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Sustainable Dynamic Capabilities: a Bibliometric Analysis

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Recently, companies become aware that “business as usual” is no more an option to continue to grow (Bocken et al, 2016) and they need to innovate their business model toward sustainability (Geissdoerfer et al., 2017) and, scholars have progressively focused on identifying factors that support this process such as for example the capabilities that fuel the transition. The Dynamic Capabilities (DCs) Framework (Teece, Pisano, & Shuen, 1997; Teece, 2018) has gained centrality and, more precisely, a growing number of studies are talking about “DCs for Sustainability” (Wu, He, & Duan, 2013; Inigo, Albareda, & Ritala, 2017; Oranges Cezarino et al., 2019). An analysis of the evolution of the debate, its sources, and current trends, can help to understand the state of the art of the literature and future research. We applied a bibliometric approach and our analysis – which comprehends 417 scientific documents published during the last twenty years - uses bibliometric techniques to map the cumulative scientific knowledge (Donthu et al., 2021). This kind of analysis has the potential to show how specific disciplines, scientific domains, or research fields are conceptually, intellectually, and socially structured (Cobo et al., 2011) and, thus, it enables to identify knowledge gaps and potential avenues for future research. Our study reveals the existence of six main thematic clusters, identified through the application of the bibliographic coupling technique (Donthu et al., 2020) enriched through Co-Word analysis (Chang, et al., 2015; Donthu, et al., 2021). We noticed a growing interest in Sustainable DCs with a recent focuses on Circular Economy (Pieroni et al, 2019; Khan et al, 2020), Big Data (Dubey et al., 2019; Bag et al., 2020) and Supply Chain (Beske et al, 2014; Reuter et al. 2010) treated in a perspective of collaboration and information sharing to achieve sustainability results (Kumar et al., 2018).

Keywords

Sustainable Dynamic Capabilities, Bibliometric Analysis, Dynamic Capabilities, Sustainability, Circular Economy

Topics

- Applications of network analysis in multidisciplinary fields

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