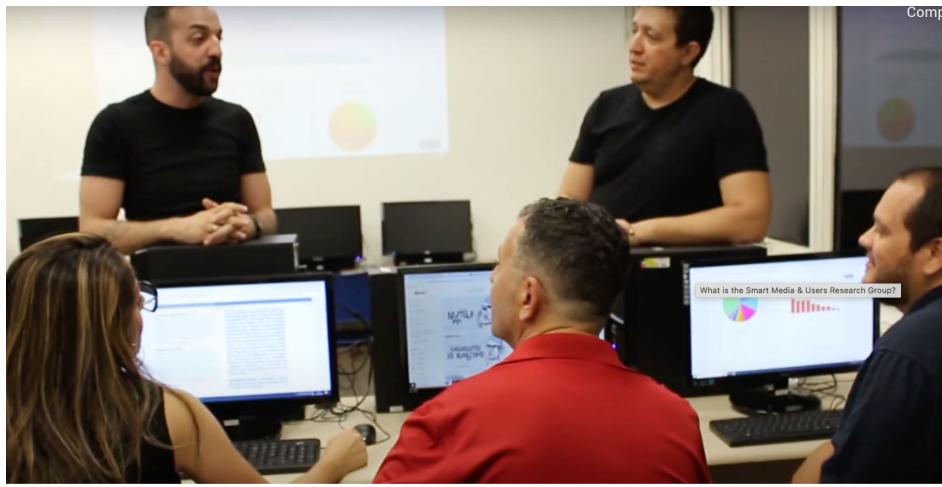


Mapping research groups and labs developing digital methods across five Brazilian Regions: North, Northeast, Central-West, Southeast, South

Alan Angeluci, Ph.D.





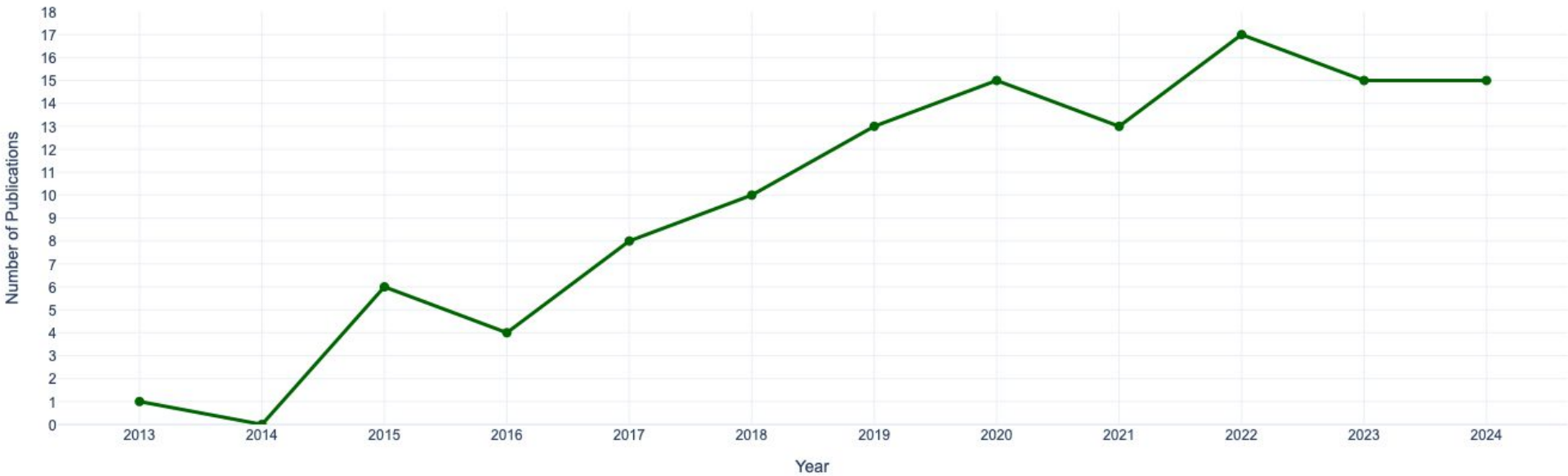
<https://smartmediausers.org>





- In January 2025, a Google Scholar search used the exact keyword "**métodos digitais**" (digital methods) in quotes, in Portuguese, with no time restriction.
- Publications were filtered to Applied Social Sciences, then narrowed to Communication and Information, focusing on nationally ranked journals and recognized conferences.
- Web of Science and Scopus added few new works, mostly overlapping with the initial search.
- An initial dataset of 228 publications was extracted.
- Manual cleaning retained only journal articles, conference papers, books, and book chapters.
- Publications by Brazilian researchers in Brazilian institutions were included, even with foreign co-authors.
- Works by Portuguese researchers in Portuguese institutions were excluded, keeping only Brazilian Portuguese publications by Brazilian authors in Brazilian institutions.
- The dataset reflects the first author's institutional affiliation.
- Titles, abstracts, and texts were qualitatively reviewed to confirm relevance to digital methods.
- A final dataset of 117 publications was selected for analysis.

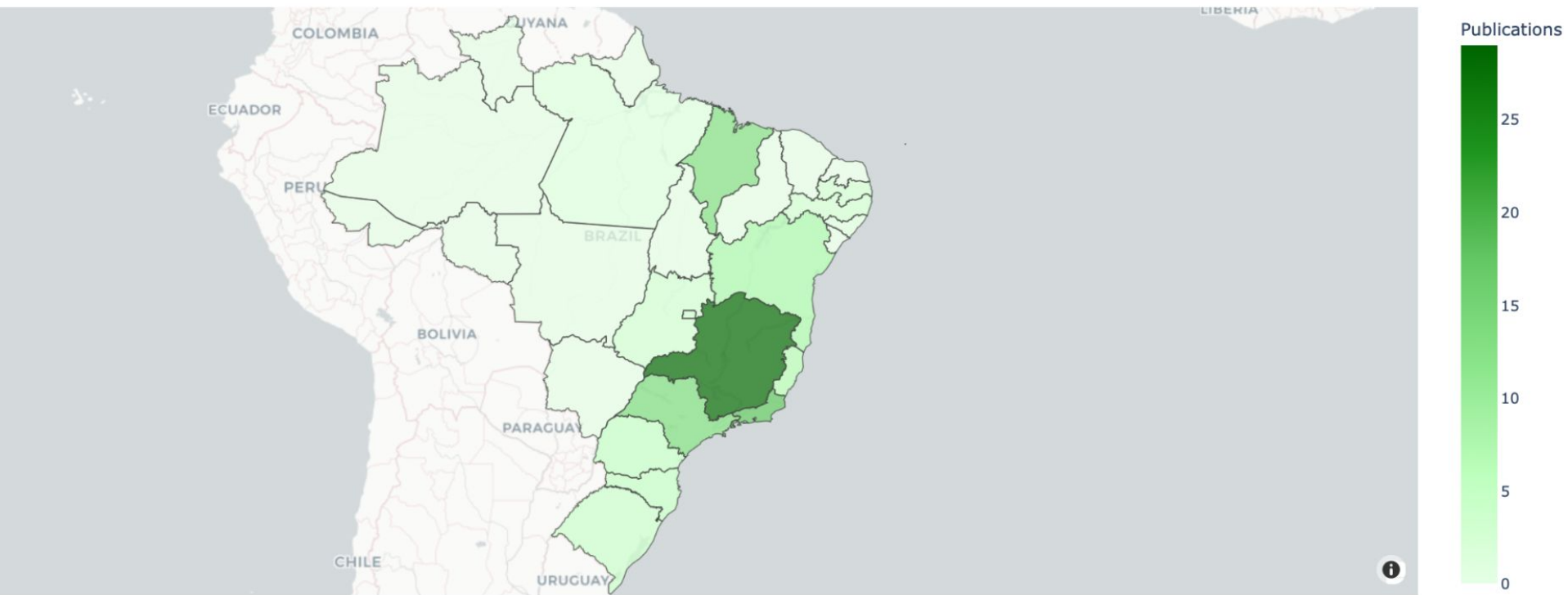
Temporal Evolution of Publications on 'Digital Methods'



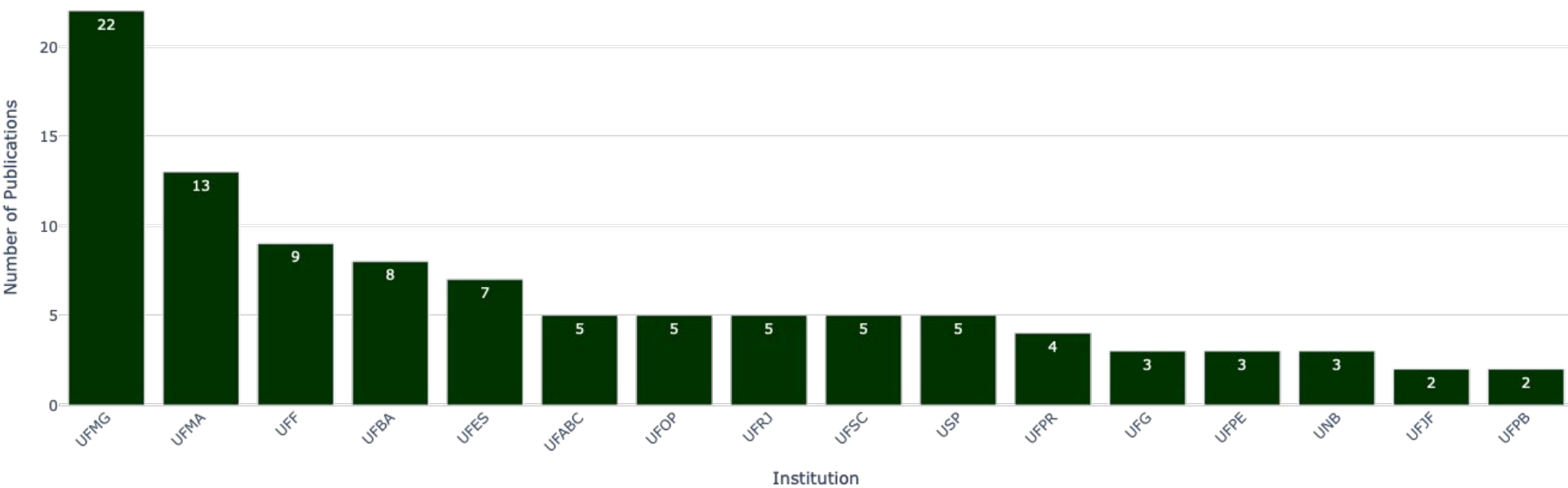
Number of Publications by Year and Region



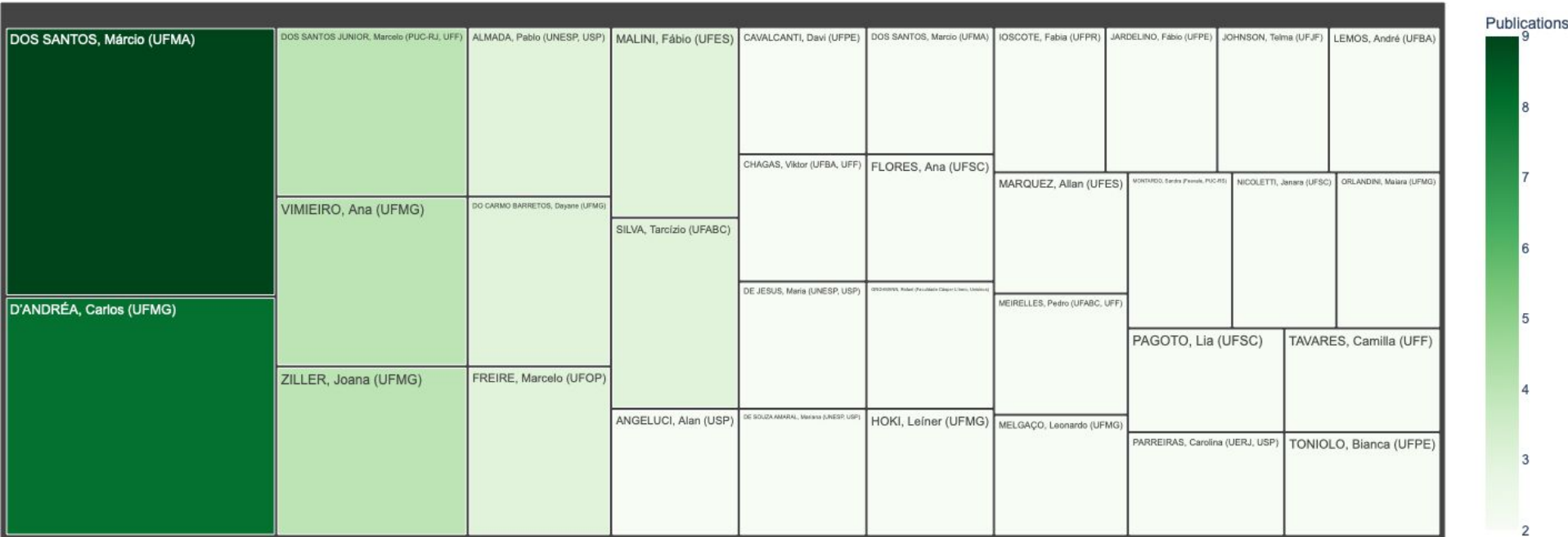
Distribution by states and regions



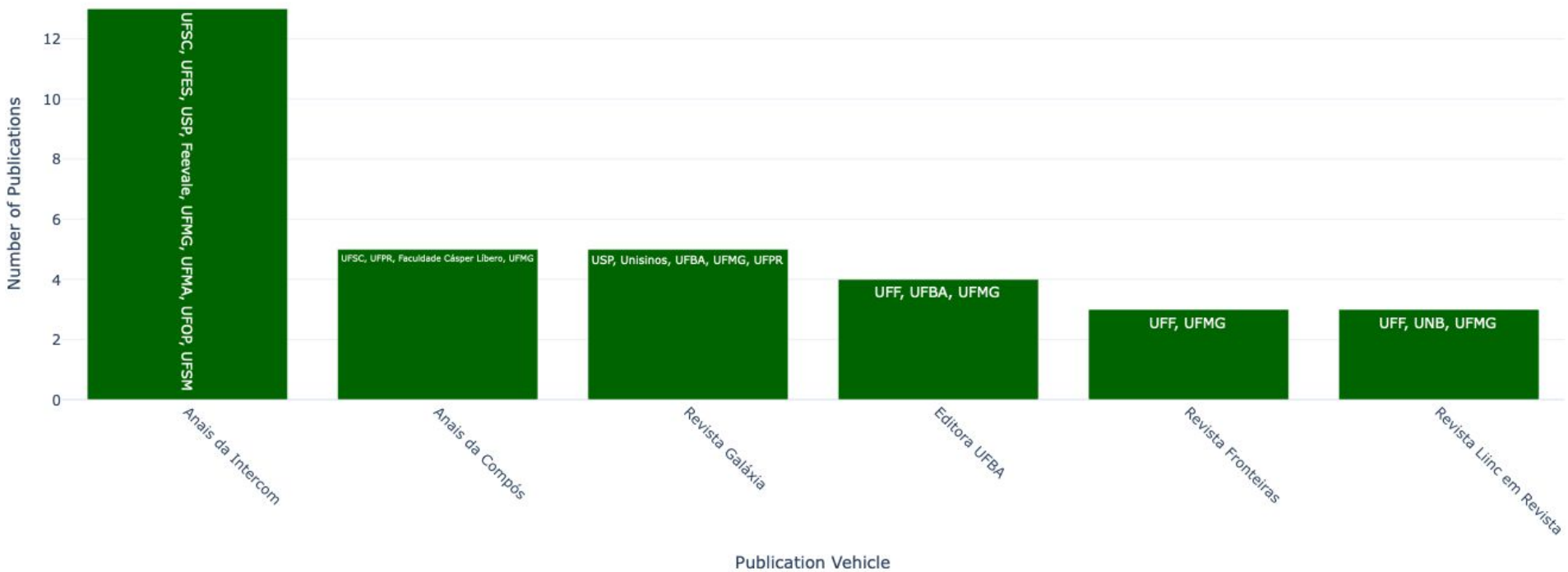
Number of Publications by Institution (At Least 2 Publications)



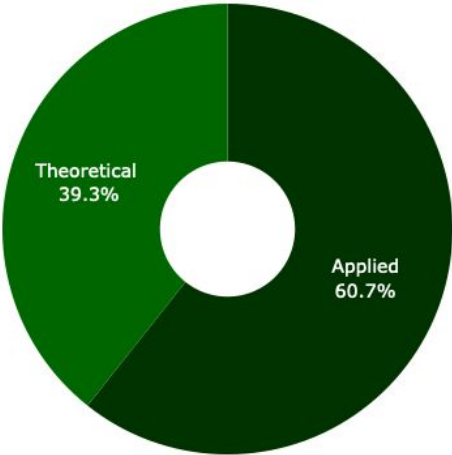
Treemap of Publications by Author and Institution (2 or More Publications)



Publications by Vehicle (3 or More Publications)





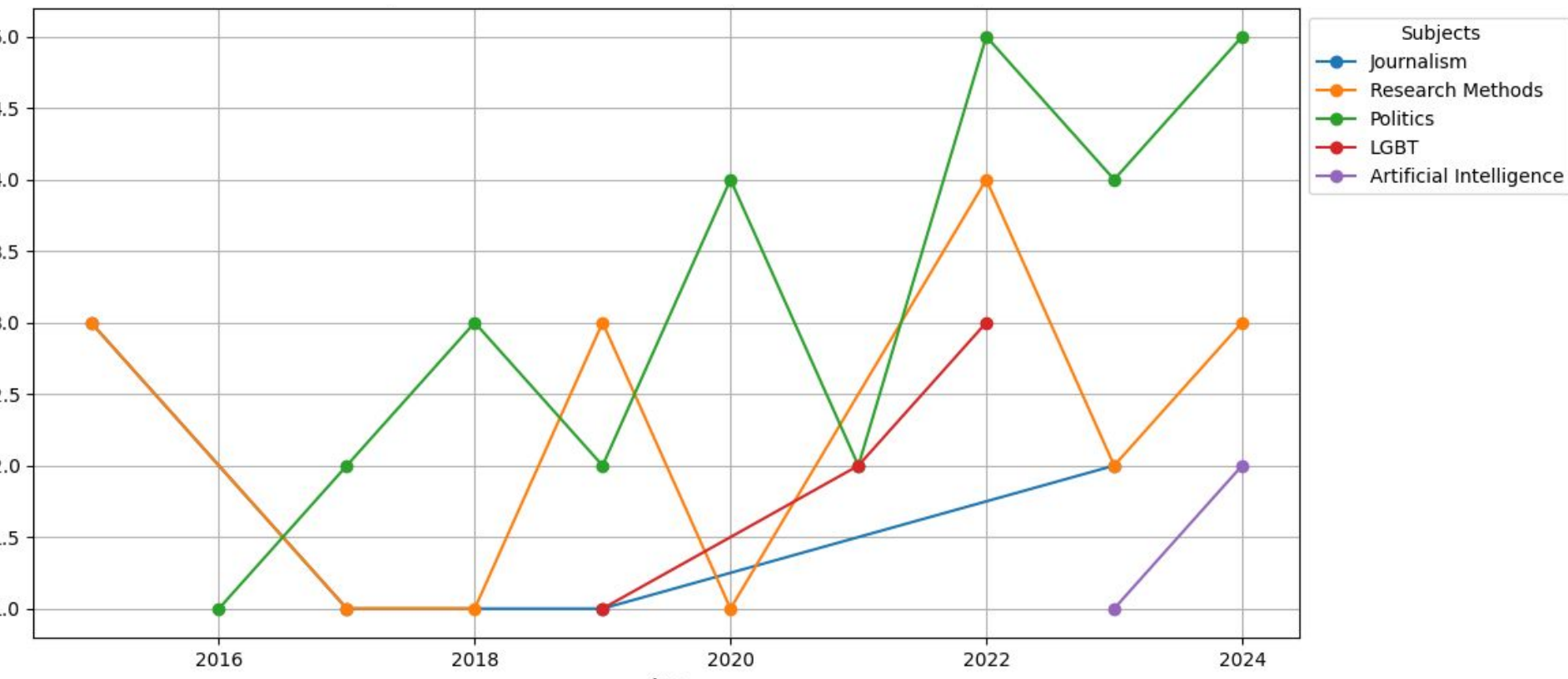


Subjects/Topics

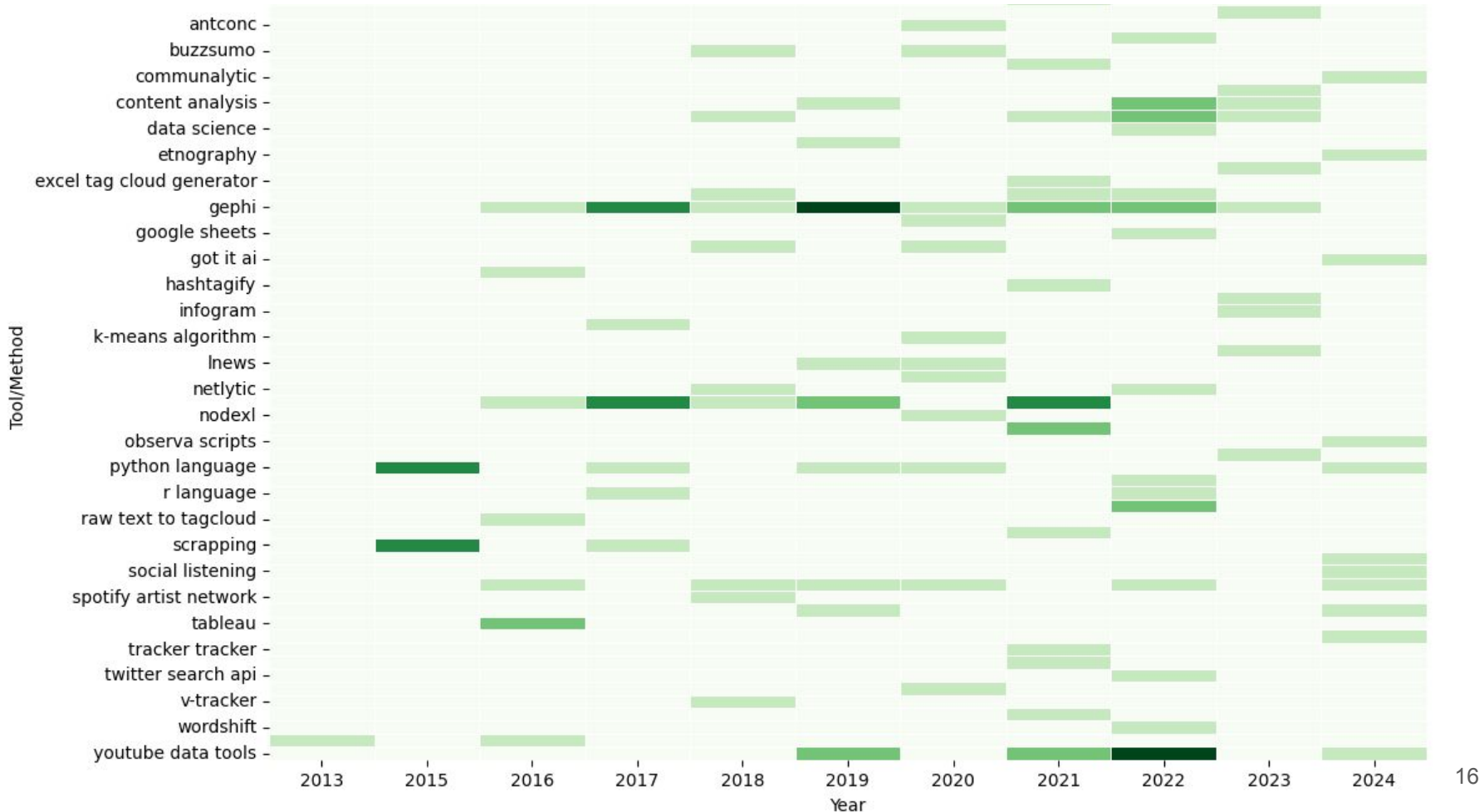




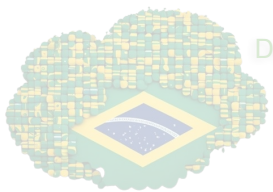
Trends in subject/topics over time



Trends in Tools/Methods over time



- Mixed methods approach: Combination of tools for data collection, cleaning, modeling, and visualization, alongside more traditional approaches such as content analysis.
- The availability (or lack) of API-based data extraction tools determines which platforms are more or less investigated (e.g., Facebook via Netvizz; YouTube via YouTube Data Tools).
- The scarcity of studies from the North region.
- Use of custom scripts and software developed by researchers, such as the Ford script and Parse Tweets (LABIC-UFES), LTWEET and LNEWS (LABCOMDATA-UFMA), and scripts from Observa - Observatório Conflitos na Internet (UFABC).
- **Challenge:** Research involving WhatsApp (highly relevant in Brazil, particularly group interactions) and data collection in mobile, on-the-move contexts.
- **Theoretical frameworks frequently associated with digital methods:**
 - Controversy Mapping and Actor-Network Theory (Latour)
 - Science and Technology Studies (STS)
 - Digital Sociology
 - Cultural Analytics (Manovich)
 - Computational Social Science (Lazer)
- Many studies use the term "digital methods" as a broad label for any research involving digital tools for data collection, analysis, and visualization.
- Studies discussing politics in Brazil tend to be self-centered, focusing exclusively on national political scenarios, particularly the right-left polarization (Bolsonaro vs. Lula) and local issues related to misinformation mainly.



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