

A Long Way Gone and a Long Way to Go

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My Comments

I'm **not** a scholar of analytic philosophy, in the sense that it's defined and used here (either historical or practicing). But I **am** deeply interested in the present and future of quantitative studies of philosophy.

- 1 First: What's good, what's new, what's impressive? What ground have we covered as scholars in QSP?
- 2 Second: Inspired by the last chapter, where can we go from here? What are some of the challenges that remain?



A Book-Length Presentation

It's rare to see a book-length approach to (more or less) the same analytical target in quantitative studies! So for LAP/RAP, we get:

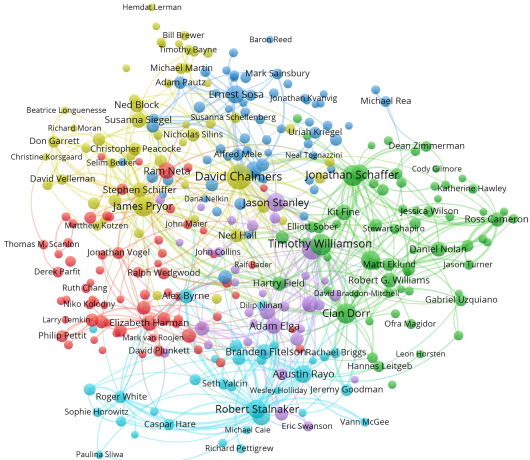
- Construction of the domain
- Analysis of change in domain shape over time
- Exploration of citation behavior and its epistemic role
- Analysis of sociological connections and funders
- Analysis of social community structure
- Meta-analysis of QSP itself with LAP/RAP as a lens



Social Structure

We saw above that analytic philosophy, as a sociological fact, can be intended as a socio-professional entity, i.e., as a community of professional philosophers sharing research practices, communication channels, and prestige systems. From this point of view, it can be characterized in sociological terms by analyzing the nationality, affiliation, and gender of its members. So far, however, the sociology of analytic philosophy has been scarcely explored, also because the field of sociology of philosophy in general is relatively underdeveloped compared to the sociology of science [Heidegren and Lundberg, 2010]. (52)

Technical Advances: Multi-Mode Networks



VOSviewer

Focus on the Para-Text

The para-text of the philosophical publication has the nontrivial function of showing academic credentials, assuring academic respectability to philosophy among the other disciplines. To the Platonic gaze that searches for ideas, however, it is the less interesting part of the philosophical publication. Ideas, concepts, and arguments – i.e., philosophy *an sich* – seem to dwell on the main text, not on the para-textual paraphernalia. What have these to do with philosophy? (2)



Where Do We Go From Here?



Scope and Corpus Construction

In terms of publication types, including *books and monographs* in QSP is crucial (especially for traditions different from the analytic mainstream) even if they are less covered by bibliographic databases. (266)



Delimiting the Field

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(SO=(JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY)
OR SO=(NOUS)
OR SO=(PHILOSOPHY "AND" PHENOMENOLOGICAL RESEARCH)
OR SO=(MIND)
OR SO=(PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW))
AND DT=(Article)
Publication date: 1980-01-01 -- 2020-12-31
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Form Meets Content?

These labels, note, should be taken as provisional names for the sub-structures of the documental space of LAP. They **should not be intended as involving any precise intellectual commitment about the content** of metaphysics, philosophy of mind, epistemology, etc. Clearly, there is a relationship between the documents in the cluster and the corresponding intellectual areas of philosophical investigation. However, the relationship is *mediated* by the actions performed by the philosophers in the documental space, i.e., the citing and co-citing of documents. (83)



Two Small Points

- 1 Institutions!
- 2 Foregrounding our subjective decision-making



Thanks!

Most of all: **Thanks** to Eugenio for this – it will be an important book not just for those working on LAP and RAP, but also for showing why QSP deserves our attention!

