Mapping the Intellectual Structure of Conflict management
Research: 1980-2009
描繪衝突管理研究之智慧結構—1980 至 2009

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Abstract

The objective of the study is to explore the evolution of the intellectual structure of conflict management research by analyzing citations in Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) in the last three decades. Citation analysis combined with a network analysis of co-citation data from SSCI is used to reveal the evolution of the intellectual structure of the conflict management field between 1980 and 2009. By analyzing 34,656 citations of 1,369 articles published in SSCI journals in conflict management area, this study maps the knowledge network of conflict management studies. The results of this study suggest that the intellectual structure of conflict management research in the last three decades is organized along different concentration of interests: style and strategy of conflict management, intragroup conflict and group performance, negotiation in conflict management, marital conflict, and cultural differences in conflict management.

Key Words: Conflict management, Intellectual Structure, Knowledge Network, Bibliometrics, Social Network Analysis

1. Introduction

Over the last few decades, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of publications on conflict management. Conflict is the interaction of interdependent people who perceive incompatible goals and interference from one another in achieving those goals [1]. In the workplace, conflicts center on resource allocations and interpersonal misunderstandings and the desirable outcome is focused on conflict management rather than on conflict elimination. Van de Vliert [2] proposed that conflict management is about what people intend to do and what they actually do in face of conflict. Conflict management finally appears to be gaining momentum as a respected academic discipline [3], largely through the availability of strong and respected conflict management specific publication outlets. Thus, this may be a good time to re-evaluate the evolution of the intellectual structure in the field.

Although a great deal of research has done on conflict management, the intellectual structure of