

# Citation Analysis of Empirical and Conceptual Applications of Interbehaviorism in Contemporary Research: 1984-2021

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## Background

J.R Kantor's Interbehaviorism was first developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Interbehaviorism characterizes a system from a naturalistic foundation to explain all scientific psychology, behavior, and activity.

To our knowledge, the most recent objective evaluation of the impact of and trends in Interbehavioral psychology was researched by Ruben (1984), who conducted a citation analysis of scholarly work between 1937 and 1983.

Consensus on the relative utility of Interbehaviorism in contemporary behavior science appears to be mixed (Dixon & Belisle, 2021; Hayes & Fryling, 2019; Jacobs, 2020; Rehfeldt et al., 2020).

## Purpose of Review

Contribute a form of objective data to evaluate the relative utility and influence of Interbehaviorism between 1984 and 2021.

Provide a contemporary account of research on Interbehaviorism which extends the 1937-1983 citation analysis provided by Ruben (1984).

Evaluate the contemporary publishing trends in Interbehaviorism (i.e., dominated by a particular author, country, or type of research).

## Method

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Peer-reviewed, English language, published between 1984-2021
- Included at least one of the following search term in text: Interbehaviorism, Interbehavioral Psychology, Interbehavior, Interbehavioral Field

### Search Strategy:

- Databases: Web of Science and PsycINFO Ovid

### Excluded:

- Book chapters, conference proceedings, and dissertations

### Analysis Categories:

- Author, Journal, Year, Empirical/Non-Empirical, Topic, Empirical details (population, # of participants, manipulation, measures, results), and Country of Origin
- Empirical = cited at least one of the search terms in text and presented original data
- Non-Empirical (NE)
  - NE Review = book reviews, literature reviews, editorial overview articles, commentaries on target articles, replies to commentaries that cited at least one of the search terms
  - NE Conceptual = theoretical papers that cited at least one of the search terms

Fig 1. Flow diagram of citation analysis

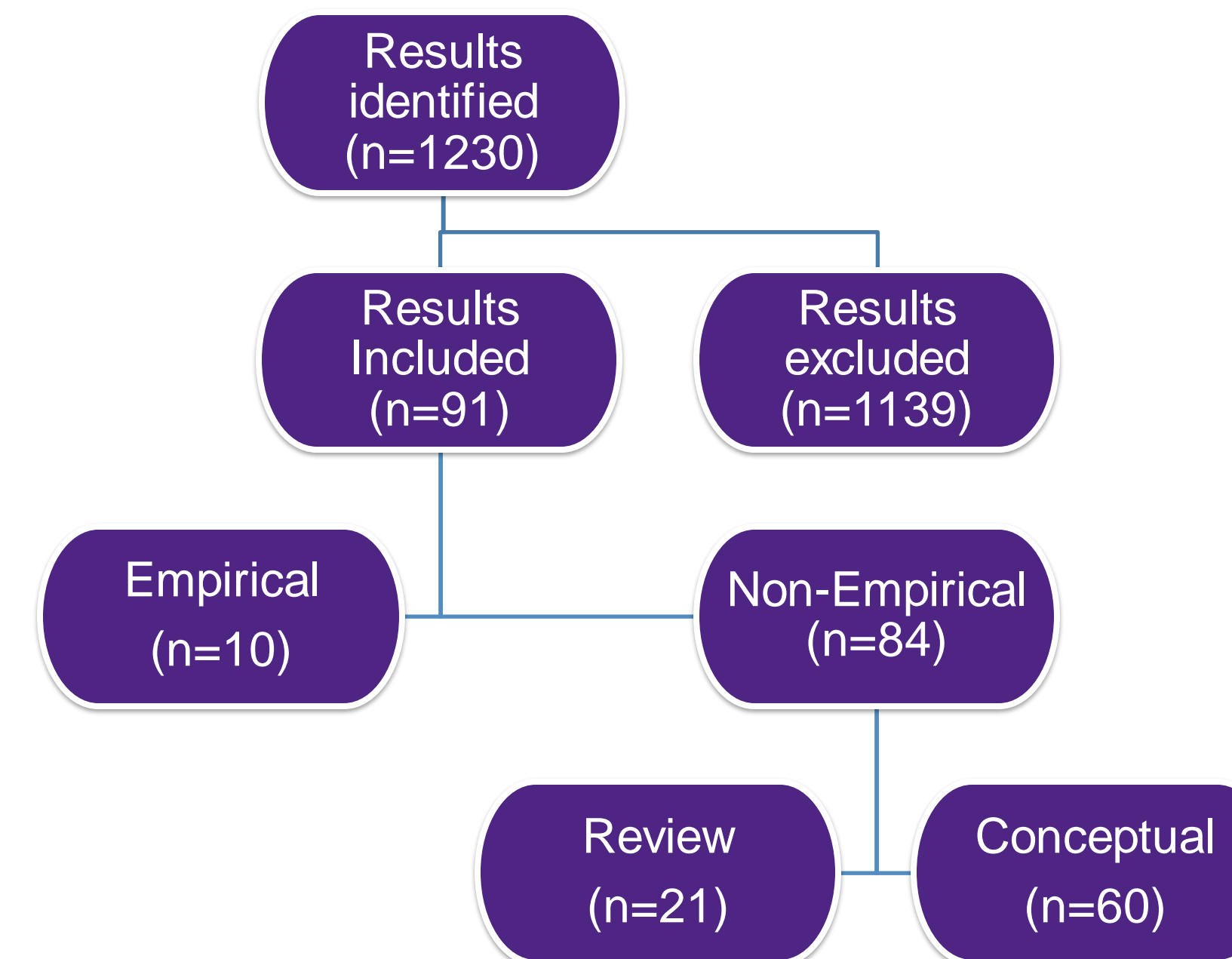


Fig 2. Number of Empirical and Non-Empirical (Conceptual and Review) Publications Between 1984-2021

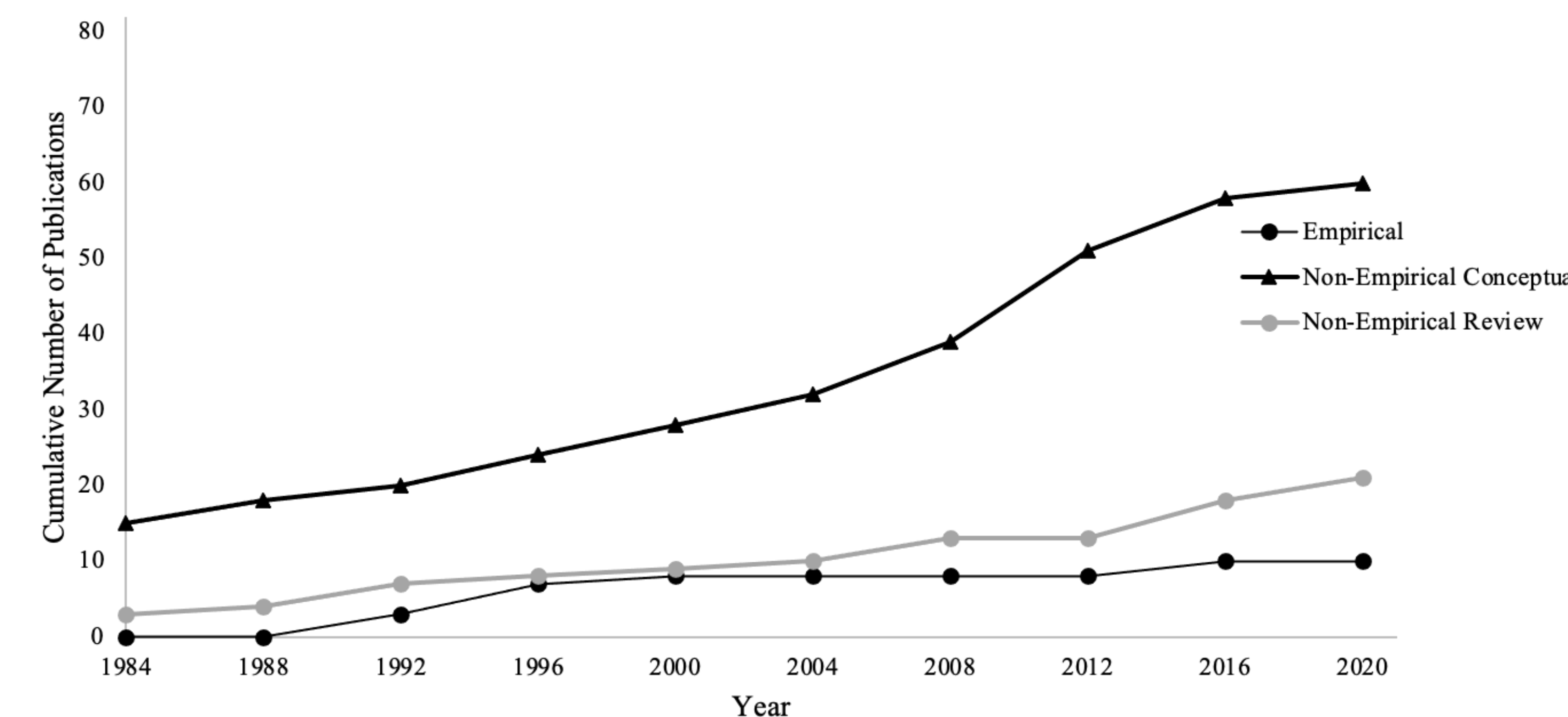
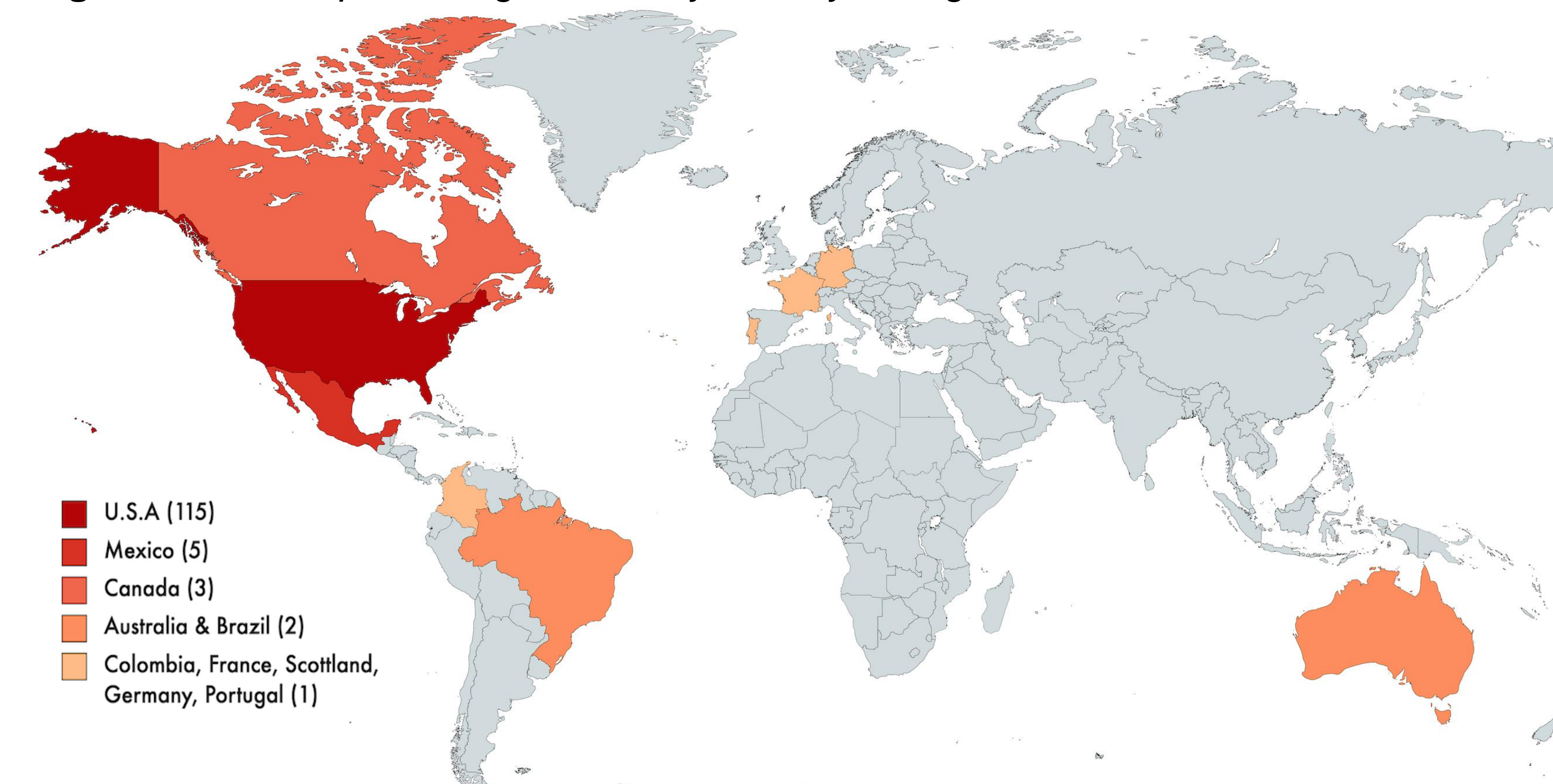


Fig 3. Number of publishing authors by country of origin



## Results

Our review yielded 91 peer-reviewed articles. 10 were categorized as Empirical, 81 were Non-Empirical. Out of the Non-Empirical articles, 21 were review articles, and 60 were conceptual. The number of articles published in the U.S.A was 78. Within the U.S.A, 22 were published in Nevada. 16 were published outside of the U.S.A.

## Discussion

The number of Non-Empirical articles far-exceed the number of Empirical articles. Most research was localized to the U.S, particularly Reno, NV.

### Limitations

- The inclusion criteria only included peer-reviewed research in the English language. This excluded several articles that were published in other languages (i.e., Spanish), as well as non-peer reviewed dissertations and book chapters.
- Interobserver agreement was not carried out at this stage of the project

### Conclusions:

- Interbehaviorism has had a clear influence on modern behavioral science that persists and may be trending upward.
- The influence and application of interbehaviorism in contemporary research continues to be in the realm of non-empirical research, whereas empirical research is less common.

## References

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