

# Author's Accepted Manuscript

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Julien Vanhulst, Edwin Zaccai



www.elsevier.com/locate/envdev

PII: S2211-4645(16)30081-1  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.envdev.2016.10.005>  
Reference: ENVDEV310

To appear in: *Environmental Development*

Received date: 7 April 2016  
Revised date: 25 October 2016  
Accepted date: 26 October 2016

Cite this article as: Julien Vanhulst and Edwin Zaccai, Sustainability in latin America: An analysis of the academic discursive field, *Environmental Development*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.envdev.2016.10.005>

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## Sustainability in Latin America: An analysis of the academic discursive field

### *Julien Vanhulst*

Director of the sociology School at Universidad Católica del Maule – Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics, Doctor in Environmental Studies (Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB) and Sociology (Universidad Alberto Hurtado), Master in Environmental Sciences and Management (ULB – IGEAT) and BA in Sociology (ULB). Contact: julien@ucm.cl

### *Edwin Zaccai*

Profesor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and director of the Center for Studies on Sustainable Development (ULB – IGEAT), Doctor in Environmental Studies, Civil engineer and BA in Philosophy (ULB). Contact: ezaccai@ulb.ac.be

### **Abstract**

This article analyzes the modes of appropriation of the discourse on sustainable development in Latin America over the past four decades. Most studies on sustainability use qualitative methods of discourse analysis. Others use quantitative methods, such as the citation-based approach applied to the academic landscape of sustainability science at the global level, or to specific subfields. In this study, we use a hybrid approach that crosses quantitative methods (network analysis based on bibliometrics) and qualitative methods (discourse analysis and literature review) at different spatial and temporal scales.

Our research provides a mapping of academic activities in the discursive field of sustainable development in Latin America and shows the dynamics of regional authors within these debates as well as institutions hosting projects, research groups and programs.

The paper shows the active and critical participation of Latin American scholars in the debate about sustainability. It maps the consolidation of a Latin American network over time, highlighting the central actors and mediators who have their own discourse and interactions. We also analyze the links between different countries, revealing preferences in cross-national citations. Regarding the content of discussions, we show that reformist, even radical, approaches to sustainability find greater resonance among Latin American scholars.

Keywords: Latin America – Citation Network – Sustainable Development – Academic discourse – Historical analysis

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