



# 7<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION Academic

“CLEANER PRODUCTION FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

## Sustainable Development and Absorptive Capacity: Connecting Themes Through Systematic and Bibliometric Review

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### Abstract

Recent research suggests that the ability to absorb knowledge can drive change in organizational behavior to sustainability. This article aims to present and discuss the panorama of the scientific production on the relation of the absorptive capacity and sustainability. The work was a qualitative research having as strategy the bibliographic study. The databases used were Ebsco, Emerald, Science Direct, and Scopus and the terms used for the searches were "Absorptive Capacity", "Sustainability" and "Sustainable Development". The bibliometric cartographic analysis performed for keywords in the 83 articles by the VOSviewer software searched for terms with at least 5 occurrences. To the qualitative review of the literature, we selected the twenty four articles published in high impact journals. The results point to a significant growth of the theme, and in high impact journals the growth was 61.5% in the comparison of the periods between 2007 and 2012 versus 2013 to 2017. The cartographic analysis points to the presence of two clusters, the first encompasses key terms such as Absorptive Capacity, Sustainability and Innovation, and the second cluster is Sustainable Development, Absorptive Capacity and Corporate Social Responsibility. Qualitative analysis indicates that absorptive capacity facilitates the adoption of successful sustainable strategies and that the engagement of organizations with external actors may prove to be significant. The authors converge in their opinions in the sense that the deep relationship with the external environment is a priority for the acquisition of knowledge and innovative development.

*Keywords: Sustainability, Absorptive Capacity, Innovation*