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Geo-mapping the evolution of the social representation theory: the Latin America scenario

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Objectives

Taking into account the major role of the scientific production in Latin America, the present study aims to shed some light on the underlying dynamics of the literature dissemination inspired in the Social Representations theory (henceforth referred as SR theory). With this purpose, it is aimed at describing and exploring the theory's diffusion in the multi-countries and multi-language geo-cultural contexts of Latin America in regards of the **type of publication, language, evolution by decades, authors' countries and institutional affiliations and bibliometrical indexes of journals.**

Research tools

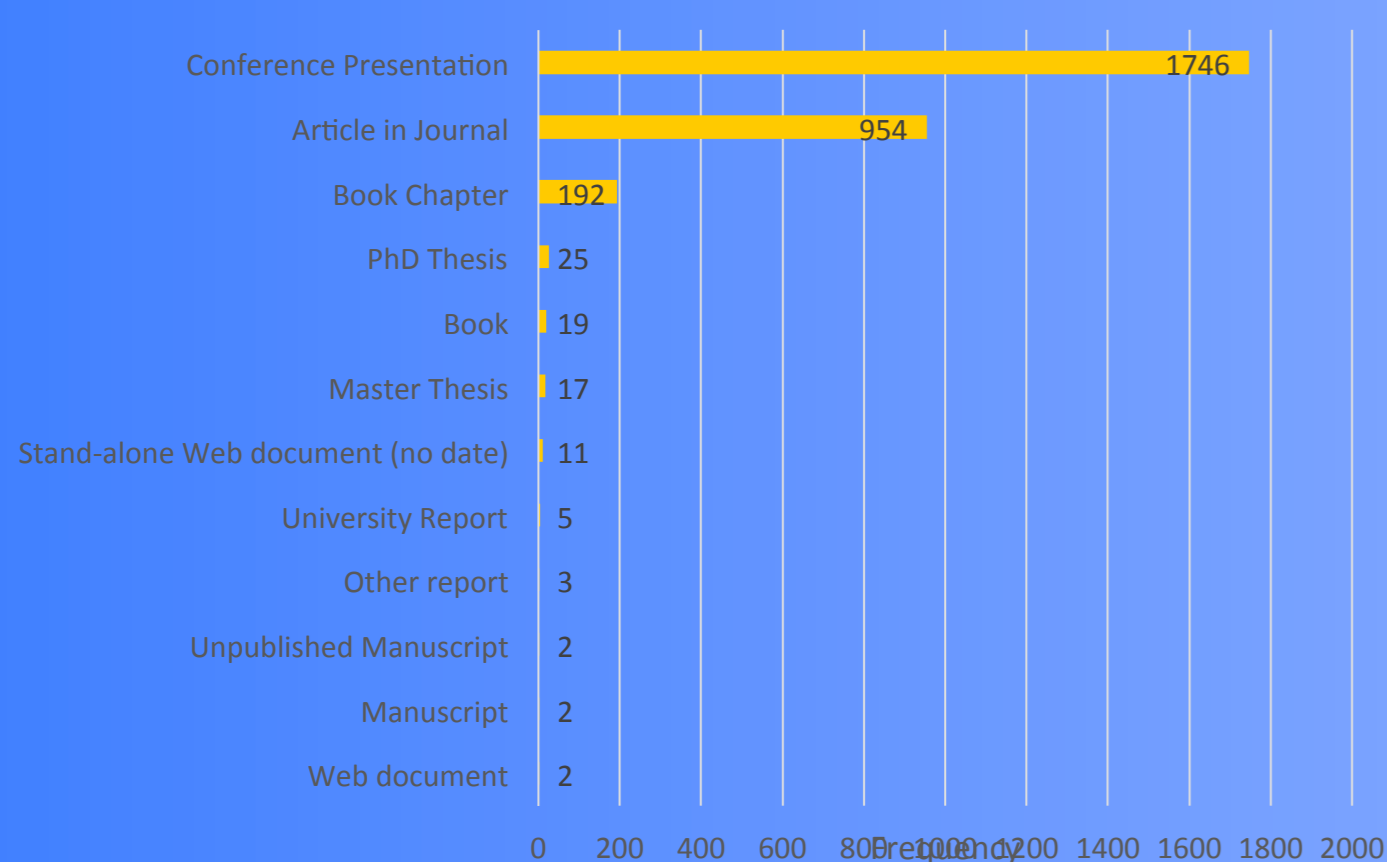
The data was extracted from the *SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library* bibliographic repository specifically related to social representations and communication (including books, book chapters, journal articles, conference presentations) and analyzed with the last version (v. February 2014) of **Grid for meta-theoretical analysis of literature on SR** (de Rosa, 1994), which comprises a descriptive level related to a bibliographical and bibliometric variables and a meta theoretical level, which is organized in five main areas:

- **Theoretical reference to Social Representations constructs Theoretical reference to other constructs and theories**
- **Thematic analysis;**
- **Methodological profile of each study**
- **Paradigmatic coherence**

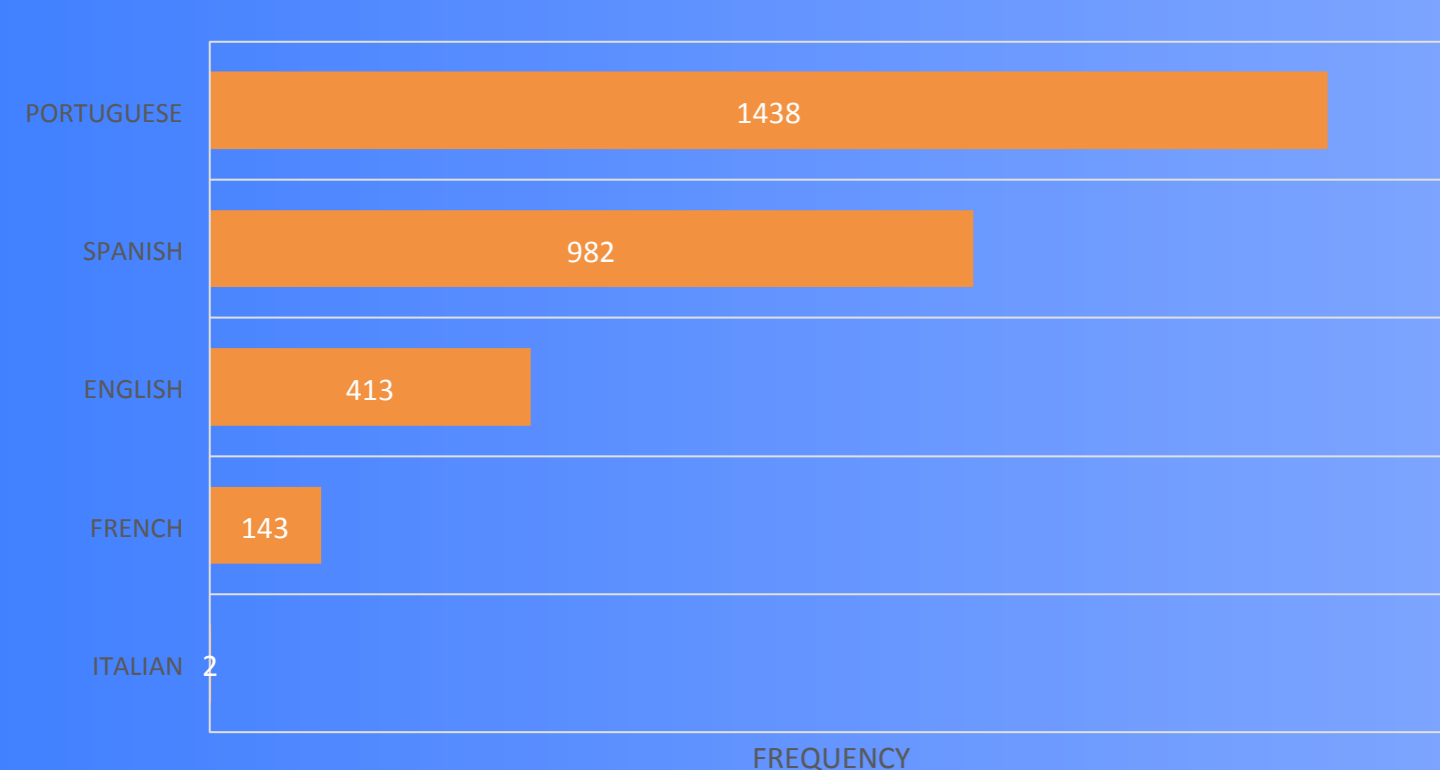
In this analysis only the first part of the Grid containing bibliographical and bibliometric related variables was considered.

Results

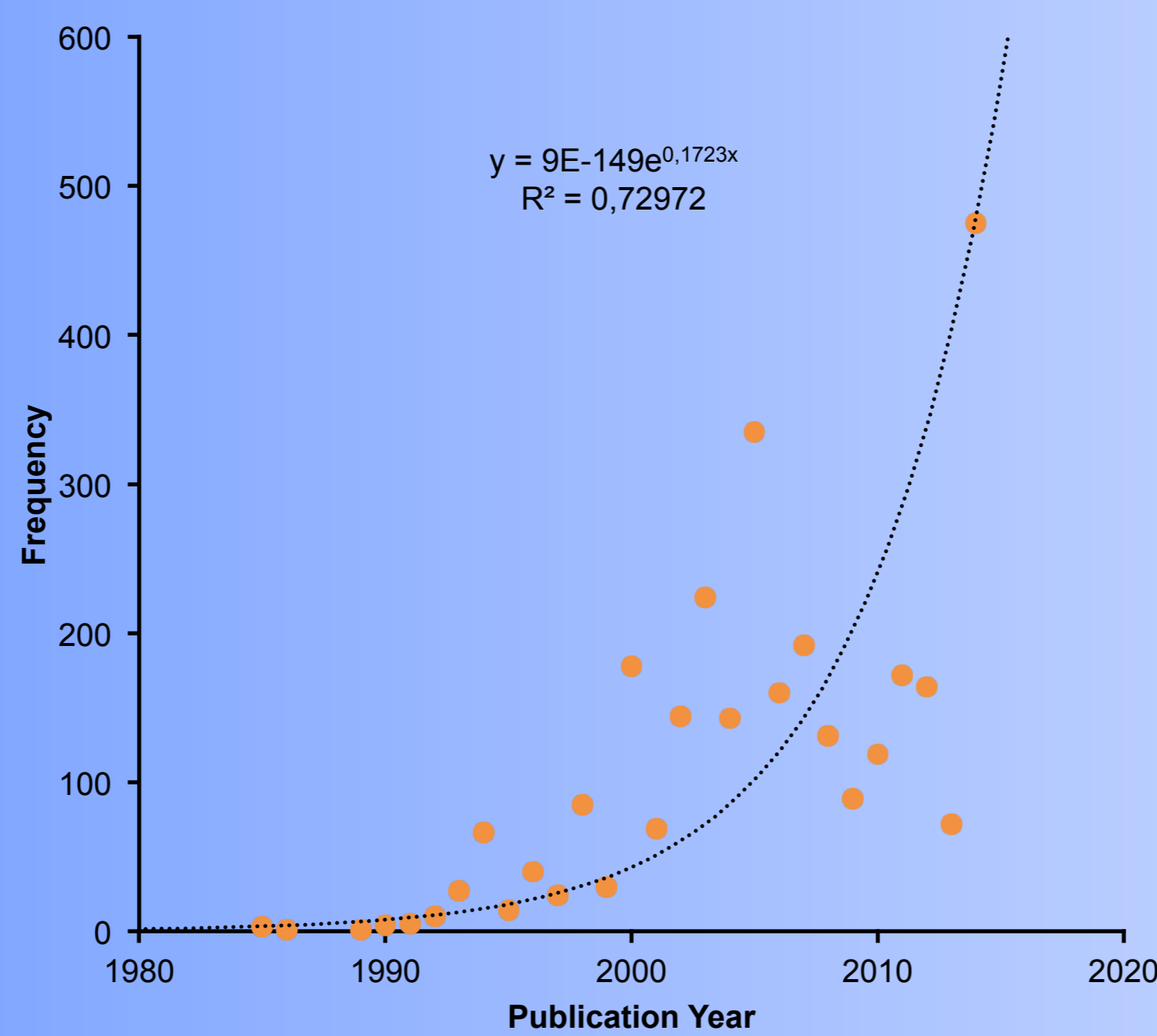
Frequency distribution of 2978 items related to the dissemination of SR theory in Latin America filed in the repositories of the SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library by **Resource Type**



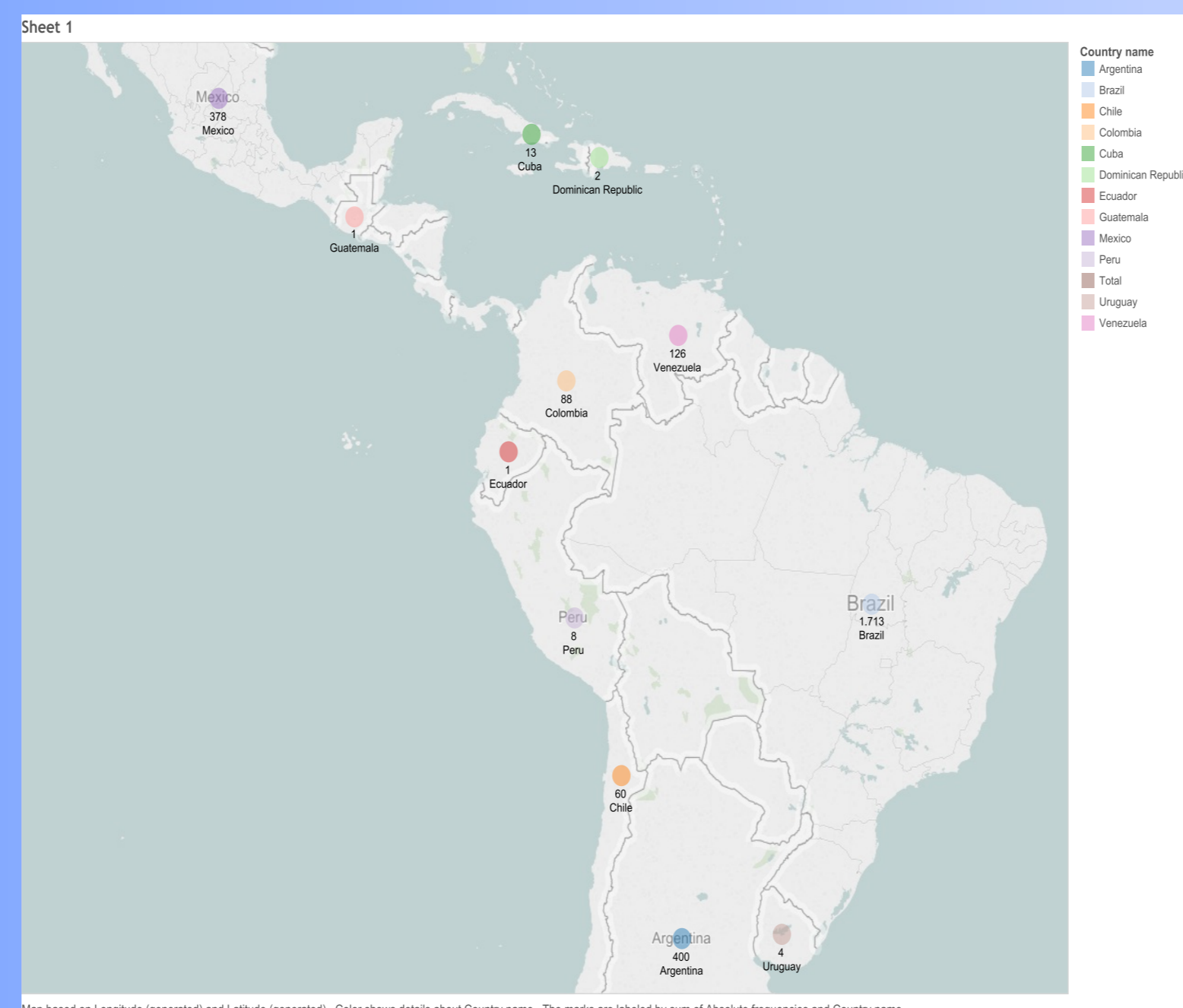
Frequency distribution of 2978 items related to the dissemination of the SR theory in Latin America (specifically related to SR&C field in the repositories of the SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library) by **Language**



Frequency distribution of 2978 items related to the dissemination of the SR theory in Latin America (specifically related to SR&C field in the repositories of the SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library) by **Year of Publication (decade)**



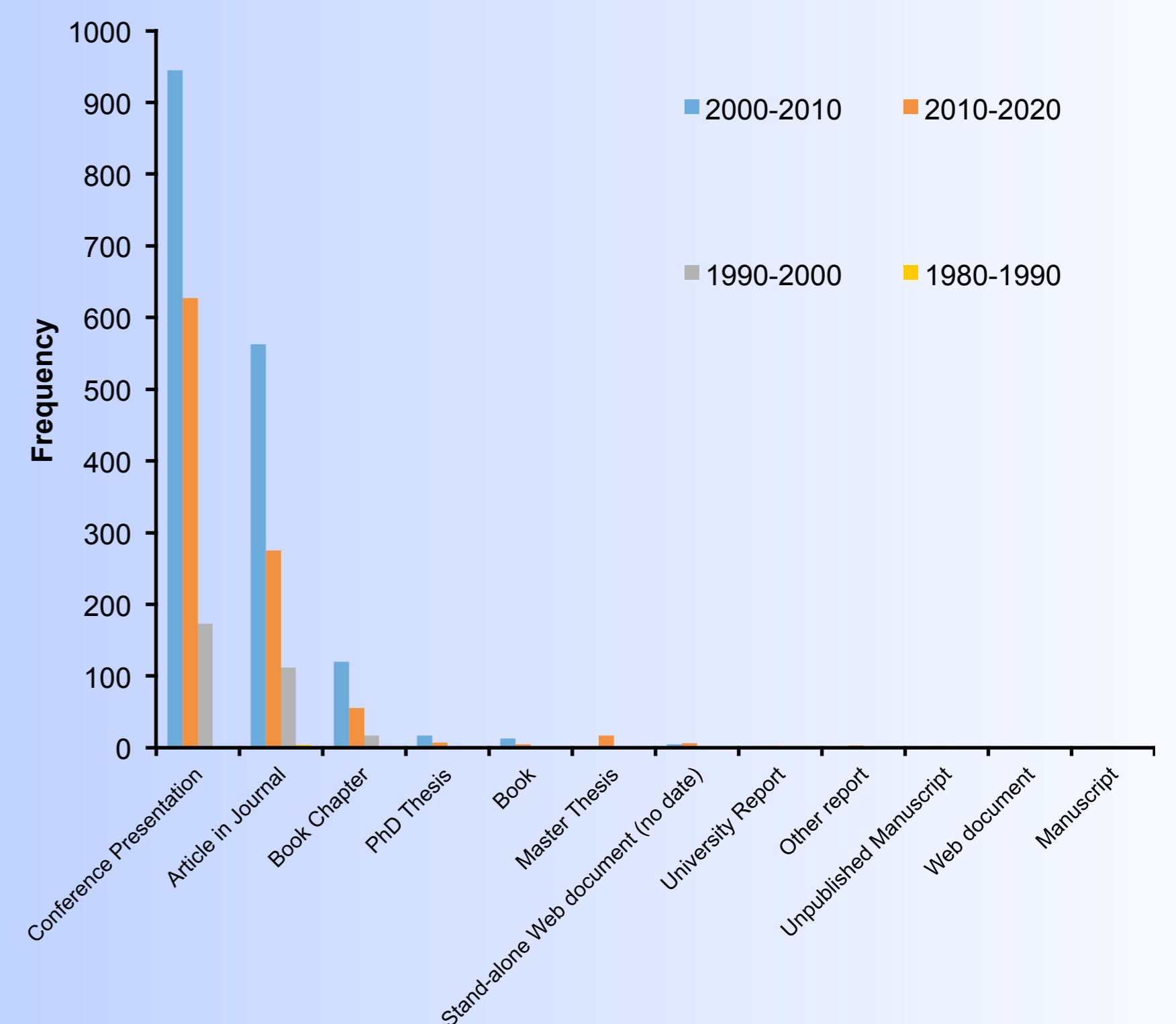
Frequency distribution of 2794 items related to the dissemination of the SR theory in Latin America (specifically related to SR&C field in the repositories of the SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library) by **country of author's institutional affiliation**



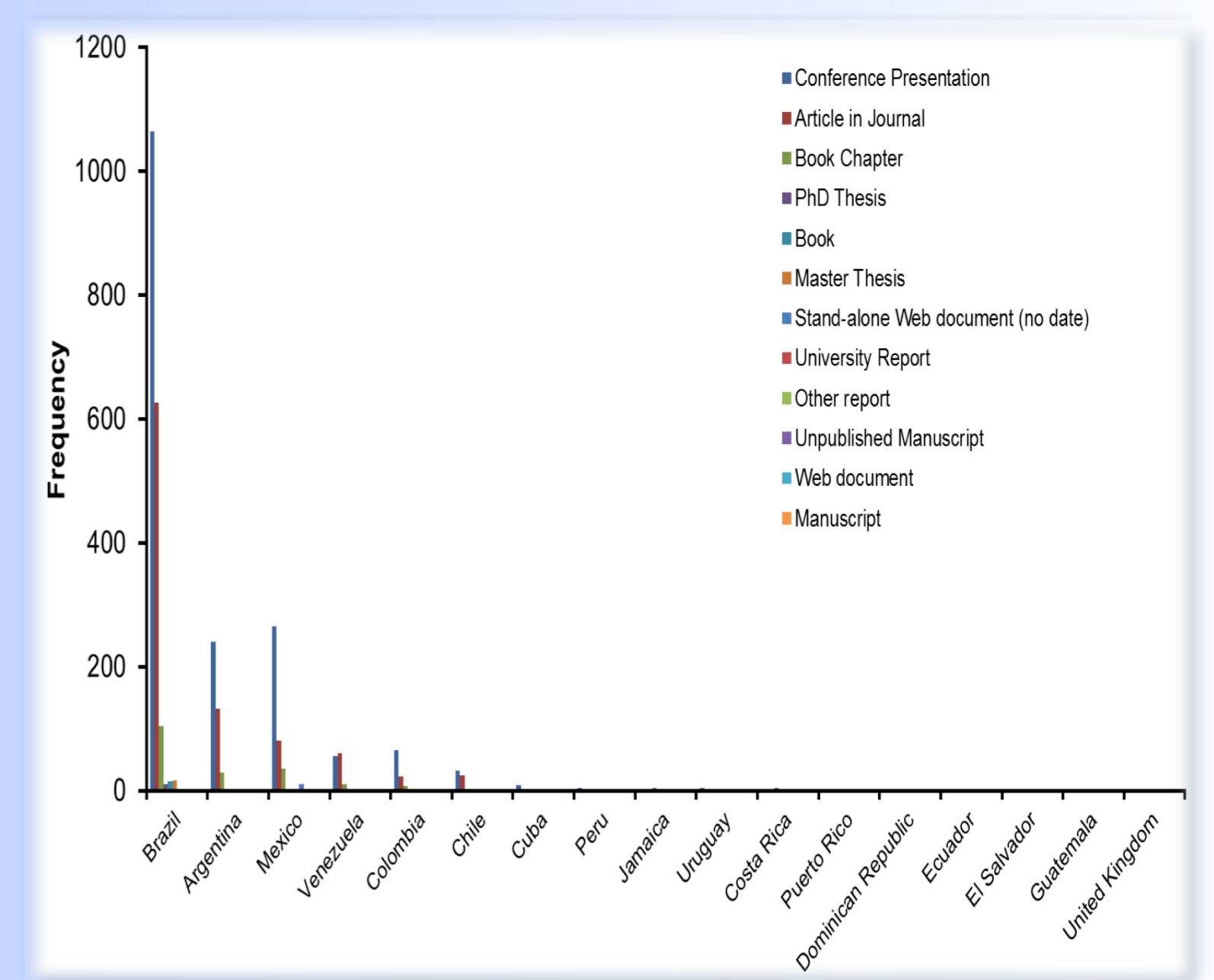
Data of 968 items related to the dissemination of the SR theory in Latin America (specifically related to social representations and communication field in the repositories of the SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library) by **List of Indexed and not indexed Journal by Year (decades)**



Chi Square of 2978 items related to the dissemination of the SR theory in Latin America (specifically related to SR&C field in the repositories of the SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library): **Resource type by year**



Chi Square of 2977 items related to the dissemination of the SR in Latin America (specifically related to SR&C field in the repositories of the SoReCom "A.S. de Rosa" @-Library): **Resource Type by Author's Institution Country**



Final Considerations

The present contribution provides an empirical based overview of some relevant aspects concerning the SR theory dissemination in the Latin American context.

Complementary to the historical and theoretical perspectives of how the theory evolved in and from this geographical context (e.g. Jodelet, 2005, 2011; Sá e Arruda, 2000) this meta data drawn from meta theoretical empirical analyses (de Rosa, 2013a, 2013b, 2015, forthcoming) corroborates the considerable development and vitality of studies in the Latin America geo cultural context, perceived as the most "fertilized" scenario.

By mapping of "how" and "by whom" the diffusion occurs, it provides a valuable empirical-based perspective for constructing a sort of epidemiology of knowledge diffusion (e.g. de Rosa, 2013a,b), also enabling the researchers to reflect upon their own position in the diffusion of social representations.

* In collaboration with the other 12 *SoReCom Joint IDP fellows*: Agnese Pastorino, Aminat Ramazanova, Ana Tomicic, Borja de Madaria, Carlos Miguel Aguilar Filiberto, Filomena Berardi, Gabriela Monica Panzaru, Ioana Guraliuc, Laura Arhiri, Marija Adela Gjorgjioska, Maryia Kukharava, Mihaela Alexandra Gherman (<http://www.euophd.eu/SoReComJointIDP>).