

## **From Theory to Practice: A Bibliometric Review of the Shifting Landscape of Regional Economic Resilience**

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## **Introdução**

Since the 21st century, the world has faced several economic crises, culminating in the recession caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. In this context, the concept of resilience, which originated in physics and ecology, has gained notoriety in economics and geography. The objective of studies on regional resilience is to understand how regions transform after a shock and what makes them more successful in developing new growth trajectories, considering factors such as economic structure, public policies, and the nature of the shock itself.

## **Problema de Pesquisa e Objetivo**

Despite growing interest in the topic of regional economic resilience, the field suffers from criticism regarding its ambiguity and redundancy in relation to other concepts. This conceptual fragmentation creates the need for a clear map of intellectual production in the area. Therefore, this study's objective is to map its intellectual structure and thematic evolution. To do so, a bibliometric analysis was conducted on 763 peer-reviewed articles from the Web of Science and Scopus databases, published between 2005 and 2024, to provide a roadmap for future research.

## **Fundamentação Teórica**

The literature review reveals that the field of regional economic resilience is structured into four major theoretical clusters. The first and most central cluster integrates Evolutionary Economic Geography with quantitative approaches to measure change processes. The second focuses on politics, governance, and the role of social and political actors. The third has its roots in ecological and systems resilience studies. Finally, the fourth cluster emphasizes institutional foundations as determinants of regional resilience.

## **Discussão**

The results indicate an acceleration in publications after 2020, with China being the most productive country (175 articles) and the United Kingdom the most cited. Ron Martin is the author with the greatest impact in citations. Thematic analysis reveals four main theoretical clusters. The strategic diagram shows a core of "basic themes" (resilience, regional resilience) and an empty "driving themes" quadrant, indicating a gap. Topics such as COVID-19, climate change, and digitization have recently gained prominence.

## **Conclusão**

The study concludes that the field of regional economic resilience has reached maturity, moving from fundamental theoretical debates to a phase of empirical application and contextualization. Current innovation lies less in the creation of new concepts and more in their application to new global shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and in integration with thematic frontiers such as digitization and ecological transition. The analysis also reveals a geographical shift, with China emerging as the most productive country in recent case studies.

## **Contribuição / Impacto**

This study contributes by clearly mapping the intellectual structure and trajectory of regional economic resilience, organizing the accumulated knowledge. The identification of the four main theoretical clusters (evolutionary, governance, ecological, and institutional) helps to clarify the fragmentation of the field. By highlighting emerging trends (digitization, sustainability) and gaps (absence of driving themes), the research proposes a focused agenda that can support researchers and policymakers in creating more adaptable and sustainable regional development strategies.

## **Referências Bibliográficas**

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