



EXECUTIVE COACHING

- AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF DISSERTATIONS AND THESES

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ABSTRACT

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Only a very limited number of studies on executive coaching have been published in peer reviewed journals.

Objective: The objective of the annotated bibliography is to give the reader an overview of dissertations and theses on executive coaching. Many of these include studies that have not been published elsewhere.

Design: The dissertations and theses were identified through searches in ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Database - the world's most comprehensive collection of dissertations and theses with 2.7 million searchable citations to dissertation and theses from around the world from 1861-2011.

Methods: The annotated bibliography focuses on dissertations and theses that explicitly use the terms executive and coaching in their abstracts. The original abstracts are included and the material is coded for type, empirical content, and type of study. The references are sorted in opposite chronological order and alphabetical order.

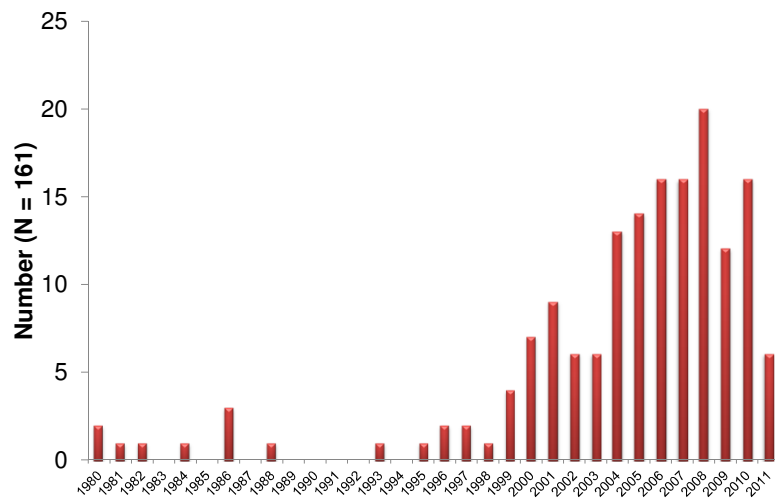
ABSTRACT

Results: In total, 161 references from 1980 to October 2011 met the selection criteria. Dissertations and theses on executive coaching began appearing in 1980, however, being scarce up until 1999. In contrast, 1999-2011 has seen the burgeoning of dissertations with a peak in 2008.

Conclusion: All attempts have been made to ensure that the document is as accurate as possible. Due to the complexity of cataloguing and categorizing the materials, some details may have been overlooked in the review process. If you have suggestions for changes or additions, please contact the Ebbe Lavendt (el@positivepsychology.dk).

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

REFERENCES PER YEAR



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We have identified **161 dissertations** and theses on executive coaching

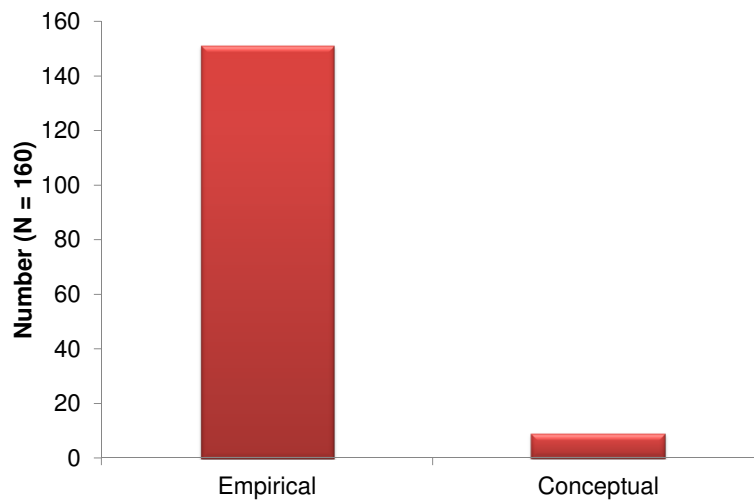
The first ones were produced in 1980

From 1999 the number of dissertations and theses have been growing rapidly

There was a peak in 2008

Are the number of dissertations and theses declining?

EMPIRICAL VERSUS CONCEPTUAL



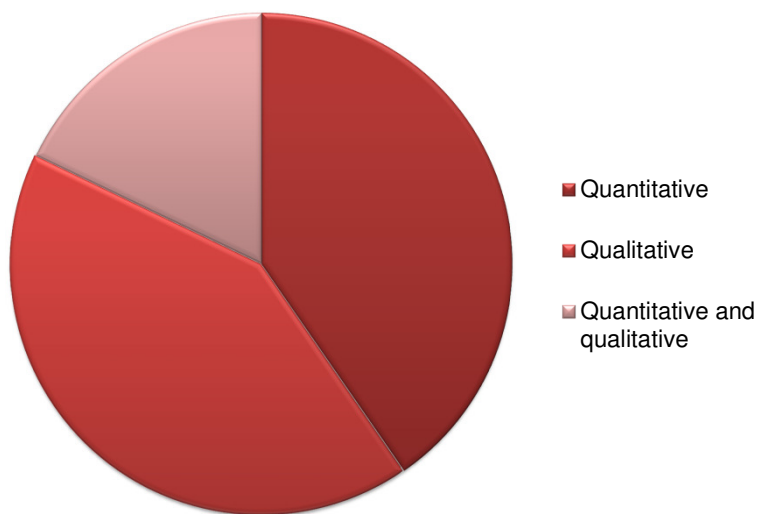
EMPIRICAL VERSUS CONCEPTUAL

94 % (151) of the dissertations and theses contain **empirical studies**

Is there a need for more conceptual dissertations and theses – for instance attempts at building an overarching theory of executive coaching?

What conceptual developments are needed?

QUANTITATIVE AND/OR QUALITATIVE



QUANTITATIVE AND/OR QUALITATIVE

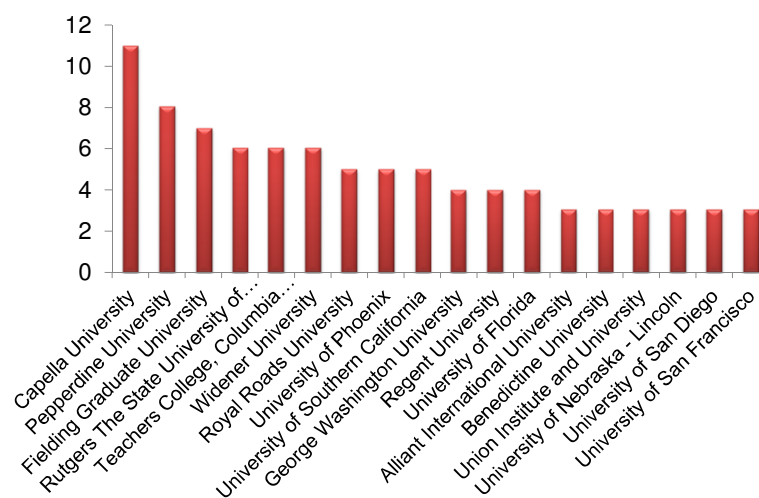
An equal number of authors of dissertations and theses employ quantitative (61) and qualitative (63) methods

In 18 % (27) of the dissertations and theses **quantitative and qualitative** methods have been **combined**

89 % (24) of these have been produced since 2004

Is the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods the norm for the future?

MOST PRODUCTIVE UNIVERSITIES



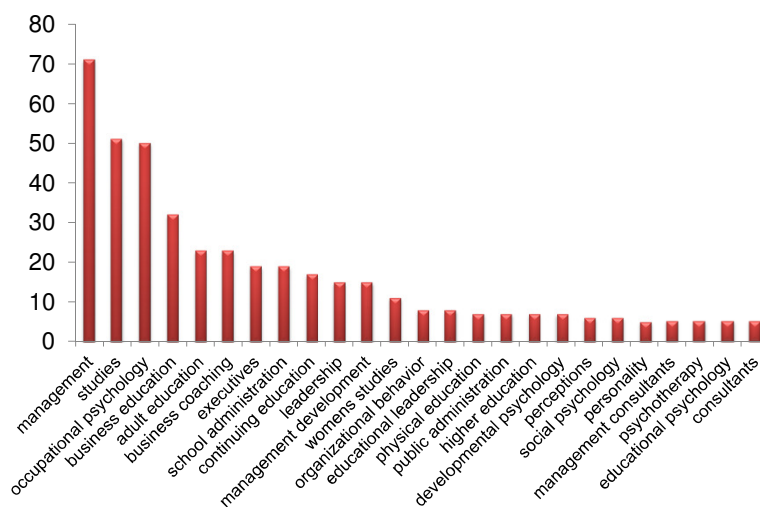
MOST PRODUCTIVE UNIVERSITIES

Dissertations and theses on executive coaching have been produced at 80 different universities

The most productive universities are Capella University, Pepperdine University and Fielding Graduate University

18 universities account for 55 % of the production of dissertations and theses on executive coaching

MOST POPULAR SUBJECTS



MOST POPULAR SUBJECTS

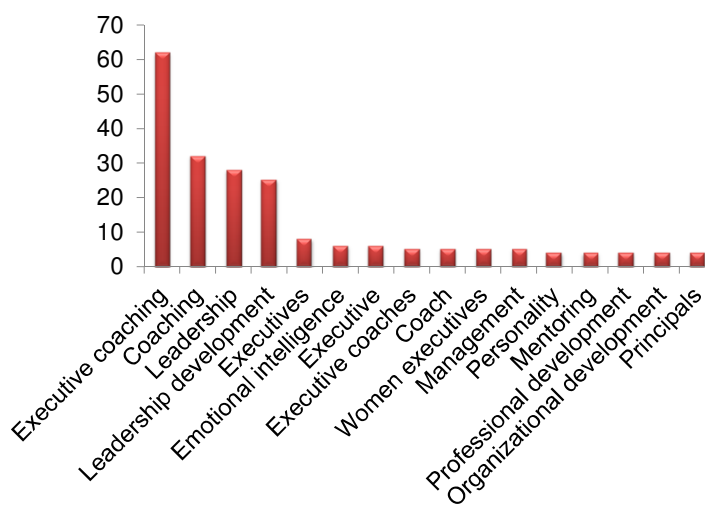
The 161 dissertations and theses touch upon a very broad range of subjects (100)

School and education is a very popular area

1 out of 15 dissertations and theses on executive coaching are about women studies

When choosing keywords authors do not mention subjects like occupational psychology (50), business education (32), adult education (23), business coaching (23), school administration (19), continuing education (17), and management development (15), etc.

MOST POPULAR KEYWORDS



MOST POPULAR KEYWORDS

The authors have used 32 different keywords

Among the **most popular keywords** are concepts such as emotional intelligence, women executives, personality, mentoring, professional development, organizational development and principals

All keywords have been used at least twice

Half of the keywords (17) do not yet exist as subject codes in the database

Popular concepts like executive coaching (62), coaching (32), and leadership development (25) cannot be searched upon as subjects

WHAT IS MISSING?

The Institute of coaching focuses on:

- Leadership
- Health and wellness
- Positive psychology
- Executive coaching

Positive psychology and **wellness** are not mentioned in neither subjects nor in keywords (and only mentioned once in the abstracts)

Key concepts in **PERMA** – like positivity, engagement, connectivity, meaning, and accomplishment / achievement – are not represented

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

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Around 12-16 dissertations and theses are produced every year

The work is **mostly empirical** – equally divided between quantitative and qualitative methods

There is **not much conceptual** work

18 universities produce more than half of the dissertations and theses

The dissertations and theses focus on a wide range of subjects

There is almost no explicit mentioning of **positive psychology** or **wellness**

FUTURE RESEARCH

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In the near future we might see:

- Around **12-16 dissertations** and theses per year
- a **combination of** quantitative and qualitative **research methods**
- more **subject codes** in the database to categorize the research

More dissertations and theses are needed on:

- **conceptual work** – for instance attempts at building an overarching theory of executive coaching
- **positive psychology** - including concepts like positivity, engagement, connectivity, meaning, and accomplishment / achievement
- **wellness**



NEXT STEP

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

If you are interested in this PowerPoint presentation and the annotated bibliography on which it is based, please contact Ebbe Lavendt (el@positivepsychology.dk)

The annotated bibliography is probably incomplete. If you know of any relevant dissertations and theses that ought to be included, please contact Ebbe Lavendt. Thanks!

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If you want more information on upcoming research on **positive psychology coaching**, please contact Ebbe Lavendt