

EL PAPEL DE LA MUJER DURANTE LA GUERRA CIVIL ESPAÑOLA:
UN MAPA HISTORIOGRÁFICO A TRAVÉS DE LA BIBLIOMETRÍA
Y EL ANÁLISIS DE REDES

The Role of Women During the Spanish Civil War: A Historiographical Mapping Through Bibliometrics and Network Analysis

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Fecha recepción: 29.11.2023 / Fecha aceptación: 10.03.2024

Abstract

This study explores the multifaceted roles of women during the Spanish Civil War, examining the diverse perspectives delineated in academic literature. Leveraging scholarly articles sourced from Web of Science and Scopus spanning from 2013 to 2022, we analyse temporal trends, author demographics, scholarly impact, journal prominence, and thematic content. Our investigation culminates in the classification of contributions into six overarching themes: humanitarian

Resumen

Este estudio examina el papel de las mujeres en la Guerra Civil Española y determina los diversos roles que han sido estudiados y asignados en trabajos académicos. Se examinan artículos académicos de Web of Science y Scopus (2013-2022) con este propósito y exploramos la distribución temporal, la demografía de los autores, la importancia del trabajo, la prominencia de las revistas y el contenido temático. Los hallazgos categorizan las contribu-

aid and healthcare, biographical narratives, communication dynamics, experiences of exile and refugee communities, women's mobilisation and ideological engagement, and the harrowing realities of repression and violence inflicted upon women. Furthermore, our findings reveal that research predominantly originates from Spain and is disseminated through Spanish-language journals. However, there exists a notable interconnection with the United States, evidenced by the participation of prominent North American authors and publication in non-Spanish journals. This research offers insights into the multifaceted roles of women during the Spanish Civil War and their academic representation.

Keywords

Woman, Spanish Civil War, Francoism, Historiography, bibliometrics.

ciones en seis temas: ayuda humanitaria y atención médica, biografías, comunicación, exilio y refugiados, movilización de las mujeres, y represión y violencia contra las mujeres. Los resultados también muestran que la investigación principalmente se realiza en España y se publica en revistas españolas, pero muestra conexiones significativas con los Estados Unidos con destacados autores estadounidenses y revistas no españolas. Esta investigación ofrece perspectivas sobre los roles multifacéticos de las mujeres durante la Guerra Civil Española y su representación académica.

Palabras clave

Mujer, Guerra Civil Española, Franquismo, Historiografía, bibliometría.

Introduction

From a historiographical standpoint, gender history has undergone significant development in recent decades, shedding light on the historical, social, and cultural dimensions of women and dispelling the prior historical invisibility of women as significant actors in the past. Women have progressively become subjects of historical inquiry. In the 1980s, gender began to be integrated into historical analysis, thus shaping «the process of development of the human and social sciences»¹.

The examination of the past through a gender lens and its historiographical evolution hold considerable sway in the academic realm. This is evidenced by the proliferation of publications on women's history, the establishment of specialised journals, the convening of numerous academic conferences and symposia, the formation of associations such as the Asociación Española de Investigación de Historia de las Mujeres, and the inception of various undergraduate and graduate programs. As a result, the previously mentioned invisibility is gradually fading away. However, it is essential to make further progress to promote additional academic advancements regarding women's historical agency.

One historiographic domain that has garnered significant interest in contemporary history is the Spanish Civil War. Scholarly output on this subject has experienced continuous growth in the 21st century. Gender-focused studies pertaining to this conflict began surfacing in the early 1980s. Subsequently, scholarly production concerning women and their involvement in or as subjects of the Civil War has burgeoned concurrently with advancements in gender scholarship. Indeed, this proliferation, alongside the copious information it has engendered, underscores the critical role of review articles in facilitating information systematisation and quality assessment.

This article proposes an updated review of academic output from the past decade concerning women and the Spanish Civil War. The selected period aligns with the most recent historiographical overview conducted by Ana Martínez Rus². The search parameters encompassed broad concepts such as the Spanish Civil War and women.

1. Otero-González, 2019.

2. Martínez Rus, 2014.

A comprehensive literature review involves discerning and synthesising information, especially in fields where scholarly output has significantly increased and access to it is relatively unobstructed, such as in gender history. Consequently, there arises the necessity to deliberate on the timing of concluding the bibliographic inquiry. The authors of this study opted to adhere to stringent publication selection criteria, as delineated below. These criteria were informed by the framework proposed by Grant and Booth³ advocating not merely descriptive accounts of articles but also the identification of varying degrees of conceptual analysis. As such, conceptual parameters were delineated in the critical analysis, drawing upon established scholarly discourse. Furthermore, based on this foundation, a classification and organisational schema is proposed. This schema aligns with the previously established lines of inquiry, as these represent the most significant findings of the bibliometric analysis.

Methodology

Data search and collection

This work comprises a systematic review following the steps described by Grant and Booth and adapting the SALSA framework (Search, Appraisal, Synthesis, Analysis) to the field of study (Figure 1). First, a search of the main Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus databases was performed. For WoS, the Web of Science Core Collection was consulted. This comprises the «Science Citation Index Expanded» (SCIE), «Social Science Citation Index» (SSCI), «Arts & Humanities Citation Index» (A&HCI), «Emerging Source Citation Index» (ESCI), «Conference Proceedings Citation Index» (CPCI) and «Book Citation Index» (BKCI). All searches were restricted to the period under study, spanning from 2013 to 2022, and excluded book reviews.

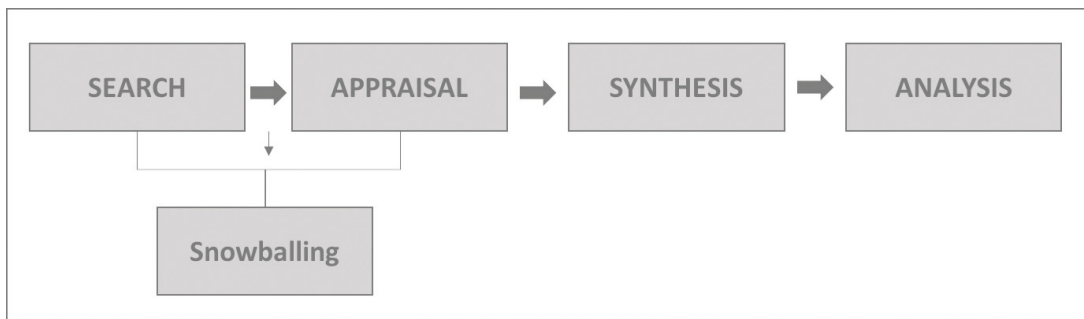


Figure 1. Adapted SALSA framework including the snowballing strategy. Source: produced by the authors of this study

3. Grant, and Booth, 2009.

The first search of WoS took place on 3 October 2022 with Scopus being searched on the 21st of that month. These searches were based on an equation generated using the following terms: SPANISH WAR; SPANISH CIVIL WAR; WOMEN; WOMAN. To complete the search process, an additional search of each database was performed: WoS on 7 October 2022 and Scopus on 21 October 2022. These searches used the following terms: MUJER, GUERRA CIVIL (in Spanish) and FEMINIS* and SPANISH CIVIL WAR.

In the initial phase, a total of 304 records were identified. During the appraisal phase, 98 works were excluded based on thematic criteria. Records focusing on literary questions such as novels, musical productions, and works that did not entirely align with the chronological criteria were excluded from the analysis. Additionally, duplicates (4 documents) were eliminated. In instances where documents existed in two language versions (English and Spanish), the non-English version was rejected.

Analysis of the studies retrieved also enabled the identification of new records in the reference lists of the different works. A snowballing strategy was used, identifying 22 records, which were added to the total number of documents selected for the study. Accordingly, as of November 2022, 165 studies had been selected.

Both databases underwent another search in February 2022 to identify any works published in the final months of 2022 or those with a 2022 publication date that were not accessible in the databases until early 2023. Subsequently, on 17 February 2023, Scopus yielded 10 new works from 2022, out of which 6 were excluded based on their subject matter. Additionally, WoS yielded 8 records, with 6 being excluded for similar reasons. Consequently, 6 more documents were incorporated into the analysis during this phase. Thus, at the conclusion of the search phase, the dataset consisted of 171 records.

All of the records were entered into the Mendeley reference management program in order to be able to work with the data set and analyse it in the .ris format. Mendeley identified works that did not have an abstract and ones that appeared in other languages. These were translated into English to standardise and facilitate the subsequent analysis.

Data analysis

In the synthesis and analysis phases, a combination of qualitative and quantitative techniques was employed, adhering to the SALSA framework. Initially, a bibliometric analysis of works pertaining to women in the Spanish Civil War was conducted. This analysis delineated the output in terms of the quantity of works, document types, publication years, journals, and countries of origin. Subsequently, emphasis was placed on identifying the most significant studies in the field, particularly those with the highest citation counts. An analysis of terms was also performed using the VOSviewer⁴ program. This process facilitated the identification of the most frequently covered concepts in the documents, based on the words contained

4. Van Eck and Waltman, 2010.

within the abstracts and titles of the works. To achieve this, the 171 elements of the dataset were exported in .ris format, and a network of terms was generated utilising VOSviewer.

Subsequently, a critical analysis of the works was conducted, leading to a thematic classification based on the recurring topics found within the 171 analysed works. The principal conclusions of the works were drawn from this thematic classification, with an emphasis on analysing the various focal points. It is noteworthy that, according to the consulted databases, the themes that appear most frequently align with the broad categories used in the classification process.

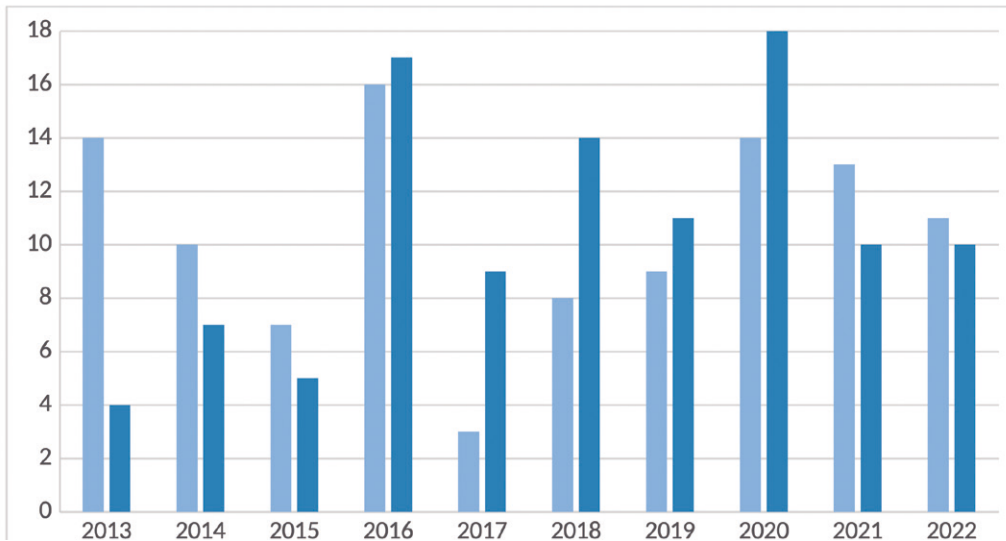
Results

Bibliometric analysis

The bibliometric analysis of the records enabled the determination of the chronological distribution of the publications. As depicted in Figure 2, the databases exhibit variations in this distribution over time. The searches described in the methodology section found the same number of records in both databases (105 from WoS and 105 from SCOPUS). In SCOPUS, academic production exceeded ten publications per year in 2013, 2016, 2020, 2021 and 2022, while 2017 was the year with the fewest publications (3). However, according to the data obtained from WoS, more than 10 works were published in 2016, 2018, 2014 and 2020 with 2020 being the most productive year with 18 publications. In contrast, 2013 was the year with the fewest publications (4 records).

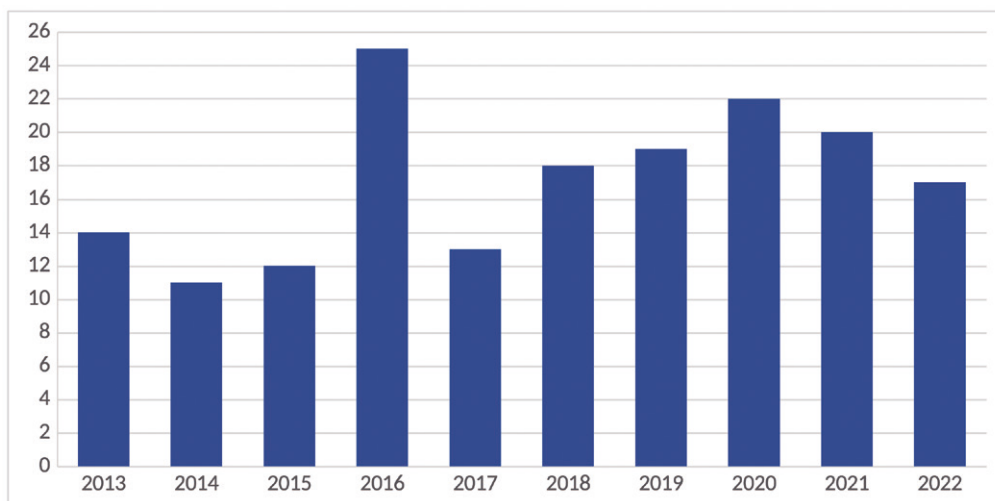
Concerning the temporal distribution of the 171 records examined, 2016 emerged as the most prolific year with 25, followed by 2020 with 22, and 2021 with 20 (Figure 3). The years with the lowest activity were 2014 and 2015, with 11 and 12 documents published on the research topic, respectively. This highlights the fact that while the same number of records were retrieved from each database (105), using two databases expanded the data set by enriching the different years, as the number of publications from each year in each database did not match. The data set was also influenced by the 22 records included from outside these databases.

Figure 2. Number of records in WoS and Scopus by year between 2013 and 2022. Source: Produced by the authors of this study based on data obtained from WoS and Scopus.



Source: Produced by the authors of this study based on data obtained from WoS and Scopus

Figure 3. Time distribution of the records published by year from the total data set of 171 records. Source: produced by the authors of this study



Source: produced by the authors of this study

After delineating the temporal distribution of the documents, a more thorough examination of their authors was undertaken. Through consultation and analysis of the Web of Science and Scopus databases, authors who had contributed more than two works on the subject matter of this study within the selected timeframe were identified. Two authors had published 3 works: Linda Palfreeman and Marcos Rodríguez Espinosa —Angela Flynn has contributed 3 entries, but they are from the same book where she served as the author of the introduction, conclusions, and the book itself—. Most of the authors who covered this subject matter contributed a single work, as Table 1 shows.

Table 1. Number of authors involved in the works in WoS and Scopus and percentage according to the number of works in which they were involved. Source: produced by the authors of this study.

SCOPUS	# Authors	%
Authors with 2 or more	11	7.801
Authors with 1	130	92.199
Authors in SCOPUS	141	
WoS	# Authors	%
Authors with 2 or more	14	10.853
Authors with 1	115	89.147
Authors in WoS	129	

Regarding the geographic origin of the works, Spain accounts for the highest number of records with 64 in both WoS and Scopus, as depicted in Table 2. The USA follows with the second most records, totalling 13 documents in each database, trailed by England (referred to as the UK in Scopus). Therefore, there is a disparity in the quantity of works originating from English-speaking countries compared to those from Spanish-speaking ones, despite the latter’s longer historical and cultural tradition. This observation highlights the comparatively lower visibility of Spanish-speaking countries in international databases. Particularly noteworthy is the importance of academic and cultural exchanges between Spain and the USA, evidenced by the increasing number of publications on women in the Civil War and the growing interest in this research area within the academic community in the USA.

Table 2. Number of records per country with more than 1 record in WoS and Scopus between 2013 and 2022. Note: England in WoS / UK in Scopus. Source: produced by the authors of this study

Country	WoS	Scopus
SPAIN	64	64
USA	13	13
ENGLAND/UK	6	8
ARGENTINA	4	0
FRANCE	4	5
ISRAEL	3	2
AUSTRALIA	2	2
BRAZIL	2	0
ITALY	2	4
PORTUGAL	2	2
CANADA	1	2

After identifying their country of origin, the most relevant documents in the field were examined in detail. This relevance was measured by the number of citations each document received and the average citations per year. As Table 3 shows, the works with the most citations are: «The Falange is a way of being (a woman): gender discourses and identities in the Women Section's periodicals (1938-1945)», which received 10 citations in WoS between its publication and 2022, and «Digging up the recent Spanish memory: Genetic identification of human remains from mass graves of the Spanish Civil War and posterior dictatorship», which has 27 citations in Scopus. Considering average citations per year, in WoS «Unearthing gendered repression: an analysis of the violence suffered by women during the Civil War and Franco's dictatorship in Southwestern Spain» has the most with a mean of 2.25 citations per year. «Digging up the recent Spanish memory: Genetic identification of human remains from mass graves of the Spanish Civil War and posterior dictatorship», stands out in Scopus with an average of 3.857 citations per year, followed by Munoz-Encinar's work from 2019 with 3.333 citations per year.

Table 3. Works with the most citations and highest average citations per year in WoS and Scopus.

*Works that do not appear in the database. Source produced by the authors of this study.

Pub. Year	Title	Authors	Source Title / Publisher	Total Citations WoS	Average per Year WoS	Total Citations Scopus	Average per Year Scopus
2014	I Knew that Spain Once Belonged to the Moors: Langston Hughes, Race, and the Spanish Civil War	Soto, Isabel	<i>Research in African literatures</i>	9	0.9	9	1.125
2014	Survival songs: Conchita Piquer's coplas and Franco's regime of terror*	Sieburth S.	University of Toronto Press	n/a	n/a	9	1.125
2015	Digging up the recent Spanish memory: Genetic identification of human remains from mass graves of the Spanish Civil War and posterior dictatorship	Baeta M., Nunez C., Cardoso S., Palencia-Madrid L., Herrasti L., Etxeberria F., De Pancorbo M.M.	<i>Forensic Science International: Genetics</i>	n/a	n/a	27	3.857
2016	Gendered wars, gendered memories: Feminist conversations on war, genocide and political violence*	Altinay A.G., Peto A.	Routledge	n/a	n/a	11	1.833

2016	The virile image of Pasionaria. the symbolic meaning of Dolores Ibárruri in the II Republic and the Civil War	Llona, Miren	<i>Historia y Política</i>	5	0.63	8	1.333
2016	“¡No Pasarán!”: Translators under siege and ideological control in the Spanish Civil War	Rodriguez-Espinosa, Marcos	<i>Perspectives-studies in Translatology</i>	6	0.75	7	1.167
2016	Becoming Brigadistas: Jewish Volunteers from Palestine in the Spanish Civil War	Rein, Raanan; Ofer, Inbal	<i>European History Quarterly</i>	6	0.75	4	0.667
2017	The Falange is a way of being (a woman): gender discourses and identities in the Women Section’s periodicals (1938-1945)	Cenarro, Angela	<i>Historia y Política</i>	10	1.43	14	2.800
2019	Unearthing gendered repression: an analysis of the violence suffered by women during the Civil War and Franco’s dictatorship in South-western Spain	Munoz-Encinar, Laura	<i>World Archaeology</i>	9	2.25	10	3.333
2019	Women remember. Gender and memory of the Spanish republican exile in France (1939-1978)	Martinez A.M.	<i>Arenal, Revista de historia de las mujeres</i>	9	1.800	4	1.333

2020	Glorious Brothers, Unsuitable Lovers: Moroccan Veterans, Spanish Women, and the Mechanisms of Francoist Paternalism	Wright, Stephanie	<i>Journal of Contemporary History</i>	4	1	4	2.000
2020	Research on female repression and sexual violence in Francoism: An historiographic evolution	Sola A.C., Lopez T.M.O.	<i>AYER</i>	0	0	3	1.500
2021	Wartime and post-war rape in Franco's Spain	Alcalde, Angel	<i>Historical Journal</i>	3	1	2	2.000

Finally, data regarding academic journals with the highest number of publications on women and the Civil War were collected. The results from this search in SCOPUS and WoS revealed a predominance of Spanish journals. Among the top nine journals contributing the most to this subject, five were from Spain: *Historia y Política*; *Arenal. Revista de historia de las mujeres*; *Cultura de los cuidados*; *Historia y Comunicación Social*; and *Revista Universitaria de Historia Militar*. There was also one published in France and three in the UK.

Table 4. Journals with more than 2 works published on women and the Spanish Civil War between 2013 and 2022 in WoS and Scopus. Note: Some journals with fewer than 3 works are listed because they have more than 2 in one of the databases. Source produced by the authors of this study.

Sources	Record Count WoS	Record Count Scopus	Country (ISO Alpha-2)
<i>Historia y Política</i>	4	4	ES
<i>Arenal. Revista de historia de las mujeres</i>	3	2	ES
<i>Bulletin Hispanique</i>	3	3	FR
<i>Cultura de los cuidados</i>	3	3	ES
<i>Hispanic Research Journal Iberian and Latin American Studies</i>	3	3	GB

<i>Historia y Comunicación social</i>	3	3	ES
<i>Revista Universitaria de Historia Militar</i>	3	0	ES
<i>Journal of Contemporary History</i>	2	3	GB
<i>Ricognizioni Rivista di lingue, letteratura e culture modern</i>	0	3	IT

Critical analysis

Incorporating insights from the critical analysis and aligning with the findings of the bibliometric study, most works published between 2013 and 2022, which explore women's roles during the Spanish Civil War, have been included.

After reviewing the bibliometric results, it becomes clear that a significant portion of the analysed publications falls within the domains of literature and history. As a result, the decision was made to prioritise works exclusively associated with the field of history. However, it's worth noting that certain relevant research pieces are included where literature and history intersect.

In contrast to the Civil War, a topic that researchers from Spain and beyond have long engaged with, studies on gender within this research scope are of more recent origin. However, over recent decades, there has been a notable surge in the number of studies that intersect gender with the Civil War. Undoubtedly, incorporating gender as a category of analysis enhances the richness of historical discourse. As Díez and Fernández state, the inclusion of gender has been accompanied by the use, analysis and interpretation of different documentary sources that have made it possible for women to be valued as historical subjects⁵. Considering the advances that have been made in research into gender, the present analysis centres on works published since 2013, continuing the path initiated by Sofía Rodríguez López⁶ in 2004 and Ana Martínez Rus⁷ in 2014 in studies and literature reviews relating to women and the Spanish Civil War.

An overview of the diverse publications spanning from 2013 to 2022 has prompted us to delineate various parameters for analysis based on different lines of research. A critical analysis was conducted, considering broad thematic areas of research, as many of the gathered publications fall within the realms of political history, social history, cultural history, or history of communication. These general classifications encompass the following categories: Humanitarian aid and healthcare; Biographies; Communication; Exile and refugees; Women's mobilisation; and Repression and violence against women.

This classification is justified by the referents taken from the databases consulted and the results they offer us in relation to specific topics. The analysis of terms in the abstract

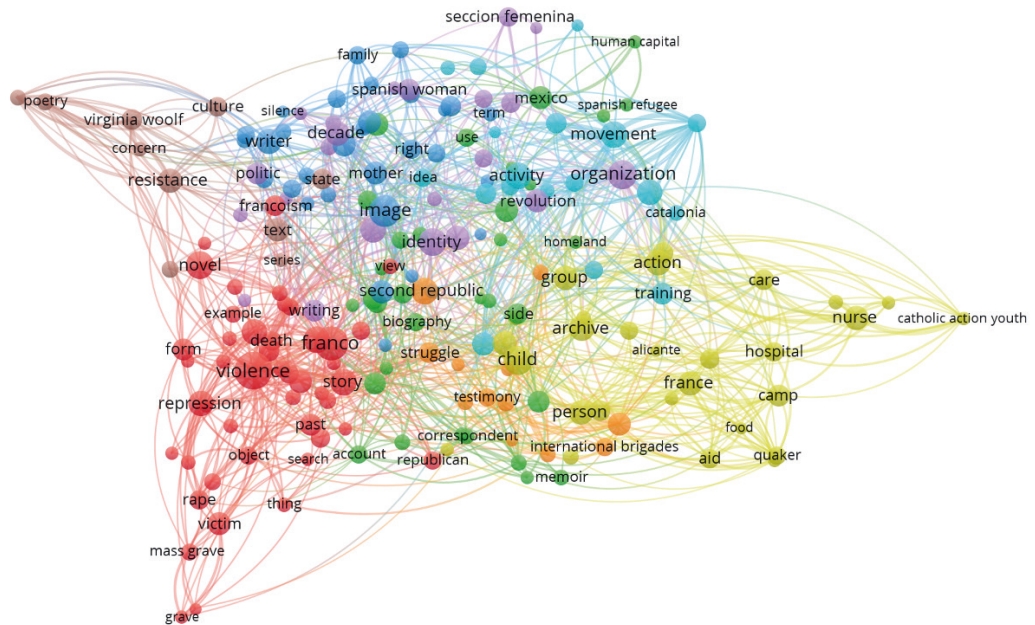
5. Díez, and Fernández, 2019.

6. Rodríguez López, 2004.

7. Martínez Rus, 2014.

and title also guides us toward this thematic division. Figure 4 illustrates these divisions using different colours. The network created identified 8 groups: the terms represented in red, the most numerous group, correspond to the topic of repression and violence against women; the green group, which is the most heterogeneous, corresponds with the topic of exile and refugees, biographies and communication; the blue group, the third most numerous, includes terms relating to exile and refugees above all; the terms represented in yellow include concepts from humanitarian aid and healthcare, which is also covered in the orange group; the concepts shown in pale blue are identified with Women’s mobilisation, a topic also covered in the purple cluster; and the group shown in brown focusses on literature. This figure has been created using the terms that appear in the abstracts and titles of the 171 records. To accomplish this, we employed the VOSviewer software to generate the network through a comprehensive analysis. From those concepts that appeared at least 5 times, we selected the 200 most relevant.

Figure 4. Network of terms found in the title and abstract of the 171 records analysed



Further examination of the data, in conjunction with the results obtained from the consulted databases, has unveiled that the body of literature comprises numerous studies and research pieces centred on the repression of women during the Civil War. This underscores the substantial progress made in the study of political violence and gender-based repression, a field where, as noted by María de los Llanos Pérez, «the theoretical and methodological foundations are already well established»⁸. Moreover, numerous studies are focusing on the involvement of women in healthcare and their roles as communicators and witnesses of events during the analysed period. It should also be noted that many studies don't just focus on the war period. Some analyses look at times before the war started in July 1936 or after it ended in April 1939. This makes sense when considering that many of the matters considered in the research are approached considering the situation prior to the start of the war during the Second Republic, while others continue into the post-war period and the exile that many women suffered.

The most significant works published between 2013 and 2022 in the first section, focusing on humanitarian aid and healthcare, delve into the diverse humanitarian activities undertaken by Spanish and foreign women during specific moments of the conflict. In terms of healthcare, a significant body of literature has emerged regarding the role of nurses in providing healthcare services on both the Republican and Francoist sides during the period under study.

A notable contribution in this field, specifically within the Francoist zone, is the work published in 2018 by Antonio Moral⁹. This article explores the humanitarian aid efforts undertaken by women associated with Carlism. The research, concentrating on the Margaritas women's organisation and the Socorro Blanco formation, examines and underscores the social assistance and care for the wounded provided by Carlist women. These women, upon the outbreak of the Civil War, departed from the traditional roles assigned to them by Carlism. Elena Chamorro's¹⁰ 2022 publication on the juventudes femeninas groups of Acción Católica and their establishment of the Hermandad de Enfermeras Salus Infirmorum during the Civil War also merits attention.

Centring on the context of the Republican area, Marta Camps-Calvet, Santiago Gorostiza and David Saurí¹¹ published a piece of research in 2022 on the humanitarian work done in the city of Barcelona by a collective of women close to anarchism. Their action in agricultural production and food preparation made it possible to maintain the food supply during some of the most difficult times in the conflict in a city that not only suffered from the scourge of the war, but which also saw its population multiply owing to the mass arrival of refugees from all over Spain.

The work by García Ferrandis and Martínez-Vidal¹², which examines the role of British Quaker women in providing care at a children's hospital in Alicante within a broader context,

8. Pérez, 2022.

9. Moral, 2018.

10. Chamorro, 2022.

11. Camps-Calvet, Gorostiza and Saurí, 2022.

12. García Ferrandis, and Martínez-Vidal, 2019.

is notable in the realm of humanitarian aid from abroad, where numerous women played significant roles. Regarding the presence of British female volunteers, Roseanna Webster's¹³ 2015 article endeavours to address, from a gender perspective, questions about female participation that previous works had left unanswered. Additionally, special attention should be given to Linda Palfreeman's¹⁴ 2018 article on Fernanda Jacobsen, a representative of the Scottish Ambulance Unit in Spain and the sole woman within this corps of Scottish volunteers, shedding light on the involvement of women from outside Spain who volunteered during the Civil War. Palfreeman is one of the authors with the most publications in the chronological framework and the subject of study of the present work, as shown in the bibliometric analysis. Indeed, in 2020¹⁵ she published a work linking humanitarian aid and exile when considering the work of British Quaker volunteers with women and children in the internment camps in France after the war.

Rodríguez-Espinosa emerges as another prolific author identified in the bibliometric analysis spanning from 2014 to 2022. In a compelling work from 2018¹⁶, he examines the actions of three women during and after the Civil War: Australian Aileen Palmer, British Nan Green, and Swede Kajsa Rothman. Rodríguez-Espinosa delineates their roles as interpreters in the health service of the XIV International Brigade, various hospitals, and the Canadian Blood Transfusions Unit, respectively. Additionally, he outlines some of the humanitarian assistance activities they undertook during and after the conflict. Particularly noteworthy is Rothman's establishment of Kajsa's Milk Fund in late 1937 to provide milk for Spanish children. After the war, she crossed the border between Spain and France alongside thousands of refugees and joined the International Commission, aiding Republican refugees in starting anew in Mexico. Jane Hanley's¹⁷ 2016 work on the humanitarian activities of Australian nurse Agnes Hodgson in the Republican area also stands out among publications on foreign volunteers and their humanitarian efforts.

In terms of studies strictly focused on the field of healthcare and the activities of women during the period under examination, there has been a notable increase in academic publications compared to previous stages. Researchers and educators from faculties of health sciences at universities such as Alicante, Castilla La Mancha, and Alcalá de Henares have been involved in this aspect. The article by Patricia Domínguez, Blanca Espina, Sagrario Gómez, Azucena Hernández, Mercedes Dios-Aguado, and Joaquim Pina¹⁸ in 2019 sheds light on how nursing services were organised in both areas. Additionally, the 2021 article by María López, Rubén Mirón-González, María-José Castro and José-María Jiménez¹⁹ is of interest regarding the two opposing regions. This provides an intriguing analysis of the training received by

13. Webster, 2019.

14. Palfreeman, 2018.

15. Palfreeman, 2020.

16. Ibid, 2018.

17. Hanley, 2016.

18. Domínguez, 2019.

19. López, Mirón-González, Castro and Jiménez, 2021.

nurses, a topic previously explored by historiography in the context of the world wars, but which had been largely unaddressed in the context of the Spanish Civil War.

Regarding works published on the subject of healthcare in the geographical framework of the Republican region, the article by Sioban Nelson, Paola Galbany and Gloria Gallego-Caminero²⁰ is of particular interest. In addition to providing an overview of the nursing situation in Spain before the Civil War, the article also examines the role of Spanish nurses in the Republican zone and the arrival of foreign volunteer nurses. In this research they identify 342 nurses from 40 countries and calculate that a total of 600 came to Spain, underlining their commitment to the Republican cause.

In 2016, Ruiz-Berdún and Gomís²¹ published an interesting piece of research on midwives, an exclusively female group of healthcare professionals at that time. This study builds upon research conducted before 2012 on the persecution of midwives in Madrid and the subsequent exile forced upon some of them. In their 2016 work, Ruiz-Berdún and Gomís examine the repression experienced by a particular group, emphasising how the murders of certain members during the early stages of the Civil War were linked to their political affiliations. It is noteworthy that the authors emphasised the importance of rescuing the women who played significant roles in history from anonymity, advocating for detailed research into the murders or subsequent repression of various women who worked as midwives.

Several research articles have been published on the thematic area of biography, highlighting its significance as a historical study that allows for a close examination of historical transformations. In 2016, the journal *Historia y Política* published a work by Miren Llona²² which offered an interesting profile of Dolores Ibárruri, la Pasionaria. As depicted in Figure 4, this work has become a reference point and has received a substantial number of citations: 17. The analysis of the symbolism surrounding the figure of La Pasionaria in the Republican area, along with the evolution of her image throughout the conflict, correlates with the shifts in the concept of gender and femininity as the war unfolded. This elucidation sheds light on how the concept of femininity acquired a fluid and evolving significance during these pivotal moments.

In the realm of biography, María Jesús Pérez Espí²³ published a political biography of Mercedes Sanz Bachiller in 2021. This work focuses on the founder of Auxilio Social in 1936 and draws upon previous research conducted on her. This comprehensive study not only delves into her activities during the Civil War but also traces her political trajectory over time, providing valuable insights.

Matilde Eiroa's²⁴ 2017 profile of Isabel Oyarzábal de Palencia offers intriguing insights. Alongside portraying her as a woman of letters, it presents her perspective on the Civil War.

20. Nelson, Galbany, and Gallego-Caminero, 2020.

21. Ruiz-Berdún and Gomis, 2016.

22. Llona, 2016.

23. Pérez Espí, 2021.

24. Eiroa, 2017.

In 2022, Laura Palomo-Alepo²⁵ conducted another analysis of Oyarzábal's work, focusing on her narrative of the Civil War and her social commitment. Sara Álvarez's²⁶ 2018 biographic profile of Piedad Domínguez Díaz, who was married to Agapito García Atadell, is also noteworthy. In the realm of female artists and intellectuals, Maite Garbayo-Maeztu and Noemí de Haro-García's²⁷ publication delves into the participation of women in the Republic's pavilion at the Paris International Exhibition of 1937, providing biographic and artistic profiles of some of them. Additionally, José Manuel Rodríguez's²⁸ 2022 work on the illustrator Luisa Butler Pastor collates her experiences during the Civil War and her journey to resume her work as an artist after the conflict.

A series of studies on the figures of foreign correspondents in Spain and their reports during the Civil War offer a significant analysis of the unique experiences of women during this period. Among the notable contributions is that of Mercedes Caballer²⁹, who highlighted in her work how female writers from the USA established their unique identity and presence by utilising the press to connect with the broader audience. In 2016, Mirta Núñez Díaz-Balart³⁰ published a work on the presence of women in journalism in the Civil War. And in 2017, Noel Valis³¹ published a work on the views of the conflict of female correspondents from the US. The work of Carmen Agustín-Lacruz and Luis Blanco-Domingo³² from 2021 is also of note in this section. In their study, they shed light on the significant contribution of female photojournalists from diverse countries during the Aragón region's Civil War. These women not only created compelling photographic narratives but also showcased their unwavering ideological dedication to the Republican cause.

The communication section comprises a wide range of publications delving into the experiences of foreign correspondents and photographers in Spain, accentuating the contributions of foreign women in the media landscape alongside the surge of propaganda. Within this framework, notable research centres on María Luz Morales, the inaugural female editor of the newspaper *La Vanguardia*, a position she held from August 1936 to February 1937. Lázaro and Salgado's³³ work provides an exhaustive description of Morales' pioneering role in Spanish journalism during the early months of the Civil War. Morales is also the subject of a book by María Ángeles Cabré³⁴ from 2017. Silvia Espinosa's³⁵ study on the role of women in radio broadcasting is also noteworthy, spanning from the 1920s to the conclusion of the

25. Palomo-Alepo, 2022.

26. Álvarez, 2018.

27. Garbayo-Maeztu and Haro-García, 2022.

28. Rodríguez, 2022.

29. Caballer, 2019.

30. Núñez Díaz-Balart, 2016.

31. Valis, 2017.

32. Agustín-Lacruz and Blanco-Domingo, 2021.

33. Lázaro and Salgado, 2020.

34. Cabré, 2017.

35. Espinosa, 2016.

Spanish Civil War. Furthermore, in 2022, Díaz Nosty³⁶ published comprehensive research on the presence of foreign journalists in the Spanish Civil War. Analysing nearly 700 texts, the study quantifies the involvement of nearly 200 journalists from countries such as the United Kingdom, USA, and France, providing insights into the female perspective on the conflict.

Fátima Gil³⁷ and Salvador Gómez's work from 2014 examines how the *Noticiero español* constructed the stereotype of women linked to the Sección Femenina. Their study highlights its utilisation for propaganda purposes since 1938 and is noteworthy within the realm of publications concerning propaganda activities. In relation to the transmission of the archetype of woman that traditionalism aspired to implement in society, which was transmitted by written local media, Sáenz del Castillo³⁸ published an article in 2018 on the model of woman postulated by the newspaper *El Pensamiento Alavés*, from Álava.

In the analysis of the section on refugees and exile, the chronological boundary of the end of the war is at times surpassed. Research extends to women who departed Spain before 1939, as evidenced by Jean-François Botrel's³⁹ 2021 study. However, the majority of research pertains to the exodus from Spain in March and April 1939, including testimonies from concentration camps in France or experiences from across the Atlantic. Alba Martínez's⁴⁰ 2019 work on gender and the memory of Republican exile in France is particularly noteworthy. It focuses on the experiences of four women who were forced into exile. Additionally, Barbara Greco's⁴¹ 2020 publication delves into women, militancy, and exile. Regarding exile and the female experience, the 2021 work coordinated by Ángeles Egado, Matilde Eiroa, Encarnación Lemus, and Marifé Santiago⁴² deserves mention. This work compiles contributions from the International Congress on Women in Republican Exile of 1939. Alba Martínez's⁴³ contribution from 2022 is also of significance, providing a succinct overview of refugees in the 20th century from a gender perspective, focusing on research into female Spanish Republican exile. Furthermore, Nadia de Cristóforis⁴⁴ published a study in 2022 exploring Basque women residing in Argentina with ties to Basque nationalism, who, during the Civil War, engaged in activities to aid those fleeing Francoist repression.

The section on Women's mobilisation encompasses a substantial body of publications and research from the designated time period under study. The category of Women's mobilisation encompasses women who were affiliated with the Sección Femenina, as well as those who were involved in the Agrupación de Mujeres Antifascistas. Regarding publications about

36. Díaz Nosty, 2022

37. Gil Gascón and Gómez García, 2014.

38. Sáenz del Castillo, 2018.

39. Botrel, 2022

40. Martínez Martínez, 2019.

41. Greco, 2020.

42. Egado, Eiroa, Lemus, and Santiago, 2021.

43. Martínez Martínez, 2022.

44. De Cristóforis, 2022.

events on the insurgent side, in 2022, Julio Prada⁴⁵ published on female agency focussing on the specific case of the sewing workshops of the women's organisation *Mujeres al Servicio de España*. One of the most notable researchers of the *Sección Femenina* is Begoña Barrera⁴⁶ who in 2019 published an interesting piece on the early years of its activity, connecting gender theory with the history of emotions. In 2020 she published research⁴⁷ on the concept of collective identity that the *Sección Femenina* built, and in 2019 published a book⁴⁸ on the *Sección Femenina* between 1934 and 1977, covering its consolidation as an element of Women's mobilisation during the Civil War.

In the context of gender identity and the role of the *Sección Femenina*, it is imperative to mention Ángela Cenarro's⁴⁹ work from 2017. In her analysis, she examined how *Sección Femenina*'s discourse defined the model of femininity in the late Civil War and the post-war period. Additionally, Inbal Ofer's⁵⁰ 2018 study is noteworthy for its exploration of the relationship between gender and space within the framework of the Civil War, emphasising the significance of the *Sección Femenina*. Furthermore, in 2016 Estefanía Langarita⁵¹ published an interesting work on how war widows contributed to the construction of the dictatorship by serving as a cohesive element. In 2018 Sofía Rodríguez López and Antonio Cazorla⁵² provided a comprehensive analysis of the significant roles that women affiliated with the Franco regime played in espionage activities during the Spanish Civil War. In 2020, Sofía Rodríguez López⁵³ published a work examining the political agency and violent activities of women associated with the *Sección Femenina*, the *Juventudes de Acción Católica*, and traditionalists within a chronological framework spanning from 1934 to 1944.

Carmen Núñez published a work in 2022 focused on the *Colegio Mayor Santa Teresa de Jesús*, which was linked to the *Sección Femenina*. In her study, she elucidates how the *Residencia de Señoritas* relocated to Valencia during the war and detailed the evolution of this institution in the post-war era, particularly from 1940 onwards. She highlighted its transition from a «secular and liberal centre into another Catholic and conservative one during its early years».⁵⁴

Francisco Jiménez⁵⁵ studied the mobilisation of women by the *Sección Femenina* during the Civil War in the province of Granada from a local history perspective. Going

45. Prada, 2022.

46. Barrera, 2019.

47. Barrera, 2020.

48. Barrera, 2019.

49. Cenarro, 2017.

50. Ofer, 2018.

51. Langarita, 2016.

52. Rodríguez López and Cazorla, 2018.

53. Rodríguez López, 2020.

54. Núñez, 2022.

55. Jiménez, 2017.

outside Spain's borders, Alejandra Noemí's⁵⁶ publication from 2019 on female mobilisation in Argentina in favour of Francoism during the Civil War is also of note.

Regarding the mobilisation of women in the insurgent area, Ángela Pérez del Puerto's⁵⁷ work from 2020, based on the correspondence sent to female members of Acción Católica instructing them to avoid the politicisation that the Falange was implementing, is also noteworthy.

In 2018, Marta Ackelsberg⁵⁸ analysed the recruitment and training activities of the anarchist organisation *Mujeres Libres* by studying the biographies of some of its founders. Laura Sánchez Blanco⁵⁹ also published research on *Mujeres Libres* in 2017. Rosa Monlleó⁶⁰ in 2019, explored the actions of *Mujeres Antifascistas*, *Unión de Muchachas*, and *Mujeres Libres*, examining the emancipation of women from male tutelage within these movements and their involvement in factories or frontline combat. In 2022, Noelia Ojeda and María Dolores García Ramos⁶¹ conducted an analysis of the journal *Mujeres Libres*, published from 1936 to 1938, highlighting the emphasis it placed on the role of women in society and the tasks they carried out both at the front and in rear positions. José Carlos Rueda's⁶² 2022 work focused on the identity, ideas, and representation of women affiliated with the Communist Party. Additionally, in 2020, Eider de Dios Fernández⁶³ examined changes in the role of domestic servants in Spain and the radicalisation of their demands during the conflict, mobilised through different unions, covering a time frame that starts in the 1920s and continues until 1938 at the height of the Spanish Civil War. Furthermore, it is noteworthy to mention additional studies on female combatants during the Civil War. Although not included in the analysis of Scopus and Web of Science, other works published in this field, such as those by Berger (2022) and Gutiérrez (2022), also delve into this issue.

In recent years, the historiographic trend concerning the violence perpetrated on the population during the conflict has encompassed various research pieces and studies specifically focused on the violence endured by women. In 2020, Adriana Cases and Teresa Ortega⁶⁴ provided a historiographic overview of gender-based repression and violence under Franco. Subsequently, in 2022, María de los Llanos Pérez⁶⁵ conducted a historiographic evaluation of this issue, tracing back to the 1990s and the early stages of the study of the repression of women. Noteworthy is the section dedicated by María Dolores Ramos⁶⁶ to Francoist repres-

56. Ferreira, 2019.

57. Pérez del Puerto, 2020.

58. Ackelsberg, 2018.

59. Sánchez Blanco, 2017.

60. Monlleó, 2019.

61. Ojeda and García Ramos, 2022.

62. Rueda, 2022.

63. Dios Fernández, 2020.

64. Cases Sola and Ortega López, 2020.

65. Pérez, 2022.

66. Pérez, 2015.

sion of women in a review covering works from around 2015. Alongside the works compiled by María de los Llanos Pérez, the present piece incorporates works gathered from the Web of Science and Scopus databases. Moreover, it is important to highlight the volume coordinated by Ángela Cenarro and Conxita Mir⁶⁷ in 2021 focusing on women, gender, and violence during the Civil War and the dictatorship. Additionally, the work coordinated by Ángeles Egido and Jorge Montes⁶⁸ sheds light on the historiographical neglect of this issue. Other significant contributions include Francisca Moya's⁶⁹ 2015 work on the discourse of the sentencing of women, as well as Ángel Alcalde's⁷⁰ 2021 study on the rape of women in the context of the war and the post-war period.

Drawing from the results obtained from the databases, several notable works stand out in this section. For instance, Gema Varona's⁷¹ research on sexual violence by Moroccan soldiers against women is particularly noteworthy. Similarly, research on violence inflicted on women simply for their gender, such as the study by Solé⁷² from 2016, hold significance. Furthermore, a collaborative work by Díaz-Ramonedá⁷³, Herrasti and Solé sheds light on gender-based violence and disparities in the treatment of victims during cadaver exhumations. Publications focusing on victim testimonies of reprisals are also prominently featured, such as Sarah Leggot's⁷⁴ study on experiences in Ventas prison and the sexual violence endured by Catalan-Galician political activist Mercedes Núñez Targa. Notable contributions focusing on local histories of repression include Matilde Peinado's⁷⁵ article on events in the province of Jaén and Laura Muñoz Encinar's⁷⁶ 2019 publication centred on the region of Extremadura. From the perspective of the propagation of repression, significant works include Enrique del Rey's⁷⁷ research on comics and the recovery of memory of repression of women, as well as Igor Barrenechea's⁷⁸ study on Spanish cinema's discourse of repression between 1975 and 2011. Additionally, Laura Sánchez Blanco's⁷⁹ 2016 book on the repression of women in the Republican area serves as a crucial contribution to this section, where Francoism's repression serves as the central focus of the works.

67. Mir, and Cenarro, 2021.

68. Egido and Montes, 2018.

69. Moya, 2015.

70. Alcalde, 2021.

71. Varona, 2021.

72. Solé, 2016.

73. Díaz-Ramonedá, Herrasti and Solé, 2021.

74. Leggot, 2019.

75. Peinado, 2018.

76. Muñoz Encinar, 2020.

77. Del Rey, 2019.

78. Barrenechea, 2019.

79. Sánchez Blanco, 2016.

Limitations

The authors acknowledge that the search strategy employed in this research, relying on works indexed in Web of Science and Scopus, may inadvertently exclude certain research documents pertinent to this study that are not encompassed within these databases. Nonetheless, the authors contend that the prominence and credibility of the selected databases, coupled with the imperative to delineate the scope of the search, justify the decision not to expand the inclusion of works beyond this purview. Future research endeavours should aim to explore these publications through a gender-focused lens, thereby delving deeper into and illuminating the pivotal role of women in key periods of history.

Conclusions

An exhaustive examination of publications from the past decade uncovers a notable trend: 2016 stands out as the peak year, witnessing the highest volume of publications. This noteworthy discovery emphasises the importance of utilising multiple databases for comprehensive research analysis, as dependence on a single database could have led to the oversight of this critical insight. Furthermore, the overall production pattern appears sporadic, lacking any discernible trend.

When evaluating the productivity of authors between 2013 and 2022, Scopus reveals that only 11 individuals within the identified cohort published two or three works, whereas Web of Science reports this figure as 14. Notably, Linda Palfreeman and Marcos Rodríguez Espinosa stand out as prominent figures within this group, each contributing three works. Furthermore, it's worth mentioning that the majority of these authors are based in Spain, with the second-largest group coming from the USA.

The citation count was employed as a metric to assess the significance of the works. This analysis revealed that «The Falange is a way of being (a woman): gender discourses and identities in the Women Section's periodicals (1938-1945)» garnered ten citations in Web of Science between its publication and 2022. Similarly, «Digging up the recent Spanish memory: Genetic identification of human remains from mass graves of the Spanish Civil War and posterior dictatorship» received 27 citations in Scopus. These numbers make them the works with the highest recognition. When considering the average citations per year, «Unearthing gendered repression: an analysis of the violence suffered by women during the Civil War and Franco's dictatorship in Southwestern Spain» holds the highest rank in Web of Science with 2.25 citations per year. Conversely, in Scopus, «Digging up the recent Spanish memory: Genetic identification of human remains from mass graves of the Spanish Civil War and posterior dictatorship» leads with an average of 3.857 citations per year. The breadth of publications addressing this subject matter is notable. Particularly, the journal *Historia y Política* stands out for publishing four works on this topic. Moreover, the prominence of Spanish journals is apparent, followed by those published in the United Kingdom.

This analysis also facilitates a clear thematic categorization: humanitarian aid and healthcare; biographical studies; communication dynamics; experiences of exile and refugee communities; women's mobilisation; and repression and violence against women. Moreover, this categorization allows for an in-depth examination of women's roles as historical subjects within various domains of the Civil War. This analysis underscores the escalating research focus on the repression of women during the analysed period and how studies from disciplines within the health sciences shed light on historical dimensions. Furthermore, it is noteworthy to observe the burgeoning research on the involvement of foreign women, such as nurses, translators, and journalists, in the conflict. This underscores their contributions to and perspectives on the Civil War. There has been a gradual resurgence in biographical and prosopographical studies, facilitating a closer examination of female figures. This trend perhaps warrants further encouragement within the academic realm and could serve as a focal point for future research endeavours.

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