

# THE SOCIAL SPACE OF SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY OF LEADING JOURNALS (2001-2021)



THE SWEDISH SCHOOL OF LIBRARY  
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE  
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# PIERRE BOURDIEU'S SOCIAL SPACE

Field or  
*Champ*

Agents

Capital

Habitus

Historical  
perspective

## **(SOME) PREVIOUS RESEARCH**

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Gingras (1991) on the field of Canadian Physics (historical perspective)

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Cronin (2005) and Gingras (2008) on symbolic capital

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Social capital & co-authorship  
(Abbasi et. 2014)

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Other proxies for capital besides citations  
(Desrochers et al., 2018)

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Costly collaboration and negative capital  
(Mongeon & Larivière, 2016)

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# SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE



## Emerging field



## Journals as “objectified capital”

- Leading journals embed more symbolic capital
- (JIF > the average in the field)

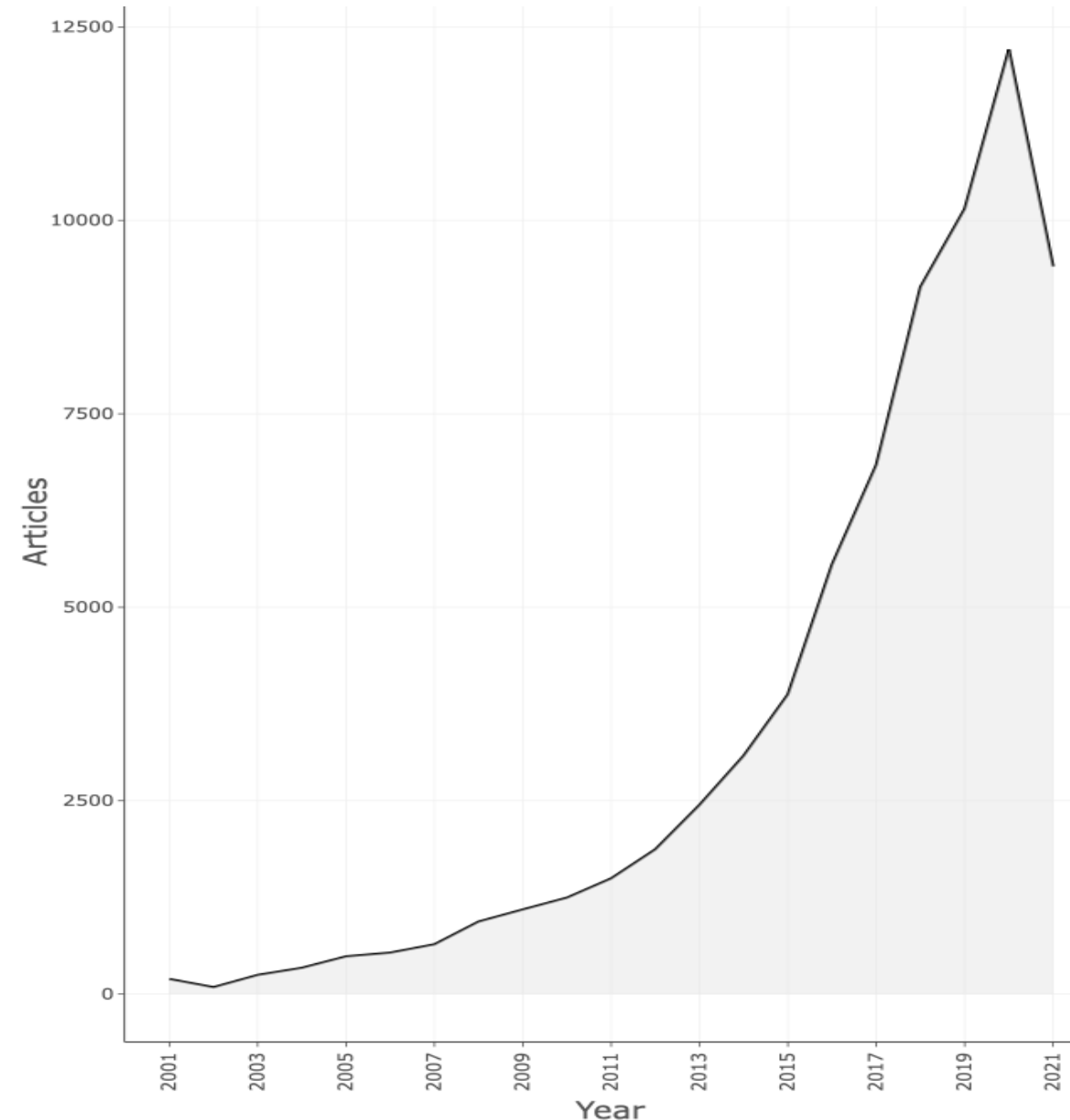


## Which agents?










- university and research centers as collective agents

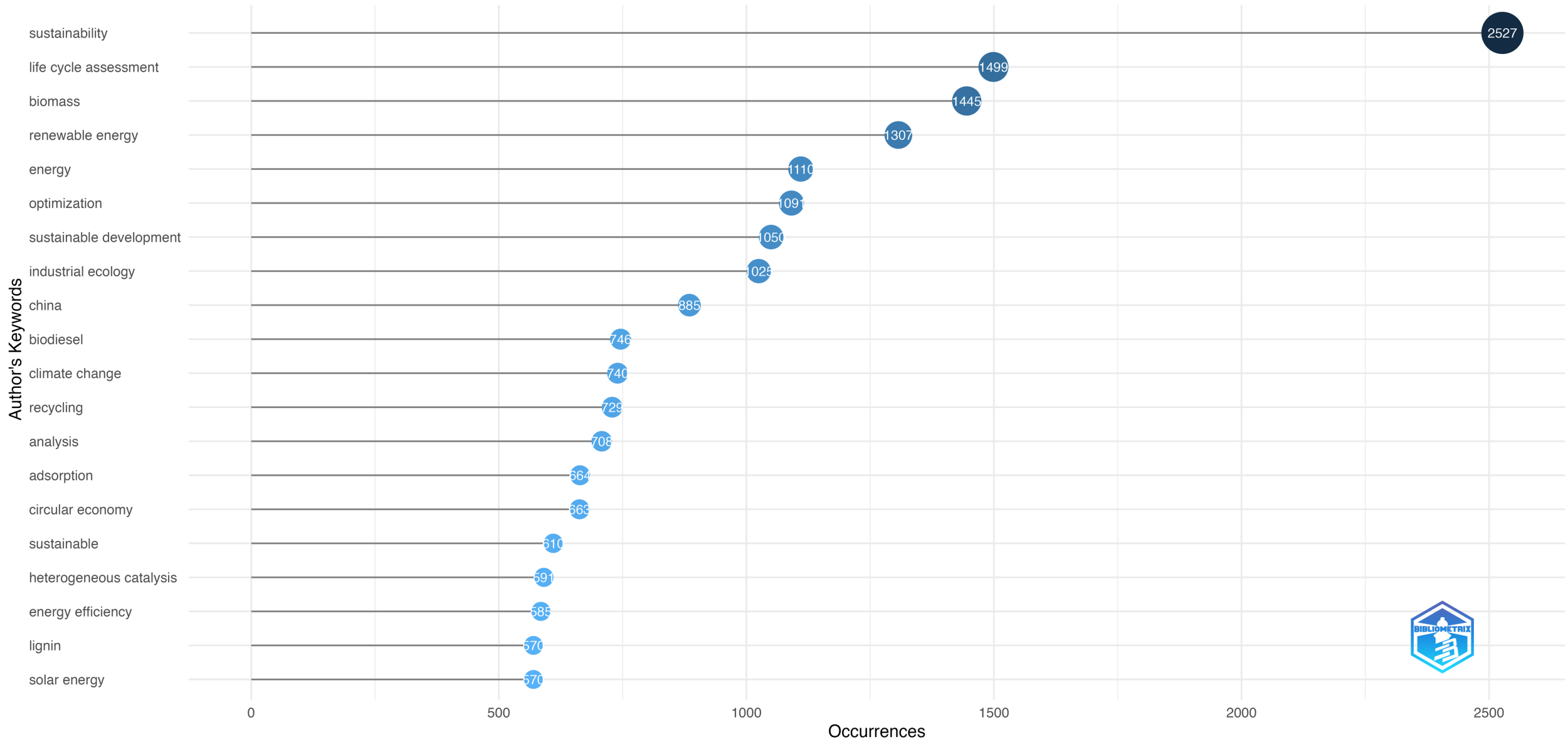
# THE DATA

- ❖ From *Web of Science (Core Collection)*
- ❖ Category “Green & Sustainable Science & Technology” (Bautista-Puig et al. 2021)
- ❖ Number of documents: 71871 (articles only)
- ❖ Data analysis with *bibliometrix* (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017)
  - Focus on:
    - symbolic capital through journal co-citation (see Gingras, 2008);
    - Countries and Affiliation co-authorship (social and symbolic capital)



# MAIN INFORMATION ON THE DATASET

Timespan	2001:2021	
Sources	18	
Documents	71871	
Authors	122227	
Authors of single-authored docs	2333	
International Co-Authorship	29.2 %	
Author's Keywords (DE)	122760	
References	1819331	
Document Average Age	5.05	

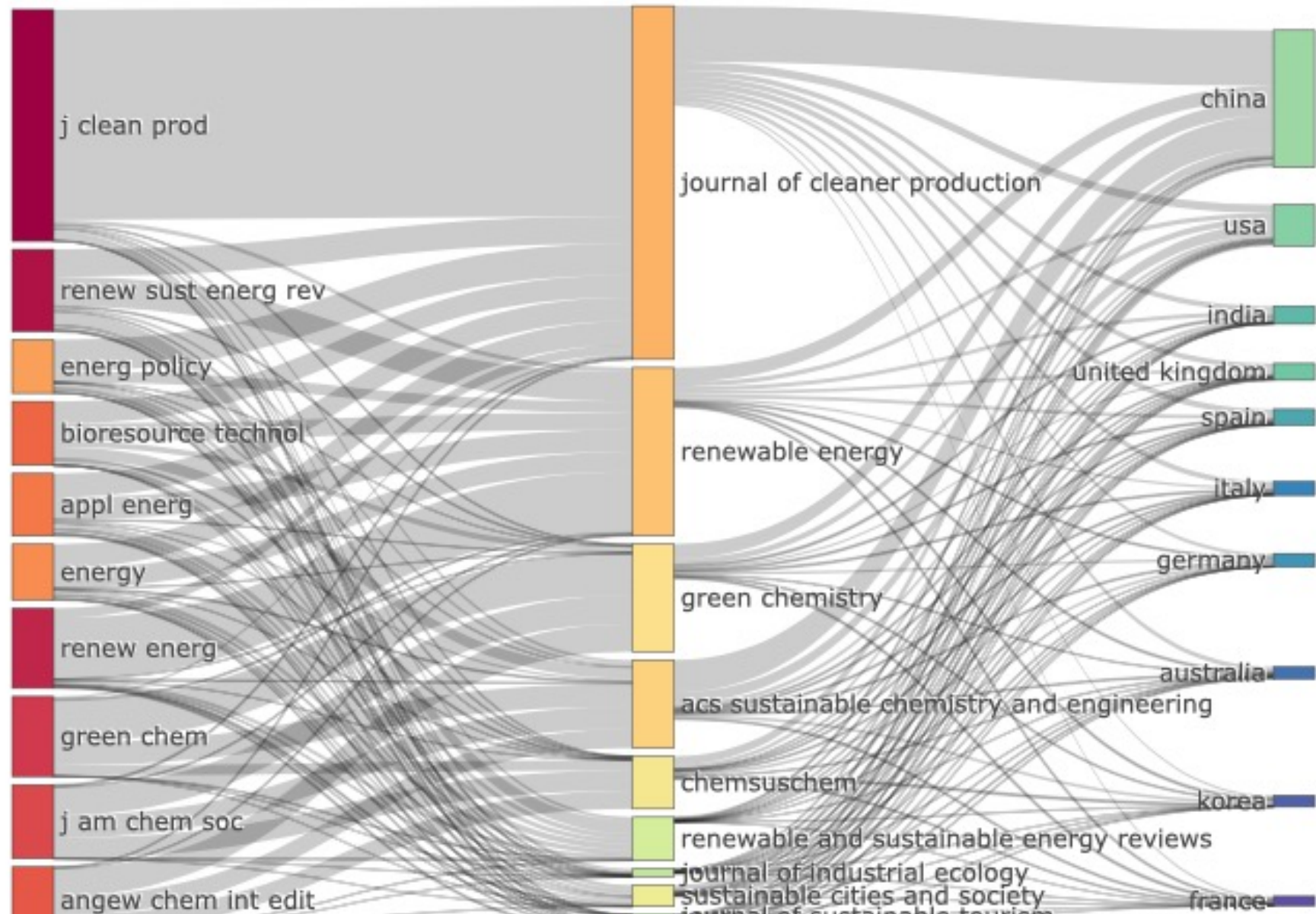




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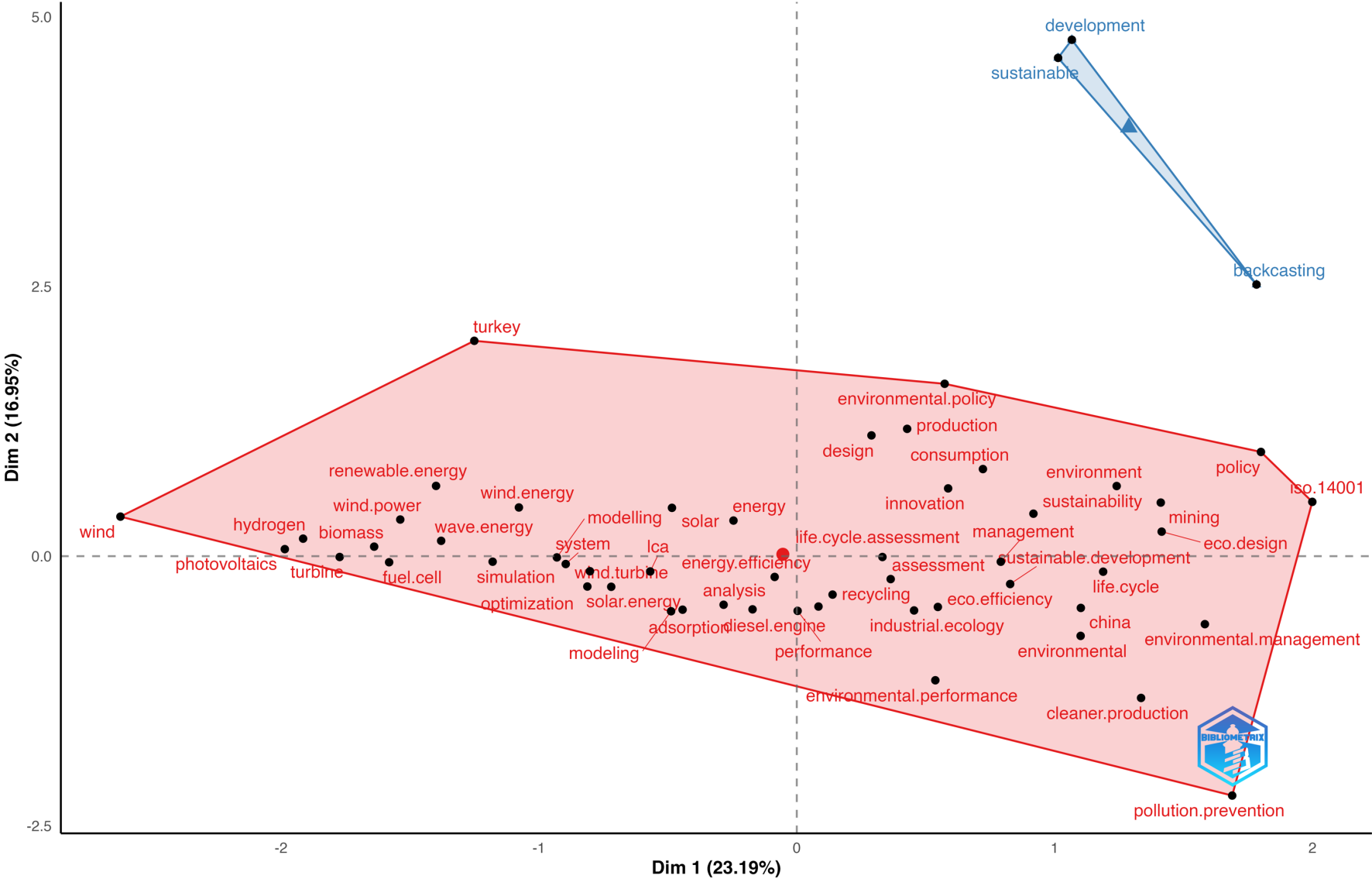
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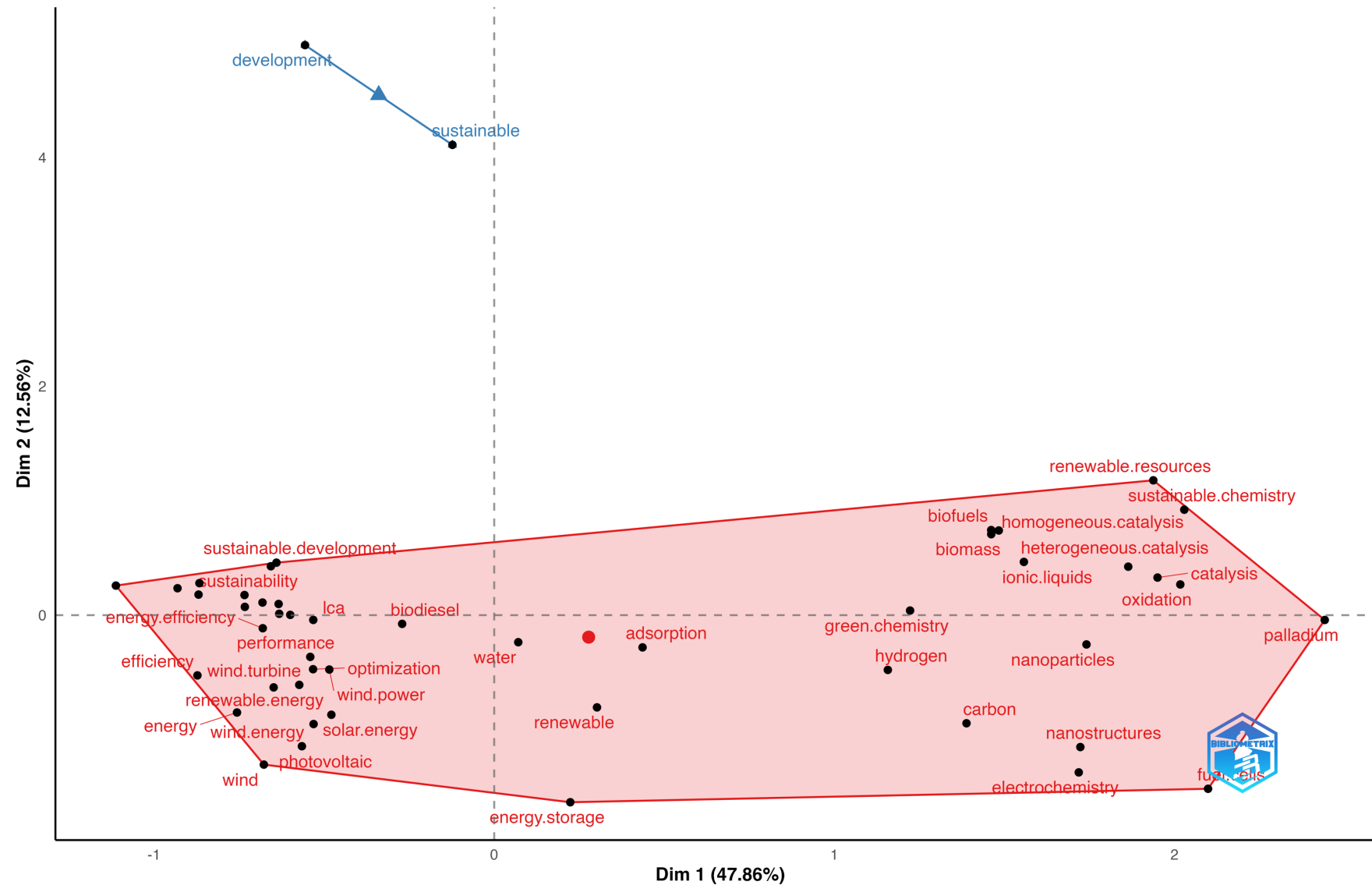




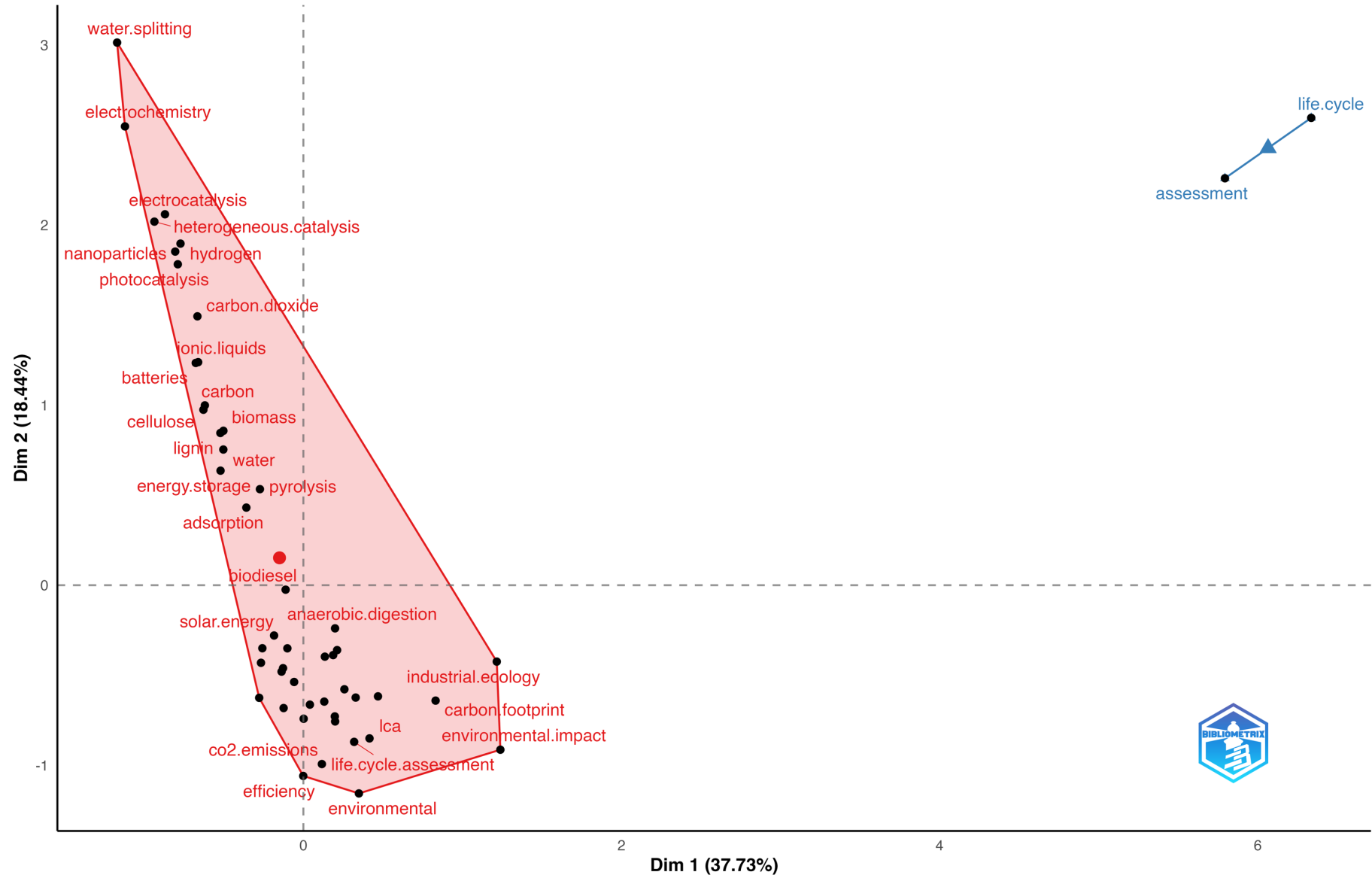
# MCA – AUTHOR KEYWORDS 2001-2007



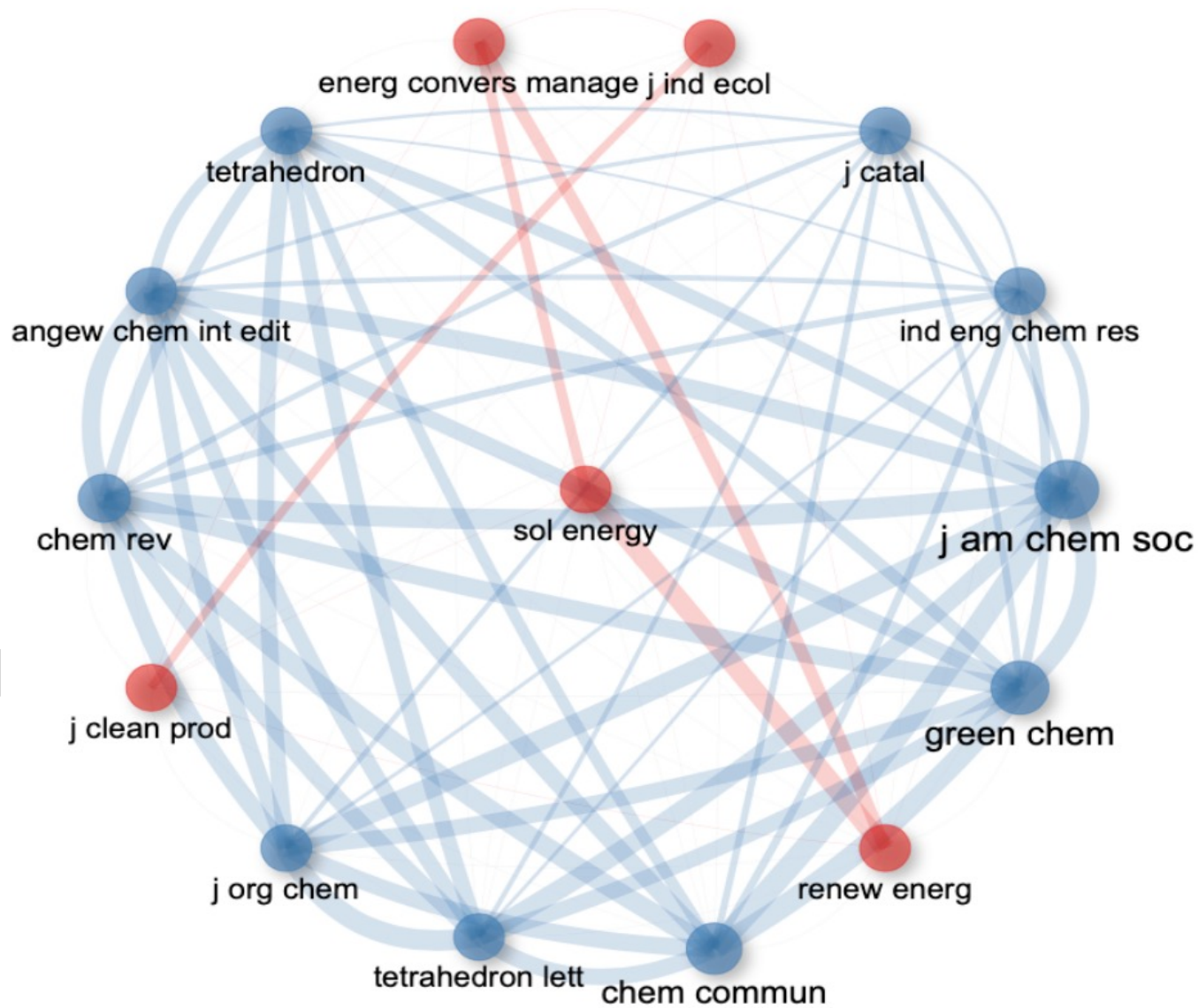
# MCA – AUTHOR KEYWORDS 2008-2014



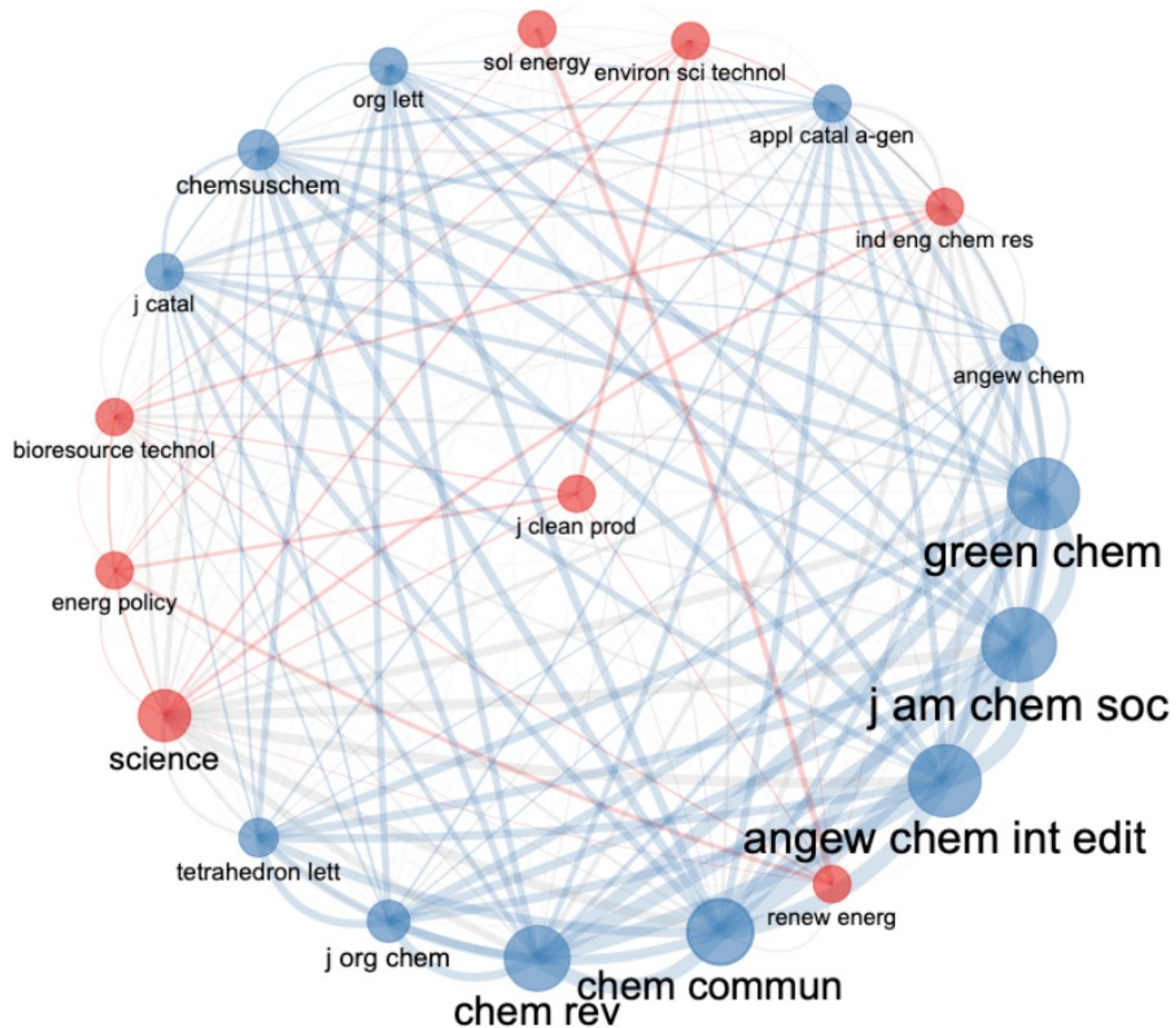
# MCA – AUTHOR KEYWORDS 2015-2021



# 2001-2007 JOURNAL CO-CITATION

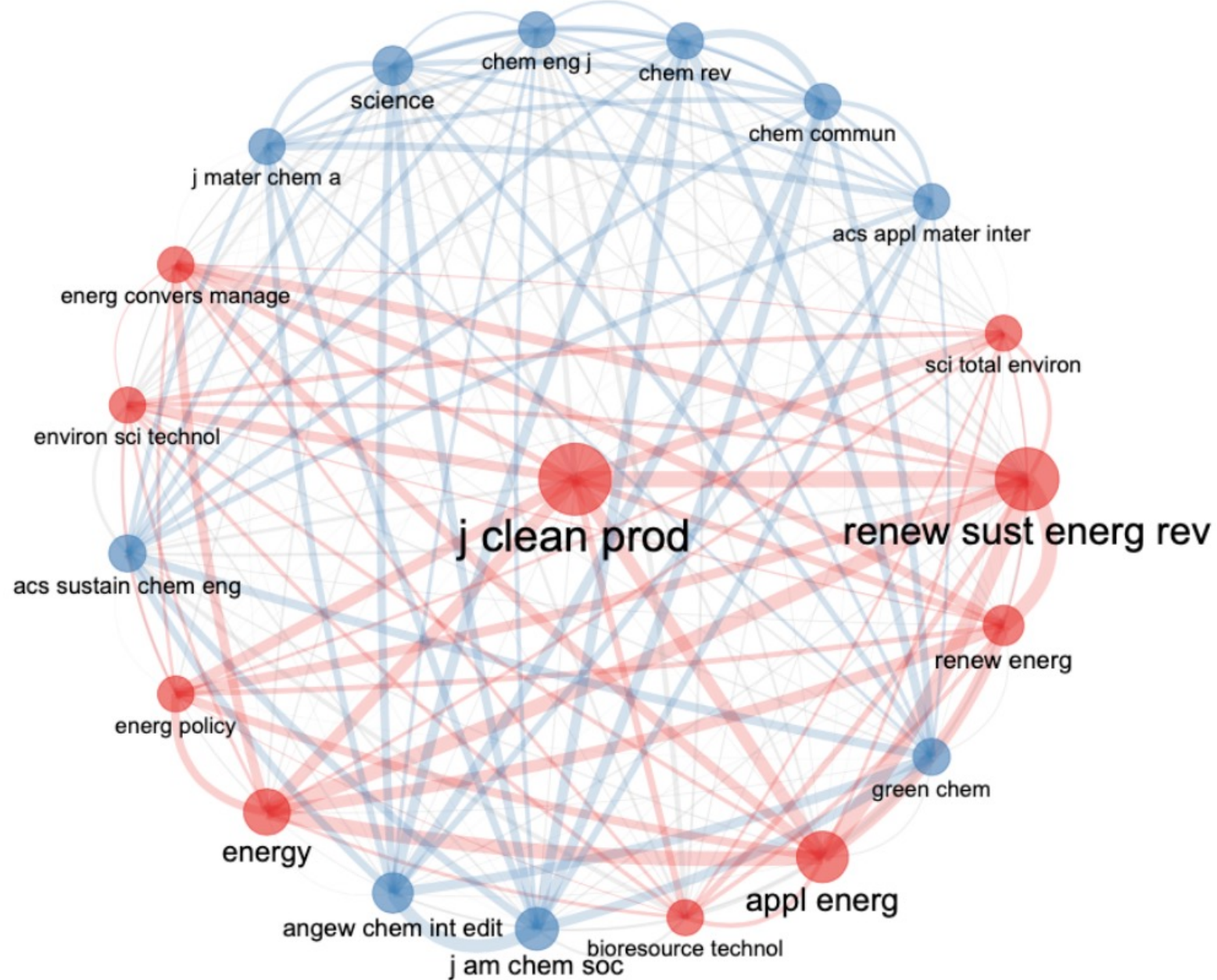


# 2008-2014 JOURNAL CO-CITATION





# 2015-2021 JOURNAL CO-CITATION

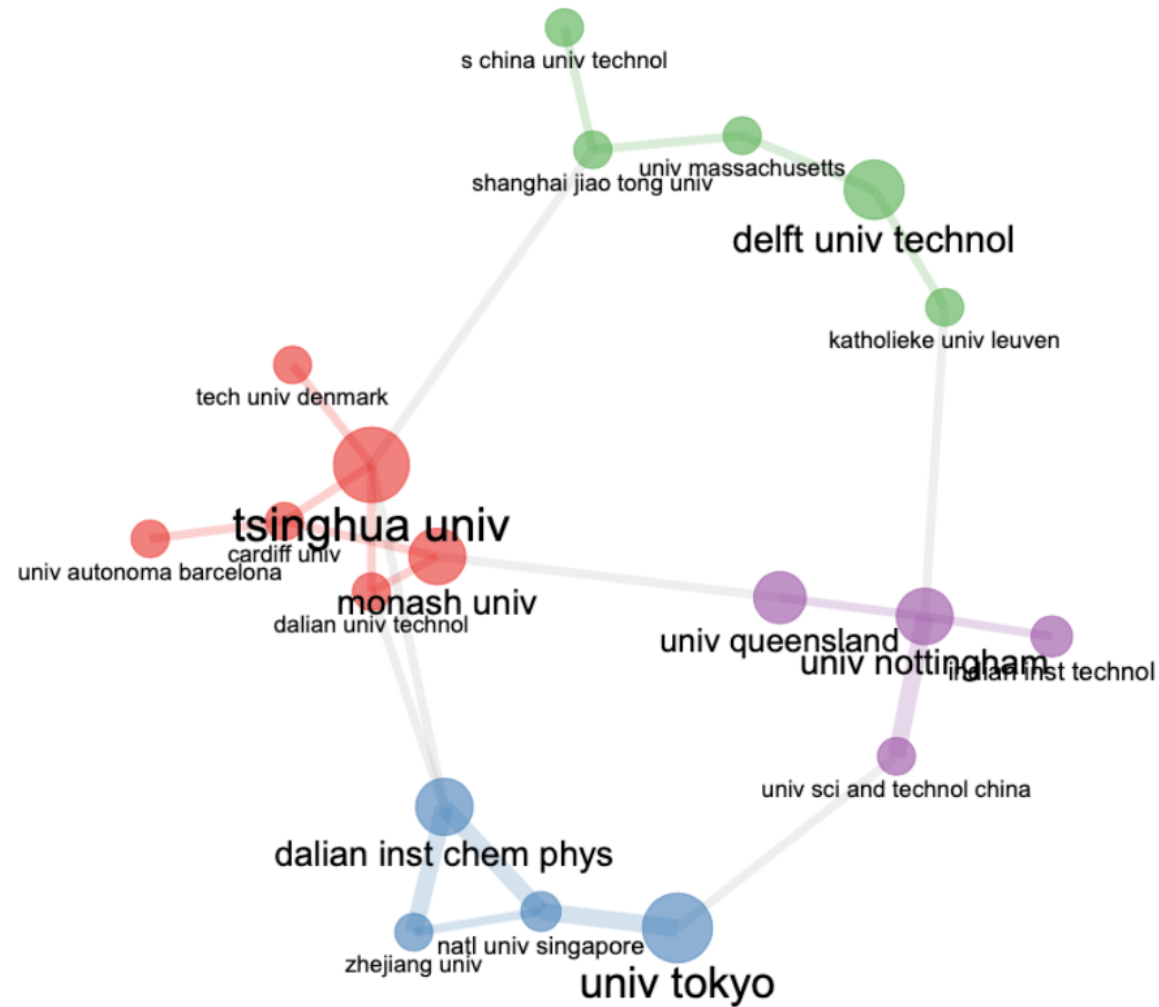


# 2001-2007 AFFILIATION CO-AUTHORSHIP

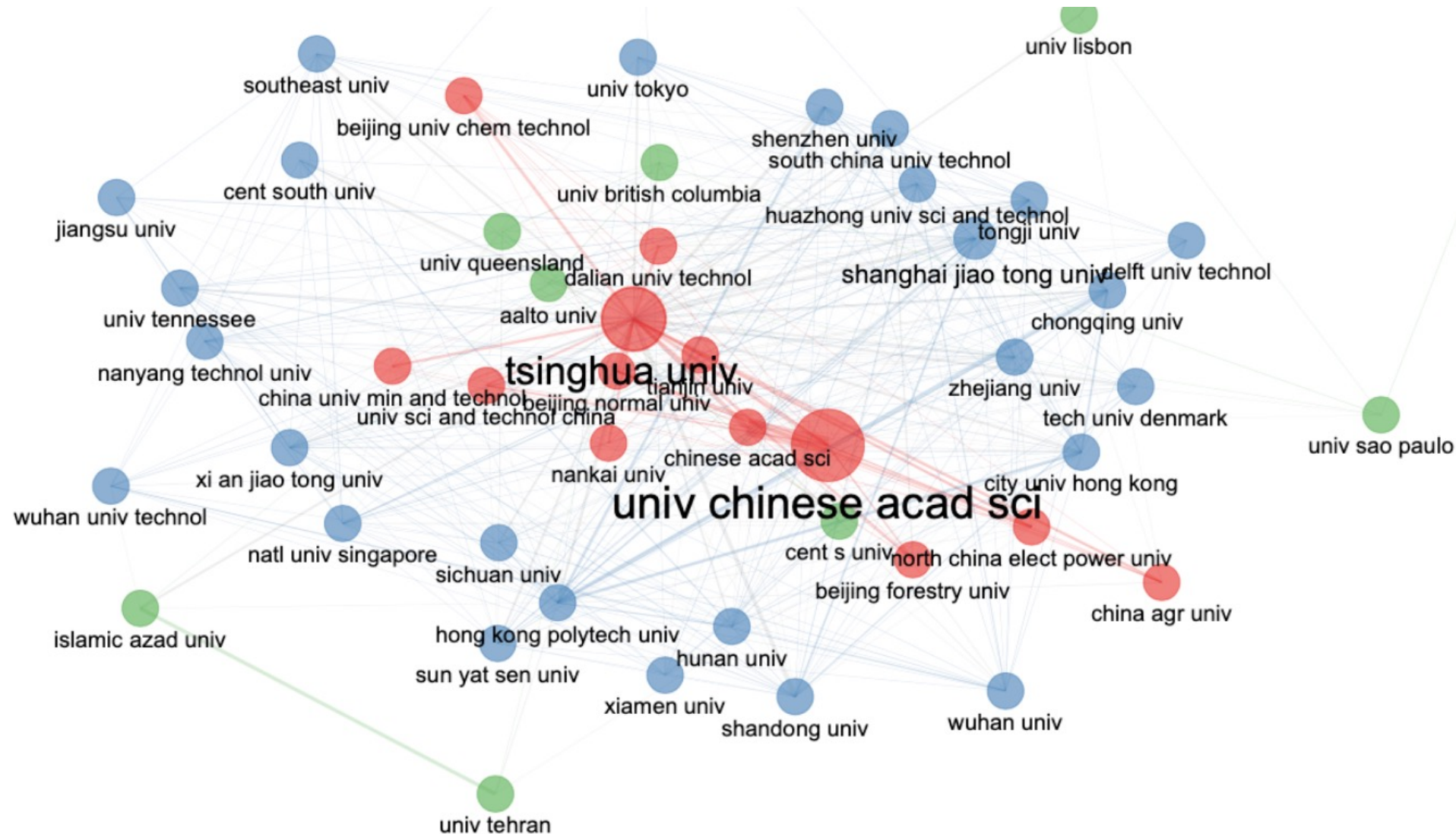




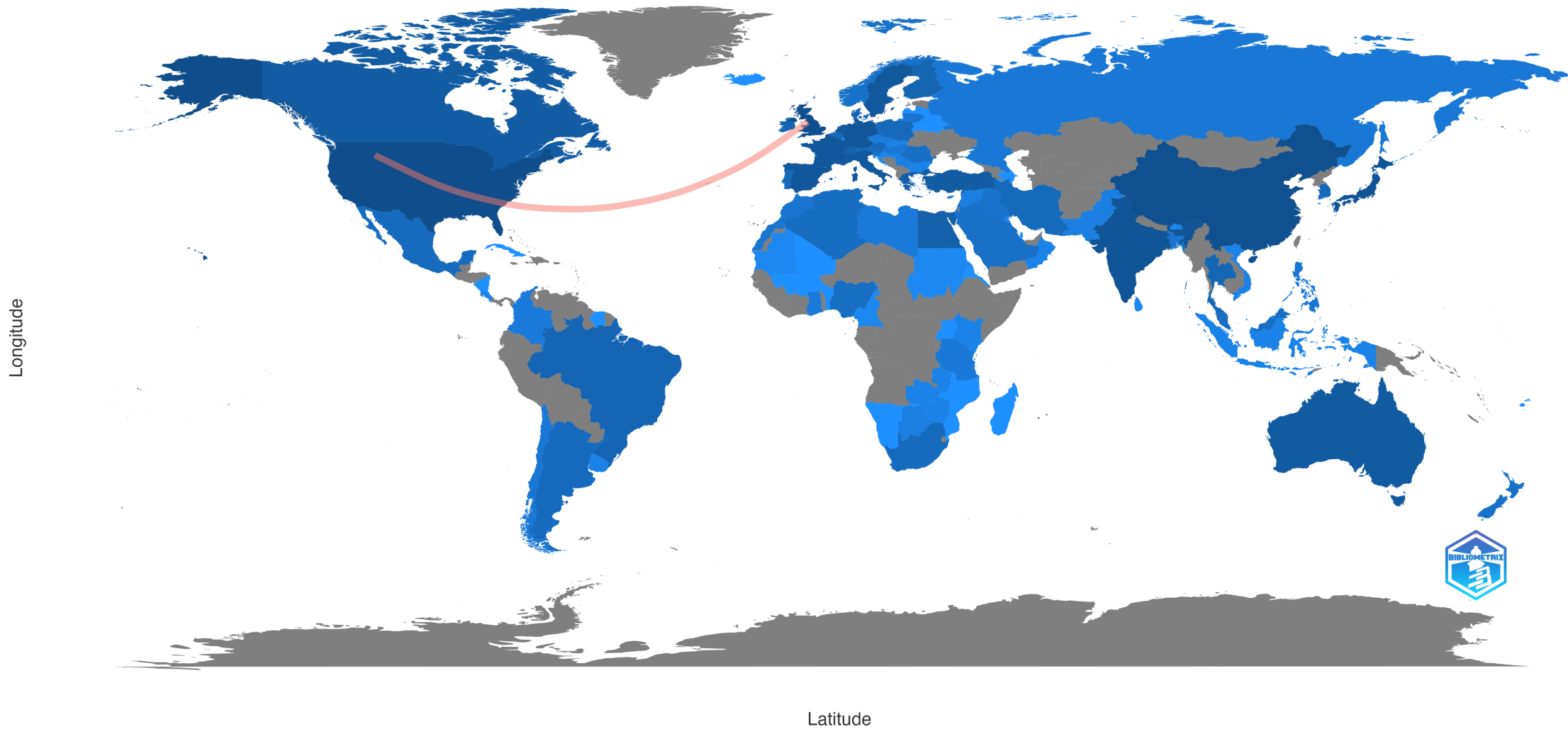
# 2008-2014 AFFILIATION CO-AUTHORSHIP



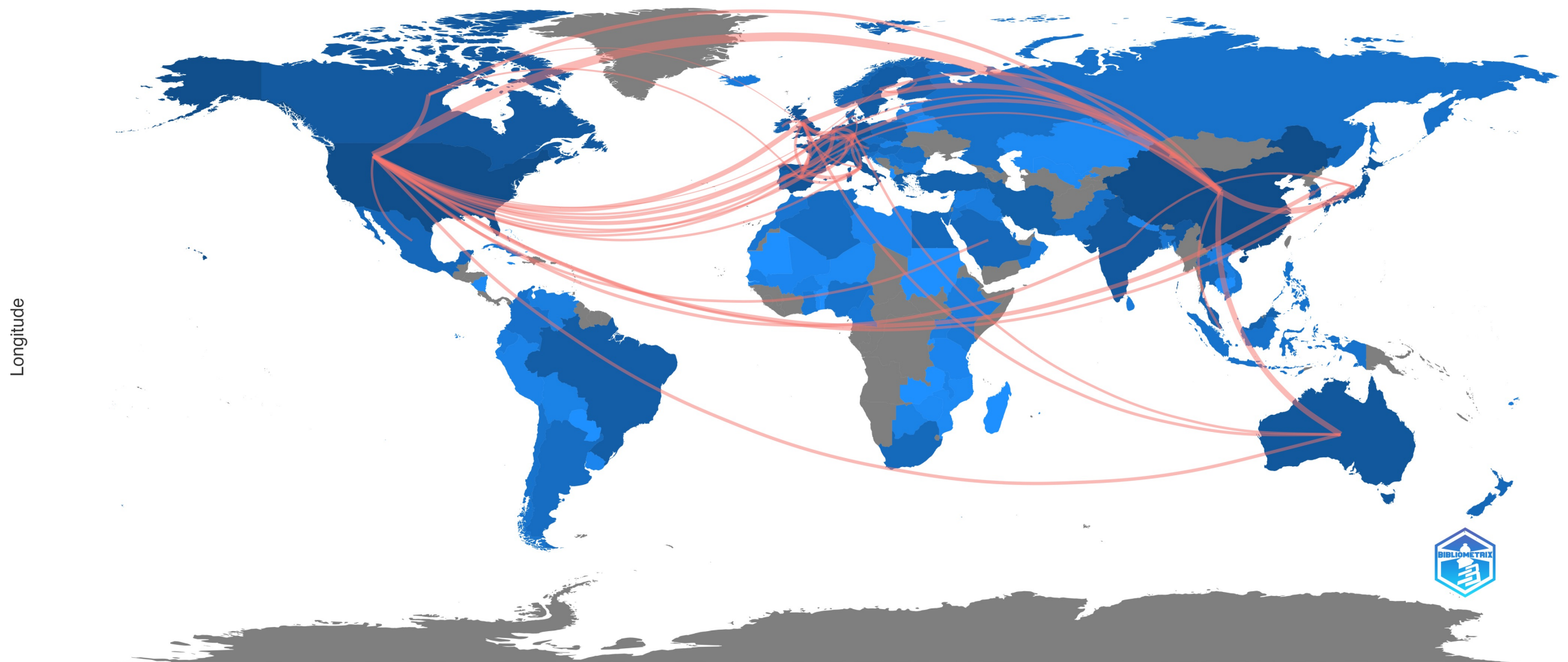
# 2015-2021 AFFILIATION CO-AUTHORSHIP



# 2001-2007 CO-AUTHORSHIP MAP

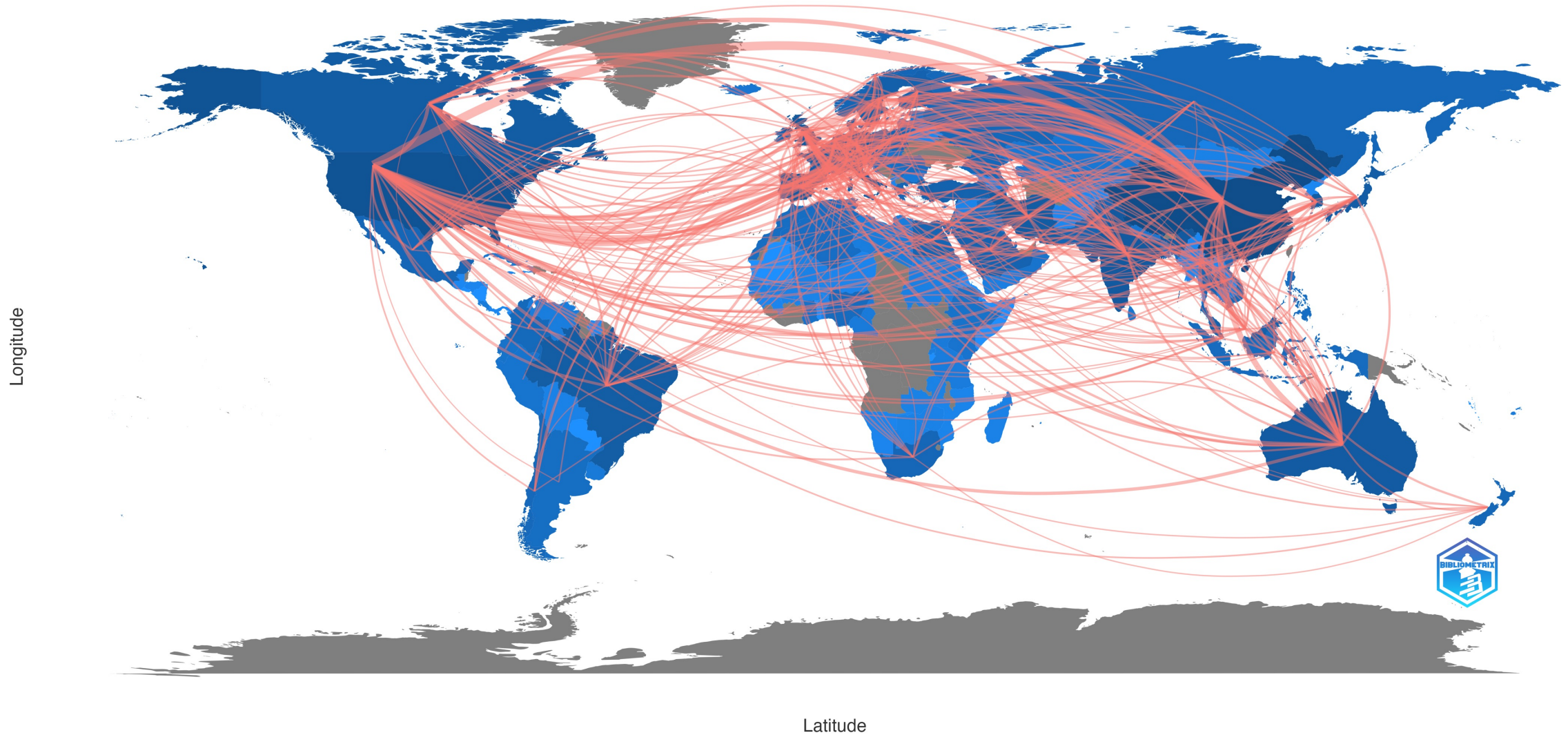


# 2008-2014 CO-AUTHORSHIP MAP





# 2015-2021 CO-AUTHORSHIP MAP



# FINDINGS

- Shift from the chemistry-related journals to the energy research + life cycle assessment.
- Increase in the symbolic capital associated with the *Journal of Cleaner Production*.
- More significant presence of Chinese universities in 2015-2021.
- Social capital at a global level of countries (with the extension to more countries in the Global South). Sustainability research *with* vis-à-vis research *on*?
- Role of Japan (and the University of Tokyo) in the “disciplinaryisation” of the field (the journal *Sustainability Science*).
- The topic of “Sustainability” versus “Sustainable Development.”

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