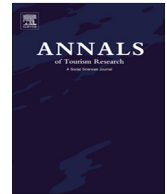




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Research Note

Gender and choice of methodology in tourism social science research

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Introduction

Tourism research has grown remarkably since the early 1980s as manifested in the number and range of publications in this field (Figueroa-Domecq, Pritchard, Segovia-Pérez, Morgan, & Villacé-Molinero, 2015; Li & Xu, 2014). For example, Hunt, Gao, and Xue (2014) estimate that there are currently more than 240 tourism journals published in different languages. The rise in publication outlets has led to a number of studies on what Figueroa-Domecq et al. (2015, p. 88) called the “scholarship on the scholarship” of tourism knowledge (e.g. Hall, 2011, 2016). However, such research has been criticized for often being ‘gender-blind’ (Figueroa-Domecq et al., 2015). This is an important research gap because gender has been found to influence research-related issues (Rosser, 2008), such as choice of methodology (Justham & Timmons, 2005). Oakley (2000) and Justham and Timmons (2005) proposed that women have a preference of qualitative research methods over other types of research approaches.

Therefore this paper investigates authorship patterns and the relationship between gender of authors and methodological approaches used in *Annals of Tourism Research* (ATR) which, in addition of its international scope and status, is devoted to only publishing articles that are grounded in tourism social science. Full length articles published in ATR from 1990 to 2015 were analyzed with 1990 being used as the starting point because women authors’ contributions to tourism journals have been reported as very negligible in earlier years in several studies on academic leadership (e.g. Zhao & Ritchie, 2007). Each issue of the journal was examined and the following categories were used to classify articles: (1) *qualitative*: refers to an article based only on qualitative methods of data collection and/or qualitative methods of analysis; (2) *quantitative*: refers to an article based only on quantitative methods of data collection and/or quantitative data analysis techniques; (3) *mixed-method*: refers to an article based on both qualitative and quantitative approaches; and (4) *conceptual*: refers to articles with untested theoretical models, hypotheses and/or propositions, and literature review articles. Information was also collected on author gender. The data were coded and analyzed in SPSS.

As presented in Table 1, 1216 articles authored by 2272 individuals were retrieved from ATR from 1990 to 2015. Male authors constituted more than 65% of all authors in this time period. Nevertheless, while the proportion of male authors with respect to total authors was as high as 80% in 1990, it fell to around 70% and 50% in 2000 and 2015 respectively. The proportion of female authors increased from around 19% in 1990 to 49% in 2015. Figs. 1 and 2 show the time series of authorship and types of articles published in the journal between 1990 and 2015. To statistically assess growth of female and male authors in articles published in ATR, linear and quadratic time effects were used. First, the number of female authors on an index of year of publication (beginning with 1990) was regressed. Model estimation using a linear term resulted in a significant model ($F = 76.46$, $p < 0.001$) in which time effect was significant ($t = 8.74$, $p < 0.001$). The model indicated that time

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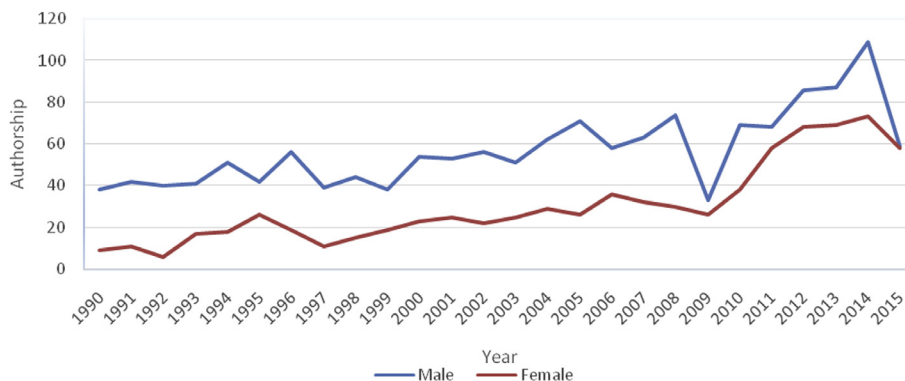
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Table 1

Trends in authorship and methodological approaches used (1990–2015).

Year	Male	Female	Total authors	Qual.	Quant.	Mixed	Conceptual	Total articles
1990	38 (80.85)	9 (19.15)	47	1 (3.23)	13 (61.90)	2 (6.45)	15 (48.39)	31
1991	42 (79.25)	11 (20.75)	53	6 (19.35)	9 (29.03)	1 (3.23)	15 (48.39)	31
1992	40 (86.96)	6 (13.04)	46	9 (29.03)	13 (49.94)	0 (0)	9 (29.03)	31
1993	41 (70.69)	17 (29.31)	58	5 (12.50)	13 (32.50)	1 (2.5)	21 (52.50)	40
1994	51 (73.91)	18 (26.09)	69	9 (23.08)	16 (41.03)	1 (2.56)	13 (33.33)	39
1995	42 (61.76)	26 (38.24)	68	21 (45.65)	14 (30.43)	2 (4.35)	9 (19.57)	46
1996	56 (74.67)	19 (25.33)	75	22 (52.38)	14 (33.33)	2 (4.76)	4 (9.52)	42
1997	39 (78)	11 (22)	50	13 (40.63)	14 (43.75)	0 (0)	5 (15.62)	32
1998	44 (74.58)	15 (25.42)	59	18 (48.65)	14 (37.84)	0 (0)	5 (13.51)	37
1999	38 (66.67)	19 (33.33)	57	15 (38.46)	10 (25.64)	6 (15.38)	8 (20.51)	39
2000	54 (70.13)	23 (29.87)	77	18 (40)	18 (40)	5 (11.11)	4 (8.89)	45
2001	53 (67.95)	25 (32.05)	78	23 (51.11)	17 (37.78)	3 (6.67)	2 (4.44)	45
2002	56 (71.79)	22 (28.21)	78	19 (38)	18 (36)	2 (4)	11 (22)	50
2003	51 (67.11)	25 (32.89)	76	9 (20.93)	21 (48.84)	2 (4.65)	11 (25.58)	43
2004	62 (68.13)	29 (31.87)	91	18 (37.50)	13 (27.08)	2 (4.17)	15 (31.25)	48
2005	71 (73.20)	26 (26.80)	97	15 (30)	19 (38)	3 (6)	13 (26)	50
2006	58 (61.70)	36 (38.30)	94	18 (36)	16 (32)	0 (0)	16 (32)	50
2007	63 (66.32)	32 (33.68)	95	20 (40.81)	17 (34.69)	1 (2.04)	11 (22.45)	49
2008	74 (71.15)	30 (28.85)	104	24 (50)	13 (27.08)	2 (4.17)	9 (18.75)	48
2009	33 (55.93)	26 (44.08)	59	13 (44.83)	9 (31.03)	1 (3.45)	6 (20.69)	29
2010	69 (64.49)	38 (35.51)	107	23 (44.23)	8 (15.38)	3 (5.77)	18 (34.62)	52
2011	68 (53.97)	58 (46.03)	126	31 (49.21)	13 (20.64)	6 (9.52)	13 (20.63)	63
2012	86 (55.84)	68 (44.16)	154	33 (40.74)	18 (22.22)	6 (7.41)	24 (29.63)	81
2013	87 (55.77)	69 (44.23)	156	40 (58.82)	16 (23.53)	3 (4.41)	9 (13.24)	68
2014	109 (59.89)	73 (40.11)	182	40 (54.05)	19 (43.18)	1 (1.35)	14 (18.92)	74
2015	59 (50.43)	58 (49.57)	117	24 (45.28)	21 (39.62)	1 (1.89)	7 (13.21)	53
Total	1484 (65.32)	788 (34.68)	2272	487 (40.05)	386 (31.74)	56 (4.61)	287 (23.60)	1216

Figures in bracket indicate percentages.

**Fig. 1.** Time series of authorship by gender (1990–2015).

could explain 76% of the presence of female authors. Next, we used both linear and quadratic time effects. The regression model was significant ($F = 66.54$, $p < 0.001$) and indicated that 85% of the presence of female authors could be explained by linear and quadratic time effects. The quadratic effect was also significant ($t = 3.78$, $p < 0.001$), indicating that the presence of female authors of tourism social science research has accelerated over time. The same steps were used to assess growth of male authors over time. The linear term resulted in a significant model ($F = 28.99$, $p < 0.001$) which could explained 55% of the presence of male authors and in which time effect was significant ($t = 5.38$, $p < 0.001$). The result of model estimation using both linear and quadratic effect was also significant ($F = 15.28$, $p < 0.001$). However, the quadratic effect was insignificant ($t = 1.12$, $p > 0.005$), indicating that presence of male authors in ATR has not accelerated over time.

In terms of the types of articles published in the journal, the majority of articles were qualitative (40.05). The proportion of qualitative articles increased dramatically from 3.23% in 1990 to 45.28% in 2015. During the same time period, the proportion of articles using quantitative approaches declined from 61.90% to 39.62%. To assess growth in the four different types of articles published, a multiple regression analysis was used. The number of quantitative research articles published was regressed on the number of male and female authors and time as measured by year of publication. The regression model was statistically insignificant ($F = 1.60$, $p > 0.05$). Insignificant results for mixed method articles ($F = 1.16$, $p > 0.05$) and for conceptual articles ($F = 1.50$, $p > 0.05$) were also obtained. These findings suggested that time and presence of male and

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