Contemporary Leadership Studies: Themes, Concepts and Relationships

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Abstract
This study examined the status of contemporary leadership research in the new century. With citation data of SSCI from the top leadership journal, Leadership Quarterly, this study used citation and co-citation analysis to identify the most important publications, scholars, and research themes in leadership area, and then mapped the intellectual structure of leadership studies. The results help profile the invisible network of knowledge production in leadership and provide important insights on current research paradigms of leadership studies.

Key Words: Leadership, Citation, Co-citation, Social Network Analysis

1. Introduction
The past decade has seen active research in leadership and thus produced an impressive array of literature in leadership studies. While research findings in leadership can be disseminated to scientists and practitioners in the form of journal articles, papers, books, and other documents, people are easily confused with the subjects and their contributions to the development of leadership when faced with hundreds of such publications. Great efforts have been made to explore these issues, yet all the issues are usually discussed solely based on the subjective assessment of different experts, which often leads to many controversies in the leadership area.

To overcome this problem, this study uses the bibliometric and social network analysis to gain an impression of leadership research and its evolution from 1999 to 2008 year. Using citation analysis, the interlinked invisible nodes are discovered from which the most influential publications and scholars in the leadership field are identified. Further, co-citation analysis is conducted to utilize the social network