

# An Analysis Of The Work Of PerssonAnd Tabellini, Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy, With The Use Of Bibliometrics

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## Abstract:

**Background:** The work of Persson&Tabellini (2002), *Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy*, incorporated the effect of voracity and the tragedies of the common (assumptions of the Common Pool Resources Theory (CPR)) into the studies of public finances. The adoption of these assumptions in budget allocation explains the reduction in the supply of public goods in modern economies. This is because when several groups are competing for limited budget resources, there is a tendency for each group to consume as much as possible (voracity effect), leading to the depletion of those resources—the so-called tragedy of the common. This research highlights the importance of understanding the dynamics of resource allocation in public finances and the need for effective policies to mitigate the tragedy of the commons. Given the importance of the topic, the aim of this paper is to analyze the impact of the work of Persson and Tabellini (2002) on the study of public finances.

**Methodology:** The methodology for measuring the impact of these authors' work was bibliometric, using the applications Scopus and Vosviewer.

**Results:** The analysis results point to the increased academic prestige of the researched authors due to the referred work and, therefore, the acceptance of the diagnosis and forecasts foreseen by Persson&Tabellini by the authors of the School of Public Choices. This acceptance is because these researchers share the same paradigm.

**Conclusion:** Using bibliometric studies in this work allowed evaluation of the impact of the publication Persson and Tabellini (2002), *Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy* in the academic environment. It was clear from looking at the number of citations their work received and the impact factors of the journals they published that their peers well-regarded Persson and Tabellini's contributions. Furthermore, bibliometric analysis also provided insights into the specific topics and research areas they have focused on, highlighting the breadth and depth of their expertise. Thus, the bibliometric indicators presented here allow us to know the evolution of the work.

**Key Word:** Bibliometrics; Common Pool Resources; Public Finances; paradigm.

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## I. Introduction

Analyzing the quotes and references in their publications showed how their research had evolved. The bibliometric studies revealed the central themes and concepts that shaped their work, highlighting their contributions to the field. This analysis provided valuable insights into his intellectual journey and helped establish his influence and impact within the academic community. In addition, bibliometric studies revealed the collaborative networks that Persson and Tabellini had formed throughout their careers. It was clear that they had actively engaged with other prominent researchers in the field, exchanging ideas and building on each other's work. This collaborative approach improved the quality of their research and expanded the scope and influence of their findings. As a result, his work became widely cited and referenced, solidifying their position as distinct authors in economics and public finance. These studies revealed that his research has significantly influenced political economics. It is evident from the number of quotes his work received and the impact factors of the magazines they published that his colleagues considered the contributions of Persson and Tabellini well.

In addition, the bibliometric analysis also provided insights into the specific topics and research areas they focused on, highlighting the breadth and depth of their experience. Their research shaped academic discourse in political economics and influenced policy-making and public opinion. Their studies' rigorous

methodology and empirical evidence helped policymakers make informed decisions and understand the consequences of different policy choices.

Furthermore, the work of Persson and Tabellini has triggered more research and debate, fostering a vibrant and dynamic academic community focused on understanding the complex relationship between politics and economics. Overall, their contributions have left a lasting impact on the field and continue to inspire future generations of researchers. Therefore, the bibliometric indicators presented here allow us to know the evolution of the work.

Incorporating the propositions of Persson&Tabellini (2002) was restricted to the group of authors of the School of Public Schools. This admission is because these researchers share the same paradigm. Both models assume that agents are maximizers of their interests.

Keynesian Schools, Institutionalist Schools, and Marxist School lined the focus of analysis on other premises. Thus, these schools ignored Persson and Tabellini's work. They have paradigms different from those of the School of Public Schools.

The authors resist the paradigm shift. This rejection is because the theoretical framework expresses its political convictions and, therefore, a party and ideological positions. Each paradigm has assumptions, methods, and fundamental concepts, making it difficult for scientists from different paradigms to understand and agree with each other.

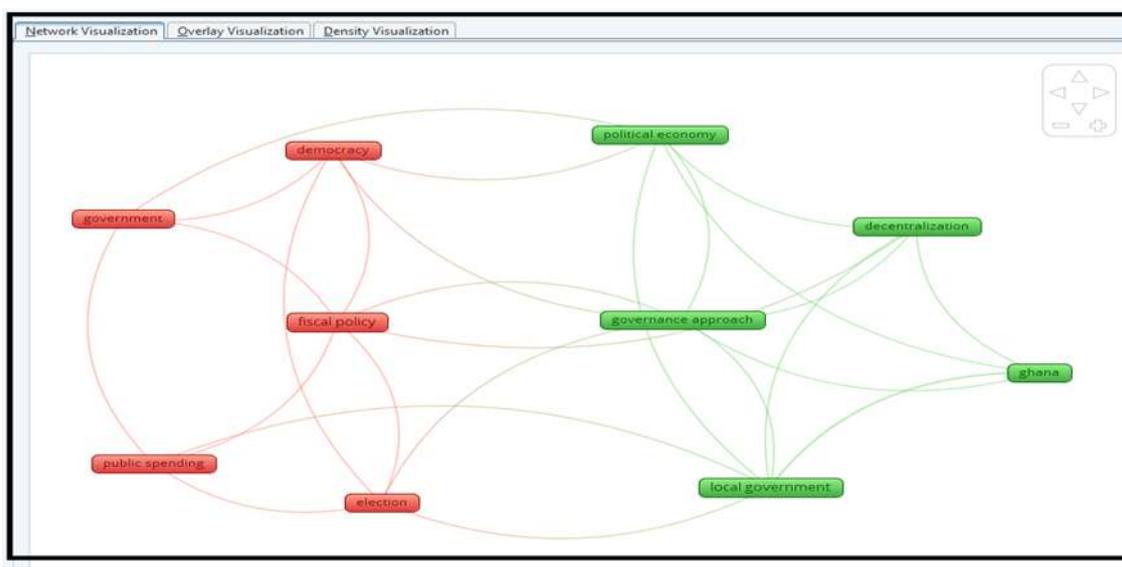
In short, this study contributes to a better understanding of the work of Tabellini&Persson (2002). A survey allows us to check whether a solution to a common pool problem is being discussed in no academic medium.

On the face of the discussion, this study aims to identify the characteristics of the Common Fund theory from publications on the subject using the tools of Bibliometria between 2000 and 2022. The work is organized into five sections. Shortly after this introduction, in section 2, the theoretical reference is described, a third addresses the methodology, a fourth addresses analysis and discussion of the results, and a fifth presents the final considerations.

## II. Theoretical Framework

The article “Political Economy: Explaining Economic Policy” innovated public policy, treating the budget as a common fund subject to conflict between groups. The budget distributes resources to society and defines government spending and revenue in various sectors, such as health, education, security and infrastructure. In view of this, Persson&Tabellini (20002) include budgeting as a common resource. The article uses mathematical modelling elements and has an interdisciplinary approach, seeking to explain the relationship between politics and economics.

The authors deal with the fiscal policy of democratic states and point out measures to contain public spending. This concern is also present in the works of the authors citing Persson&Tabellini; see graph below.



Prepared by the author.

The treatment of the budget as a common good is theoretically justified. Persson and Tabellini do this because the budget has many resources with the characteristics of rivalry and non-exclusivity, such as the

resources treated in CPR. In this way, the authors classify the budget as a common pool because the budget allocation involves a dispute over the amount allocated to each sector. Given this question involving government coordination problems, the Common Pool Theory analyses budget allocation. The Common Pool theory has addressed coordination problems as more and more individuals view contemporary problems as collective.

This conflict is intense because groups are eager to satisfy their own needs, ignoring those of others. Thus, the groups call for budgetary resources under the effect of voracity and subject to the tragedy of the common situation described in Ostrom's work (1990).

Due to this innovation, the work of Persson & Tabellini (2002), "Political Economy: Explaining Economic Policy", significantly impacted public finance literature. Thus, the authors reinforced the argument that political considerations influence economic policies. This relationship between politics and economics was already present in the Theory of Public Choices. (TEP). The TEP had already predicted that the political aspects would be, on the one hand, the search for popular support from politicians to re-elect and, on the other, from voters to obtain the desired public goods. Soon, the work helped to broaden the understanding of the interactions between politics and economics.

This innovative approach paved the way for much subsequent research in finance. Thus, the publication of "Political Economy: Explanation of Economic Policy" by Persson and Tabellini (2002) impacted the discipline of public finances.

The work also represented the success of the authors in a dispute with other researchers, as predicted in Bourdieu (1986), to influence other scientists with their theoretical propositions. Bourdieu (1986) presented the Scientific Field as an integral part of the human capital, where there is contestation of power dynamics, monopolies, strategies, interests, and profits. In this environment, there are games of a competitive struggle for the monopoly of scientific authority. Therefore, unlike Kuhn (1962), Bourdieu states that the academic environment plays a determining role in accumulating scientific capital; therefore, a "successful" scientific career becomes a continuous process of accumulating knowledge (human capital).

Bourdieu compares the Scientific Field to a market with its laws, competition and immorality. In this environment of political and economic relations, scholars, researchers and scientists are captured by their interests.

Thus, under the author's view, the scientific field can be seen as a social space, the fruit of power relations between accumulating agents of the specific cultural capital of recognition and prestige. The rules protect the dominant authors in this space, while the less prestigious researchers aim to break in and make personal profits.

Knowing the prestigious authors and the most recognized theories for Bourdieu is essential. This pursuit of supremacy in the academic world is a politicized activity and engaged in power struggles. The dispute revolves around possessing scientific capital, which leads to acquiring additional capital. A successful scientific career is a continuous accumulation process, with initial capital represented by school titles playing a determining role. Agents seek to become scientific authorities and defend hegemonic theories.

This dispute tends to be sharp because it involves issues that give much visibility to the actors. The theory of common funds offers a solid basis for reducing public spending due to its hegemonic position in public finances, in line with what Bourdieu (2003) predicted. Those involved can gain more visibility and political influence when a subject arouses excellent academic interest. Individuals can participate in conferences and interviews by becoming references in the academic community, enhancing their visibility and reputation. This dispute is exacerbated by involving further economic policy orientation. Therefore, the relationship between the growth of the publication of articles of common background as a guide for public policies tends to grow. The scope of this notoriety can enable them to get well-paid positions in private and public initiatives. Fachin and Rodrigues (1999) believe that the vanity of authors or the pursuit of prestige leads them to pursue notoriety in the scientific field.

### **III. Methodology and data**

The methodology applied was publication counting, quotation analysis, co-authorship analysis, and word mapping referring to CPR and using bibliometric methods to analyse published works (Leydesdorff e Vaughan (2006). This technique filters articles using topic-related keywords such as "Common Fund", "Common Fund theory", and "common pool resources". CPR and using bibliometric methods to analyse published works. This technique filters articles using topic-related keywords such as "Common Fund", "Common Fund theory", and "common pool resources". Next is quotation analysis, co-citations, social media analysis, keyword analysis, and term co-occurrence analysis. Therefore, all relevant publications on the Common Fund theory in scientific databases such as Scopus and Google Academic have been collected and analysed.

Bibliometric describes scientific information's production and consumption patterns, identifying influential and relevant documents, see Zhang (1996). Veugelers & Wang (2019) show that the 80/20 rule states that 80% of citations are in 20% of documents, indicating that a small number of highly influential documents receive the majority of citations, while the majority receive very few or no citations. This highlights the concentration of attention and impact within a small subset of scholarly publications and emphasises the importance of identifying and promoting these influential documents for advancing research and knowledge in a specific field. These instruments were applied together to assess and measure the scope of the scientific production of CPR.

Bibliometric has been used to analyse various aspects of CPR's scientific production, such as the number of articles published in specialised journals, the quotes received from these articles, and the collaboration between researchers in the field. We can identify the theoretical framework the researchers used and the authors' reputations in the academic community through the combined analysis of these factors. These surveys can also address questions such as which papers are the most influential, where there have been the most surveys, and who are the most cited authors. In addition, Bibliometrics enabled the analysis of scientific information on CPR by identifying the primary sources of information used by professionals in the field and the most investigated areas of applicability for CPR, among other aspects.

Thus, the applied methodology identified the prominent authors and the scientific influences that guided it. It was also possible to find the main research areas related to the Common Fund, the most influential researchers in this area, the research trends over time, the main collaborations between authors and institutions, and the key concepts and topics discussed in the CPR.

The quotation indicator characterises the profile of an author. The analysis of citations and co-citations in scientific journals allows us to identify the influence of the authors and the theories employed in the scientific field. In this way, one can know the scientific elite and its domain. As a result, the study outlined the characteristics of the Common Pool Theory, the authors' contributions to the creation of knowledge, and how the scientific community views and values their work.

The data was collected in July 2023 in the Scopus database. The bibliometric analysis identified 68 Scopus studies from 2002 to 2022 that cited Persson & Tabellini (2002) in their bibliographies.

One expected outcome of the study is that bibliometric research is directly related to the laws of bibliometric. These laws provide valuable guidelines for guiding the selection of journals and authors and analysing results. The three basic laws of Bradford's Law (Journal Productivity), Lotka's Law (Scientific Productiveness of Authors), and Zipf's Act (Speed Frequency) anticipate the results. These laws help to identify the trends, key topics, and most influential authors in the scientific production of CPR. Bradford's Law describes the thematic distribution of scientific journals. Considering this Law in the selection of journals to be analysed, obtaining a more representative and comprehensive sample of publications in the area is possible.

According to these laws, publications of the highest quality attract more citations, as do authors from leading universities and affiliates from the U.S. and European countries. The attractiveness of the discipline is due to its applicability in public finances for better use of resources. In addition, interest in CPR has increased as the common fund concept embraces new coordination issues and considers other dimensions beyond the monetary aspect. Thus, applying these laws to CPR is appropriate due to the interest in the subject that has rapidly expanded since its creation.

Bibliometric analysis identifies significant contributions and influential researchers in a theoretical context, evaluates the productivity and influence of authors, and identifies networks of scientific collaboration. Counting quotes helps determine relevant articles and their impact on the scientific community. The bibliographic search results evaluate the number of publications, the citations received, and the journal's quality, allowing the identification of influential authors in the Common Pool Theory.

For Kuhn (1962), the influence of an author on other authors is the measure of the success of an academic article. This influence is associated with presenting existing new perspectives and providing an in-depth understanding of unresolved problems. Such contributions influence scientific thinking and generate an impact on the academic community.

In short, the methodology of this study has as a theoretical model Bourdieu's propositions that researchers seek recognition in the academic community in a dispute for economic resources and prestige. The scope of success in the trial can allow researchers to acquire human capital.

In view of these premises, the research problem of this work was to verify whether the work of Persson and Tabellini brought them visibility, as outlined in the table below. Thus, considering the possibility of success and failure—the analysis of bibliometrics evaluated the research problem, as described in the following table.

MAZZON's AMORTIZATION MATRIX

Theoretical Model and Prospects		Hypotheses of research	Technical analysis
Authors of different theoretical currents seek recognition in the academic world and the hegemony of their theories. The dispute marks this recognition for economic and non-economic resources. Acceptance of the authors' assumptions by the academic community can consolidate their power. This finding is expected in Bourdieu.	Did the publications of Tabellini and Person gain importance in public finance literature?	<p>Ho: There has been an increase in Persson &amp; Tabellini's Publications in Public Finance with the diagnosis and prognosis of Tabelli and Person</p> <p>H1: There was no sustained increase in Tabellini and Person publications.</p>	<p>Mapping information and relevance of Public Finance studies and competing theories.</p> <p>- counting of publications, analysis of citations, co-authorship analysis, and mapping of words referring to TFCs and competing theories.</p> <p>- The publications' trajectories are subject to the fundamental laws of bibliometrics.</p>

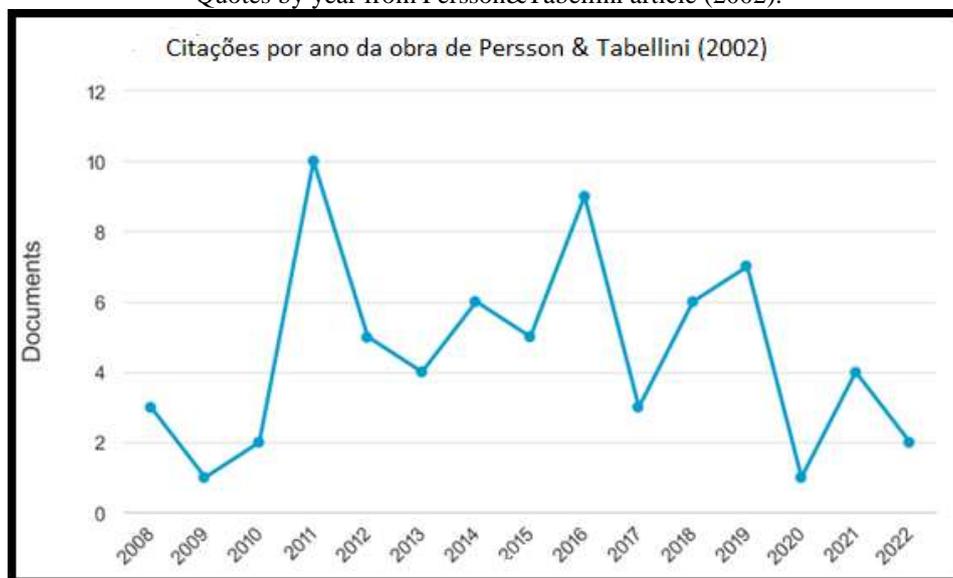
Source: Adapted by Mazzon (1978)

#### IV. Analysis and discussion of results

The number of publications by Persson&Tabellini (2002) (see graph below) demonstrates the topic's relevance. Considering only the Common Pool Theory, we would have 2,372 publications because it deals with a multidisciplinary subject. However, when we restricted the publication of Persson&Tabellini (2002), the number of quotations from the published article was 68 between 2008 and 2022. If we used Academic Google, the number of quotes would be 6662.

The use of the article by Persson and Tabellini (2002) to support that of other important authors explains the relevance of the work. Higher-quality publications attract author citations from leading universities in the United States and European countries. Higher-quality publications often have more rigorous research methodologies and produce more impactful findings. As a result, researchers from prestigious institutions are more inclined to submit their work to these journals, increasing the overall calibre of the publications. Additionally, affiliation with renowned universities and institutions provides credibility and prestige to the authors, further enhancing the attractiveness of these publications.

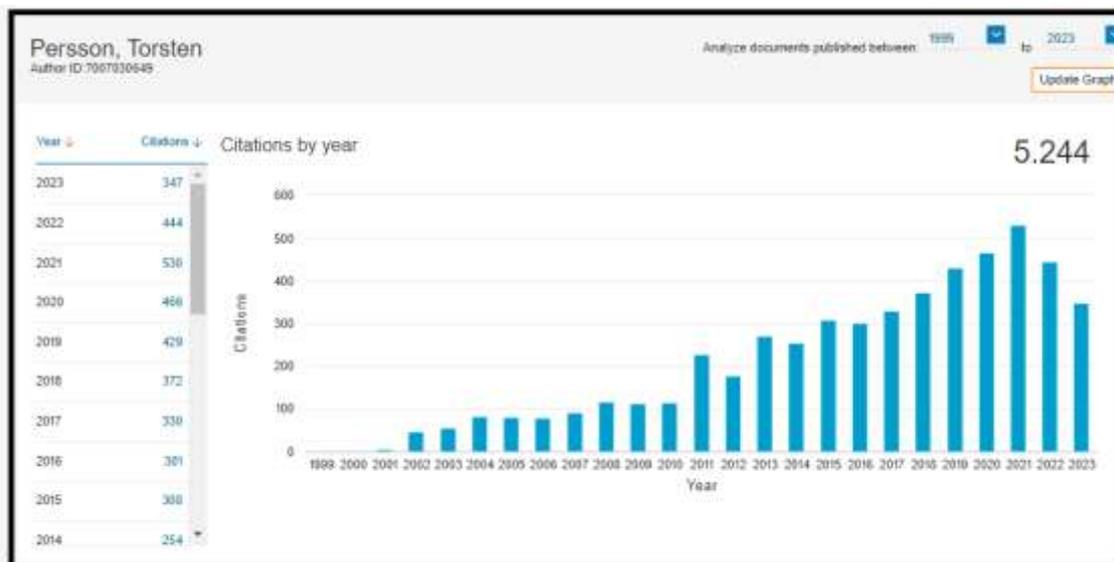
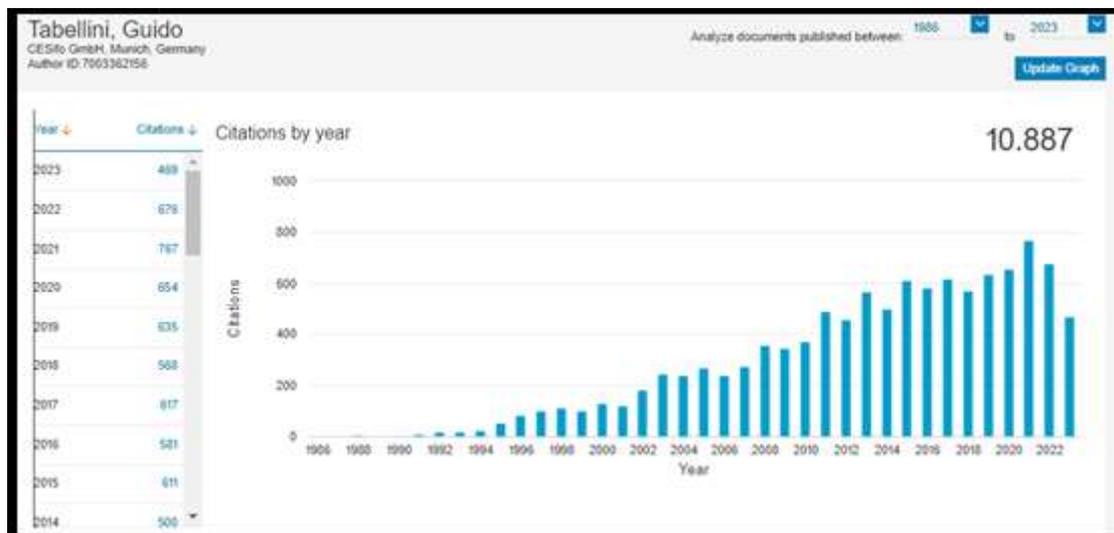
Quotes by year from Persson&Tabellini article (2002).



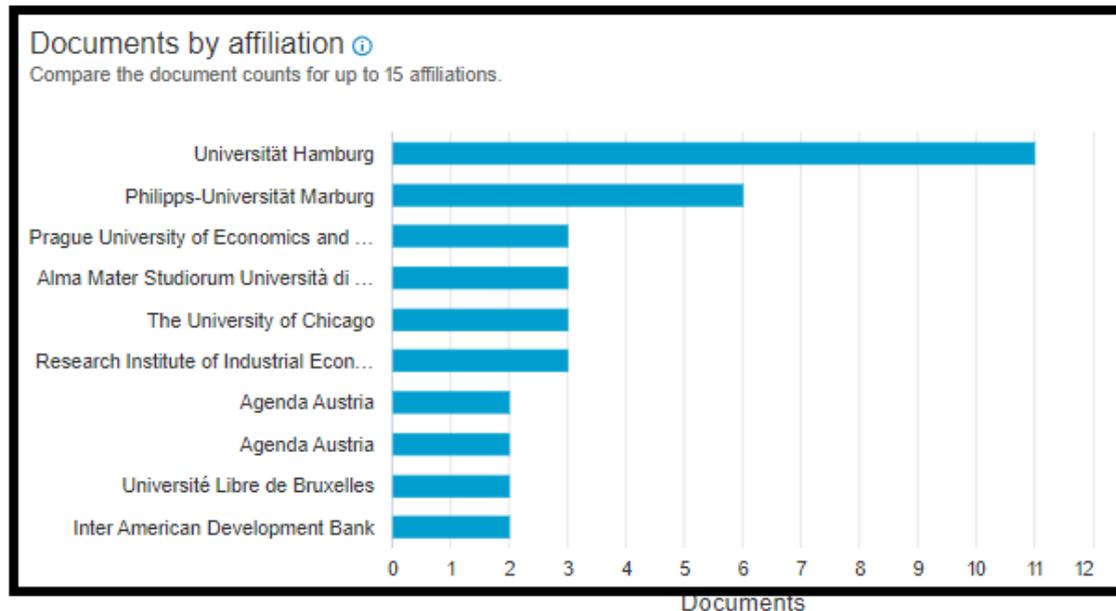
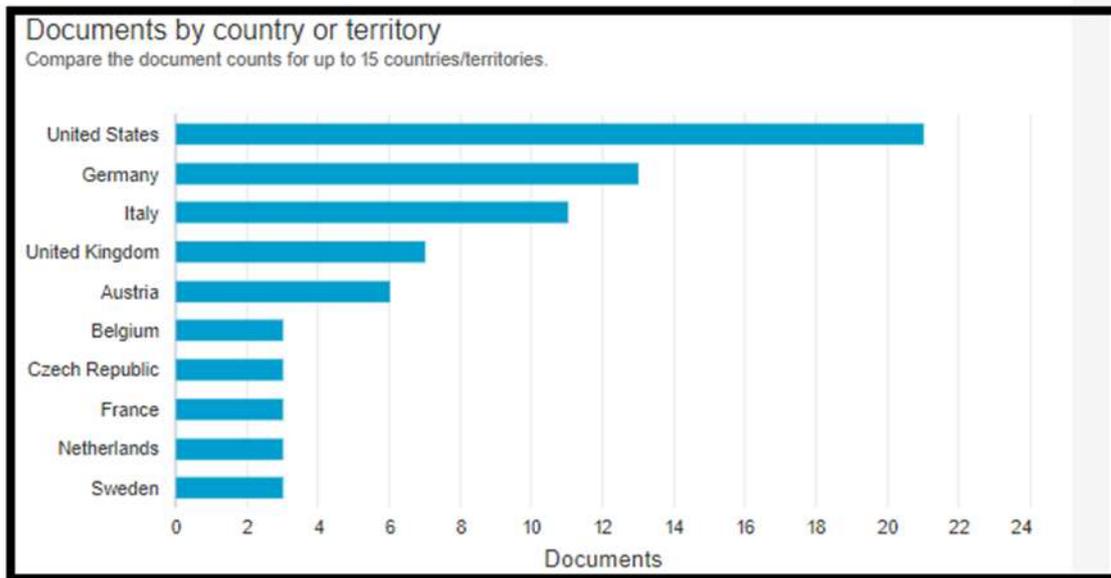
Elaborated from Scopus.

According to the charts below, the article Persson&Tabellini (2002) is associated with an increase in authors' quotations in other of their works. These figures point to the increasing prestige of authors in the

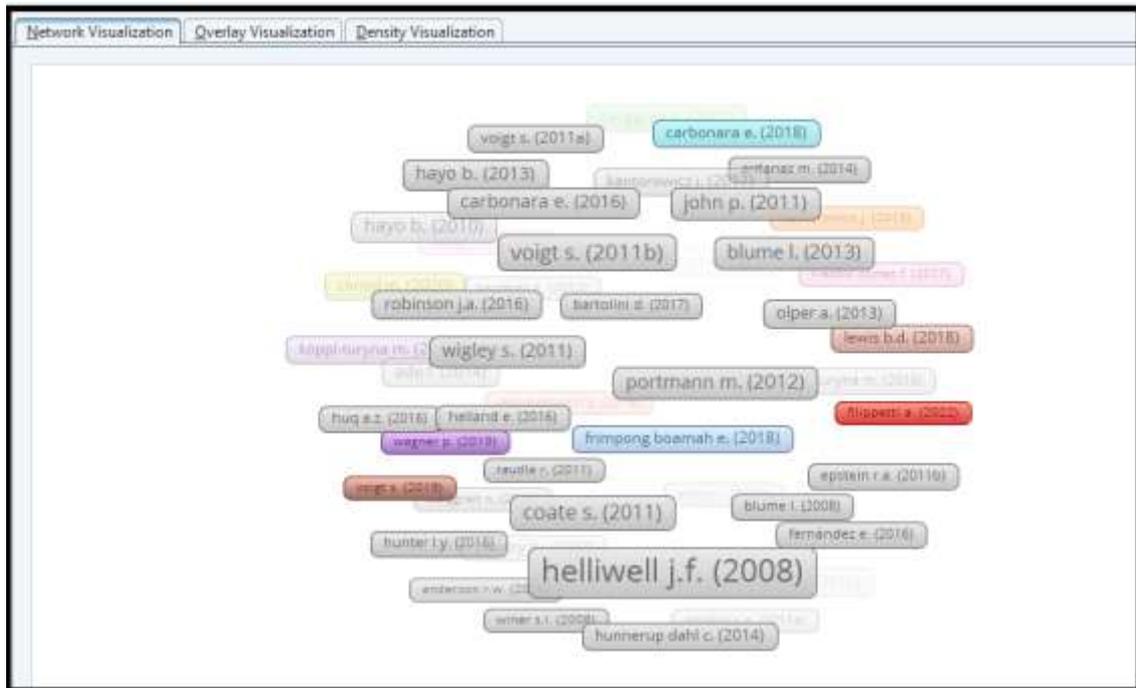
academic world. This increase in citations suggests that Persson&Tabellini (2002) have significantly impacted the field of academia. As authors are referencing their work more frequently, it indicates that their research and ideas have gained recognition and influence within the scholarly community. Such a rise in citations also reflects the growing importance placed on the publication and the authors' expertise, ultimately contributing to their enhanced reputation in the academic world.



The relevance of the publication, *Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy*, is evidenced when one considers that references to it have been recurrent in Universities in developed countries that publish articles related to the mainstream of Public Finance. This implies that these authors are well-regarded within their field and that their work influences the discourse and understanding of public finance. Their affiliation with reputable universities further adds to their credibility and expertise. Consequently, their research findings are likely to significantly impact policy-making and academic discussions in the field of public finance.



Researchers from significant universities form a network. They collaborate and share their findings, fostering a collective environment of knowledge sharing and innovation. This network allows researchers to access broader expertise and resources, enabling them to tackle complex problems and make significant advancements in their respective fields. Through regular conferences and seminars, these researchers also have the opportunity to present their work, receive feedback, and engage in meaningful discussions with their peers, further enhancing the quality and impact of their research. They are authors of great prestige in academia.



## V. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The use of bibliometric studies highlighted the contributions of PT's work. Thus, the bibliometric indicators presented here allowed to draw a drawing on the publication of Persson and Tabellini), Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy. (2002). This study showed the evolution of the Common Pool Resources Theory linked to the School of Public Choices.

The number of articles by authors citing the work of Persson and Tabellini is expressive. This shows the impact of this work on public finances. The studies, in the majority, are European and US, precisely from the mainstream of Public Finance.

The article was not cited further because it is difficult to read for readers who do not have a good grasp of economic theory and applied mathematics. Furthermore, the author's use of complex jargon and technical terminology creates a barrier for non-experts in the field. Thus, the article failed to reach a wider audience. Therefore, the number of citations could be greater if the authors' language was more accessible.

The analysis of the article on economic policy is mainly theoretical. There is a need for further studies with empirical data to test the model's theoretical predictions. Thus, it is important to continue studies based on Persson and Tabellini's work so that case studies can validate the theoretical assumptions made in economic policy analysis. This empirical approach will provide a more comprehensive understanding of how these policies work and their economic impact.

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