

# Tourism Research Networks: grouping, characteristics and scientific production

Redes de Pesquisa em Turismo: agrupamento, características e  
produção científica



Juliana Niehues Gonçalves de Lima  
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Brasil  
[julianalimafurg@gmail.com](mailto:julianalimafurg@gmail.com)

Priscilla Teixeira da Silva  
Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Brasil  
[priscilla.cet@gmail.com](mailto:priscilla.cet@gmail.com)

Thayele Oliveira  
Universidade do Vale do Itajaí, Brasil  
[tayholiveira@outlook.com](mailto:tayholiveira@outlook.com)

Ana Paula Lisboa Sohn  
Universidade do Vale do Itajaí, Brasil  
[anasohn@univali.br](mailto:anasohn@univali.br)

Marcos Arnhold Junior  
Universidade do Vale do Itajaí, Brasil  
[marcosjunior@univali.br](mailto:marcosjunior@univali.br)

## ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the performance of research groups linked to Graduate Programs in Tourism. Specifically, it is intended to: identify the scenario of research groups in tourism in Brazil; and understand the configuration of tourism research groups. For this, four research groups were selected, two Brazilians, a British and a Spanish: Turismo, Marketing e Competitividade (Brazil); Planejamento e Gestão do Turismo (Brazil); Gender, Entrepreneurship and Social Policy Institute (UK); and Planificación y Gestión Sostenible del Turismo (Spain). This is an exploratory and descriptive research with a qualitative approach. For data collection, bibliographical and



documentary research was carried out. It was chosen to work with a secondary source of data, based on information available in the Directory of Research Groups in Brazil, websites of research groups and ResearchGate and CNPq platforms. 44 tourism research groups were found in Brazil, linked to PPGs in the field of Tourism and 133 lines of research. The results point to growth and consolidation of the groups, with 2019 and 2020 being the years with the highest number of registrations, in addition to longevity with the performance of 4 groups for more than 20 years. In relation to the studied groups, differences can be noticed in relation to the number of lines of research, number and category of members, established partnerships and production of the leaders. The results of this study help to understand the conjuncture of the creation, performance and consolidation of research groups in tourism, recognizing them as sources of knowledge of great relevance for tourism.

**Keywords:** Tourism, Research Groups, Postgraduate, Scientific Production, Tourism Research.

## INTRODUCTION

Knowledge is the basis for human evolution. To solve problems is one of the contributions that scientific researches may provide to society. To systematize such researches eases the access and the dissemination of information, both to peers as well as to the community as a whole, therefore, there are several data banks and scientific events.

The tourism knowledge started to embody in the last decades with the dedication of a series of authors by studying and producing knowledge in the area of Tourism (Panosso Netto & Nechar, 2014). Still, the same authors signed that there has become necessary to search for a critical reflection in the sense of highlighting the social and environmental problems. In addition, it to understand how to think Tourism, even if it is a complex issue.

In such line, the research groups, both national as international, contribute to the development of the area and, through them, it is possible to engage professors, researchers, students and technicians, including from



different institutions, providing the exchange of culture and specific knowledge. To describe and to recognize the relevance of groups of research in addition to provide the diffusion of knowledge in the universe of science, may also result in more input of resources for the development of researches.

According to Panosso Netto, Solha & Almeida (2009), through a report from the Group of Research "Research, Education and Professional Acting in Tourism and Hospitality", since 2005, when the first classes of the course Leisure and Tourism from the School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities from the University of São Paulo (EACH/USP), one of the more debated problems by its professors was the issue of research and professional formation in the area of Tourism and correlated. It is perceived, with such, the inquietude from this group of professors with the need to evolve Tourism in the theoretical-practical aspect.

Throughout the course, like a gear, several aspects that involve the formal structures of education (university, in this case) have evolved, as for example the organization of the group, the participation of more professors each day and, posteriorly, of other members, including from other institutions. Based on what the authors quoted, as the number of professors raised, the group of research started to have shape, but still in an informal way. However, it was described that in the year of 2008, with a group of professors who presented the same line of interpretation and of preoccupations with the tourism phenomenon and the way that it was developed in education in Brazil, it was possible then the official constitution of such group of investigators (Panosso Netto *et al.*, 2009).

In such sense, this study has as goal to analyze the acting of research groups linked to the Post-Graduation Programs of Tourism. In a specific way, it is intended to: identify the scenario of the groups of research in Tourism in Brazil; and to comprehend the configuration of the groups of research in Tourism. For such, four groups of research were selected, being two Brazilian, one Britain



and one Spanish: Tourism, Marketing and Competition (Brazil); Planning and Tourism Management (Brazil); Gender, Entrepreneurship and Social Policy Institute (United Kingdom); and Planificación y Gestión Sostenible del Turismo (Spain).

The studies on research groups are relevant for the comprehension of the theme and the practical acting, having at sight their role both for the Post-Graduation programs as well as for the scientific field (Andrade, Macedo & Oliveira, 2014). Therefore, this study is justified by contributing to the comprehension of the scenery of the groups of research in Tourism.

Therefore, it aims at answering the following research question: In what way do the Groups of Research linked to the Post-Graduation Programs in Tourism act?

After introducing the theme, the theoretical reference regarding the research groups, the methodological procedures adopted in the research, the results of the study and the final considerations are presented.

## REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

According to Vabø, Alvsvåg, Kyvik & Reymert (2016), the term “research group” has been traditionally used to design a formal or informal collaboration between several researches, together with projects related to a certain issue of research, being currently used, also, to mark a formal organizational level at universities and colleges, aiming at creating an academic and competitive environment in research.

On the other hand, Erdmann & Lanzon (2008) present a definition closer to this formal context of linkage to universities and colleges. To such authors, research groups may be defined as:

(...) a group of individuals organized hierarchically around one or eventually two leaders: the organizational founding of such hierarchy is the experience, the highlight and the leadership in the scientific or



technological field; they are involved professionally and permanently with research activities, whose work are organized around common lines of research; at some degree, they share installations and equipment. (Erdmann & Lanzon, 2008, p. 318).

Such definition comprehends the Brazilian context of institutionalization of research groups, process which had its start from the creation of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), in 1951. Such Council constitutes itself as the foundation linked to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MCT), with the purpose of providing support to Science, Technology and Innovation in the formation and absorption of human resources and funding of research projects.

On the other hand, the Directory of Group of Research in Brazil (DGPB/CNPq) was created in 1992, with the purpose of constituting a system of information about the activity of scientific and technological research in the scope of universities and research institutes with national coverage (Mocelin, 2009).

In the DGPB/CNPq information on the groups of research in activity in Brazil is available, having a census character, with the purpose of providing an establishment of a system of information on scientific and technological research, providing a periodic map of the organization and path of the research in Brazil.

Vabø *et al.* (2016), from a research performed in Norway, reported that in the traditional universities of the country, the formal research groups were based on informal groups that already existed previously, mainly in the areas of Science, Medicine and Technology. As for the composition of such groups, the authors highlight that they may be formed by many researchers, as, for example: professor, associated professor, technicians and doctorate and post-doctorate students.



On the other hand, Erdmann & Lanzon (2008) presented three categories for the members: leader researchers, researchers and student (with scholarship or not). The leader researcher would be the one who has academic and intellectual leadership in such environment and has the responsibility of coordinating and planning the research studies of the group. On the other hand, the researchers are the graduated or post-graduated members of the group, involved with the performance of projects and scientific production. In such category, are also the post-doctorate fellows. At last, in the category of students, are the graduation (scientific initiation) and post-graduation students, at master and doctorate level that act under the orientation of the researchers.

According to the option of registration available in the DGPB/CNPq, the research groups are composed by lines of research and, within each line, it can be registered researchers, students, technician and foreign collaborator, in addition to the figure of the leader (the one that performs the registration) and vice-leader (optional).

For Vabø *et al.* (2016) the organization of research activities in groups in the universities has as purpose to create an environment of cooperation between researchers to strengthen the quality of research and performance of tests and experiments that demand coordinated effort.

Von Wangenheim, Lichtnow, Von Wangenheim and Comunello (2001) & Lichtnow (2001), from the research in the area of *software* and computers, present some of the main activities that may be developed by research groups: research and study of the literature; elaboration of proposals of research projects; performance of meetings for the presentation and discussion of ideas; development of theoretical models; development of prototypes and systems; writing and publication of scientific articles; cooperation with research organs; organization of the research and of projects; participation in conferences; organization of events; teaching; and study of products (equipment/software). Research groups are configured,



therefore, in a more proper form of organization to fulfill collective or shared activities for the production of knowledge (Erdmann & Lanzon, 2008).

Research groups develop studies within their area of acting, advancing in knowledge within their respective lines. Such groups have specialized knowledge and use advance technologies to develop their researches, helping in the formation of specialized researchers through the contact with theoretical and practice knowledge related the researches (Lichtnow, 2001), in addition to an important forum to stimulate further cooperation, scientific production and promotion of strong researches (Vabø *et al.*, 2016).

Through the participation of a group of research, a new member gains access to professional contacts and partners in other universities and in other countries. According to Segundo Andrade, de Los Reyes Lopez & Martín (2009), studies have demonstrated that small research teams, many times, collaborate with other national and international groups, and such cooperation increases the possibility of publication in recognized journals and the obtention of more citations.

According to Andrade *et al.* (2009, p.17):

The inter-institutional collaboration is related to the high scientific quality of such publications (measured in terms of impact and relevance), particularly the collaboration that involves international partners, since those articles are more prone to be published in international high impact journals and, therefore, with greater opportunities to be cited by any researchers around the world (Our own translation)

For Kyvik & Reymert (2017), to be a member of a formal research group does not imply, necessarily, that the greater part of the research is done within the structure of the group. For the authors, many professors are part of the participation in nets and, particularly, international nets, the most important factor.

Odelius & Sena (2009) have already presented a discussion related to the learning processes in the groups of research, highlighting, as gain, the



formal and informal processes of learning within the groups, in addition to the interaction between people as inducers of the development of competences.

The processes of learning in the research groups occur from the dynamics of interaction that characterize the functioning of the groups and to the access of accumulated knowledge. In addition to the learning, which enables the performance of researches, proper attitudes of the team work, to the professional acting and the generation of ideas, as well as the formation of social media were identified as competences developed from the acting in the research groups (Odelius & Sena, 2009, s/n).

Regarding the productivity and measuring, Cook, Grange & Eyre-Walker (2015) in a research performed in the area of Biological Sciences in The United Kingdom, with 398 leaders of research groups (*principle investigators*), used as metrics to measure the productivity: a) the number of publications; b) the impact factor from the journals in which the articles are published and c) the number of citations. At the end of the study, the authors suggest that an increase in productivity could be reached with a model of financing in which the productivity is maximized with many small research groups, instead of focusing the resources on small big groups.

On the other hand, Oliveira & Mello (2014) discussed the evaluation of the scientific production from the researchers as decisive factor for the concession of research grants by research agencies. From a qualitative gathering of data together with the researchers, with the raise of suggestions for new individual indicators for the criteria of productivity in research, the authors presented 441 answers divided into 32 categories, which pointed out the need of redefinition of what is understood as a productive scientist and with high power of transformation of the society. Appearing aspects such as: integration of research nets, national and international collaborations, acting in regions with early development and the social impact of the research, approaching the areas of education and of scientific disclosure, the





transference of technology, extension activities and the popularization of science.

Within such sense, the research groups present themselves as significantly important structures for the consolidation of the scientific research. In social and human sciences, authors such as Vabø *et al.* (2016) and Kyvik & Reymert (2017) agree that the process of group is far more recent than in the areas of Medicine and Health with a more consolidated tradition. In this study, the research groups of the area of Tourism will be approached.

Few are the researches on the acting of research groups of Tourism in Brazil, remembering that it is still a recent area, whose creation of the first *stricto sensu* post-graduation course dates from 1997. Among the studies, it highlights the ones by Panosso Netto *et al.* (2009); Oliveira, Domingos, Colasante & Calvente (2020); Fratucci (2021); and Minasse, Lopes, Sabbag & Carvalho (2022).

Panosso Netto *et al.* (2009) presented the results of the study developed by members of the group of research from São Paulo University (USP), “Research, Education and Professional Acting in Tourism and Hospitality” founded in 2008. Among the main gains listed from the constitution of the group, are the strengthening of the lines of research; the search for students interested in performing their monographs in such themes, by the professors advisors of the group; and the organization of events, such as the Symposium on Formation and Professional Acting in Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality.

On the other hand, Oliveira *et al.* (2020) presented a report on the experience of actions from the Research Group “Ternopar – Tourism and Rural Excursion in the North of Paraná”, from Londrina State University (UEL). It started in 2001, by the Department of Geosciences, the group of research has the focus on the study of Tourism in the rural environment, in a perspective of the local base. The results point out that the Ternopar produced different academic publications with the contribution of students, professors and



collaborators from several areas of knowledge such as Geography, Biological Sciences, Tourism, Law, Architecture and Geology, enabling, in the academic scope, in addition to important reflections, the insertion of disciplines related to Tourism in the school program of the Post-Graduation Program in Geography and Graduation in Geography from UEL. Oliveira *et al.* (2020) also highlight that the acting of Ternopar grounded in the indissociability between teaching, research and extension, presenting results from the group of research together with the local population, as stimulation to the participation of the community in the discussions about Tourism and the valuation of the historical and natural elements of the cities from the North of Paraná.

Hence, Fratucci (2021) presents a review of the path of the activities from the research group “Tourism, Management and Territories”, initiated in 2007, linked to the Tourism and Hospitality College of the Federal Fluminense University (UFF). Just as the Ternopar (Oliveira *et al.*, 2020), the group of research “Tourism, Management and Territories” also presents research and extension activities, initially focusing on two lines of research: a) Tourism, spaces and territories; and b) Public policies and governance in Tourism, whose studies are basically performed through scientific initiation projects. From 2014 on, with the creation of the Post-Graduation Program in Tourism at UFF, mastering studies were able to integrate the research group, being created, then, a third line: c) Tourism, work and territories. The report has the focus on actions from this third line of research and highlighted the contribution of the inter-institutional research work, presenting actions performed in partnership with other public institutions, such as São Carlos Federal University (UFSCAr), Federal Center of Technological Education Celso Suckow da Fonseca, São Paulo University (USP) and Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of São Paulo (IFSC). The complexity that the themes “work” and “territory” present, in addition to the need of multiple views go beyond Tourism, a theoretical-methodological deepening. Once again, the inseparable character between



research, teaching and extension in Tourism research groups appears as a relevant characteristic.

At last, Minasse *et al.* (2022) present a study on the research groups from the area of Tourism in Brazil that have as Gastronomy a relevant theme. The research was performed in two steps, first at DGPB/CNPq, where 26 groups with such characteristics were found; and, in a second moment, from an online questionnaire available to the leaders of such groups. According to Minasse *et al.* (2022), such groups focused mainly in the Northeast and Southeast regions, the great majority was created from 2010 on and privileged the cultural perspective. The most used methods in the researches performed by such groups are case studies, ethnography and bibliometric analysis. Among the main difficulties to maintain a productive research group, the study reveals that the composition, the dynamic of the team and the scarcity of grants. At last, regarding the challenges of research on Tourism and Gastronomy in Brazil, the authors point out the difficulties of theoretical and methodological character, obtention of resources and difficulty in the formation of new researchers.

Therefore, it has become evident the existence of a gap regarding the studies on Tourism research groups in Brazil and the need to deepen the theme.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This investigation is characterized as an exploratory and descriptive research, of qualitative approach. According to Mattar (2014) the exploratory study enables to explore and comprehend the theme of the research, meanwhile the descriptive investigation will describe it and infer over it. The use of the qualitative approach proposes a holistic view of the analyzed situation (Fontana, 2018), in such case, of the acting of the groups of research linked to Post-Graduation Programs in Tourism.

For the data gathering, bibliographic and documental researches were performed. According to Pereira, Shitsuka, Parreira & Shitsuka (2018), the



bibliographic research is an important step for the research to be acknowledged regarding the studied theme. On the other hand, the documental research comprehends the gathering of secondary data (Zanella, 2013). To analyze the data a content analysis was performed which consists on analyzing texts or documents from some kind of communication (Zanella, 2013).

To identify the scenario of the research groups of Tourism in Brazil, a research in the Directory of the Research of Research Group in Brazil (DGPB/CNPq). Such step was divided into three moments: a) search for groups in the area of Tourism in the DGPB/CNPq, using the current census available in the data base; b) from such relation, the groups from each university that had Program of Post-Graduation in the area of Tourism were selected, according to the extracted list from the Sucupira platform; and c) the third and final step started in the virtual page of each one of the Post-Graduation Programs with basic area in Tourism, from the information regarding the teaching body, being listed only the groups of research whose leader or vice-leader were part of the teaching staff of the Post-Graduation Program. In such list, only the "Certified by the Institution" and "Not currently updated in the last 12 months" were considered. The groups "in filling" or "excluded" were not considered.

Soon after, to understand the configuration of the research groups in Tourism, one of the specific purposes, four groups of research were selected. The groups were selected by convenience, being two groups in Brazil, one in Spain and one in The United Kingdom. The Brazilian groups were chosen from the professional proximity of the authors with their leaders and the groups of Spain and The United Kingdom were indicated by the authors. For such analysis, the data was gathered in the websites of the groups of research, in the websites of the universities and in the *ResearchGate* and *CNPq* platforms.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



Based on the traced goals of identifying the scenery of the groups of research in Tourism in Brazil and to understand the configuration of the groups of research in Tourism, the achieved results as described as follows.

First of all, in the digital platform of CNPq, through the Directory of the Groups of Research in Brazil, a parametric consult was performed with the word "Tourism", considering the current available census of the actual data base. 644 lines of research were found with the term "Tourism" and 529 groups. The research was performed on April 19th, 2022.

Having at sight such a broad scenario. For a better analysis, the cut of groups of research of Tourism was chosen, the ones linked to Post-Graduation Programs with basic area in Tourism, according to information available in the Sucupira platform. From such consultation, 11 Post-graduation programs offered by 10 institutions were reached, being 3 professional master, 3 academic master and 5 master master/doctorate, according to Chart 01, below:

Chart 01: Post-graduation program with basic area of Tourism in Brazil (2022)

Level	University	Post-graduation program	Year of initiation
Master	University of Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI)	Master in Tourism and Hotel services	1997
	University of Caxias do Sul (UCS)	Master in Tourism and Hospitality	2000
	State University of Ceará (UECE)	Master in Tourism Business Management	2000
	University Anhembi Morumbi (UAM)	Master in Hospitality	2002
	Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN)	Master in Tourism	2008



	Federal University of Paraná (UFPR)	Master in Tourism	2013
	University of São Paulo (USP)	Master in Tourism	2014
	Fluminense Federal University (UFF)	Master in Tourism	2015
	Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology in Sergipe (IFS)	Master in Tourism	2016
	University Anhembi Morumbi (UAM)	Master in Food and Drinks Management (A&B)	2016
	Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE)	Master in Hotel services and Tourism	2017
Doctorate	University of Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI)	Doctorate in Tourism and Hotel Services	2013
	Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN)	Doctorate in Tourism	2014
<b>Level</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Post-Graduation Program</b>	<b>Year of initiation</b>
Doctorate	University of Caxias do Sul (UCS)	Doctorate in Tourism and Hospitality	2015
	University Anhembi Morumbi (UAM)	Doctorate in Hospitality	2015
	University of São Paulo (USP)	Doctorate in Tourism	2019

Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022)

In the gathering the Post-graduation programs in Tourism and Heritage of the Federal University of Ouro Preto were not considered, by being in an inter-disciplinary area, and the Post-graduation Program of Tourism and Conservation of the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro, by being in the basic area of Biological Science, was also not considered. The groups of research in the area of Tourism linked to the University of Brasília, were also not considered, having at sight the closure of the Post-graduation Program in 2017.



At last, 44 groups of research of the area of Tourism were found, linked to the Post-graduation Programs of the area of tourism, and 133 lines of research from the search in the current data base.

23 groups of research were also identified from other areas whose leader or vice-leader are part of some Post-graduation Program in the area of Tourism. Such groups are from the areas of: Administration (7), Sociology (3), Communication (2), Urban and Regional Planning (2), Anthropology (2), Agronomy (1), Architecture and Urbanism (1), Arts (1), Economy (1), Education (1), Geo-sciences (1) and Geography (1).

On the other hand, 09 groups of research from the area of Tourism were also found, whose leader or vice-leader, despite being a professor from the referred institutions listed in Chart 1, is not a part of the professor board of the Post-graduation programs from the area of Tourism.

The background of the Post-graduation system in Brazil goes back to year of 1965, with the position 977/65 from professor Newton Lins Buarque Sucupira and the creation of the first Master in Education course by PUC-RJ. Regarding the area of Tourism, it can be observed that the Post-graduation Programs had their start in the year of 1997 (moment of expansion of the graduation courses in the area), with the opening of the first Master in Administration and Tourism by the University Vale do Itajaí (Univali). At that moment, the course was linked to the area of "Public and Companies Administration, Accounting Sciences and Tourism". Throughout the years other studies would be opened and, the majority, were linked to this area, such as Academic Master in Tourism and Hospitality by the University of Caxias do Sul (UCS) and the Professional Master in Tourism Business from the State University of Ceará (UECE), both initiated in 2000. It draws attention that in the year of 2001 the Academic Master in Culture and Tourism was initiated in the State University of Santa Cruz (UESC), but the Post-graduation Program was not linked to the area of Public Administration and Business, Accounting Sciences and



Tourism, but in the interdisciplinary area of the Coordination of Superior Level Staff Improvement (Capes).

The characterization and evolution of the Post-graduation Programs in the area of Tourism resembles the general chart of the post-graduation in Brazil, with the expansion of the courses in the last decades and the concentration of the Post-graduation Programs in the Southern and Southeastern region (Capes, 2019). Another movement that draws attention is the verticalization of Tourism teaching in Brazil. The creation of the first *stricto sensu* post-graduation courses from the area dates to the late 90's and follows the expansion of the graduation courses in Tourism at the time, movement that has been maintained up to the late 2000's. In the following decade, in the year of 2010, it is perceived a downfall in the offer of Tourism graduation courses and a greater participation of public teaching institutions in the offer of *stricto sensu* Post-graduation courses.

Leal (2011) presents some evidence of a revolution in Tourism research in Brazil, such as the strengthening of the bases of recognition, the maturation of the National Association of Research and Post-Graduation in Tourism (ANPTUR), the international insertion of researchers and the consolidation of scientific journals. Factors as such, according to the author, point out to not only quantitative but also qualitative growth of the research in Tourism, since the beginning of the 19th century.

Considering groups "Certified by the Institution" and groups "Not updated in the last 12 months", the institution with the higher number of Tourism research groups is the UFF with 9, followed by the USP with 7 and the IFS with 6. The majority of the research groups, 34, have from 1 to 3 lines of research. 86 lines of research count with 1 to 4 researchers. The majority of the lines of research, 27 do not have students, followed by 24 with only 1 student. The line o research with the higher number of members is "Dimensions and Nurturing in Hospitality" from the research group "Dimensions and Contexts of Hospitality"





from the University Anhembi Morumbi, with 28 members, being 21 students and 7 researchers. The line of research with the higher number of researchers, 17 is "Leisure, Tourism and social demands" from the Group of Research "Mobility, Leisure and Social Tourism" from the Federal Fluminense University.

Among the older research groups still in activity, only 4 were found, created between the years of 1997 to 2002 (2 at Univali, 1 at UCS and 1 at Anhembi Morumbi). From 2006 on, all the years new groups were created and are still active. The years with the higher number of registrations of research groups in the area of Tourism were 2019 and 2020, when 6 groups in each year were created.

Regarding the titles of the groups of research, there is greater occurrence of the words Tourism (29), Management (6), Hospitality (6), Education/Teaching (6) and Planning (5).

The performed research points out a scenario of growth and consolidation of the research groups in Tourism in Brazil, linked to Post-Graduation Programs in the area. Since the year of 2006, during all the years, at least 1 new group of research was registered in the DGPB/CNPq and there has been an expressive raise of registrations during the years of 2019 and 2020.

It is noticed that the creation of the groups precedes or follows the creation of the majority of the Post-graduation Programs, the longevity of the groups (4 of them with more than 20 years in activity), in addition to a greater interest in themes such as Management, Hospitality Education/Teaching and Planning. Its frequent, also, situations of partnership, where professors from another institution are part of the researchers' board, which contributes to the strengthening of the researches and the exchange of information.

It is an example of such scenery the case of the Group of Research "Tourism and Society", that, since 2005, dedicates itself to the investigation of the interaction between Tourism and the society in partnership with other



researchers from several institutions focused on the excellence of the research, application and diffusion of the knowledge both in Brazil as internationally. A result of the work from such Group was the launch of the e-book "Tourism and Society: theoretical aspects", organized by Gomes & Souza (2021). In such e-book, it is highlighted the chapter 12, "Tourism and Education; implications on the formation of the tourism worker" from Silvana do Rocio de Souza, especially when speaking about the historical evolution in Tourism. Since the early steps regarding the initiation of the first courses until the current days, some essential marks for the consolidation of Tourism have occurred, as area of knowledge, and the groups of research were essential to the formation of such body.

For Minasse *et al.* (2022, p. 141),

(...) the formation of Groups of Research is essential to the development of any area, in face of the possibility of reuniting different researchers, with different formations and paradigmatic and methodological guidance or, in case of uniformity in some of such aspects, at least different points of view.

Despite the highlighted importance for the formation of the researcher subject, one data that drew attention is regarding the participation of students, having at sight that the meaningful number of lines of research without any student registered (27). On that, the authors Odelius & Sena (2009), in a study performed on the competences and processes of learning in groups of research in the area of Psychology present formal and informal learning processes which bring impacts to the formation of students. Among such formal aspects would be: the deepening of specific knowledge from the area of acting of the group, knowledge and abilities related to methods and techniques of research, the learning regarding the use of computer technologies and of data processing and the performance of administrative activities; among the informal aspects: the development of necessary attitudes to the work in team, to the professional acting and the generation of ideas and the socialization and the formation of social media. Within such sense, to boost



the participation of students contributes not only to the academic growth of the individual but also to the growth and maintenance of the group.

In addition, within the context of Tourism, Leal (2011), also highlights the contribution of the academic exchanges between Brazilian and other countries researchers, mainly at master and doctorate level, what the authors calls as “Silent Revolution” of the research in Tourism in Brazil. Such exchanges, many times, enabled by the Research Groups:

Another important factor for the possible Silent Revolution was the insertion of Brazilian researchers in the international academic community. Master and doctorate students, as well as researchers making post-doctorate investigations, generally with scholarships, had the opportunity to live with their international peers. This has brought results throughout the last years, when international researchers with name started to give lectures in events in Brazil as well as how to publish articles in partnership with national researchers – many times their students or ex students. The importance that this theme has gained may be seen in the ANPTUR 2010 Seminar, when the closing discussion table was composed by professors from institutions of countries like Australia, Finland, Spain, Portugal and United Kingdom (Leal, 2011, p. 146).

To understand the configuration of the groups of research in Tourism, four groups were analyzed: Tourism, Marketing and Competition - TMC, Gender, Entrepreneurship and Social Policy Institute - GeSPI, Planning and Tourism Management - PLAGET and Planificación y Gestión Sostenible del Turismo - PGST. It is worth mentioning that PGST is not the official acronym of the group Planificación y Gestión Sostenible del Turismo, it was created in such study to be used as an abbreviation of the name of the group. To a better description and understanding by the reader, the names of the British group of research and the Spanish group appear translated in Figure 01, below:

Figure 01: Groups of Research



Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022)

The group of research TMC is Brazilian, it was created in 2020 and it is linked to the Post-graduation Program in Tourism in the Federal University of Paraná and has as leaders Dra. Thays Cristina Domareski Ruiz and Dra. Melise de Lima Pereira.

The GeSPI was founded in 2019 by Dr. Albert Kimbu and by Dr. Michael Ngoasong in a partnership with The Open University and the University of Surrey in The United Kingdom. In GeSPI's web-page, it is possible to notice publications prior to 2019, however, the year of foundation mentioned on the website is 2019.

The PLAGET is a group of research linked to the Post-graduation Program in Tourism and Hotel Business from the University of Vale do Itajaí, and it has as its leader Dr. Francisco Antonio dos Anjos. The group was created in 1997 and, according to data from the directory, it is the oldest Tourism research group in Brazil, still in activity.

The group of research PGST belongs to the Post-graduation Program in Tourism from Universidad de Alicante in Spain. According to the group's website, the oldest memoir published dates from the year 2002, this way, 2002

will be the year used in this study as the year of creation of the group. The group is directed by Dra. Raquel Huete Nieves.

Each group of research establishes the focus of acting. Figure 2 represents in a format of "word cloud" the purpose of acting of each group, from the selection of words that reflect the core of the proposal.

Figure 02: Word Cloud





of scientific studies that are founded in investigative tradition, from where projects are originated, whose results have affinity among themselves.” (Erdmann & Lanzon, 2008, p. 318). Figure 03 presents the lines of research from each group. In the GeSPI's web-site, only areas of the research from the group were found, which can be understood as lines of research, however broader than the other studied groups.

Figure 03: Lines of Research

<b>TMC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of the marketing process and competition in tourism destinations;</li> <li>• Evaluation, measure and monitoring of marketing and competition in tourism destinations;</li> </ul>
<b>GeSPI</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female entrepreneurship in its distinct forms, including family enterprises, female succession in family enterprises;</li> <li>• Investment from the gender perspective in new and established businesses that promote entrepreneurship led by development;</li> <li>• Gender entrepreneurship and environment, including green innovations, startups and processes of growth of ecologically correct enterprises from women's properties;</li> <li>• Public policies and inter-section collaborations to ease gender equality in the business sector;</li> <li>• Education to entrepreneurship including focus in boosting women in education to Engineer entrepreneurship and to teaching of innovation and pedagogic interventions that help enabling women and younger girls to get involved with entrepreneurship and to develop an entrepreneur mindset;</li> <li>• Sectoral and area studies, focusing on women and young entrepreneurship in hospitality, tourism, leisure, agriculture, health, among others.</li> </ul>
<b>PLAGET</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and management of touristic territories;</li> <li>• Touristic governance;</li> <li>• Competition and image of tourism destinations;</li> </ul>
<b>PGST</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and sustainable management of tourism destinations;</li> <li>• Strategic directions and management of tourism companies;</li> <li>• International mobility and residence in tourism areas; factors and impacts in receiving societies. Social perception of residence;</li> <li>• Tourism and development in international cooperation.</li> </ul>

Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022)

While the TMC has two lines, the PLAGET has three lines and the PGST has four lines directed to their respective objects of study, the GeSPI presents very broad six areas of research, which may be positive for the production of diverse studies regarding the same theme of research. It is also valid to mention that the GeSPI has treated regarding Tourism only in the last area of research, where

it approaches gender, entrepreneurship and Tourism. The other groups work with Tourism as their central base of their researches.

The number of components in the group of research may reflect the development of the scientific production (Mocelin, 2009). For example, a group with a higher number of researchers may have a higher number of scientific publications. The groups have variable number of components. The has 16 components, the GeSPI has 35 components, the PLAGET has 21 and the PGST has 29 components. Observing the structure of the groups, it was possible to notice that the groups have different classifications to their components.

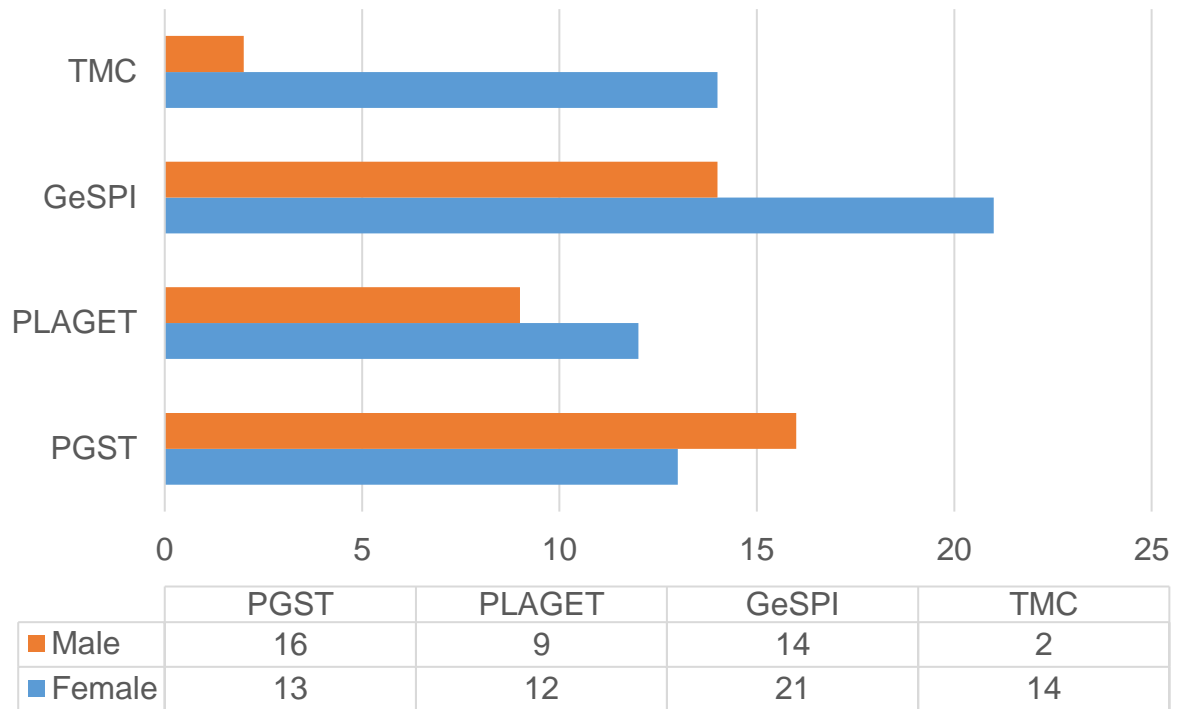
In the Brazilian groups, there is a predefined classification by the CNPq, which divides the components into: researchers, students, technicians and foreign collaborators. In the PGST, the components are divided only into researchers and collaborators. On the other hand, the GePSI presents its components on the website divided into: University of Surrey, Open University, post-graduation students, associated of the institute, collaborators and council. The participation of varied researchers in the groups of research aims at strengthening the scientific research generating bond between the components (Oliveira, 2019), which would be beneficial to all the involved with highlights in the path of the students.

Regarding the gender analysis among the researchers, data from each researchers was gathered from the studied groups. This gathering was performed in several websites of researchers, observing the curriculum of each researcher, the definitions of gender and/or the use of personal pronouns, separated into female or male gender. Graph 1 presents the gathered data.





Graph 01: Gender of the researchers



Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022)

Analyzing the proportion of the gender of researchers in each one of the groups of research, it is noticed that three of the four groups have more researchers from the female gender than the male in their composition. The TMC presents the lowest number of researchers from the male gender and the GeSPI presents the higher number of researchers from the female gender among the studied groups. In a general analysis, there is a predominance of the female gender in the studied groups, with 59%, meanwhile the researchers of the male gender represent 41%. In the leadership of the groups, it is observed the equal distribution of the gender.

A significant higher number of researchers in the GeSPI may be related to the own theme group which it proposed to discuss gender issue in Tourism. According to Meira (2014), the gender studies had their beginning in the 60's decades, in the search of the construction of a theoretical and



methodological framework of the Feminists groups. Diniz & Foltran (2004) through a research performed in the publications of the Magazine of Feminists Studies (REF), among the years of 1992 to 2002, concluded that 95% of the published researches on gender and feminism in REF are from female authors, which suggests a greater interest from women researchers in discussing the theme.

Regarding the partnerships of the groups of research, it was investigated which institutions are mentioned as partners on their websites. The TMC presents as partner institutions the University of Vale do Itajaí and the Federal University of Campina Grande, in which some of the researchers from the group act.

The GeSPI is the result from the partnership between the Open University and the University of Surrey, in addition, it also received researchers associated to other institutions. In its website there are researchers associated to several universities, such as University Rey Juan Carlos from Madrid, University of Johannesburg from South Africa, University of Glasgow from Glasgow, University of Cape Coast from Gana, Pan-Atlantic University from Nigeria, among others. The PLAGET presents as partner institution the Island João da Cunha Enterprises Participations - ILHA J.C, a private company that acts in the incorporation of real state enterprises.

On the PGST's website, partnership institutions are not presented. However, in the group's projects there are financial entities which may be understood as partnership institutions since they foment the research from the group. The financial entities are: Generalitat Valenciana (institutions of self-government from the Valenciana Community, in Spain), Ministry of Science and Innovation and Ministry of Economy and Company. It is seen that a group o research may have different partnership institutions, including from abroad.

In the scope of productivity, an analysis of the curriculum of the leaders in the *ResearchGate* platform was performed. *ResearchGate* is a social net focused on academic communication that stimulates connectivity and social



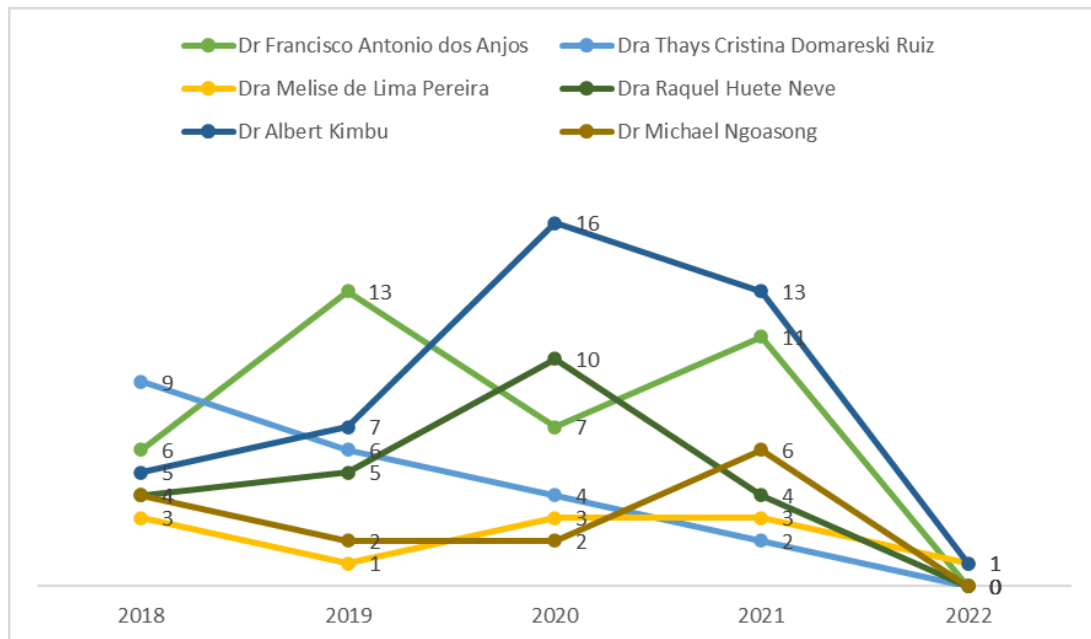
interaction between students and researchers (Manca, 2018). These data are used as demonstrative of the production of the leaders, can not be seen as indications of productivity of the group, since there are many researchers involved in each group.

With the purpose of observing and describing each one's productivity, the number of publications and citations was gathered. Dra. Thays Cristina Domareski Ruiz has 32 publications and 95 citations. Dra. Melise de Lima Pereira has 31 publications and 63 citations. Dr. Albert Kimbu has 53 publications and 715 citations. Dr. Michael Ngoasong has 31 publications and 667 citations. Dr. Francisco Antonio dos Anjos has 96 publications and 257 citations. And Dra. Raquel Huete Nieves has 107 publications and 1034 citations. Such results point out to a higher number of citations between the leaders of the GeSPI and of GPST. Such data may be related to the fact that the groups are European and produce studies, in its majority, in the English language, meanwhile the Brazilian groups produce in the Portuguese language, having at sight that the English language is broader.

The frequency of the publications from the leaders in the last five years may be observed in Graph 02. The graph points a trend of balanced growth in the number of publications between the leaders. The productivity of the leaders reflects the scientific contribution with the lines of research and fields of study from the groups.



Graph 02: Frequency of publications



Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022)

Having at sight the Brazilian inequality in the production of knowledge, Cruz, Oliveira & Campos (2019) explain that some regions are more productive than others and areas of study that have more investment than others, generating knowledge in proportions many times unequal. However, regarding the studied groups, differences are noticed regarding the number of lines of research, amount and category of members, established partnerships and production of leaders.

The groups of research, as well as their themes of research, are a way to generate knowledge by answering research questions, resolving research issues and creating new worries to keep on moving. In such sense, the groups of research have been working on an equivalent purpose and have produced studies to advance with knowledge.

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study had the purpose of analyzing the acting of groups of research linked to the Post-graduation Programs in Tourism. Through a research in the digital platform of CNPq, it was identified the scenery of groups of research in Tourism in Brazil. The data point out the growth and consolidation of groups of research in Tourism in Brazil.

Answering the research question, regarding the acting of research groups linked to Post-graduation Programs in Tourism in Brazil, 44 groups of research were found in the area of Tourism, linked to Post-graduation Programs in the area of Tourism, and 133 lines of research from the search in the current base.

Still, the oldest group still in activity is the PLAGET, linked to Univali, whose creation dates from 1997. The years with the higher number of register of groups of research in the area of Tourism were 2019 and 2020, when 6 groups of research were created in each year. Also, it was verified that the creation of groups precedes or keeps up the creating of the majority of the Post-graduation Programs, in addition to the longevity with the acting of 4 groups for over 20 years.

The data related to the Groups of Research in Tourism in Brazil were extracted from the available current census in the current base and only leaders or vice-leaders that currently are part of the professor board of the Post-graduation Programs from the basic area of Tourism were considered, dealing with a specific cut. Researchers that consider other parameters may present distinct results.

On the groups of research, Spanish and the British groups have a higher number of citations among their leaders regarding the Brazilian research groups, also, they present a greater diversification of partnerships.



Such analysis presents as limitation of research the size of the sample, exposed as how the four groups of research are dealt, the reality of such groups may not, necessarily, reflect the reality as a whole.

Still, due to the fact that other countries do not have a unique platform of indexation, as the example of DGPB/CNPq, the information are not standard and, sometimes, are not available, limiting, therefore, the description of broader scenarios.

Due to this exploratory study on groups of research in Tourism, insights for future research have appeared, which will be presented as follows: to broaden the sample of the research groups in Tourism; to investigate the view and position of the members of the groups of research in Tourism; to study the scientific and social contributions from the groups of research in Tourism; to analyze the effectiveness of the research groups, as the repositories that index the research (*Qualis*) and the impact factor of the journals in which the articles are published; and to identify the forms of management of each group.

We point out yet, as other possibilities of investigation the performance of a mapping of cooperation, identifying whether the institutions work essential at national level or if they strengthen the internationalization of the research. Nonetheless, whether they work with other lines of research in Tourism or if they approach correlate lines to them. In time, to identify which the academic formation of the leaders of the groups are, who are responsible for leading the researches and management of the groups.

The results of this study help the comprehension of the group of creation, acting and consolidation of the groups of research in Tourism, recognizing the groups as sources of knowledge of great relevance to Tourism. This form new studies should be developed under such theme to unravel the possibilities of approach and to contribute to the relative theoretical framework related to the theme.



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