

ARTICLE

About curriculum history: themes, concepts and references of Brazilian researches

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this article is to analyze the historiographical production about curriculum in Brazil based on the incidence of themes, concepts, and references. The methodology involved strategies of bibliometric research and meta-research. The work was organized into three stages: systematic literature review, analysis of titles and abstracts of theses and dissertations, and analysis of bibliographical references and keywords of scientific articles. The analysis of the study objects of theses and dissertations has shown that academic production can be divided into four thematic axes that concern both the school context and the academic context: courses, disciplines, policies and practical theories. The networks formed from bibliographical references and keywords indicated in the articles revealed that the epistemological basis of this academic production is intrinsically related to two main research areas: history of education and curriculum studies.

KEYWORDS

curriculum history; history of education; curriculum studies; bibliometric analysis; meta-research.

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SOBRE A HISTÓRIA DO CURRÍCULO: TEMAS, CONCEITOS E REFERÊNCIAS DAS PESQUISAS BRASILEIRAS

RESUMO

O objetivo deste artigo foi analisar, por meio da incidência de temas, conceitos e referências, a produção historiográfica sobre currículo no Brasil. Como metodologia, foram utilizadas estratégias da pesquisa bibliométrica e metapesquisa. O trabalho foi organizado em três etapas: revisão sistemática da literatura; análise dos títulos e resumos de teses e dissertações; e análise de referências bibliográficas e palavras-chave de artigos científicos. A análise dos objetos de estudo das teses e dissertações demonstrou que a produção acadêmica pode ser distribuída em quatro eixos temáticos que dizem respeito tanto ao contexto escolar como ao contexto acadêmico: cursos, disciplinas, políticas e teorias-práticas. Já as redes formadas pelas referências bibliográficas e palavras-chave indicadas nos artigos revelaram que a base epistemológica dessa produção acadêmica está intrinsecamente relacionada às duas principais áreas de pesquisa: história da educação e estudos do currículo.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE

história do currículo; história da educação; estudos do currículo; análise bibliométrica; metapesquisa.

ACERCA DE LA HISTORIA DEL CURRÍCULO: TEMAS, CONCEPTOS Y REFERENCIAS DE LAS INVESTIGACIONES BRASILEÑAS

RESUMEN

El objetivo de este artículo es analizar, a partir de la incidencia de temas, conceptos y referencias, la producción historiográfica sobre el currículo en Brasil. Como metodología se utilizaron estrategias de investigación bibliométrica y meta-investigación. El trabajo se organizó en tres etapas: revisión sistemática de la literatura; análisis de títulos y resúmenes de tesis y disertaciones y análisis de referencias bibliográficas y palabras clave de artículos científicos. El análisis de los objetos de estudio de las tesis y disertaciones ha demostrado que la producción académica se puede dividir en cuatro ejes temáticos que se refieren tanto al contexto escolar como al contexto académico: cursos, disciplinas, políticas y teorias-práticas. Las redes formadas a partir de las referencias bibliográficas y las palabras clave señaladas en los artículos, en cambio, mostraron que la base epistemológica de esta producción académica está intrínsecamente relacionada con dos áreas principales de investigación: historia de la educación y estudios curriculares.

PALABRAS CLAVE

historia curricular; historia de la educación; estudios curriculares; análisis bibliométrico; meta-investigación.

INTRODUCTION

The objective of this study is to analyze the historiographical production about curriculum in Brazil, considering the incidence of themes, concepts, and references. This effort is justified by the need to give greater visibility to historical narratives that have been produced in research groups dedicated to curriculum studies and the history of education. It can also help to identify gaps in academic production that may be explored in new research projects.

The first studies about curriculum history were published in the United States of America in the 1970s. An analysis of the international situation demonstrates the persistence of these studies and the intensification of academic production in the past ten years. The US and Australia are responsible for more than half of the publications now available, followed by the United Kingdom, Brazil, and Canada. The University of Wisconsin–Madison, located in Madison, capital of the US state of Wisconsin, is the main institution of affiliation of the studies, although the journals with the most publications about curriculum history are from the UK, and include: the *Journal of Curriculum Studies*, *Curriculum Inquiry*, and *History of Education*.

Curriculum Inquiry is a periodical whose objective is to promote educational research, development, evaluation, and theory¹. It publishes articles focused on the discussion of curriculum, educational policy, and teacher education. The *Journal of Curriculum Studies*, in turn, in addition to being more open to current educational issues, subdivides the theme of curriculum into historical, philosophical, comparative, and political approaches. Meanwhile, the journal *History of Education*, as the name indicates, is dedicated to studies that use a historical perspective to present issues related to educational policies and systems, comparative education, and pedagogical experiences.

In Brazil, curriculum history is a theme with little more than 20 years of systematic study; however, a significant amount of work has been produced in recent years. A search for the term “história do currículo” (curriculum history) on Google Scholar² yielded more than 2,500 results³, of which approximately 40% were published in the past five years. The main scientific journals that publish the Brazilian production in curriculum history are: the *Revista Brasileira de Educação*, *História da Educação*, and *Currículo sem Fronteiras*.

The *Revista Brasileira de Educação*⁴ is a continuous flow publication of the National Association of Graduate Studies and Research in Education (*Associação Nacional de Pós-graduação e Pesquisa em Educação* — ANPED), which has published texts based on studies conducted by researchers from ANPED’s different working

1 The information about the international journals was found on the site SCImago Journal and Country Rank, available at: <https://www.scimagojr.com/>. Accessed on: July 7, 2018.

2 Google Scholar is a system that works on the worldwide web and that allows searching academic literature. Available at: <https://scholar.google.com/?oi=gsb&chl=pt-BR>. Accessed on: July 19, 2018.

3 The search on Google Scholar mainly located scientific articles, books, theses, dissertations, and conference annals.

4 Available at: <http://www.anped.org.br/site/rbe>. Accessed on: July 19, 2018.

groups since 1995. Produced since 1997, the journal *História da Educação*⁵ is a publication of the Rio Grande do Sul Association of Researchers in the History of Education (*Associação Sul-Rio-Grandense de Pesquisadores em História da Educação* — ASPHE⁶) focused on the study of history and historiography of education. Published every four months, the journal *Currículo sem Fronteiras*⁷ began its operations in 2001 in a joint effort of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, and the Universidade Federal de Pelotas. Its objective is to reinforce dialog among Portuguese speaking countries.

Comparing the scope of the main Brazilian and international journals, we can identify three different approaches: journals that mainly promote studies from the field of curriculum, journals focused on history and historiography of education, and journals open to general educational themes.

An analysis of articles about curriculum history published in Brazil found various perspectives. A study that sought to present an overview of Brazilian work (Fonseca *et al.*, 2013) concluded that the articles published between 2000 and 2010 can be divided into two groups: one aligned with the sociology of curriculum and the other with educational history. The authors perceived that, although curriculum history represents a territory of dispute between the fields of curriculum and history of education, the studies have distinct designs, corresponding to the theoretical and methodological focus of each group.

Mariana Cassab (2010) presented another element to be considered. Centered on articles about the history of school disciplines published in online scientific journals, she highlights the epistemological convergence found at the root of the studies conducted by different authors. Based on analyses of bibliographic references, Cassab (2010, p. 240) concluded that the works at the foundation of the studies that address the history of school disciplines lack diversity and highlights four authors as being fundamental: André Chervel, Ivor Goodson, Luciano Faria Filho, and Carmem Lúcia Soares.

The intensification of academic production about curriculum history makes it relevant to assess the current panorama of Brazilian studies and identify the main themes, concepts, and references that have characterized this production. This article is organized into three parts: the first presents a broad view of academic production identified in a systematic literature review. The second part discusses the theses and dissertations identified on the Catálogo de Teses e Dissertações de CAPES (an official database of master's theses and doctoral dissertations) to identify the main themes that have been addressed and how they are distributed between different universities and research groups. The third part analyzes the main concepts and bibliographical references of articles found in the SciELO Citation Index database, which is part of the Web of Science archives.

5 Available at: <http://seer.ufrgs.br/asphe>. Accessed on: July 19, 2018.

6 ASPHE is composed of the universities: Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUC-RS), and Universidade Federal de Pelotas (UFPEL).

7 Available at: <http://www.curriculosemfronteiras.org/>. Accessed on: July 19, 2018.

METHODOLOGY

Situated in the field of educational history, the methodological support for this study includes strategies of bibliometric research or bibliometrics, which is a “quantitative and statistical technique for measuring rates of production and dissemination of scientific knowledge” (Araújo, 2006, p. 12), and of meta-research, which Mainardes (2018, p. 3) defines as the analysis of a set of articles from theoretical or empirical research to identify and establish relations between theoretical-epistemological elements considered important for the resolution of new problems.

The study was organized into three parts to identify the main themes, concepts, and references that characterize academic production about curriculum history in Brazil. The first step consisted of a systematic literature review⁸ considering theses, dissertations, and academic articles. The research was conducted on the Catálogo de Teses e Dissertações of the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES)⁹, using the term “*história do currículo*” “*curriculum history*”, and on the databases Scopus (Elsevier), Web of Science Core Collection (Clarivate Analytics), and SciELO Citation Index, using the Boolean formula “*história do currículo*” OR “*curriculum history*”, without publication date restrictions. The database search used the filter “artigo” (article) for the type of document and “Brazil” for the country or territory.

The second step analyzed the titles and abstracts of theses and dissertations selected during the systematic review to identify the themes and objects of the studies. The analysis also sought to identify the universities of origin of the works, the research line, and the year of defense. The information was organized on an electronic spreadsheet.

The third step aimed to identify the epistemological characteristics of the articles found in the systematic literature review through the analysis of bibliographical references and keywords indicated by the authors. This analysis used the VOSviewer software¹⁰, which is designed to construct and visualize bibliometric networks or maps (Van Eck and Waltman, 2010) of a set of individual publications based on the metadata available on some databases¹¹.

Firstly, the articles selected were entered into the spreadsheet based on the following information: year of publication, database, periodical, authors, titles, type (theoretical or empiric), field, theme, and object of study. Next, we used the

8 Study conducted in June 2018 and revised on July 11, 2019 and November 1, 2019.

9 Since 1987, the production of the graduate programs in Brazil can be followed on the site “Portal de Teses e Dissertações” maintained by CAPES. This portal is maintained by graduate programs and includes all master’s and doctoral programs recognized by the Ministry of Education – MEC. Available at <http://catalogodeteses.capes.gov.br/catalogo-teses/#!/>. Accessed on: Nov. 1st, 2019.

10 Available for download at: <http://www.vosviewer.com/>. This site provides more information and access to the complete software manual. Accessed on: Nov. 1st, 2019.

11 The databases that provide metadata that can be analyzed with the VOSviewer software are: Web of Science (Core Collection and SciELO Citation Index), Scopus, PubMed, RIS, Crossref_JSON, and Crossref_API.

VOSviewer software, which allows identifying the conceptual dynamics of the academic work based on the number of occurrences of terms in keywords (co-occurrence) and visualizing the epistemological trends through the number of times that authors are mentioned together in the references of an article (co-citation). The VOSviewer software also allows verifying the impact of academic collaboration networks by considering the frequency of reciprocal citations among authors (citations) and finding influential literature in the field by the number of bibliographical references shared in the articles (bibliographic coupling). The analysis with the VOSviewer software required choosing one of the databases consulted. SciELO Citation Index was selected because it has more articles about the theme than the other databases searched.

SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

The purpose of the systematic literature review is to find, using objective inclusion and exclusion criteria, academic works produced in a certain research field. A literature review conducted in this way allows the study to be replicated and contributes to the accumulation of scientific knowledge.

Advances in scientific knowledge depend on the systematic accumulation of information. [...] Reviews of the literature are justified, given the wealth of information produced in different fields of knowledge. From the perspective of the reader, the objective of research synthesis is to concentrate in a single study results from various others and define the current status of knowledge about a given research problem, making unnecessary the systematic consultation of older studies. (Figueiredo Filho *et al.*, 2014, p. 207)

The search of the Catálogo de Teses e Dissertações of CAPES using the term “*história do currículo*” yielded 109 studies (35 theses and 74 dissertations) produced between 1996 and 2018. An analysis of the titles and abstracts of these theses and dissertations identified 25 works that, although related to curriculum issues, did not involve historical investigation. Considering that “the theme of the history researcher is located in the past” (Ayala and Zevallos, 2003, p. 52), the exclusion criterion used was the absence, in the title or abstract, of a temporal profile to the research problem. Studies regarded as pertinent to the present history were included in the selection that resulted in 84 works — 54 dissertations and 30 theses.

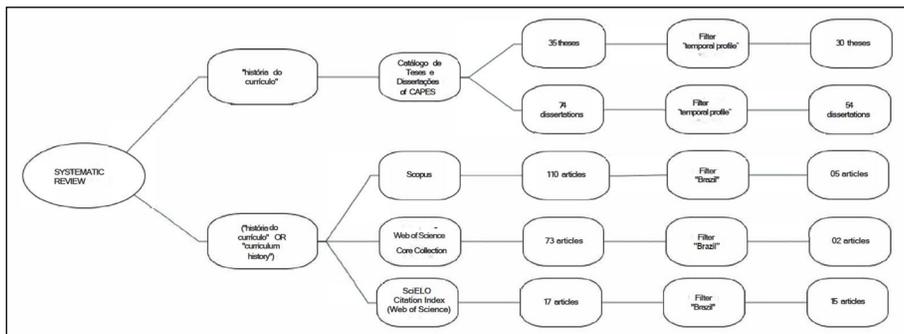
The search for academic articles was conducted on the Plataforma Portal de Periódicos CAPES, with access through the Federated Academic Community (*Comunidade Acadêmica Federada* — CAFé), which allows remote access to the subscribed content of the portal¹². The search based on the Boolean formula (“*história*

12 Available at: <http://www-periodicos-capes-gov-br.ez22.periodicos.capes.gov.br/>. Accessed on: Nov. 4, 2019.

do currículo” OR “curriculum history”), with no restriction on date of publication, retrieved 210 articles: 115 in Scopus, 77 in the Web of Science Core Collection, and 18 in the collection SciELO Citation Index.

Considering the objective of this article, the filter “Brazil” was applied to the articles selected. This limitation allowed perceiving that Brazilian production has little representativity in databases with greater international visibility. In the Scopus database, 5 articles were identified, published in the journals *Currículo sem Fronteiras*, *Revista Brasileira de Educação*, and *Química Nova*. In the Web of Science Core Collection, two articles were found, published in the journals *Comunicações* and *Química Nova*. In the collection SciELO Citation Index, which is part of the Web of Science database, 15 articles were retrieved, published in the following journals: *Revista Brasileira de Educação*, *Educar em Revista*, *Ensaio Pesquisa em Educação em Ciências*, *História da Educação*, *Revista Brasileira de História da Educação*, *Educação & Sociedade*, *Educação e Pesquisa*, *Estudios Pedagógicos* (Valdivia), and *Revista Latino-Americana de Enfermagem*.

Out of the 22 articles identified, 3 were discarded for being duplicates. The preliminary analysis of these articles demonstrated that all address curriculum history. Thus, the final selection comprised 19 articles, of which 15 are part of the collection SciELO Citation Index, 3 are only available in the Scopus database, and 1 only in the Web of Science Core Collection, as shown in Figure 1.



CAPES: Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior.

Figure 1 – Flowchart of the systematic literature review.

THEMES AND OBJECTS OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS ABOUT CURRICULUM HISTORY

The analysis of theses and dissertations published by graduate programs allowed visualizing the origin and design of the studies that have been conducted in a certain field, and identifying researchers who are working systematically in the construction of knowledge about a determined theme.

Until the recent consolidation of digital platforms, theses and dissertations, which are produced in an academic context, semi-published, and without commercial purposes, were considered as gray literature or non-conventional literature

due to their limited circulation. According to Gomes, Mendonça and Muhlethaler (2000, p. 96-97), these articles are highly important to academic communications, given that they contain more detailed information than those presented in the form of articles in academic periodicals.

In Brazil, the systematic production of theses and dissertations about curriculum history began in the second half of the 1990s and intensified since 2007, albeit without much regularity. Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) has the highest number of works, although other higher education institutions also contribute significantly to the construction of this archive. Considering as an indication of systematic production a minimal frequency of three works at the same institution from 1996 to 2018, the Table 1 indicates the distribution of works by university and advisors.

Table 1 – Theses and dissertations about curriculum history (1996–2018).

Advisors	Number of studies supervised										
	UFRJ	UFPR	UFF	UFPA	UFMG	UNICAMP	UNIRIO	USP	PUC-Petrópolis	PUC-SP	TOTAL
Márcia Serra Ferreira	11										11
Marcus Aurélio T. de Oliveira		9			1						10
Antônio Flávio Barbosa	3								3		6
Sandra Lúcia Escovedo Selles			6								6
Ana Maria F. C. Monteiro	4										4
Genylton Odilon Rêgo da Rocha				4							4
Dayse Martins Hora							4				4
Maria Margarida P. de L. Gomes	2										2
Maria do Carmo Martins						2					2
Everardo Paiva de Andrade			1								1
Clarice Nascimento de Melo				1							1
Lucíola Licínio de C. P. Santos					1						1
Luciano Mendes de Faria Filho					1						1
Bernardo Jefferson de Oliveira					1						1
Lili Katsuco Kawamura						1					1
Pedro Laudinor Goergen						1					1
Dislane Zerbinatti Moraes								1			1
Circe Maria F. Bittencourt								1			1

Continue...

Table 1 – Continuation.

Advisors	Number of studies supervised										
	UFRJ	UFPR	UFF	UFPA	UFMG	UNICAMP	UNIRIO	USP	PUC-Petrópolis	PUC-SP	TOTAL
Nelson Schapochnik								1			1
Antonia Terra C. Fernandes								1			1
Antônio Chizzoti										1	1
Helenice Ciamp										1	1
Circe maria F. Bittencourt										1	1
Total por Universidade	20	9	7	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	

UFRJ: Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro; UFPR: Universidade Federal do Paraná; UFF: Universidade Federal Fluminense; UFPA: Universidade Federal do Pará; UFMG: Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais; UNICAMP: Universidade Estadual de Campinas; UNIRIO: Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro; USP: Universidade de São Paulo; PUC: Pontifícia Universidade Católica.

In the period analyzed, among the professors who supervised the most theses and dissertations, only Márcia Serra Ferreira was linked to a single university. Professor Marcus Aurélio Taborda de Oliveira supervised the most studies about the issue at the Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR), while professor Antônio Flávio Barbosa had the work he supervised divided equally between the UFRJ and the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Petrópolis (PUC-Petrópolis).

The first dissertations about the theme were written at UFRJ, supervised by professor Antônio Flávio Barbosa Moreira, and the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (PUC-SP), supervised by professor Antônio Chizzotti. Professor Antônio Flávio Moreira concluded his doctorate at the Institute of Education of the University of London in 1988, supervised by professors Michael Young and Robert Cowen, and his thesis *Towards a reconceptualisation of educational transfer: the case of Curriculum Studies in Brazil* was adapted and published in Brazil in 1990 by Editora Papirus with the title *Currículos e Programas no Brasil*, and quickly became an essential reference to academic studies about curriculum that began to take shape.

Moreira (2011, p. 19) recalls that in 1984 curriculum history was little explored, but that as a “socio-historical study of curriculum disciplines”, it corresponded to one of the research lines of the sociology of curriculum. In 1997, Moreira participated as a co-advisor in the thesis defended by professor Elizabeth Macedo at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP). Her most recent supervision was in 2017, in the research line “Curriculum, teaching, and language” of the graduate program at UFRJ.

Meanwhile, the studies conducted at PUC-SP, despite having also started around 1996, did not appear with the same regularity. Professor Antônio Chizzotti worked in the graduate program in curriculum since 1979, supervising master's dissertations about the theme. Nevertheless, the historical approach was not his main line of research.

The analysis of the research lines¹³ of the theses and dissertations identified, taking into account the changes that took place in this period of approximately 20 years, confirms that the academic production about curriculum history is divided into two areas: curriculum studies and history of education. The Chart 1 presents this division.

Chart 1 – Production about curriculum history: institutions and research lines.

Curriculum		History of education	
Institution	Research Line	Institution	Research Line
UFRJ	* Curriculum, teaching, and language	UFPR	* History and historiography of education
UFPA	* Curriculum of elementary education	UFMG	* History of education
PUC-SP	* Public policies educational and curriculum reforms	UNICAMP	* Education and cultural history
PUC-Petrópolis	* Pedagogical practices in educational institutions	USP	* History of education and historiography
UNIRIO	* Education		
UFF	* Sciences, culture, and education		

UFRJ: Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro; UFPA: Universidade Federal do Pará; PUC: Pontifícia Universidade Católica; UNIRIO: Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro; UFF: Universidade Federal Fluminense; UFPR: Universidade Federal do Paraná; UFMG: Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais; UNICAMP: Universidade Estadual de Campinas; USP: Universidade de São Paulo.

Nevertheless, the analysis of the titles and abstracts of the studies demonstrate that the line between an emphasis on curriculum studies or the history of education is not as evident when the research groups to which the studies are linked are not considered. The action in this territory of intersection that is curriculum

13 In the Catálogo de Teses e Dissertações of CAPES, after the creation of the Plataforma Sucupira, whose purpose is to gather information referring to the Sistema Nacional de Pós-Graduação (National Graduate Studies System), the contextual data include: the field of work, the research line, and the research project. Since they involve different projects, the research lines usually last longer and have greater institutional relevance. This analysis opted to highlight the research lines because the information is more precise than that about the field of work and less specific than that of research project. In the cases in which the research line was not indicated, the field of work was used as a parameter.

history makes the borders less clear, mainly because the courses of origin of most master's and doctoral students are quite varied, and the research themes are usually defined according to the questionings that stem from the students' trajectories of education and professional practice.

Macedo (2001) and Moreira (2008) identified three thematic lines in the historical production about curriculum in Brazil. Even when considering the differences in the denominations of these lines¹⁴, the close relationship between the two proposals allows achieving a synthesis with the following terms:

- Curricular thinking;
- Curriculum reforms, proposals, and practices;
- Curriculum of courses and disciplines.

Analysis of the themes of theses and dissertations confirms the pertinence of these lines, and the comparison between the themes of works carried out in the field of curriculum studies and history of education shows similarities, mainly among studies related to the line "Curriculum of courses and disciplines", as seen in the Chart 2.

Chart 2 – Theses and dissertations about curriculum history by thematic line (1996–2018).

Theme	Curriculum studies	History of education
Curriculum of Courses and Disciplines	academic curriculum	academic curriculum
	school curriculum	school curriculum
	academic discipline	academic discipline
	school discipline	school discipline
	indigenous history and culture	African history and African culture
	experimental curriculum	
	technical education curriculum	
	teacher training	
Curriculum Reforms, Proposals and Practices	school prints	educational technology
	textbook	teaching material
	curriculum policy	public instruction
	curriculum reform	primary schooling
	school knowledge	teaching programs
Curricular Thinking	curricular discourse	curricular thinking medical-hygienist thinking

14 Macedo (2001, p. 132-133) proposes the following lines: history of curricular thinking; history of curriculum reforms and proposals; history of the curriculum of specific courses and history of school disciplines. Moreira (2008, p. 7), in turn, presents the following denomination: history of curricular thinking and ideas; case studies that examine the relations between proposals and practices; history of school disciplines.

The line “Curriculum of courses and disciplines” aggregates the largest number of studies. The disciplines physical education, mathematics, geography, sciences, and music were used as objects of research in both academic and school contexts. Meanwhile, the disciplines of chemistry, biology, hygiene, Portuguese, Spanish, religious education, humanities, and history were analyzed only in the school context. Among the academic disciplines studied, those related to teacher education stand out, including: biology of learning, teaching practice, philosophy of education, and general didactics. Regarding the study of the curriculum of specific courses, most of them concern the university context. The most studied undergraduate curricula from a historical perspective are: education, physical education, sciences, history, nursing, and medicine.

In the themes related to the lines “Curricular thinking” and “Curriculum reforms, proposals, and practices”, the relationship between the two fields is less clear due to the different terms used in each research context. The line “curricular thinking” has a reduced number of works and demonstrates complexity at a time when intellectual history seeks to overcome a model inspired by the history of philosophy, which had predominated in traditional educational history manuals.

Intellectual history, according to Vieira (2008, p. 80), is associated with the history of languages and includes “the analysis of processes of production, circulation, and reception of ideas and scientific, political, educational, or artistic discourses.” From this perspective, beyond curricular thinking or ideas, the historical investigation of the contexts of curriculum theory production can be considered in the analysis of academic production, despite the difficulty in defining what is and what is not curriculum theory based on academic publications (Young, 2014, p. 193).

Popkewitz (1994, p. 183-185) evokes a historical tradition “that focuses on how ideas are shaped in the organization of school knowledge”, which allows recognizing that a curriculum theory developed in the academic context cannot be separated from subjects and social practices that form this set of specialized knowledge. Thus, the production of curriculum theories or of curricular thinking can be related to other curriculum practices.

The quantitative increase in academic production about curriculum history in the past ten years promoted a significant diversification of themes and objects of research. In 2008, Moreira’s reflections allowed inferring that the expansion of studies could result in new forms of systematizing academic production. At that time, the author indicated as emergent themes “curriculum reforms and proposals, curriculum of a course, textbooks and teaching materials, school spaces and times, teaching practices, and students’ notebooks” (Moreira, 2008, p. 7).

Historical studies about curriculum policies and about practices that represent the “daily materialization” of curriculum (Macedo, 2001, p. 144) became essential for contemplating new or renewed objects that respond to the broadening of the curriculum concept, which marked the development of the field in the past 30 years.

Based on these reflections, the analysis of the incidence of different objects of study in the theses and dissertations revealed that the academic production can be

distributed in four thematic lines that concern both school and academic contexts: courses; disciplines; policies; and theories and practices.

Curriculum policy is a term that only very recently has been used in studies about curriculum history. The line “policies” encompasses historical studies about curriculum reforms, curriculum parameters or the national curriculum base, national exams, elementary schooling, and public education.

The organization of the line “theories and practices” considered Vinão’s understanding (2008, p. 191) about the history of elements that constitute and organize the school universe, such as textbooks and the history of school disciplines. Despite the inseparable aspects of these approaches, it is possible to identify the works that focus primordially on the elements of school culture and group together studies whose research objects are forms of teaching, textbooks and school publications, reading practices, recess, the construction of the memory of teachers, and professional identity.

By analyzing the themes and objects of the theses and dissertations produced in universities in which the curriculum history represents a systematic and persistent project, a significant difference is perceived between the various research contexts, which can be seen in the Chart 3.

Chart 3 – Themes of theses and dissertations about curriculum history (1996–2018).

	COURSES	SUBJECTS	POLICIES	THEORIES AND PRACTICES
SCHOOL CONTEXT	UFRJ (4) UNICAMP (1) USP (1)	UFRJ (3) UFPA (1) UNIRIO (1) PUC/SP (1) UFPR (1) UNICAMP (1)	UFPR (2) UFF (1)	UFPR (4) USP (3) UFRJ (3) UFF (1)
	UFRJ (6) UFPA (3) UFF (3) UNIRIO (2) UFPR (1) UFMG (1) UNICAMP (1)	UFRJ (4) PUC/Petrópolis (2) UFPA (1) UFF (1) UFMG (2)	UFF (1) UNIRIO (1)	UFPR (1) UFMG (1) UNICAMP (1) PUC/Petrópolis (1)
ACADEMIC CONTEXT				
		Curriculum studies		
		Education history		

UFRJ: Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro; UNICAMP: Universidade Estadual de Campinas; USP: Universidade de São Paulo; UFPA: Universidade Federal do Pará; UNIRIO: Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro; PUC: Pontifícia Universidade Católica; UFPR: Universidade Federal do Paraná; UFF: Universidade Federal Fluminense; UFMG: Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais.

The Chart 3 reveals that the curriculum history line has its research objects located in both the school and academic contexts, with a small difference between them in the number of studies. However, a comparative analysis between studies in the fields of curriculum studies and history of education demonstrates that the first has emphasized school contexts while the second is more focused on academic contexts.

The curriculum of specific courses is the most explored theme in the curriculum field, particularly the history of undergraduate programs. In addition to studies on the history of education, this theme also includes research in other fields, such as nursing and medicine. The studies about the curriculum of courses that do not pertain to the field of education are produced in the context of their own graduate programs and have little relation to curriculum studies or the history of education. The history of school or academic disciplines is the thematic line with the second-highest number of studies and can be located in both perspectives, although the curriculum field has produced more works.

Studies developed in the field of history of education are more frequent in the thematic line “theories and practices”, with an emphasis on the school context. As in the school context, the academic context has materials, practices, rites, and guidelines that have been little thematized by curriculum history, which usually focuses on institutions, courses, and disciplines. Nevertheless, the most recent studies reveal an interest in investigating aspects related to curriculum practices and the conceptualization of curriculum from a historical perspective.

The line “policies” is less represented in this set of theses and dissertations. Curriculum policies aimed at the academic context are little explored in current studies, which is an important indicator for future projects. From the perspective of the history of education, the investigation of curriculum policies has emphasized the school context, especially the processes of schooling and public education.

In this regard, we highlight that themes related to curriculum policies, theories, and practices have a significant difference of denomination when addressed by the fields of curriculum studies and history of education. Even when discussing the same themes, the fields differ in their methodologies, periods of study, and definition of sources, which results in different narratives and theoretical considerations.

The most evident element of differentiation was the temporal perspective. Most works conducted by history of education researchers present a study period of 20 to 30 years, beginning in the late 19th century or the early 20th century and ending in the 1920s and 1930s. Meanwhile, most works performed by curriculum researchers present a temporal profile of less than 20 years, focusing between 1960 and 2010. This shift of approximately one century in the period investigated in each perspective is important for understanding differences in the terms used to indicate the objects of research.

According to Reinhart Koselleck (1992, p. 140), the semantic movement of words over time presupposes disputes over the attribution of meanings and senses that are found in the public debate. This movement produces new concepts, and even when words remain, others may emerge to meet new needs.

The approaches of similar themes at different times can be influenced by modifications in the semantic field or specialized lexicon of a certain area, given that concepts are polysemic formulations that can be generalized and that present some regularity of sense, but whose meaning can change in relation to the context.

As a tool for thinking, understanding reality, producing explanations, and mediating actions (Koselleck, 1992, p. 136), grasping the changes of terms or linguistic meanings of concepts over time is essential to academic dialog and the historical comprehension of a certain field. Despite theoretical-methodological differences, the analysis of themes and objects of theses and dissertations about curriculum history produced in Brazil demonstrates a thematic convergence that justifies a greater closeness among the different fields of research.

EPISTEMOLOGICAL BASES OF ARTICLES ABOUT CURRICULUM HISTORY

The third part of this work seeks to identify some epistemological characteristics of the articles used in the systematic literature review through an analysis of bibliographical references and keywords indicated by the authors. The search in the Scopus and Web of Science — Core Collection and SciELO Citation Index collection — databases yielded 19 different articles published in 12 journals between 2002 and 2018. *Currículo sem Fronteiras* and *Revista Brasileira de Educação* were the periodicals that had the most publications about the theme.

Of the 19 articles found, 11 pertain to the field of the history of education, 6 to curriculum studies, and 2 to other fields of research. Most of these articles come from institutions with systematic production of theses and dissertations; however, considering all studies in the period, only approximately 12% were published as an article in the databased consulted, which indicates that Brazilian studies have low international visibility.

Five theoretical articles, 1 essay, and 13 empirical articles were identified. The theoretical articles were based on bibliographical research or theoretical-methodological reflections carried out in the context of research groups. Among the 13 empirical articles, 9 originated from theses or dissertations. The most common methodological orientation of the empirical articles was document analysis, in some cases associated with oral history procedures. The sources most used are reports, legislation, and teaching manuals; however, material artifacts are also an option for curriculum history.

As in the archive of theses and dissertations, the temporal profile of the articles encompasses the 19th and 20th centuries. Although the exact definition of the period to be studied depends on the topic of each research, in general, the articles can be divided into three groups:

- studies conducted from the end of Brazil's imperial period or at the start of the Republic to the revolution of 1930;
- works between the 1930s and the late 1960s;
- studies between 1970 and the last years of the 20th century.

The second period, which corresponds to the years when curriculum began to gain visibility in the Brazilian educational debate, shows a greater concentration of works.

The themes and objects of research of the articles also correspond to the scheme identified in the analysis of theses and dissertations, reinforcing the relationship already identified between these two types of scientific production. However, some differences between the fields of study responsible for this production are even more evident.

The Chart 4 indicates that most articles produced by those who investigate history of education are aimed at the study of curriculum history in school contexts, while articles published by curriculum researchers address theoretical and practical aspects specific to academic contexts. In this field, curriculum studies of courses and disciplines also stand out, even with contributions from other research fields, such as nursing and accounting.

Chart 4 – Research objects of articles about curriculum history by thematic line.

	COURSES	DISCIPLINES	POLICIES	THEORIES AND PRACTICES
SCHOOL CONTEXT	Elementary school in the US	School disciplines	Hygienist movement	Educational practices
		Physical education	Educational policy	Recesses
ACADEMIC CONTEXT	Nursing	Public accounting	Teacher education	Concept of competencies
	Initial teacher education	Didactics		Curricular concepts
	Teaching courses	Statistics		Discursive productions
	Chemistry			Theoretical contributions
			Comparative study	
			Field of physical education	
	Other fields			
	Curriculum studies			
	History of education			

US: United States.

The conceptual dynamics of the articles published in academic journals, as well as the main references that support this production, was examined with the assistance of the VOSviewer software. This methodological tool allows visualizing the relationship between the works based on co-occurrence of keywords indicated by the author and co-citation, that is, the number of times that the authors are cited together in references of a single article.

The VOSviewer software also allows verifying the impact of academic collaboration networks through the frequency of co-authorships and reciprocal citations and identifying the influential literature in the field by bibliographic coupling, which uses as a base the number of shared references in the articles.

Analyses were based on a set of 15 articles found in the collection SciELO Citation Index of Web of Science. The collection SciELO Citation Index was chosen because it had more articles about the theme than the two other databases consulted, given that this tool does not allow a single network to aggregate articles identified in different databases. All articles selected are available for free download. The four articles not included in the analysis conducted with the VOSviewer software, for being available only in the Scopus database and the Web of Science Core Collection, are also available for free download. Based on the analysis of the elements systematized on electronic spreadsheets, we concluded that the exclusion of these articles did not compromise the results obtained. In the networks constructed by the VOSviewer software, the characteristics that should be observed are the distance and intensity of the graphic connection between words and the size presented by each one.

The analysis of co-authorship carried out in the software did not provide new elements to the assessment conducted with the spreadsheets. As seen previously, the main form of co-authorship established in this sample is between advisors and students in studies originated from theses and dissertations.

The analysis of citations, in which networks are formed based on the number of times that authors reciprocally cite each other, did not identify the existence of groups created by scientific affinities, which reinforces the need indicated by Moreira (2013, p. 6-7) for greater interlocution among researchers of curriculum history.

The analysis of bibliographic coupling, whose purpose is to find the emerging literature in a certain field and stems from the number of times the same references are used in different articles, showed that the use of common references is limited to institutional relations. Considering the institutions of affiliation of the articles, the only relationship of bibliographic coupling identified was between the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) and Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR).

The analysis of co-citations, which focuses on authors of the bibliographical references cited in the articles, aims at identifying intellectual traditions in a certain field of research. This resource verifies the relationship between references based on the number of times that they are concomitantly cited (Grácio, 2016, p. 84).

According to Walsh and Renaud (2017, p. 22), the more two references are cited together, the closer they are to a school of thought. The proximity, connections, and scale of these authors in the network indicate the groups of authors that are central to the development of curriculum history studies, as shown in Figure 2.

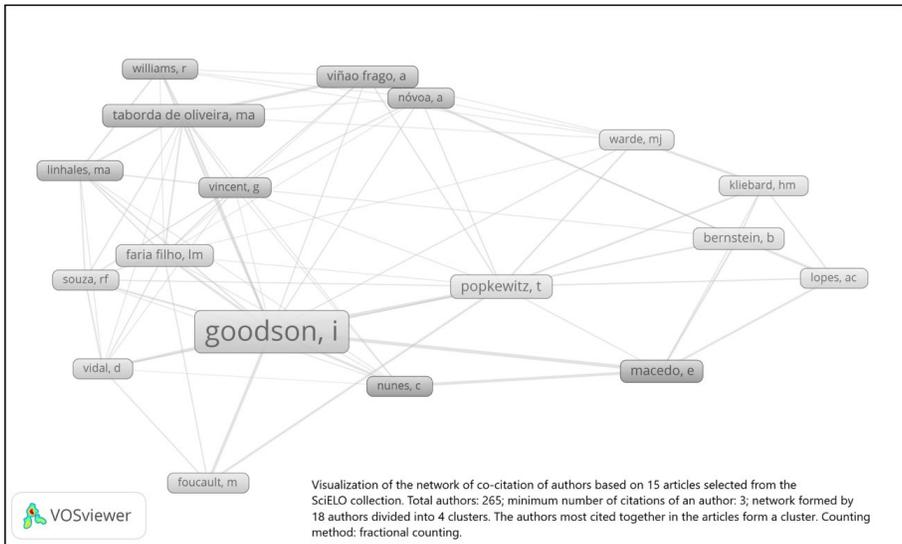


Figure 2 – Network of co-citations in articles on curriculum history.

In the sample studied, Ivor Goodson is the most frequently cited author, with 21 citations, followed by Thomas Popkewitz, with 6 citations. Despite the significant difference in the number of citations, the network demonstrates that the two authors have an equivalent number of relations, given that the first is connected to 14 authors and the second to 13 authors. Thus, we can infer that Ivor Goodson and Thomas Popkewitz are the most influential references in curriculum history studies in Brazil. Based on reflections made at the Curriculum Studies Unit of the School of Education at UFRJ, Lisete Jaehn and Márcia Serra Ferreira (2012) discussed the contributions of these authors, indicating the differences and similarities between their perspectives and how each has contributed to the studies conducted at this institution.

The authors identified compose four groupings:

- Meily Assbú Linhales, António Nóvoa, Marcus Aurélio Taborda de Oliveira, Guy Vincent, António Viñao Frago, and Raymond Williams;
- Basil Bernstein, Herbert Kliebard, Alice Casimiro Lopes, Thomas Popkewitz, and Mirian Jorge Warde;
- Luciano Mendes Faria Filho, Michel Foucault, Ivor Goodson, Rosa Fátima Souza, and Diana Vidal;
- Elizabeth Macedo and Clarice Nunes.

The structure of the network of co-citations demonstrates, as Cassab (2010) previously indicated, the existence of some relations between the theoretical reference used in studies conducted in the fields of history of education and curriculum studies. Nevertheless, a significant distancing can be perceived between the two

perspectives, given that among the nine foreign authors included in the network, only Ivor Goodson, Thomas Popkewitz, and Herbert Kliebard are cited together with Brazilian researchers from the fields of curriculum and history of education. Among the Brazilian references, the sole authors from different fields that are cited together are Clarice Nunes and Elizabeth Macedo.

Meanwhile, the analysis of the co-occurrence of keywords defined by the authors indicates the conceptual dynamics of a certain field, since its units of analysis are the terms or concepts used to help other researchers interested in the theme find an article. According to Van Meter and Saint Léger (2008), the analysis of co-occurrence measures the strength of association between terms and, therefore, between research themes and objects. Considering that the unit of observation is the words that appear together in a given document and that the networks are formed from the relationship between the words, the strength of association is determined by the number of concomitant occurrences.

The co-occurrence network confirms the division of studies into two groups that have a weak relationship, one more associated with the term “curriculum history” and the other with the term “curriculum”. For a comparative analysis of these two groupings, three networks were constructed containing:

- all articles selected;
- articles from the field of history of education;
- articles from the curriculum field.

The network shown in Figure 3, that includes all articles selected, consists of eight groupings, and the two main ones are organized around the terms “curriculum history” and “curriculum”. The only term connected to both groups is “history of disciplines”.

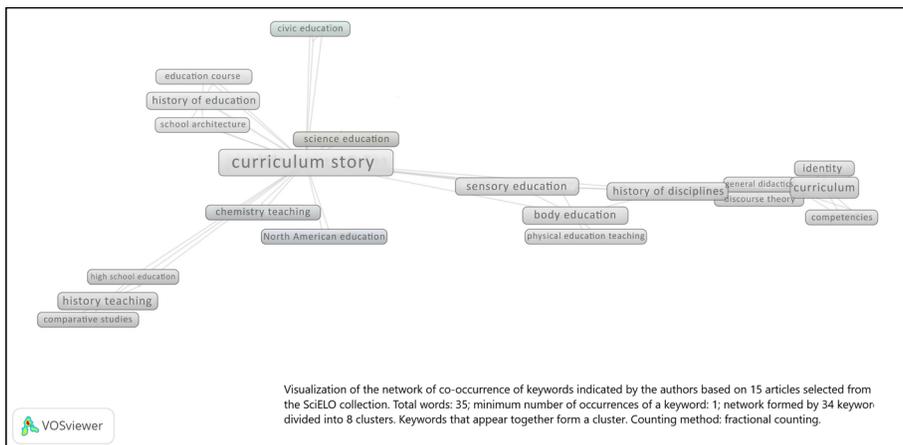


Figure 3 – Network of co-occurrence of keywords of articles on curriculum history.

Figure 4, which shows a network formed by articles produced in the curriculum field reveals a stronger relationship between the terms, with “teacher education”

being linked to all other keywords, except for “nursing”, which is the most isolated term. The keywords form the following groupings:

- general didactics, history of disciplines, and discourse theory;
- competencies and recontextualization;
- curriculum and nursing;
- teacher education and identity.

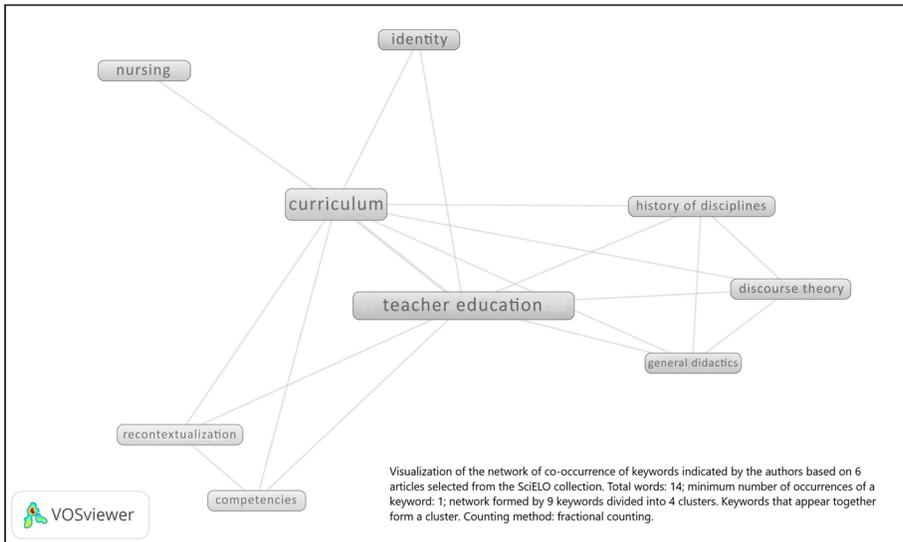


Figure 4 – Network of co-occurrence of keywords: curriculum.

Meanwhile, the network comprised of articles produced in the field of history of education shows an academic production divided into subgroups that address specific themes and interact only in these groupings. The software identified six groupings:

- school architecture, education course, statistics teaching, history of education, curriculum history, history of subjects;
- history teaching, high school education, comparative studies, research in education, social regulation;
- sensory education, history of schools, history of disciplines, school recess;
- civic education, political education, Italy-Brazil;
- body education, physical education teaching, Latin America;
- North American education, history of elementary education.

In this network, the term that connects all groupings is “curriculum history”. Groupings three and five are the only close ones, occupying the lower left quadrant of Figure 5. Out of the keywords that compose this part of the network, the term “body education” acts as a link between the terms: sensory education, history of schools, history of disciplines, physical education teaching, and Latin America. Since

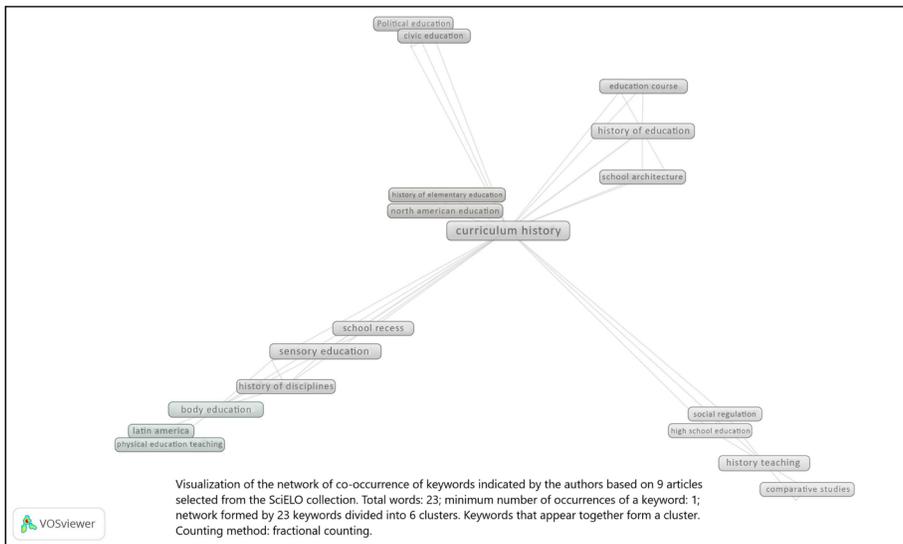


Figure 5 – Network of co-occurrence of keywords: history of education.

the term “history of disciplines” represents the link between studies produced in the fields of curriculum and history of education, the themes addressed by the two fields are closer in these groupings. Mariana Cassab also identified the possibility of closeness between the different perspectives in studies of school disciplines. Cassab argues that:

The study of school disciplines has caused an important shift in how schools are usually investigated, whether by suggesting new problematics, selecting various sources, or promoting a productive dialog between different theoretical perspectives. Nevertheless, as supposed in this study, this potential also seems to be open to broader exploration in Brazilian studies. (Cassab, 2010, p. 246)

The analysis of bibliographical references and concepts that compose the keywords associated with the articles demonstrated that the epistemological base of this academic production is intrinsically related to the authors’ original field of research.

According to Michel Foucault (2004, p. 26), an author can be understood as more than the person who speaks or writes a text; they can be regarded “as a principle of discourse grouping, as a unit and origin of their meanings, as a focus of their coherence”. Based on this understanding of “author-function”, we can conclude that the current structure of academic production stems from different authorships instilled with discursivity that decisively act on the design of studies and composition of the theoretical horizon of the field.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The coexistence of two different fields of research in the academic production about curriculum history has been indicated by various authors. Fonseca *et al.* (2013, p. 2019) identified the existence of “interesting disputes about which field of knowledge and consequently which disciplinary community ‘could’ or ‘should’ assume the studies of curriculum history”. Antônio Flávio Barbosa Moreira (2013, p. 6-7), in turn, affirms that dialog between these two domains is indispensable.

This study allowed confirming that research about curriculum history is organized around two different perspectives: history of education and curriculum studies. The research groups responsible for this production have a strong institutional connection and have been consolidated over the past 20 years by the systematic production of theses, dissertations, and scientific articles.

Some universities, particularly UFRJ and UFPR, have a systematic and steady production about the theme, while the other part of this production is divided among several institutions, indicating that the theme has also been addressed occasionally in other institutional and research contexts.

This analysis of research objects of theses and dissertations revealed that the academic production can be distributed into four thematic lines that concern both school and academic contexts: courses; disciplines; policies; and theories and practices. The comparison between works in the fields of curriculum studies and history of education demonstrated that the first has emphasized school contexts while the second is more focused on academic contexts. The analysis of bibliographical references and concepts that compose the keywords indicated in the articles showed that the epistemological base of this academic production is intrinsically related to the authors’ original research field. Ivor Goodson and Thomas Popkewitz are the most influential authors, and the closeness between works produced in the fields of history of education and curriculum studies is associated with studies that address the history of disciplines.

The category author-function developed by Michel Foucault (2004) allows understanding that the current structure of academic production stems from different authorships instilled with discursivity that decisively act on the composition of the theoretical horizon of the field. The recognition of differences and similarities between the historical narratives produced can contribute to blurring borders, questioning divisions, and expanding the potential for knowledge production about the curriculum history in Brazil.

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