

Proposal for the special session on 'The role of metrics in academic accountability politics at the STS conference (Graz, Austria)

**Bibliometrics as an administrative practice: matters of concern, S&T governability and cultural change. A case study.**

This contribution renders an account of the introduction and further development of Bibliometrics as an administrative practice in Colombia's S&T system as a means for rendering the country accountable for the development loans made by the Interamerican Development Bank, a major S&T founding agency in Latin America throughout the second half of the twentieth century. This particular case study might not be entirely representative of Latin America as a whole but serves well the purposes of the special STS session on critical issues in as much as it illustrates a) construction of "scientific production" as a "matter of concern"; b) the institutional path that this new matter of concern points for institutional actors involved in S&T policy and development; c) cultural transformation of scientific communities and their agendas.

This account is based on my early work experience as a bibliometrician developing tools for evaluating local scientific journals early in the 1990s and on my latter role as an STS practitioner criticizing the unintended consequences of rational action (measuring) in S&T policy in Colombia. Thus the account encompasses twenty years of observation and empirical work both in bibliometrics and STS.

Yuri Jack Gómez-Morales, PhD.  
Associated Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Centre of Social Studies  
Universidad Nacional de Colombia  
[yjgomezm@unal.edu.co](mailto:yjgomezm@unal.edu.co)