

Institutionalists in the making: mapping the OIE contribution in Brazilian theses and dissertations (1995-2022)^a

Institucionalistas em formação: mapeando a contribuição da EIO em teses e dissertações brasileiras (1995-2022)

Rodrigo Constantino Jeronimo^b 

Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho
(UNESP), Departamento de Economia, Brasil

Celso Pereira Neris Jr^c 

Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho
(UNESP), Departamento de Economia, Brasil

Abstract: This paper examines the prevalence and contribution of Original Institutional Economics (OIE) in Brazilian academic theses and dissertations from 1995 to 2022. A total of 92 documents across 15 fields of knowledge were selected from the Capes Catalog of Theses and Dissertations database, filtered by title, keywords, and abstracts. These works were categorized into four approaches: (i) co-applied analysis, where OIE complements other references; (ii) theoretical-comparative, contrasting OIE with other theoretical perspectives; (iii) theoretical analysis, focused on OIE's history, methodology, and concepts; and (iv) applied analysis, using OIE to explore specific topics such as labor, environment, and consumption. Bibliometric analysis was used to map the distribution and evolution of OIE research across Brazilian universities, highlighting a regional concentration in the

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^b rodrigo.jeronimo@unesp.br

^c celso.neris@unesp.br

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southern states and identifying key institutions as potential centers of OIE scholarship. By identifying a network of universities, advisors, and both OIE and other heterodox scholars who have contributed to the formation and evaluation of graduate research, the paper highlights OIE as a promising alternative framework within the national economics academic landscape.

Keywords: Original Institutional Economics. Thesis. Dissertations. Brazil.

Resumo: Este artigo examina a presença e a contribuição da Economia Institucional Original (EIO) em teses e dissertações acadêmicas brasileiras entre 1995 e 2022. Foram selecionados 92 documentos em 15 áreas do conhecimento a partir do Catálogo de Teses e Dissertações da Capes, filtrados por título, palavras-chave e resumos. Esses trabalhos foram classificados em quatro abordagens: (i) análise coaplicada, em que a EIO complementa outras referências; (ii) análise teórico-comparativa, contrastando a EIO com outras perspectivas teóricas; (iii) análise teórica, voltada para a história, metodologia e conceitos da EIO; e (iv) análise aplicada, utilizando a OIE para explorar temas específicos como trabalho, meio ambiente e consumo. A análise bibliométrica foi empregada para mapear a distribuição e a evolução da pesquisa em OIE nas universidades brasileiras, evidenciando uma concentração regional nos estados do Sul e identificando instituições-chave como potenciais centros de produção acadêmica da área. Ao identificar uma rede de universidades, orientadores e pesquisadores, tanto do institucionalismo original quanto de outras correntes heterodoxas, que contribuíram para a formação e avaliação da pesquisa de pós-graduação, o artigo ressalta a EIO como um arcabouço alternativo promissor no panorama acadêmico nacional da economia.

Palavras-chave: Economia Institucional Original. Teses. Dissertações. Brasil.

JEL: B25. B52. I23.

Introduction

Original Institutional Economics (OIE), as found in the works of Thorstein Veblen and John R. Commons, has garnered substantial attention from scholars in Brazil over the last few years. Although lacking a formal institutional structure, a network of original institutionalists has emerged through the collaborative efforts of senior and young scholars, who bring original perspectives to economic research. The growing relevance of this community is reflected in various academic dissemination activities, including extension projects, journal publications, and events¹. The Association for Evolutionary Economics (AFEE) South American Conference, held in 2024 in Curitiba, exemplifies this movement, making Brazil the first Latin American country to host an event organized by one of the main international associations for research in the institutionalist tradition.²

Building on previous investigations into the history of OIE in Brazil (Almeida; Brites, 2022; Brites; Almeida, 2023), this paper examines its trajectory by analyzing 92 theses and dissertations (T&D) produced between 1995 and 2022, sourced from the Catalog of Theses and Dissertations – Brazil (Capes)³. Using bibliometric tools and descriptive statistics to analyze the characteristics of these academic works primarily produced during Master's and PhD training, we aim to capture the role of OIE references in the formation of young scholars, regardless of subsequent involvement in the institutionalist community or participation in the activities of international groups, such as AFEE. Thus, under this approach, we were able to observe how OIE appears across different fields, but more importantly, we could identify key academic centers actively developing OIE research despite the broader context of economic gradu-

¹ Among these initiatives, we highlight EINST, an online national conference on OIE, and the podcast *Economia Underground*, both of which have helped greatly in the efforts of popularizing the approach.

² Hosted by the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) in 2024, with support from the Committee on Regional and International Conferences (CORIC) of the Association for Evolutionary Economics (AFEE), the event brought together approximately 95 participants, including Brazilian and international scholars, and featured four distinguished international keynote speakers. Over three days, the program included 11 sessions with 44 paper presentations.

³ As further explained in the section on Data Collection and Treatment, these T&D were filtered by title, abstract, and keywords using a set of OIE-related terms. Consequently, T&D that did not reference OIE in these identification markers were not included in our analysis.

ate studies in Brazil, where non-traditional approaches often face challenges to their development. Consequently, alongside paper-based studies, our research contributes to the efforts of documenting the history of original institutional economics in Brazil as it unfolds.

1. Brazilian Grad-Programs and Institutional Research: A Challenging Context

Brazilian Graduate education in Economics has been evaluated regarding its quantitative characteristics based on data from Qualis Capes⁴ (Almeida; Almeida; Carvalho, 2018; Fernandes; Manchini, 2019) and concerning its historical constitution and the diversity of approaches present within it (Fernandez; Suprinyak, 2019; Guizzo; Mearman; Berger, 2021; Marques, 2022). This section discusses key characteristics of these programs and situates OIE within this broader context.

The evaluation of graduate programs in Economics plays a crucial role in shaping the field's internal hierarchies and defining its disciplinary boundaries. In this context, Marques (2022) analyzes evaluation documents from the late 1990s to 2020, showing how resource distribution reinforces dominant institutions and helps determine “what is, what has been, and what is likely to be considered, in the future, part of the discipline” (p. 380). This system privileges research over teaching and extension, favoring theoretical and methodological approaches rooted in neoclassical assumptions and econometric models aligned with North American research agendas (Marques, 2022, pp. 380-381).

Despite Marques's (2022) political-ideological assessment, it is well-documented that mainstream economics is characterized by a style of reasoning largely based on the development of mathematical models, whose empirical tests are conducted through a variety of econometric and, currently, computational methods (Morgan, 2012). This method-

⁴ Brazilian journal evaluation system managed by the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES), a foundation linked to the Ministry of Education (MEC) of Brazil. The evaluation aims to classify the vehicles used for the dissemination of intellectual production developed by postgraduate programs (master's and doctoral). The evaluation is carried out in terms of circulation (local, national, and international) and quality (A, B, and C). Based on these classifications and other criteria, grades are assigned to postgraduate programs in Brazil, ranging from 3 to 7.

ological procedure is generally used as the very definition of the field of study⁵.

This classification system used to evaluate graduate programs in Economics has undergone key shifts over time, reflecting deeper struggles over the scientific identity of the field. Marques (2022) draws attention to a change that occurred during the 2007-2009 triennium, when Capes adopted the ranking methodology developed by Kodrzycki and Yu (2005). While aiming to promote interdisciplinarity, the method reinforced a hierarchy in which Economics was positioned “closer to mathematics and disciplines strongly related to quantitative methods, such as finance, than, for example, political science, which would have less ‘sophistication’ or ‘technicality’” (Kodrzycki & Yu, 2005, pp. 17-18). Such evaluation criteria have consolidated over time a view of Economics as “highly formalized, explained by econometric models, and little permeable to contributions from other areas” (Marques, 2022, p. 387).

Marques (2022) draws on Bourdieu’s concept of the scientific field to explain how knowledge production in Economics is shaped by struggles over legitimacy, which define the discipline’s boundaries and influence resource allocation. Consequently, programs with greater resources tend to exert more control over research agendas and individual researcher choices. This framework aligns with the Sociology of Scientific Knowledge (SSK), which sees scientific validity as rooted in practice rather than abstract reasoning, viewing knowledge as socially constructed and shaped by the interests of the scientific community (Boumans; Davis, 2016).

From an institutionalist perspective, Almeida, Angeli, and Pontes (2017) discuss the theoretical and methodological choices of economists. According to the authors, economic approaches that do not fit within the mainstream, mainly due to not using mathematical formalization, face significant difficulties (Almeida; Angeli; Pontes, 2017, p. 19). The corollary is that resource distribution based on rankings that privilege the mainstream approach will impact, in the first instance, the choices of

⁵ On the American Economic Association’s webpage, there’s a definition, in this sense, of what economists do: “using theoretical models or empirical data, they evaluate programs, study human behavior, and explain social phenomena.” Available at: <<https://www.aeaweb.org/resources/students/what-is-economics>>. <<https://www.aeaweb.org/resources/students/what-is-economics>>.

researchers and, in the second instance, the configuration of the scientific field itself.

Despite these challenges, Brazilian Economics academia has been characterized by considerable pluralism, and greater demand for diversity has impacted the very definition of the Economics Qualis (Almeida, Almeida & Carvalho, 2018).

As Fernández and Suprinyak (2019, p. 750) point out, in Economics, as well as in other places, pluralism can be promoted or hindered depending on institutional arrangements. Therefore, promoting pluralism is, above all, a choice of the scientific community. As the authors demonstrated, despite the existence of more orthodox postgraduate programs in Brazilian academia when compared to heterodox centers, there is a greater number of graduate programs in Economics characterized as pluralistic. When evaluated in terms of their ratings, with 3 being the lowest and 7 being the highest, programs rated 7 are mostly orthodox (Fernández; Suprinyak, 2019).

However, Marques (2022) demonstrates that institutional efforts to support programs outside the “traditional axes” still face significant obstacles. While a small number of heterodox and pluralistic graduate programs receive high evaluations (grade 6), many others remain marginalized in resource distribution. According to Marques (2022, p. 390), “political-ideological mechanisms” act as filters on theories, methods, and themes, causing alternative approaches in Economics to face varying degrees of barriers to fair recognition.

As we seek to investigate the presence of research in OIE in Economics graduate programs in Brazil, pluralism is a starting point to understand its evolution, given this scenario of mainstream approach dominance.

According to Guizzo, Mearman, and Berger (2021, p. 5), pluralistic thinking is relatively common in leading economics departments in Brazil, where theoretical traditions such as post-Keynesian, evolutionary, Marxist, Veblenian institutionalist, structuralist, and Sraffian coexist. This diversity also manifests in journals, academic awards, and research grants. However, the authors identify three main threats to the sustainability of this pluralism: disciplinary, institutional, and political. The disciplinary threat stems from hiring practices that prioritize publication scores, often favoring candidates who publish in high-ranking *Qualis* journals, most of which

are international, Anglo-American, and mainstream, leaving little room for non-traditional or interdisciplinary research. The institutional threat, on the other hand, relates to the increasing demand for applied, technical, and flexible training in economics, shaped by students' concerns with employability, which can marginalize more theoretical or critical approaches. Lastly, the political threat reflects broader economic pressures in Brazil, including long-standing budgetary constraints and a reallocation of resources toward fields deemed to offer immediate returns, potentially undermining areas of economics that fall outside mainstream frameworks (Guizzo; Mearman; Berger, 2021, pp. 12-16).

Despite the current landscape of graduate Economics education in Brazil, the approach of OIE has garnered considerable attention. The field can be found in pluralist and heterodox centers of reference in Brazil and, by its nature, contributes to greater diversity in Economics research. Richard Adkisson (2010) seeks to synthesize the elements present in the OIE approach and demonstrate how this approach fits into a pluralistic perspective, he does so by providing two complementary definitions of pluralism. Following Mearman et al. (2009), the author states that pluralism in Economics implies a diversity of ways to explain the world and the acknowledgment that all theories are fallible. Building on Negru (2009), the author mentions that pluralism reflects a plurality of viewpoints.

Thus, the OIE approach is pluralistic by definition. As Adkisson (2010) notes, addressing economic problems from an OIE perspective often involves insights from fields such as biology, engineering, anthropology, political science, and others, as well as connections with feminist, radical, political, environmental, and labor economics. In light of the challenges faced by non-mainstream approaches in postgraduate Economics education in Brazil and ongoing calls for greater pluralism, this study identifies the presence of OIE research in the country, along with the thematic diversity present in theses and dissertations, indicating the emergence of an increasingly discernible scholarly community.

This movement of OIE academic production in Brazil has already been the focus of scholarly investigation. Felipe Almeida and Maríndia Brites (2022), for instance, have mapped and characterized emerging groups of Brazilian institutionalists, identifying three distinct segments

in the States of São Paulo, Paraná, and Rio Grande do Sul (Almeida; Brites, 2022). The authors went further in analysing journal publications and course syllabi in comparison to what has been produced by non-Brazilian scholars in the *Journal of Economic Issues*⁶ (Brites; Almeida, 2023). It has been found that Brazilian scholars have a broader approach to Institutional Economics, ranging from methodological analysis to a diversified analysis of the role of institutions in economics, which usually encompasses a mix of heterodox approaches to their investigation (Brites; Almeida, 2023).

Consequently, by investigating the production of T&D, this paper joins a broader research agenda on the recent history of OIE in Brazil by contributing to the understanding of the field in the identification of the characteristics of this emerging community, amidst a context in which disciplinary, institutional, and political treats may hinder the development of such a non-traditional approach in Economics. The following topics investigate these characteristics and debate their meaning in the formation of a discernible institutionalist group.

2. Data Collection and Treatment

The selection of theses and dissertations (T&D) referencing OIE literature followed a structured data collection protocol designed to identify relevant academic work both within the field of economics and in other disciplines. Specific keywords, in Portuguese and English, were used to filter the “CAPES Teses e Dissertações” database covering the period from 1995 to 2022 (the latest available data). Titles, abstracts, and keywords were searched to enable an initial screening. The selected keywords were: Thorstein Veblen, Veblen, Veblenian, John Rogers Commons, Commons, Commonsian, old institutionalism, institutional economics, original institutional economics, old institutional economics, and American institutionalism.⁷

⁶ Main OIE outlet.

⁷ Although limiting the search to terms related to Veblen and Commons may appear restrictive, this was a deliberate methodological choice. These two authors represent the foundational references of OIE, and expanding the list risked arbitrary inclusion or omission of other important figures. Notably, the selected keywords were able to also capture works referencing other relevant OIE scholars, such as Wesley Mitchell, Allan Gruchy, and Clarence Ayres.

At this point, we should address that the paper does not intend to classify all academic products available at the Capes' T&D Database as EIO or non-OIE⁸. Rather the goal is to map, using this targeted set of keywords, those T&Ds in which OIE authors or concepts are explicitly referenced as contributing to the analysis, regardless of the degree to which the framework is used.

As such, after keyword filtering, all retrieved works were manually reviewed and classified into four categories to capture varying degrees of engagement with OIE: (i) co-applied analysis: works in which OIE complements other schools of thought or theoretical frameworks, often alongside authors from other disciplines or heterodox traditions in economics; (ii) comparative analysis: works comparing OIE to other approaches (e.g., New Institutional Economics, Keynesianism, Marxism); (iii) theoretical analysis: Works focused on the history, foundations, or key concepts of OIE, where the original institutionalist tradition is the primary object of investigation; and (iv) applied analysis: Works that apply OIE as the main analytical framework to a specific research topic (e.g., labor, environment, money, fashion, gender). Works initially retrieved via keywords but not connected to OIE (e.g., those referencing the "tragedy of the commons" or the New Institutional Economics) were excluded from the final sample.

The initial filtering process yielded 92 relevant T&Ds, comprising 63 master's theses and 29 doctoral dissertations. Table 1 presents their distribution by categories (i) to (iv) between 1995 and 2022.

⁸ An effort to classify an academic production as OIE or not would require a debate on the methodological aspects of this theoretical perspective, as well as the selection of other criteria, such as authors' participation in a specific group, such as Afee. An attempt to classify OIE works by methodological criteria can be found in RAMSTAD (1981).

Table 1 – Filtered Theses and Dissertations (1995-2022)

Year	I Co-applied	II Comparative	III Theoretical	IV Applied	Year	I	II	III	IV
1995	-	-	1	-	2010	3	-	-	1
1996	-	-	-	-	2011	1	1	-	-
1997	-	-	-	-	2012	3	-	-	2
1998	-	-	-	-	2013	2	1	-	1
1999	-	-	-	-	2014	3	1	1	-
2000	1	1	-	1	2015	2	2	-	-
2001	-	-	-	-	2016	1	1	1	-
2002	1	1	-	-	2017	2	2	2	1
2003	1	-	-	-	2018	2	1	-	2
2004	-	-	-	-	2019	2	1	1	6
2005	-	-	-	-	2020	3	0	3	2
2006	-	2	-	-	2021	1	1	1	3
2007	-	1	2	1	2022	1	1	1	5
2008	2	-	1	1	Total	33	17	16	26
2009	2	-	2	-					

Source: elaborated by the authors.

It is important to acknowledge that this data collection approach may overlook T&D whose authors did not explicitly reference OIE in their titles, abstracts, or keywords. This limitation could be addressed through complementary methods such as content analysis or curriculum vitae (CV) mining. However, a significant constraint hinders these alternatives: many T&D are not fully available online, preventing the evaluation of internal structures and content, such as chapters focused on OIE. Moreover, CV mining would require a prior selection of authors, a strategy that could bias our sample, as we seek to uncover new information about scholars who may currently be off the radar in OIE production.

Similarly, the criteria used to exclude unrelated works remain open to debate, as the degree of engagement with OIE cannot always be precisely measured. Nevertheless, the categories of (i) co-applied and (ii) comparative were sufficiently broad to capture a wide range of analyses.

While we recognize these limitations, they do not compromise the relevance of the data presented in this paper. The following sections are dedicated to presenting and discussing the findings.

3. Theses and Dissertations and OIE: A Descriptive Analysis

3.1 Distribution by field and type of analysis

As the previous topic pointed out, the characterization of each T&D under four main strategies of analysis (co-applied, comparative, theoretical, and applied) allows us to capture not only OIE works from scholars in economics who may compose an institutionalist group in Brazil but also contributions of the institutionalist framework to academic analysis in other fields of study. *Table 2* exemplifies the distribution of our sample by area of knowledge and the four categories as follows:

Table 2 – Production by Field of Knowledge (1995-2022)

Field	Production Category				
	I	II	III	IV	Total
Accounting	1	0	0	0	1
Biological Sciences	1	0	0	0	1
Business Management	5	0	0	5	10
Communication	4	0	0	0	4
Economics	13	15	15	17	60
Education	1	0	0	0	1
Fashion and Textiles	1	0	0	0	1
History	2	0	0	1	3
Info Science	1	0	0	0	1
Interdisciplinary	1	0	0	1	2
Legal Social Sciences	1	0	0	0	1
Physical Education	0	1	0	0	1
Political Science	0	1	0	1	2
Psychology	1	0	0	0	1
Sociology	1	0	1	0	2
Urban and Regional Planning	1	0	0	0	1
Total	34 (42,4%)	17 (16,3%)	16 (15,2%)	25 (26,1%)	92 (100%)

Source: elaborated by the authors.

As shown in Table 2, Economics accounts for the majority of the sample (60 out of 92; 65.2%), with a relatively balanced distribution across the four categories: co-applied (21.7%), comparative (25%), theoretical (25%), and applied (28.3%). Notably, Economics concentrates the production in categories (ii) to (iv), representing 88.2%, 93.7%, and 68% of these types, respectively. In contrast, its share in co-applied works is lower (38.2%), reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of this category.

Within Economics, OIE was applied to a diverse array of themes in each category. For instance, co-applied analysis encompasses works on economic development, political economy, consumption (along with

culture and behavior), and institutional change. Comparative analysis, on the other hand, is formed by a long list of authors to which John R. Commons and Veblen were compared⁹. Theoretical works were formed by themes on the history of economic thought, evolutionary economics, consumption and social classes, methodology, and economic development. Finally, applied works in economics involved themes on regional redevelopment and sustainability, gender-racial inequality, labor and legislation, economic structures, market regulations, behavior and decision-making, and economic history.

Outside Economics, 32 T&Ds were distributed across 15 fields, with the majority (68.7%) employing co-applied analyses often focused on material culture, consumption, and social stratification. Six disciplines also produced works in other categories: history, interdisciplinary studies, physical education, political science, sociology, and business management. Notably, sociology was the only field other than economics to produce a theoretical analysis (type iii): a PhD Dissertation from 2007 investigating Thorstein Veblen's methodological approach and potential insights for sociological thought¹⁰. Similarly, Political Science¹¹ and Physical Education¹² each contributed one comparative (type ii) study, with type (ii) comparative analysis works. Applied analyses represented 18% of these non-economics works, addressing themes such as consumption, gender inequality, and institutional change.

While these 32 T&Ds were produced in fields of knowledge not directly related to OIE as part of the economics profession, the relatively high number of T&D in Business Management when compared to the other 14 areas stands out. As Chart 4 will demonstrate, a considerable

⁹ This list includes: Karl Marx, John Maynard Keynes, Douglass North, Geoffrey Hodgson, Ha-Joon Chang, Milton Friedman, Tony Lawson, Rosa Luxemburg, Rudolf Hilferding, Vladimir Lenin, Karl Kautsky, Brian Arthur, Friedrich Hayek, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Gunnar Myrdal, Herbert Simon,

Daniel Kahneman, Bertalanffy (Ludwig von Bertalanffy), Ilya Prigogine, Humberto Maturana, and Francisco Varela.

¹⁰ da SILVA, Vagner. L. A teoria social de Thorstein Veblen e seus fundamentos metodológicos. Tese (Doutorado em Economia) – Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2007.

¹¹ BURGOLIN, Patrick. Evolução sem destino: o confronto dos evolucionismos e a contribuição crítica de Thorstein Veblen à ciência política. Dissertação (Mestrado em Ciência Política) – Universidade Federal Fluminense, Niteroi, 2014.

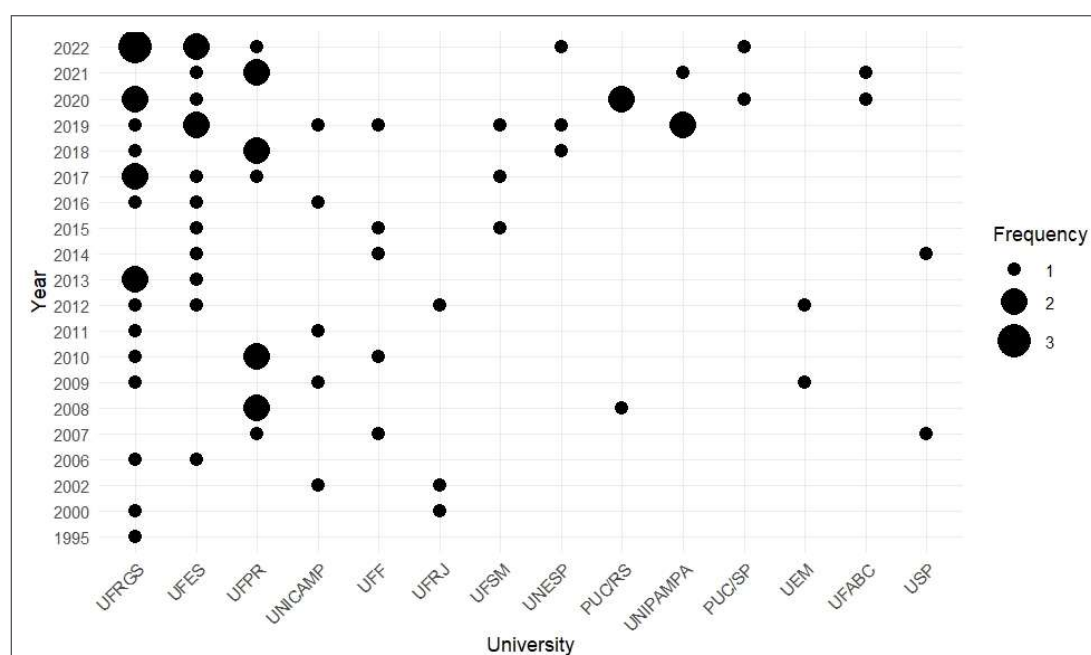
¹² CARMO, Gonçalo. C. M. 'Do Ócio de Veblen ao Controle das Emoções de Elias: Possíveis Enfoques para uma Interpretação do Lazer' – Universidade de Campinas, Campinas, 2002.

number of these studies were supervised by scholars from UNIPAMPA, the only non-economic T&D to have had a connection to economics scholars in the network of committee members. This fact may indicate that, while not in economics, these works may be closer to those produced in OIE¹³.

3.2 Universities and regions

Finally, by filtering the sample by university, it is possible to identify potential centers of OIE production and institutional formation in Brazil. Figure 1 shows the distribution of T&D by year and institution, including only universities with at least two T&D referencing OIE.

Figure 1 – Academic Production by Year and University (1995-2021)



Source: elaborated by the author.

Out of 31 universities, only 14 produced more than one T&D, accounting for 81.5% of the total (70 out of 92). Three institutions were especially prolific for having exceeded the threshold of 10 T&Ds: UFRGS (19), UFES (13), and UFPR (11).

Among the three universities, UFRGS stands out for presenting the earliest work in the sample: a master's thesis focused on theoretical anal-

¹³ See more in the discussion of Figure 3.

ysis, defended in 1995¹⁴, followed by the first PhD dissertation in Economics referencing OIE, authored in 2000 by Brazilian institutionalist Octávio Conceição¹⁵. The institution generated 15 more theses and dissertations, averaging 1 work per year through 2022. UFES, in turn, produced its first master's thesis in 2006—a comparative analysis between OIE and neo-Schumpeterian approach¹⁶. From 2012 to 2022, 12 more works were developed at UFES, averaging 1.2 per year. Lastly, UFPR's output was concentrated in four distinct periods, 2007-2008¹⁷, 2010, 2017-2018, and 2021-2022, yielding an average of 2.75 works per period.

Additionally, Figure 1 highlights three universities that, despite having produced more than one T&D referencing OIE, have not produced any new works in this area for over a decade: UFRJ, UEM, and USP. At UEM, two co-applied works in Economics were developed under the supervision of Amalia Maria Goldberg Godoy, whose research, while broadly aligned with institutionalist perspectives, does not fall strictly within the scope of OIE. In contrast, UFRJ and USP did not produce any T&Ds in Economics; instead, their contributions were located in fields such as Communication, Sociology, Fashion and Textile, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Information Science. The absence of thematic or institutional continuity among these works suggests that, in these cases, there is no evidence of an ongoing group dedicated to OIE.

More recent contributions have emerged from UFSM, UNESP, UNIPAMPA, PUC-SP, and UFABC, all of which began producing OIE-related work after 2015. While UNIPAMPA and PUC-SP contributed with T&Ds in Business Management mostly on Veblen's insights, UFSM, UNESP, and UFABC focused exclusively on Economics, suggesting the potential rise of new OIE research centers beyond the most productive

¹⁴ MONASTERIO, Leonardo. M. A economia institucional-evolucionária de Thorstein Veblen. 1995. 173 f. Dissertação (Mestrado em Economia) – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, 1995.

¹⁵ CONCEIÇÃO, Octávio. A. C. Instituições, crescimento e mudança na ótica institucionalista. 2000. Tese (Doutorado em Economia) – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, 2000.

¹⁶ FELIPE, Ednilson. S. Instituições e mudanças institucionais numa ótica evolucionária: uma abordagem a partir dos conceitos e da metodologia neo-schumpeteriana. 2006, Dissertação (Mestrado em Economia) – Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Vitória, 2006.

¹⁷ ALMEIDA, Felipe. Uma abordagem institucional do consumo. 2007. Dissertação (Mestrado em Economia) – Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba, 2007.

institutions identified earlier (UFRGS, UFES, and UFPR). Interestingly, UNESP and UFABC stand out for their contributions to John Commons' theoretical framework¹⁸ and radical institutional economics¹⁹, respectively, distinguishing their production from other centers.

It is also worth noting that the 14 universities identified above are located in Brazil's South and Southeast regions, emphasizing a geographical concentration. In the South, institutions are concentrated in two states: Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS, UNIPAMPA, UFSM, and PUC-RS) and Paraná (UFPR and UEM). In the Southeast, universities are distributed across three states: São Paulo (UNICAMP, UNESP, PUC-SP, UFABC, and USP), Rio de Janeiro (UFF and UFRJ), and Espírito Santo (UFES).

The data discussed so far align closely with the findings of Almeida and Brites (2022), who made an initial effort to identify institutionalist groups in Brazil. They identified three main clusters: UFPR; Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS, UFFS, UFSM); and São Paulo (UNESP, UFABC, and UNICAMP). While UFFS is absent from that study, all these centers appear in our data as active sites of OIE thesis and dissertation production. Our analysis further expands this mapping to include additional states such as Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo, thereby broadening the understanding of the institutionalist community's geographic distribution in Brazil.

3.3 Main OIE Advisors and Universities

So far, our data have revealed the universities and academic fields in which OIE has been applied to the production of T& in Brazil. However, further analysis is required to infer which institutions serve as centers of institutionalist formation. To address this, we rely on two main instruments: (i) mapping advisors in the pool of T&D and (ii) identifying recurring defense board members, who may indicate key figures in the OIE community contributing to the training of new scholars in the field.

¹⁸ PELLEGRINO, Lucas N. Reconhecimento e Legitimação Jurisprudencial do Goodwill no Brasil: uma interpretação a partir da teoria econômica de John R. Commons, Dissertação (Mestrado em Economia) – Universidade Estadual Paulista, Araraquara, 2018.

¹⁹ FERNANDES, Fabio O. Dois ensaios por uma interpretação radical do institucionalismo original, Dissertação (Mestrado em Economia) – Universidade Federal do ABC, São Bernardo do Campo, 2020.

Fifty-seven advisors were identified in the sample; however, only 15 had supervised two or more T&D between 1995 and 2022, encompassing 11 universities and a total of 50 academic works. Data on advisors by state are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 – OIE Advisors by State

Espírito Santo	Paraná	Rio de Janeiro	Rio Grande do Sul	São Paulo
<i>UFES</i> Alexandre O. Salles (12)	<i>UFPR</i> Felipe A. de Almeida (4) Marco A. R. Cavalieri (3) Huáscar F. Pessali (2)	<i>UFF</i> Celia Kerstenetzky (2)	<i>UFRGS</i> Octávio A. C. Conceição (7) Pedro C. D. Fonseca (4) Paulo D. Waquil (2)	<i>UNESP</i> Sebastião N. Guedes (3)
	<i>UEM</i> Amalia M. Godoy (2)		<i>UNIPAMPA</i> Carolina F. Fleck (2)	<i>UFABC</i> Manuel R. S. Luz (2)
			<i>PUC/RS</i> Izete P. Bagolin (2)	<i>UNICAMP</i> Eduardo B. Mariutti (2)
			<i>UFSM</i> Julio E. Rohenkohnl (2)	

Source: elaborated by the authors.

The findings of Table 3 are directly connected to Brites and Almeida (2023). For instance, of the 15 advisors, 6 of them have been identified as part of the network of Brazilian institutionalists (Brites; Almeida, 2023), namely Sebastião Guedes (Unesp), Manuel Ramon Luz (UFABC), Huascar Pessali (UFPR), Felipe Almeida (UFPR), Marco Cavalieri (UFPR), and Octávio Conceição (UFRGS). Indeed, these scholars have contributed to the formation of new OIE students and have contributed to the main recent events of this community, such as EINST and AFEE South American Conference.

While scholars such as Amalia Godoy (UEM), Izete Bagolis (PUC-RS), Carolina F. Fleck (UNIPAMPA), Julio Rohenkohn, Celia Kerstenetzky (UFF), and Eduardo B. Mariutti (UNICAMP) have no discernible

production in OIE beyond the theses and dissertations identified in our sample, it is worth noting that both Kerstenetzky and Mariutti have supervised researchers who continued to engage with OIE-related themes after graduation²⁰. Pedro Cezar Dutra Fonseca (UFRGS), in his turn, supervised four T&Ds, including the earliest document in our sample. Although his work has not been published in OIE outlets such as the *Journal of Economic Issues*, his broader academic output suggests an affinity with this tradition of economic thought.

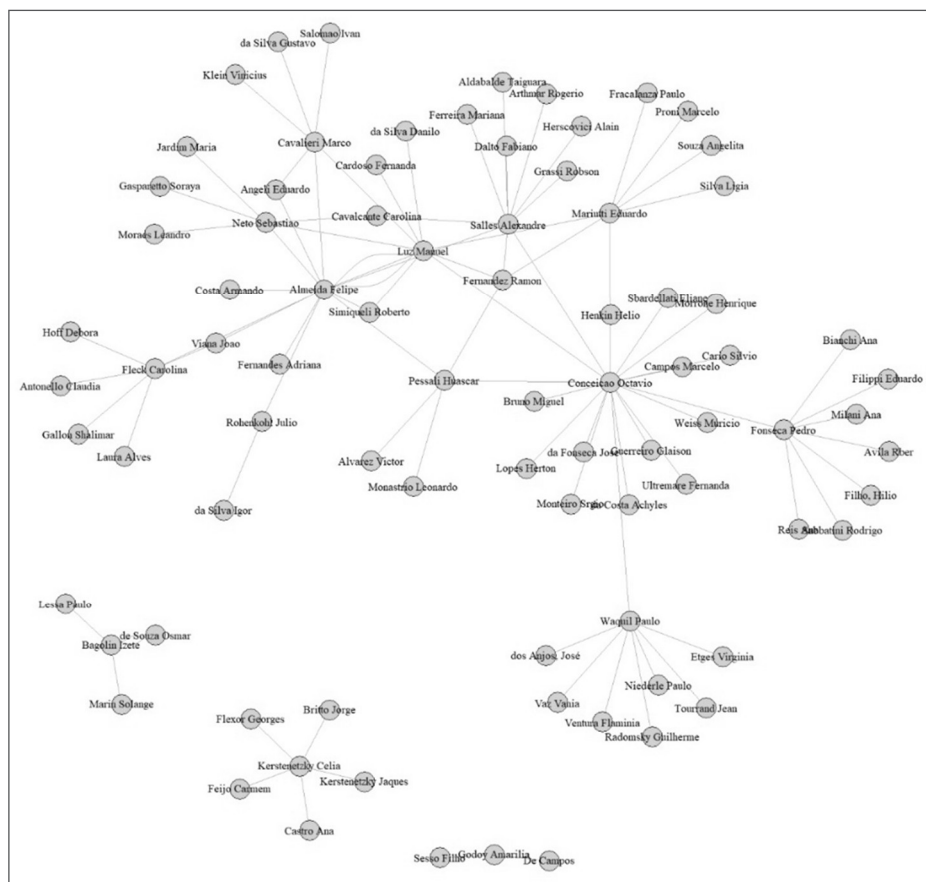
Additionally, among the 15 identified advisors, only Carolina Fleck (UNIPAMPA) is from a field outside Economics, namely, Business Management, suggesting that the incorporation of OIE into disciplines beyond Economics tends to be isolated rather than part of a sustained academic initiative.

3.4 OIE Network through T&D defenses

A final step in our analysis is to examine the connections between these scholars and institutions to identify the existence of a network that may indicate the formation of an OIE academic community. Data on committee membership, covering both for master's theses and PhD dissertations, are particularly valuable for this purpose. Figure 3 presents the network of advisors and committee members, focusing on the 15 advisors who have supervised more than two works.

²⁰ This is the case of Carolina Cavalcante (UFRJ) and Roberto Simiqueli (UFAL), supervised by Kerstenetzky (UFF) and Eduardo B. Mariutti, respectively. See comments on Chart 4, p. 19.

Figure 3 – Network of Advisors and Committee members



Source: elaborated by the authors.

Among the fifteen advisors with more than two supervisions, seven are connected to more than one of the other advisors in the network: Felipe Almeida (UFPR – 6 connections), Marco Cavalieri (UFPR – 2), Manuel Ramon Luz (UFABC – 4), Huascar Pessali (UFPR – 2), Octávio Conceição (UFRGS – 4), Alexandre Salles (UFES – 2), Sebastião Guedes (UNESP – 2), and Eduardo Mariutti (UNICAMP – 2).

Four advisors are connected to only one other colleague: Carolina Fleck (UNIPAMPA), Julio Rohenkohl (UFSM), Pedro Fonseca (UFRGS), and Paulo Waquil (UFRGS). It is worth noting that Fleck and Rohenkohl are both linked to Felipe Almeida (UFPR), forming inter-institutional connections between UFPR and universities in the South. In contrast, Fonseca and Waquil are connected to Octávio Conceição within UFRGS, representing intra-institutional links.

Finally, three advisors appear disconnected from the rest of the network: Izete Bagolin (PUC-RS), Célia Kerstenetzky (UFF), and Amalia

Godoy (UEM). In the Figure, each of these scholars forms a separate and isolated cluster, visually positioned in the lower part of the image. This fact indicates a lack of integration into the broader OIE academic network represented in the sample and suggests that these researchers are not actively participating in what could be characterized as an institutionalist community.

Based on this analysis, we may conclude that there is a network of eight universities in Brazil with a recurring production of T&D that engage with the contributions of OIE: UFPR, UFABC, UFES, UFRGS, UNESP, UNICAMP, UNIPAMPA, and UFSM. Among these, six institutions stand out for exhibiting multiple inter-university connections (more than one), represented by the following scholars: Felipe Almeida (UFPR), Marco Cavalieri (UFPR), Huascar Pessali (UFPR), Manuel Ramon Luz (UFABC), Alexandre Salles (UFES), Octávio Conceição (UFRGS), Sebastião Guedes (UNESP), and Eduardo Mariutti (UNICAMP).

These data are complemented by the information presented in Table 4, which highlights committee members who, although not listed among the top advisors, are connected to more than one advisor in our sample. This includes Ramon Garcia Fernandez (UFABC), Carolina Miranda Cavalcante (UFRJ), Roberto Simiqueli (UFAL), and João Garibaldi Viana (UNIPAMPA). All of these scholars have contributed to the field of OIE, with particular emphasis on Ramon Fernandez, recognized as one of the leading institutionalist scholars in Brazil; Roberto Simiqueli, a former PhD student of Eduardo Mariutti and one of the OIE scholars identified by Brites and Almeida (2023); and Carolina Cavalcante (UFRJ), whose master's and PhD work was supervised by Celia Kerstenetzky (UFF). Although Kerstenetzky's cluster does not appear connected to other advisors in the network, her advisee served as a committee member in both UNESP and UFES defenses involving OIE theses and dissertations.

Data on the top 6 committee members, selected by having participated in more than two committees is presented in Table 4.

Table 4 – Top 6 committee members (More than 2 committees)

Member	Area	Univ	Thesis	Univ/Thesis	Dissert.	Univ/Diss	Total
CONCEIÇÃO, Octavio Augusto Camargo	Economics	UFRGS	6	UFES (4) UNIPAMPA (1) UFMT (1)	10	UFRGS (7) UFSC (1) UNICAMP (2)	14
ALMEIDA, Felipe	Economics	UFPR	7	UFSM (3) UNESP (1) UFES (1) UFABC (1) UNIPAMPA (1)	3	UFPR (2) UNESP (1)	9
LUZ, Manuel Ramon Souza	Economics	UFABC	1	UFPR (1)	6	UNICAMP (2) UFPR (3) UNESP (1)	7
ARTHMAR, Rogerio	Economics	UFES	6	UFES (6)	-	-	6
FERNANDEZ, Ramon Vicente Garcia	Economics	UFABC	4	UFPR (1) UFABC (2) UFES (1)	2	UNICAMP (2)	6
VIANA, João Garibaldi Almeida	Economics	UNIPAMPA	4	UNIPAMPA (3) UFPR (1)	-	-	4
CAVALCANTE, Carolina Miranda	Economics	UFRJ	3	UNESP (1) UFES (2)	-	-	3

Source: elaborated by the authors.

From the final table, we observe that Octavio Conceição (UFRGS), Felipe Almeida (UFPR), and Manuel Ramon Luz (UFABC) are the most frequently recorded participants in thesis and dissertation committees and also appear regularly as advisors of T&D grounded in Original Institutional Economics (OIE). Alongside Ramon Fernandez, recognized as one of the pioneers of OIE in Brazil (Brites & Almeida, 2023), they form a discernible scholarly network that supports the findings of Almeida and Brites (2022) regarding the consolidation of an institutionalist academic community. Carolina Cavalcante (UFRJ), identified in our sample as an advisee at both the master's and doctoral levels, also par-

ticipated in three committee evaluations in two different universities, making her part of this network of institutionalist formation.

Finally, the cases of Rogério Artman (UFES) and João Viana (UNIPAMPA) exemplify how scholars not directly associated with the original institutionalist tradition have nonetheless contributed to the evaluation and development of OIE-related research at the graduate level. This fact highlights the importance of pluralism within Brazilian graduate programs in economics, which has allowed space for the emergence of OIE and encouraged dialogue among heterodox traditions. Undoubtedly, the thematic diversity, interdisciplinary orientation, and critical perspective toward mainstream economics that characterize much of the OIE production further enable these interactions, making room for contributions from scholars outside the core institutionalist circle. As the Brazilian institutionalist community consolidates, maintaining such dialogue can help further cultivate a pluralist academic environment.

4. Final Remarks

This paper aimed to contribute to understanding the presence and development of Original Institutional Economics (OIE) within graduate programs in Economics in Brazil, revealing the formation of an emerging institutionalist academic community. Situated in a context historically shaped by the dominance of mainstream approaches and institutional constraints imposed by evaluation mechanisms, research in OIE signals a movement of academic resistance and theoretical-methodological diversification.

By mapping the production of theses and dissertations, this study offered a comprehensive overview of the field, analyzing the distribution of OIE contributions by field of knowledge, the evolution of research across universities over time, data on advisors, and the identification of an academic network through committee membership links.

The findings reveal a diversity of topics within the OIE approach, including the application of quantitative methods across a broad range of subjects. A significant concentration of production was found in the southern region of Brazil, particularly in the states of Espírito Santo, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, and São Paulo, which are regions where the

most active advisors are located. This highlights the limited diffusion of OIE in other regions, a situation that may improve over time through the formation of new researchers and their eventual integration into graduate programs in the North, Northeast, and Midwest. Accordingly, eight universities were mapped as potential centers for the study of OIE, namely, UFPR, UFABC, UFES, UFRGS, UNESP, UNICAMP, UNIPAMPA, and UFSM; however, their production over time varies, with a few of them concentrating most of the field's output.

In conclusion, OIE contributes to a more pluralistic and diverse graduate education in Economics in Brazil. Its interdisciplinary nature, thematic breadth, and critical perspective on mainstream assumptions position it as a meaningful and distinct alternative within economic research. Given the enduring institutional, disciplinary, and political barriers to pluralism in the field, the continued presence of OIE represents a promising and necessary agenda for future research. This study supports that effort by shedding light on the dynamics of original institutionalist thought in Brazil, offering evidence of its trajectory within the national academic landscape.

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