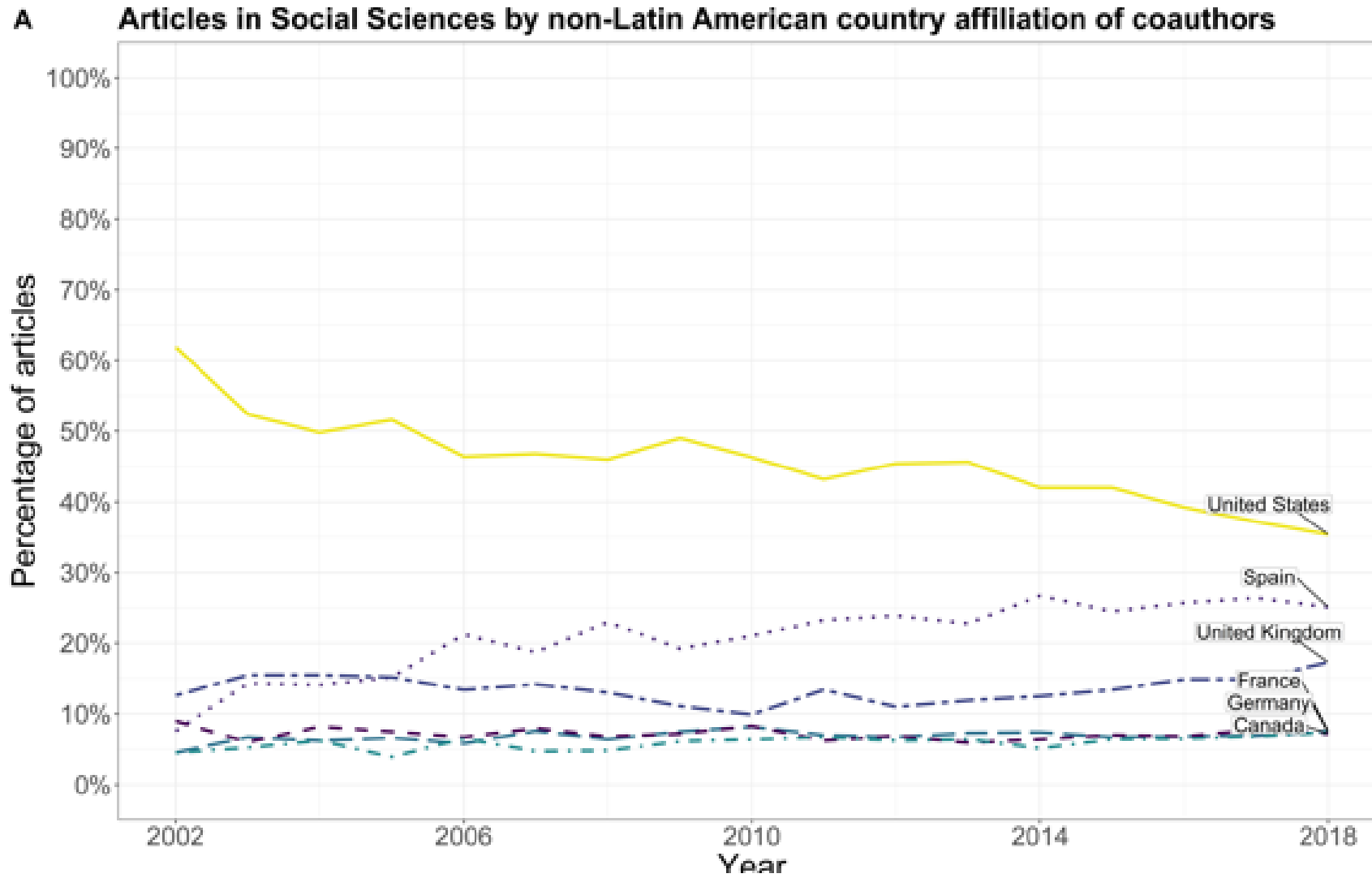
Social Sciences



■ Single-authored 
 ■ Single country 
 ■ Collaboration within LATAM 
 ■ Collaboration outside LATAM

## Authorship in the SS in LATAM





**Collaboration (co-authorship in the SS)**

# Overview

Spectacular increase in the number of articles published in the social sciences in LATAM.

Most of the published articles in the social sciences are single-authored papers

Steady increase in collaboration between authors within a single LATAM country followed by collaboration outside LATAM

Collaboration with colleagues outside LATAM is a more common type of collaboration. The countries with which researchers in LATAM most collaborate are the USA (although decreasing over time), Spain (increasing over time), UK, France, Germany & Canada.

Scarce south-south collaboration

Differentiated patterns within LATAM

# Discussion

- Journal articles in the SS are experiencing a significant growth. Books?
- Epistemic localism vs. epistemic globalism.
- Collaboration with the Global North: productivity and prestige. International rankings.
- LATAM countries differ because they too stand differently on an axis of epistemic dependence and epistemic independence: some have fewer scientific resources and so are more dependent on the cognitively powerful countries of the Global North.

