



PROSPECTS FOR RUSSIA-LATIN AMERICA RELATIONS: A PROFILE OF LOCAL CONTEMPORARY ACADEMIC PRODUCTION.

ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ ОТНОШЕНИЙ РОССИИ И ЛАТИНСКОЙ АМЕРИКИ:
ПРОФИЛЬ МЕСТНОЙ СОВРЕМЕННОЙ АКАДЕМИЧЕСКОЙ ПРОДУКЦИИ.

Research



Organization



Центр ибероамериканских
исследований

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INTRODUCTION

The research conducts a **systematic review** of academic production on Russia–Latin America relations (2000–2025), using a **comparative case study** (Brazil and Russia) and **descriptive statistics** to analyze agendas, actors, and theoretical and methodological frameworks, in order to understand in general terms how each academy has tried to understand Brazil, Russia and their bilateral and multilateral associations in the international system through local universities publications.



Number Of Publications

459

39

Period of Time

2000-2025

2010-2025

Sources

RUSLAT;
ELibrary.RU

RUSLAT;
CAPES; Scielo

Method

Mixed Method

Filters

Política, Economics, International (RU/PT/ES/EN)

Tools

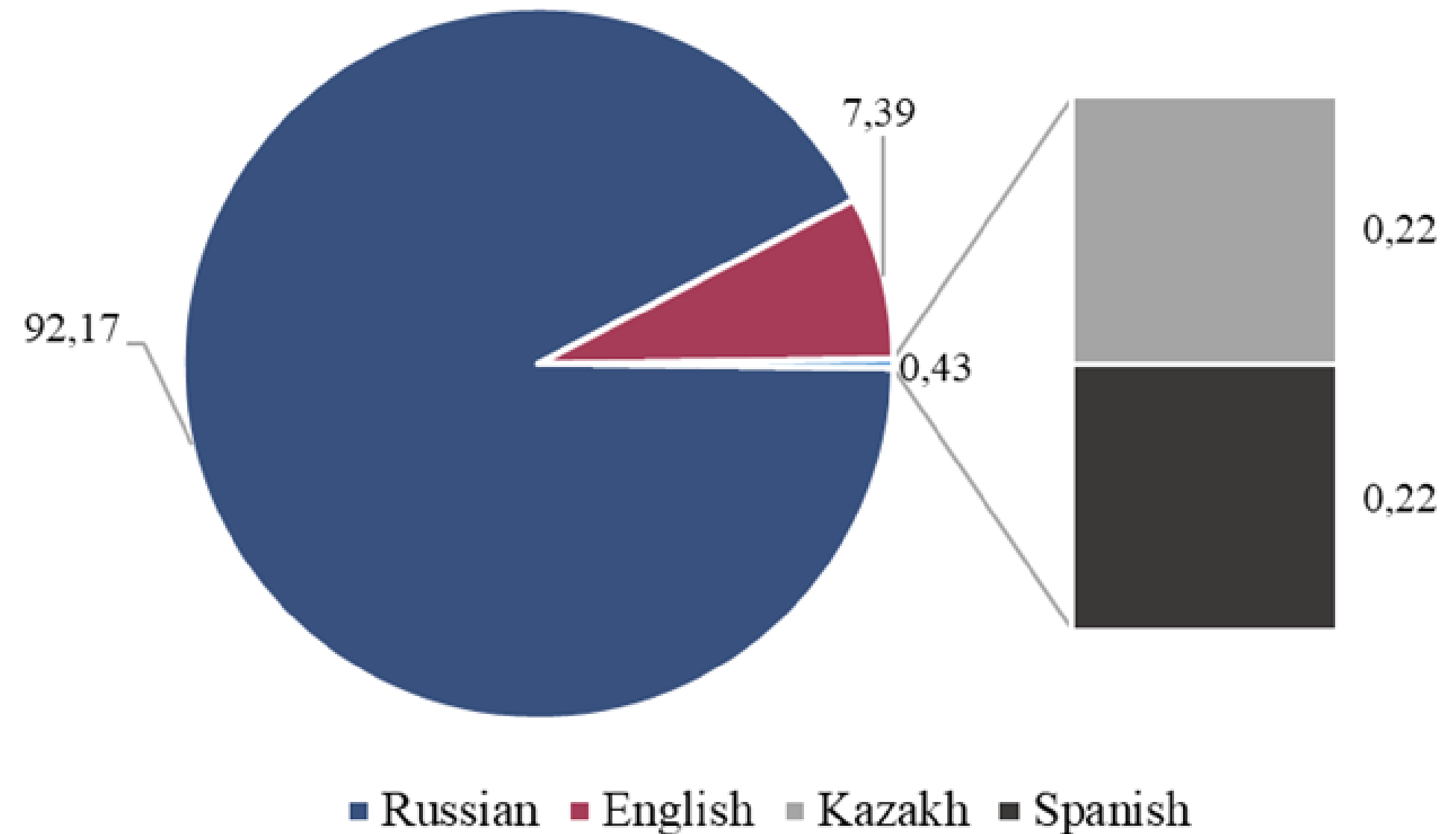
Generative Artificial Intelligence (Translation);
Spreadsheet tool (Data Treatment and Tabulation)

THE RUSSIAN CASE

1. LANGUAGE

- **Predominance of Russian:** 92.17% of publications on Brazil are in Russian, mainly targeting domestic audiences.
- **English as second language:** 7.39% of the works are published in English, a pattern also observed in Brazilian publications.
- **Low linguistic diversity:** Less than 0.5% are in Spanish and Kazakh, indicating limited emphasis on international knowledge exchange.

% of Language used In Russian Source Publications (2000-2025)



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

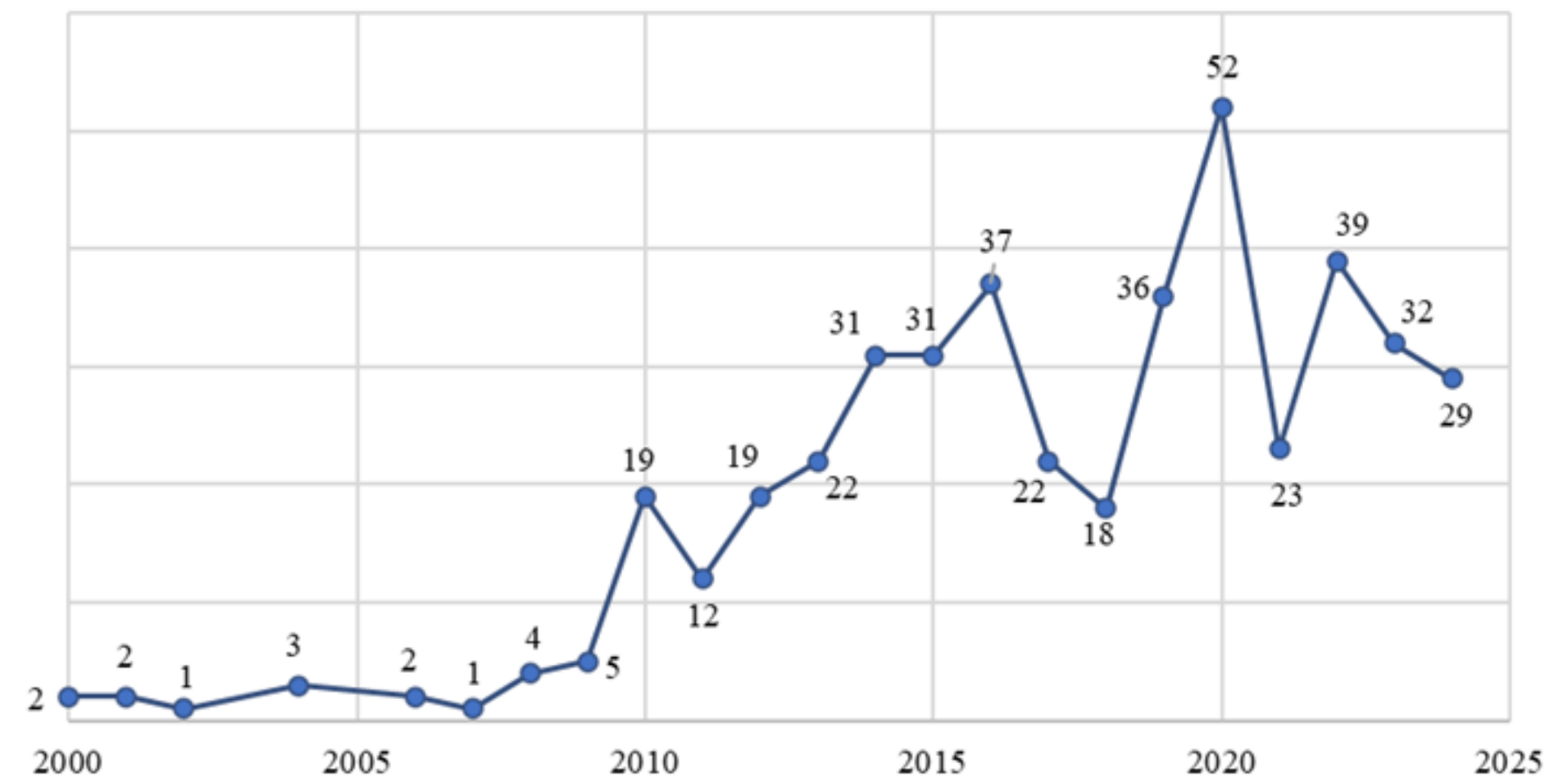


THE RUSSIAN CASE

2. EVOLUTION

- **Growth linked to BRICS:** Since 2010, publications on Brazil have steadily increased, reflecting Russia's foreign policy shift and the BRICS platform as a driver of academic interest.
- **Fluctuations in output:** Declines in 2017–2018 and 2021 coincide with Bolsonaro's presidency, marked by inward political focus and Brazil's diminished visibility abroad.
- **Critical assessments:** Scholars highlight negative perceptions and strategic failures in Brazil's foreign policy, though further research is needed to confirm correlations with reduced Russian publications.

Evolution of the volume of publications in Russian sources over time (2000-2025)



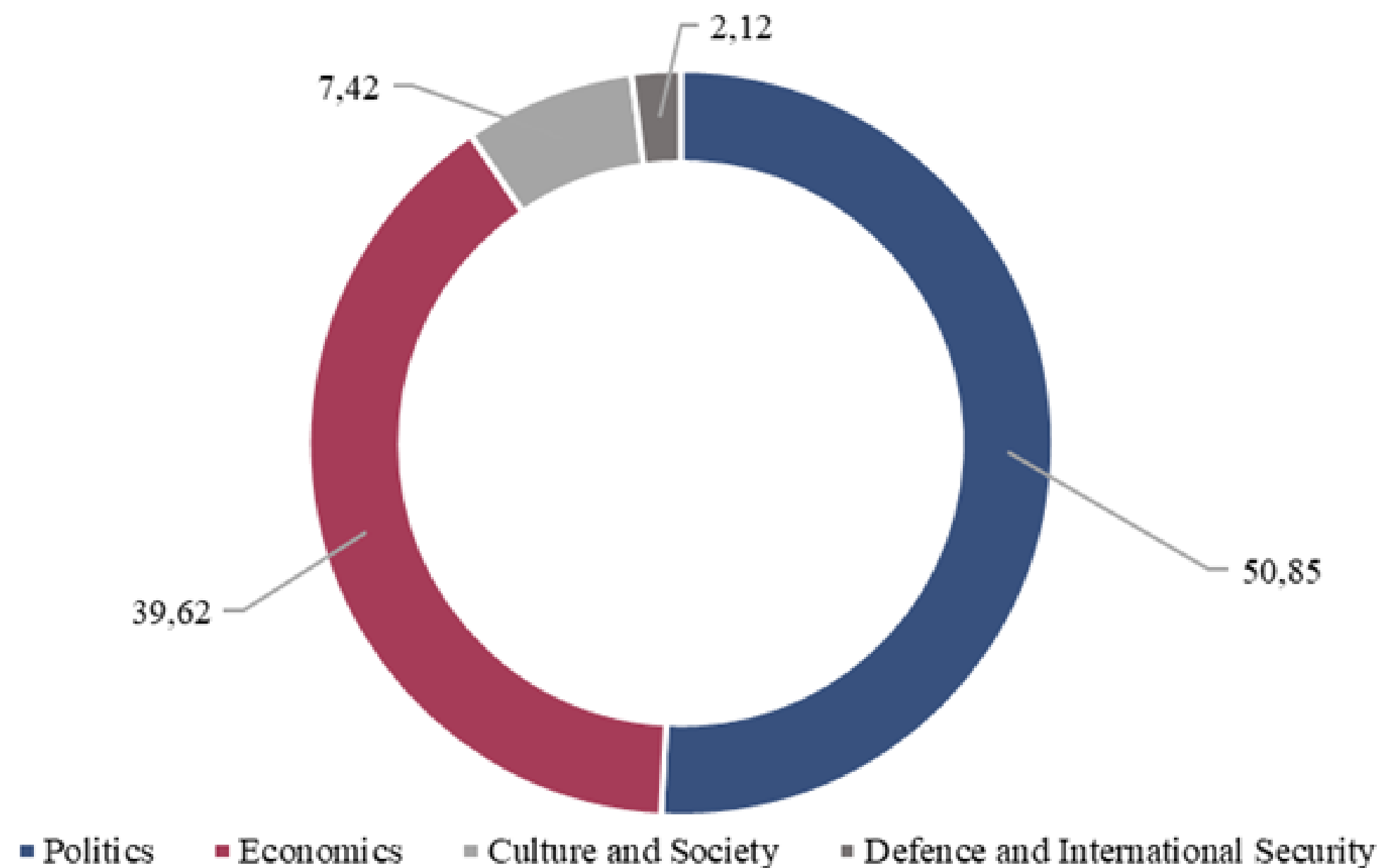
Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

THE RUSSIAN CASE

3. PRIORITIZED AGENDA

- **Politics as main focus:** Over half of the publications (50.85%) center on domestic and international political issues.
- **Economics as secondary theme:** Economic topics represent 39.62% of the records, showing significant scholarly attention.
- **Bilateral alignment:** The emphasis on politics and economics reflects trade relations and shared interests in multipolarity and South–South cooperation within BRICS.

% of Prioritized Macro Agendas of publications in Russian sources (2000-2025)



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

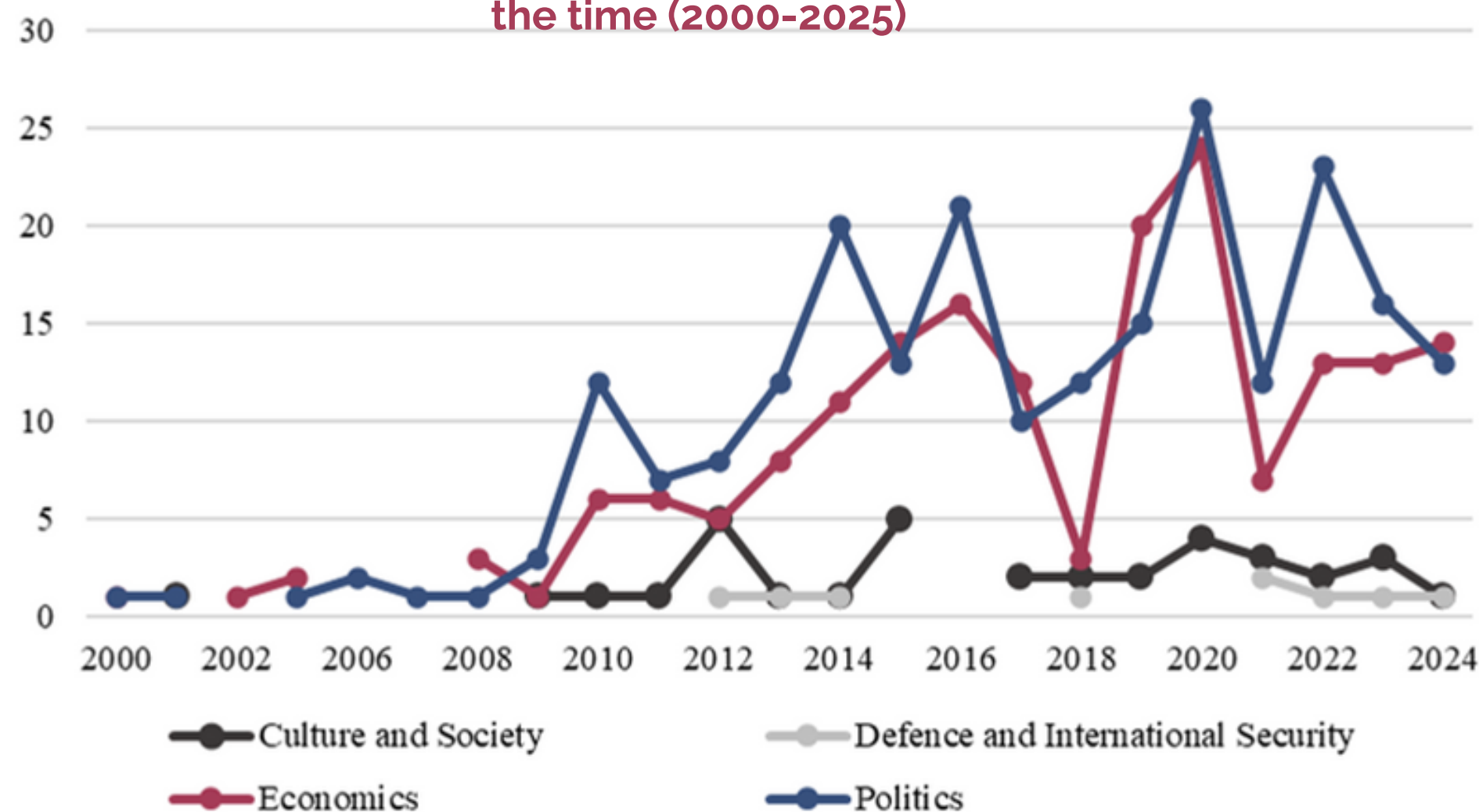


THE RUSSIAN CASE

3. PRIORITIZED AGENDA

- **Economic–political link:** Growth in publications on politics and economics aligns with expanding trade relations, notably Russia's emergence in 2023 as Brazil's top diesel supplier and Brazil's role as the main Global South purchaser of Russian energy.
- **BRICS and political dynamics:** The increase in political focus is connected to BRICS development as a framework for bilateral engagement.
- **COVID-19 impact:** 2020 marked a turning point, with a temporary rise in publications followed by declines in 2021–2022, reflecting the pandemic's disruptive effect on academic production.

Prioritized Macro Agendas of publications in Russian sources over the time (2000-2025)



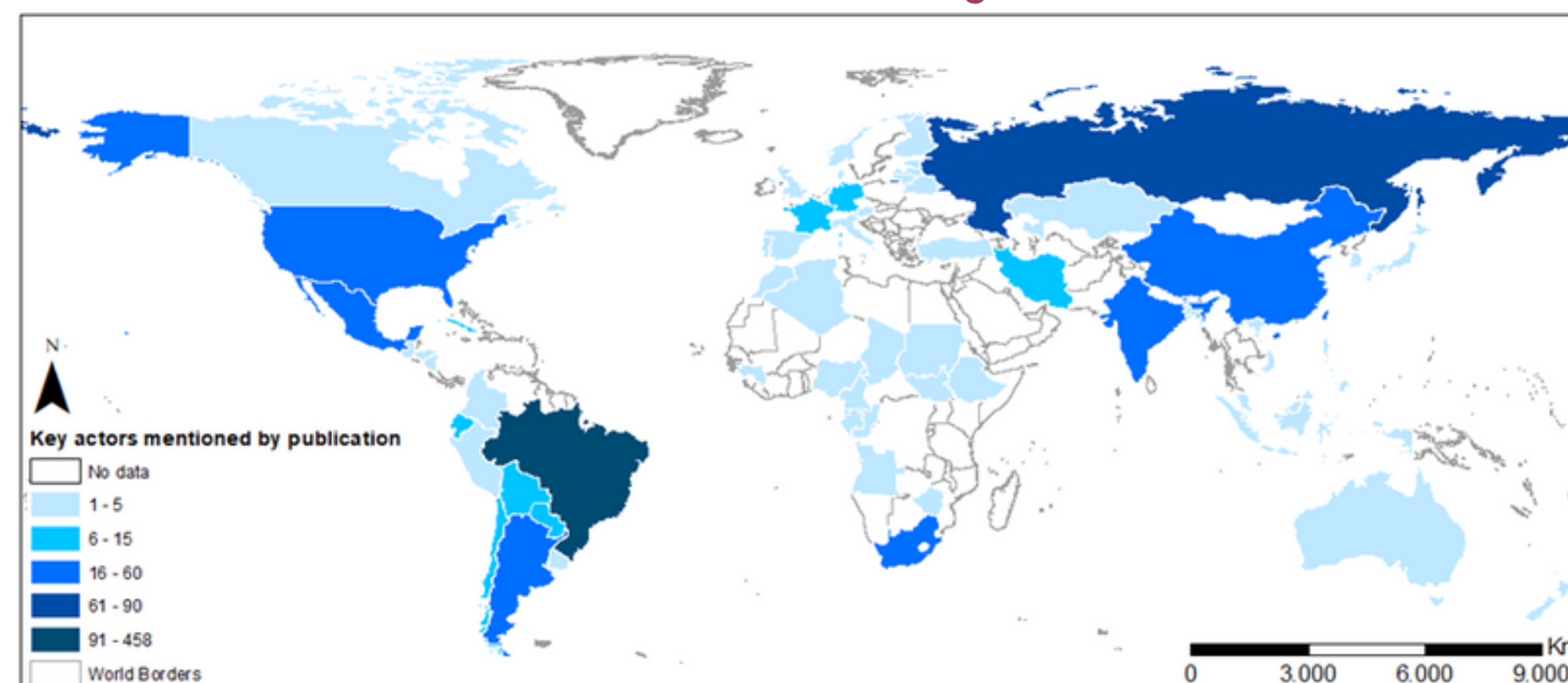
Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

THE RUSSIAN CASE

4. KEY ACTORS ASSOCIATED

- **BRICS as a driver:** The BRICS framework has been central to stimulating mutual research, shaping both publication volumes and thematic agendas, with China, India, and South Africa frequently appearing in comparative studies.
- **Regional associations:** Brazil's role in the Americas is highlighted through recurrent associations with Argentina, the Southern Cone, Mexico, and the United States.
- **Broader connections:** Unexpected links with Iran and dispersed associations with Africa reflect interests in trade, security, cooperation, historical-cultural ties, and the Soviet legacy in anti-colonial support.

Key Actors Mentioned By Publication In Russian Source
Publications (2000-2025)



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

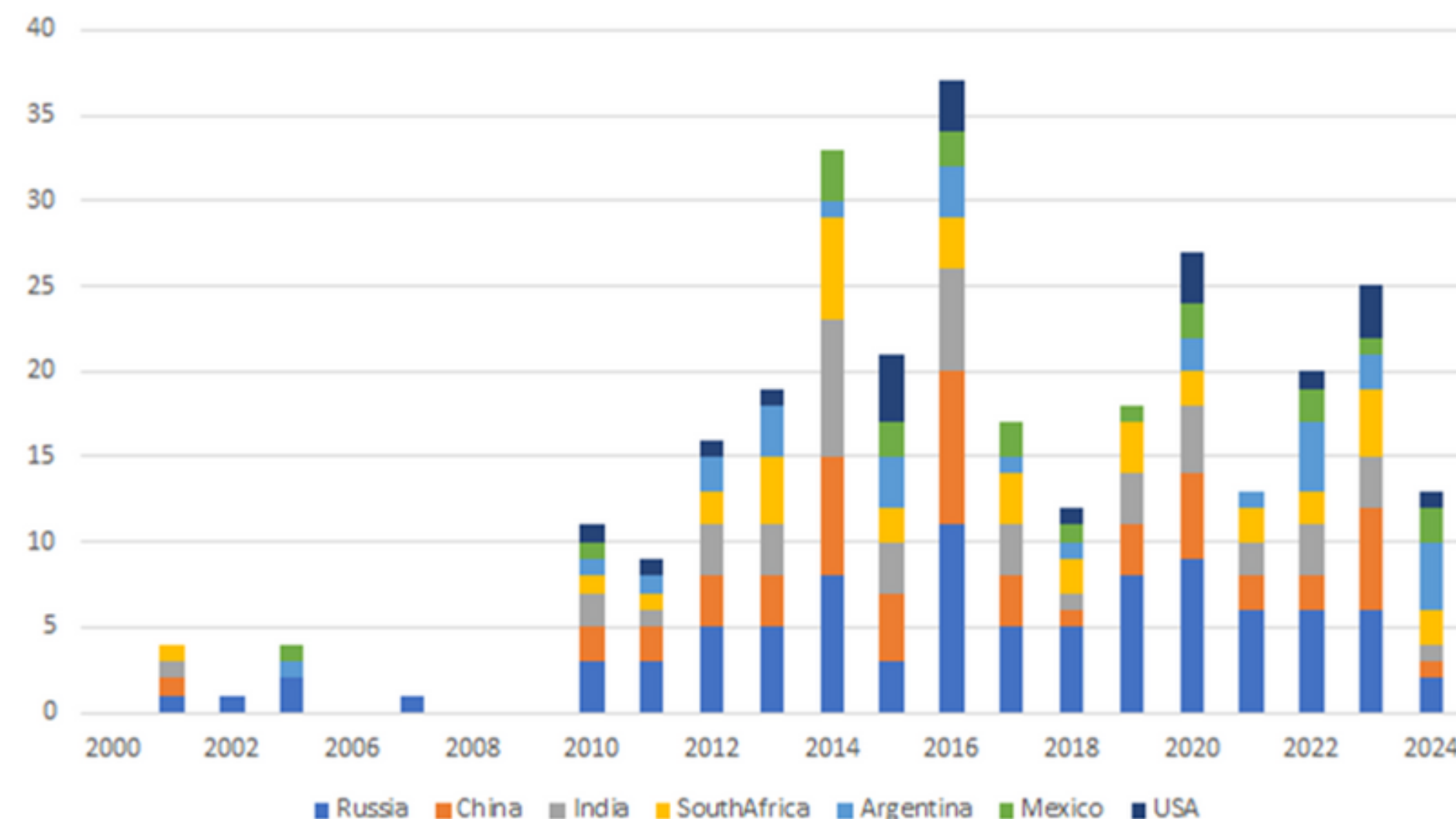


THE RUSSIAN CASE

4. KEY ACTORS ASSOCIATED

- **Bilateral emphasis:** Russia is most frequently associated with Brazil in the studies, suggesting a strong academic interest in bilateral relations.
- **BRICS framework:** China and India appear consistently, with South Africa contributing smaller but complementary input.
- **Regional dynamics:** Argentina, Mexico, and the United States show more limited participation, indicating attention to US-related political and economic themes.

Key Actors Mentioned Over 20 Publications In Russian Source Publications (2000-2025)



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

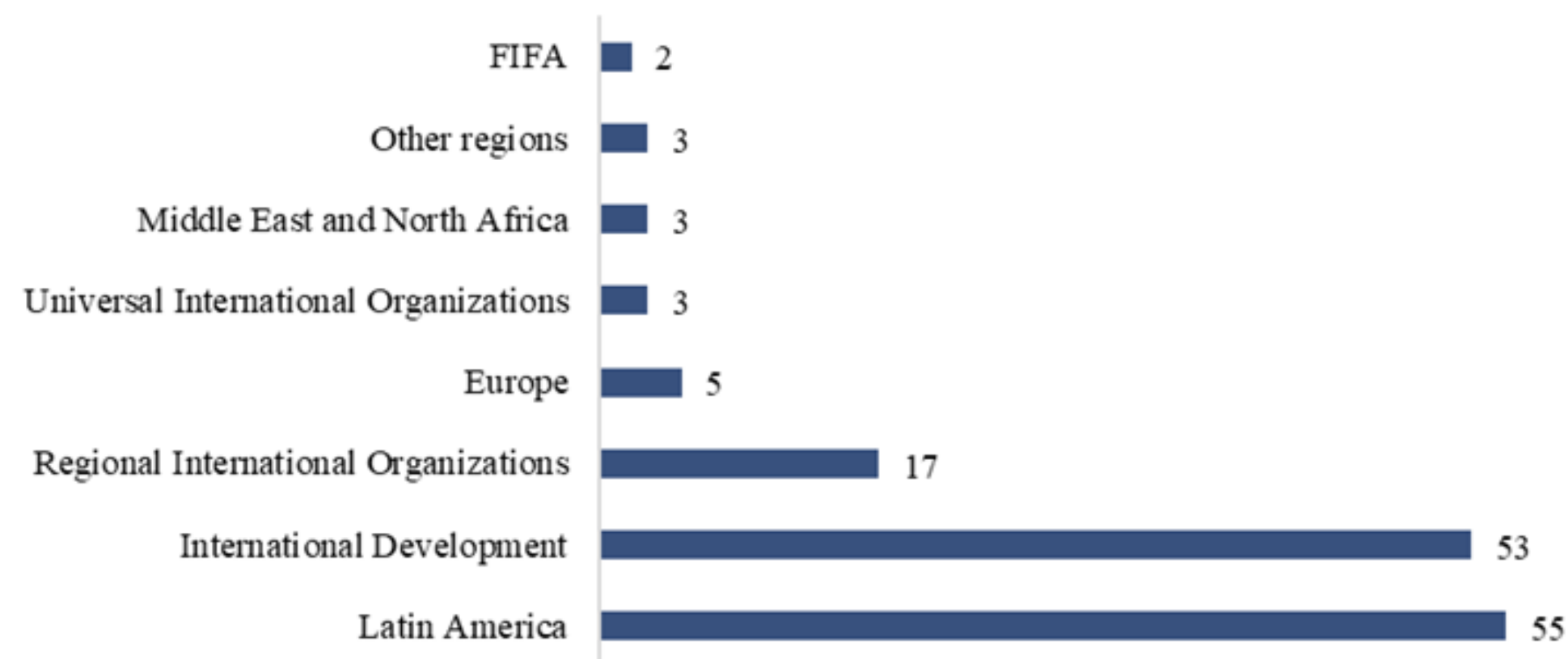


THE RUSSIAN CASE

5. REFERENCES TO RELATED STRUCTURES AND REGIONS

- **Regional lens:** Brazil is often analyzed as a gateway to understanding Latin America, highlighting its perceived leadership role in the region.
- **Global structures:** BRICS and the New Development Bank dominate among international structures, followed by the G20, OECD, IBSA, and broader Global South frameworks, showing how new cooperation formats drive research interest.
- **Other organizations:** Mercosur and the EU are the most cited regional organizations, with occasional references to the former socialist bloc and even FIFA, linked to Brazil's 2014 World Cup Before Russia's 2018 tournament.

References to related structures and Regions by Publications In Russian Sources (2000-2025)



Universal International Organizations: United Nations. / **Latin America:** Latin America, South America, Mercosur / **Regional International Organizations:** Mercosur, European Union, Socialist Bloc / **International Development:** BRICS, Global South, IBSA, New Development Bank, OECD, G20, World Bank, Development Financing, International Monetary System, Multilateral Banks, the Cairns Group / **Middle East and North Africa:** Middle East, Gulf Countries, Arab World / **Europe:** Europe, Western Europe, Baltic States, European Union. / **Other regions:** East Africa, Southern Ocean, Southern Polar Region / **Fifa:** Fifa.

Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

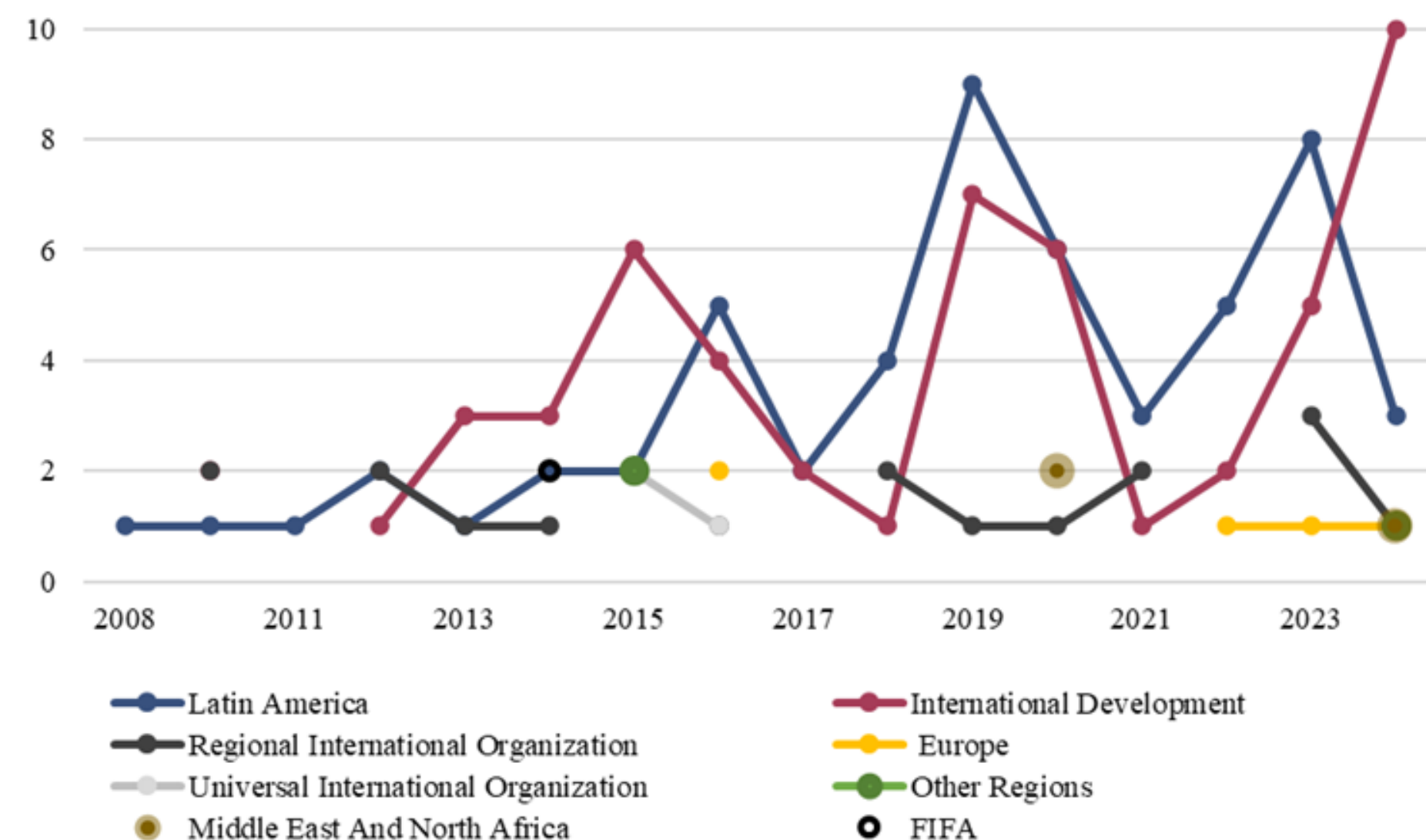


THE RUSSIAN CASE

5. REFERENCES TO RELATED STRUCTURES AND REGIONS

- **Multipolarity context:** References mirror the rise of new cooperation forms tied to the global transition toward multipolarity.
- **Brazil's prominence:** Latin America and international development peaked together in 2019, underscoring Brazil's central role in both spheres.
- **Recent divergence:** In 2024, Latin America references sharply declined while international development kept growing, suggesting either a temporary fluctuation or a potential new trend.

References to related structures and Regions by Publications In Russian Sources Over Time (2000-2025)



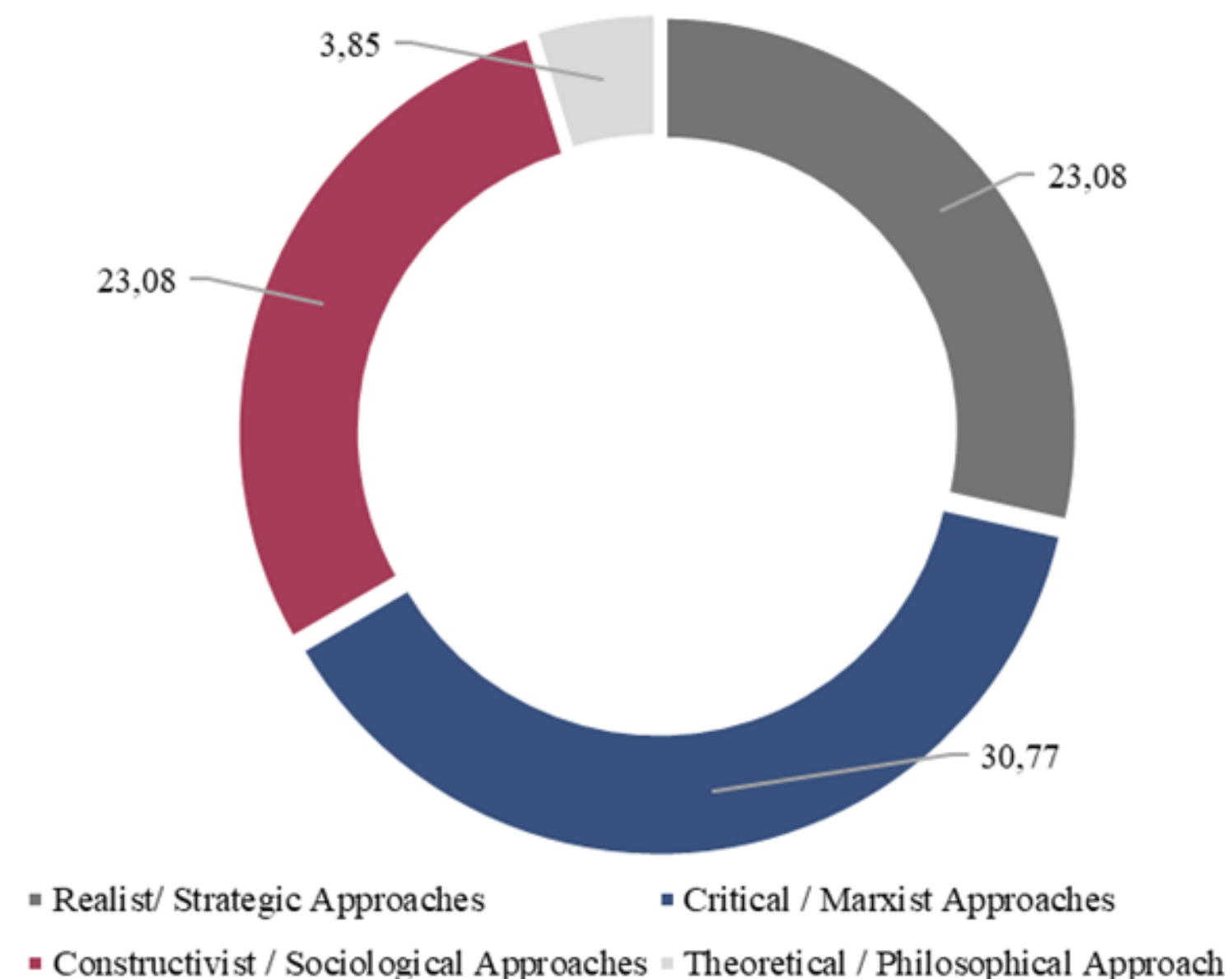
Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

THE RUSSIAN CASE

6. RESEARCH DESIGN

- **Lack of clarity:** A large share of publications omit theoretical (88.8%) and methodological (55.99%) frameworks, reflecting a broader pattern in Russian academic writing.
- **Dominant approaches:** Among those that specify theories, Critical and Marxist perspectives (30.77%) prevail, with emphasis on Development Theory, World-System Theory, and Center–Periphery analysis.
- **Other currents:** Realist/Strategic and Constructivist/Sociological approaches each account for 23.8%, while explicitly philosophical reflections are rare (3.85%).

Theoretical background indicated in Russian publications on Brazil (2000-2025)



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

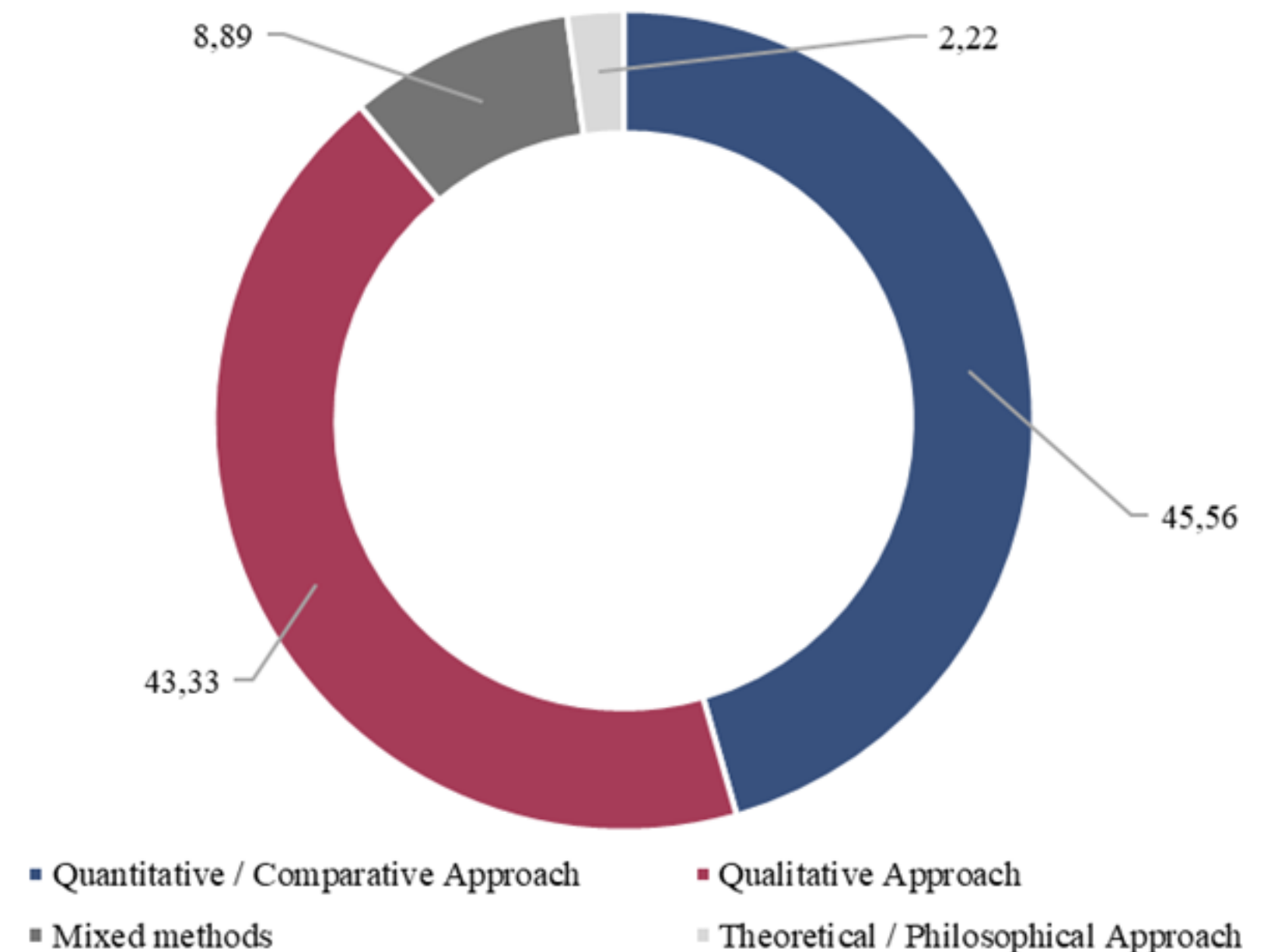


THE RUSSIAN CASE

6. RESEARCH DESIGN

- **Main approaches:** Quantitative/comparative methods (45.56%) and qualitative methods (43.33%) dominate, showing near balance.
- **Minor approaches:** Mixed methods (8.89%) and theoretical/philosophical methods (2.22%) appear rarely.
- **Interpretation:** The preference for clearly defined methods and the limited use of mixed designs reflects the structured profile of Russian academia, which may suggest a predilection for clearly delimited approaches over more experimental combinations.

Methodological structures indicated in Russian publications on Brazil (2000-2025).



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025



THE RUSSIAN CASE

Russian publications on Brazil are mostly in Russian, with English as the main foreign language. Since 2010, output has grown despite fluctuations, focusing mainly on Economics and Politics, while theoretical and methodological approaches show balance but little use of mixed methods. Brazil is often seen as a key actor in BRICS and Latin America.

Key Findings



LANGUAGE

Absence of Portuguese as an academic circulation language.



THEME

Thematic concentration on Economics and Politics, indicating limited attention to culture and society.



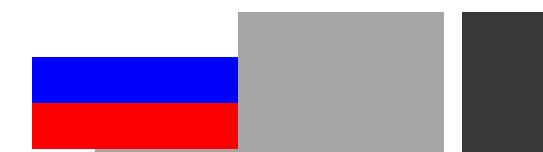
METHODS

Balanced use of methods, with quantitative and qualitative approaches prevailing, but a low adoption of mixed methods.



BRAZIL AS ACTOR

Brazil's central role in BRICS and Latin America, shaping the way Russian academia frames its international connections.

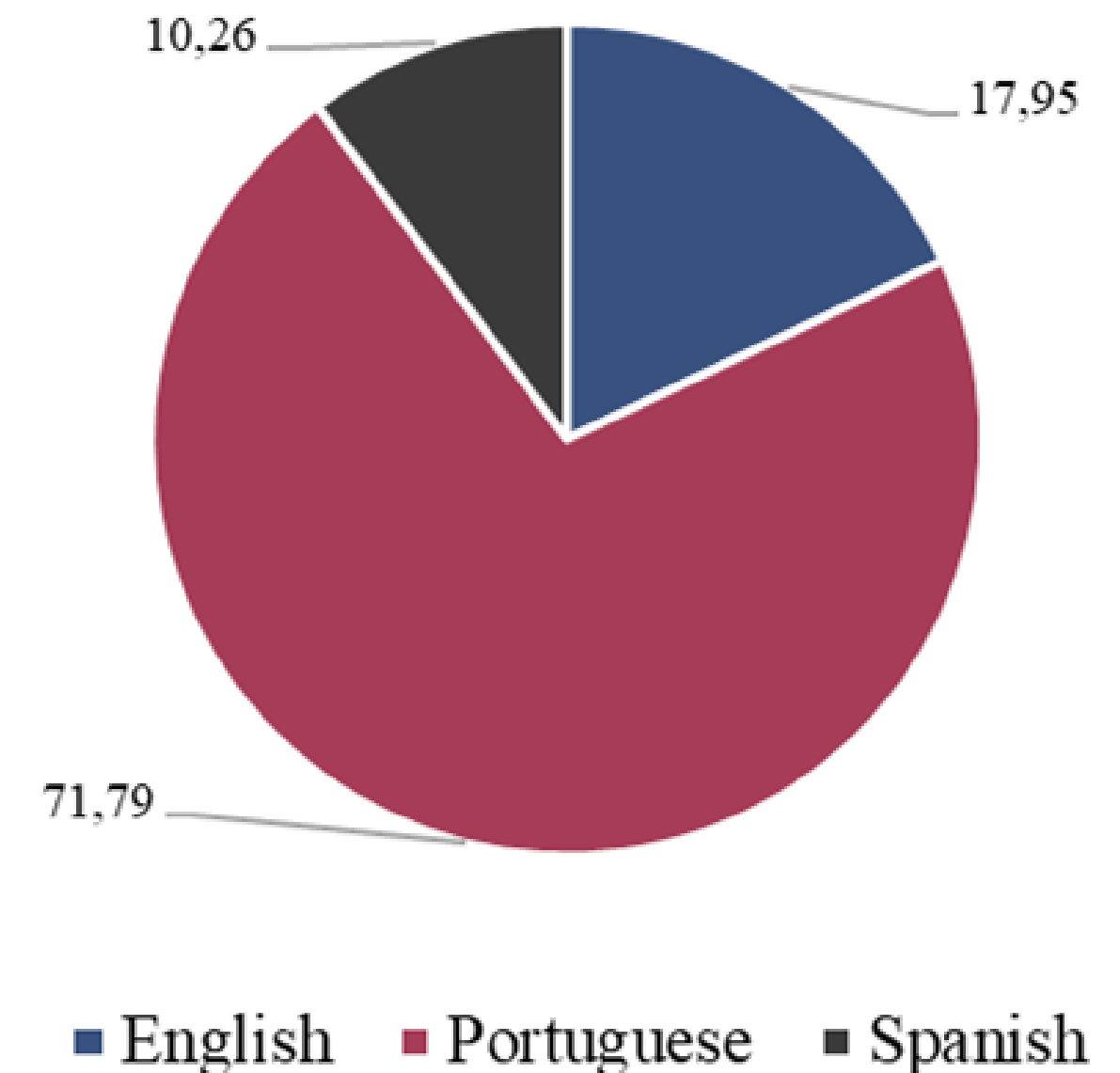


THE BRAZILIAN CASE

1. LANGUAGE

- In the Brazilian databases used, 35 articles on Russia were found presenting the required characteristics – complete title and abstract available. Most of them are published in Portuguese.
- English is the second preferred language, which is a general trend in Brazilian academy;
- No publications in russian language in brazilian academy

% of Language used In Brazilian Sources Publications (2000-2025)



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

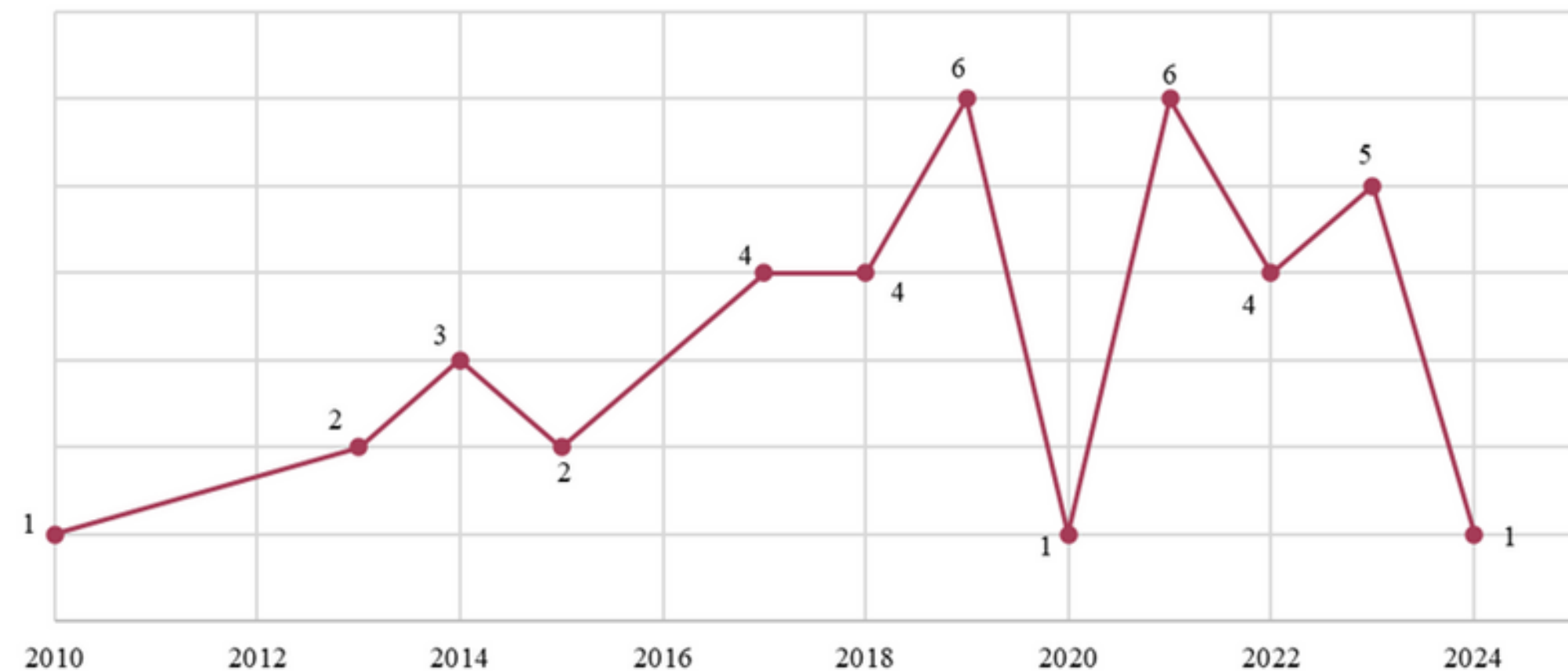


THE BRAZILIAN CASE

2. EVOLUTION

- **Geopolitical triggers:** Peaks in Brazilian research on Russia occurred after the 2014 Crimea Crisis and again in 2022 during the escalation of the Ukraine conflict.
- **Pandemic effect:** The year 2020 saw fewer publications, reflecting the broader impact of COVID-19 on academic production.
- **Recent decline:** Only one publication in 2024 indicates a sharp drop, possibly linked to shifting academic attention toward other global crises such as Trump's second mandate and the Gaza situation.

Evolution of the volume of publications in Brazilian sources over time (2000-2025)



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

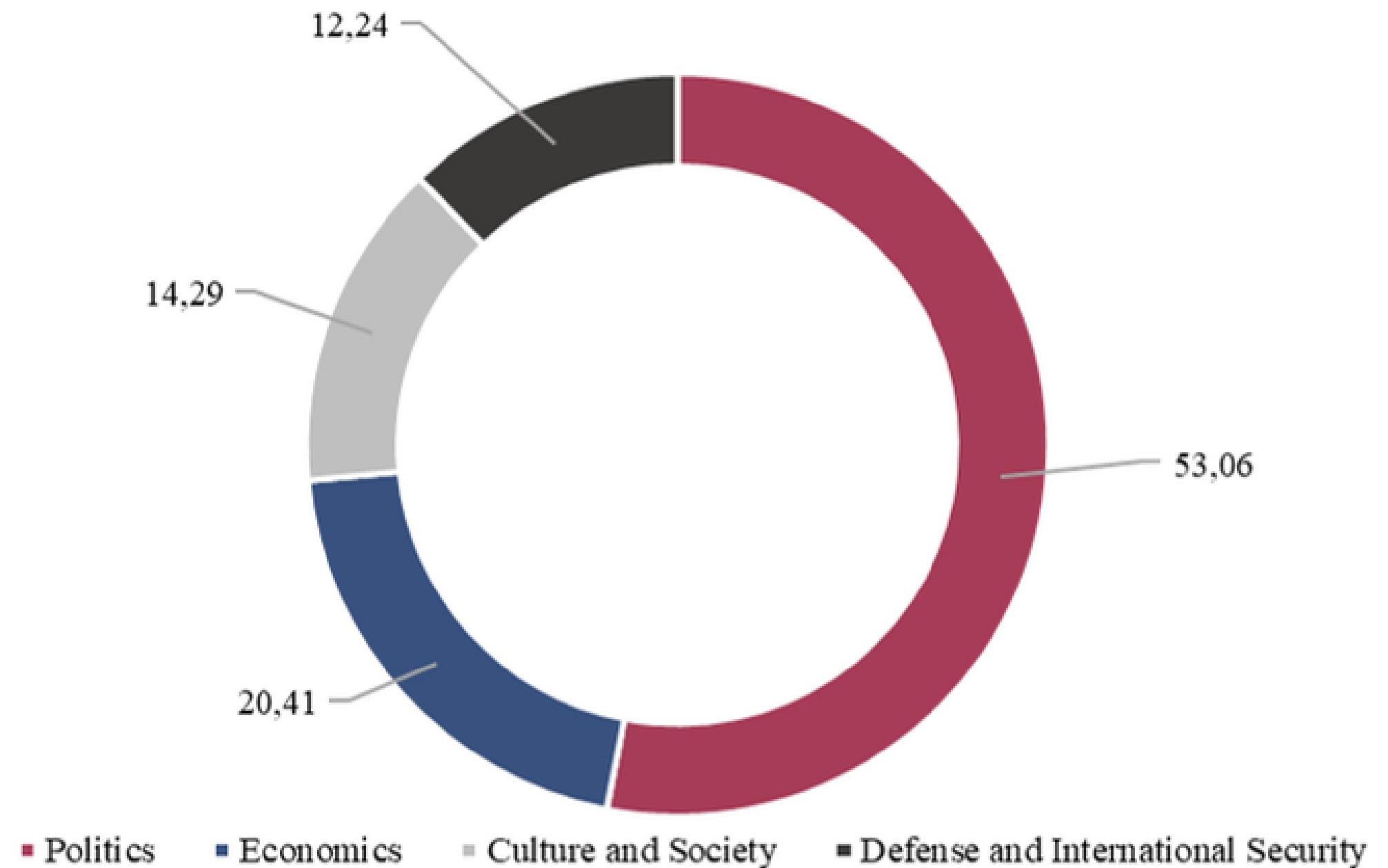


THE BRAZILIAN CASE

3. PRIORITIZED AGENDA

- **Primacy of politics:** Politics leads with 53.06%, emphasizing the weight of geopolitical and diplomatic considerations in Brazilian analyses of Russia.
- **Economics and security:** Economics (20.41%) and defense/international security (12.24%) show significant but secondary importance, tied to trade, energy, and strategic issues.
- **Cultural and societal focus:** With 14.29%, these themes highlight a steady interest in identity and social dimensions, complementing the dominance of political narratives.

Prioritized Macro Agendas of publications in Brazilian sources (2000-2025)



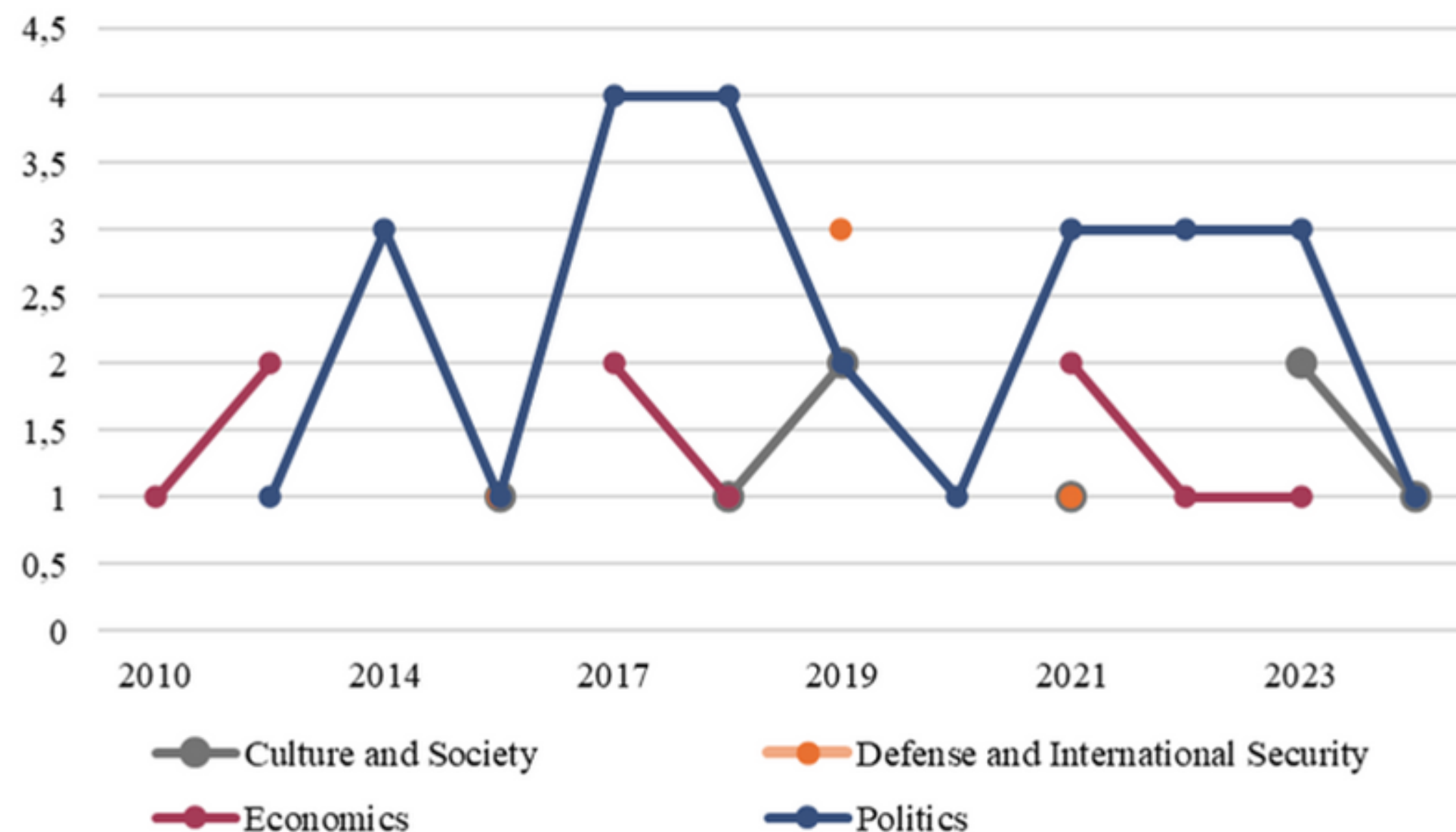
Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

THE BRAZILIAN CASE

3. PRIORITIZED AGENDA

- **Volatility of politics:** Politics is the dominant yet most unstable theme, with peaks around 2016–2018 and after 2020, tied to geopolitical tensions and multipolarity debates.
- **Stability of economics:** Economic issues remain consistently present but less prominent, showing steady rather than fluctuating attention.
- **Event-driven agendas:** Culture, society, defense, and security appear sporadically, suggesting they are activated by specific international events rather than continuous scholarly focus.

Prioritized Macro Agendas of publications in Brazilian sources over the time (2000-2025)



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

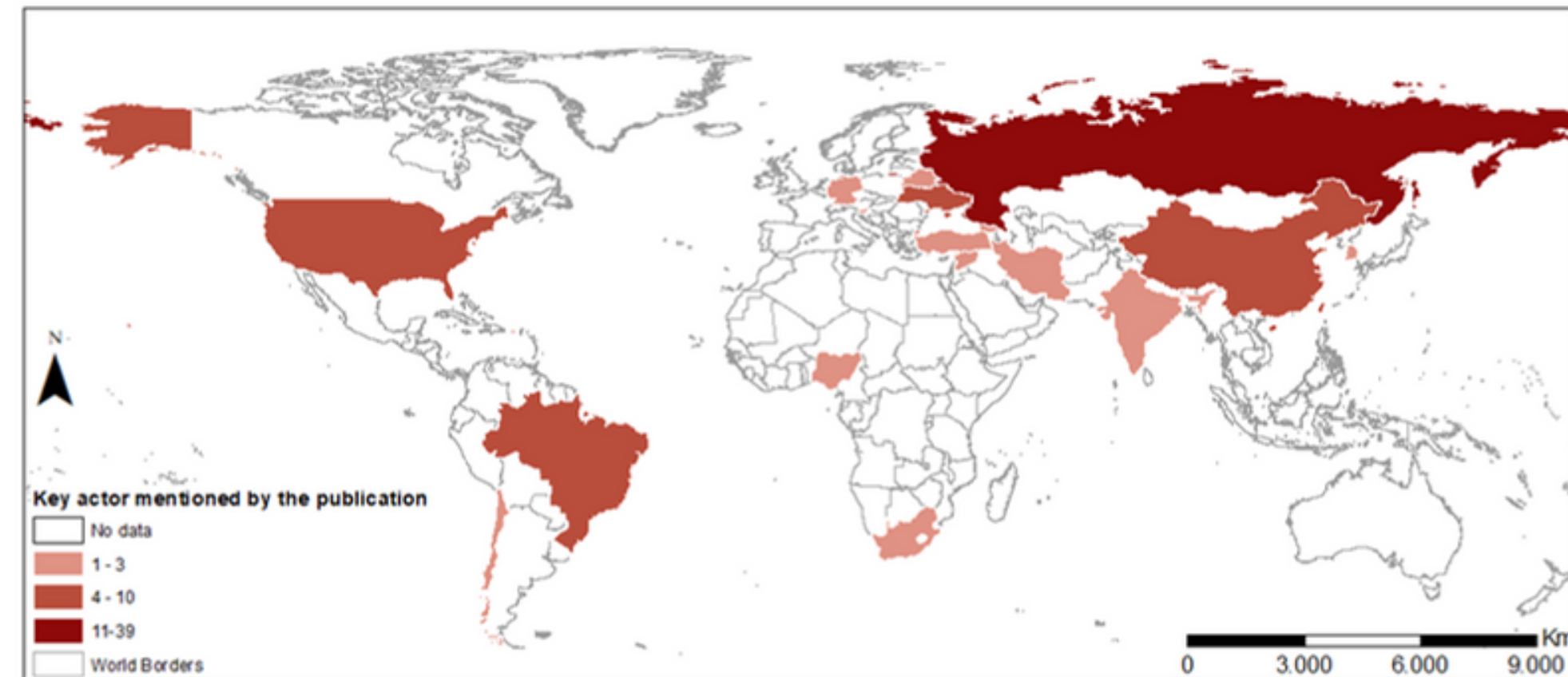


THE BRAZILIAN CASE

4. KEY ACTORS ASSOCIATED

- **Russian centrality:** Russia dominates as the main reference point in Brazilian publications (as expected).
- **Major powers in focus:** The United States, China, and European countries appear prominently, reflecting attention to global power competition and alliances.
- **Geopolitical lens:** The distribution suggests that Brazilian research frames Russia largely within the dynamics of international rivalry and strategic partnerships.

Key Actors Mentioned By Publication In Brazilian Sources (2000-2025)



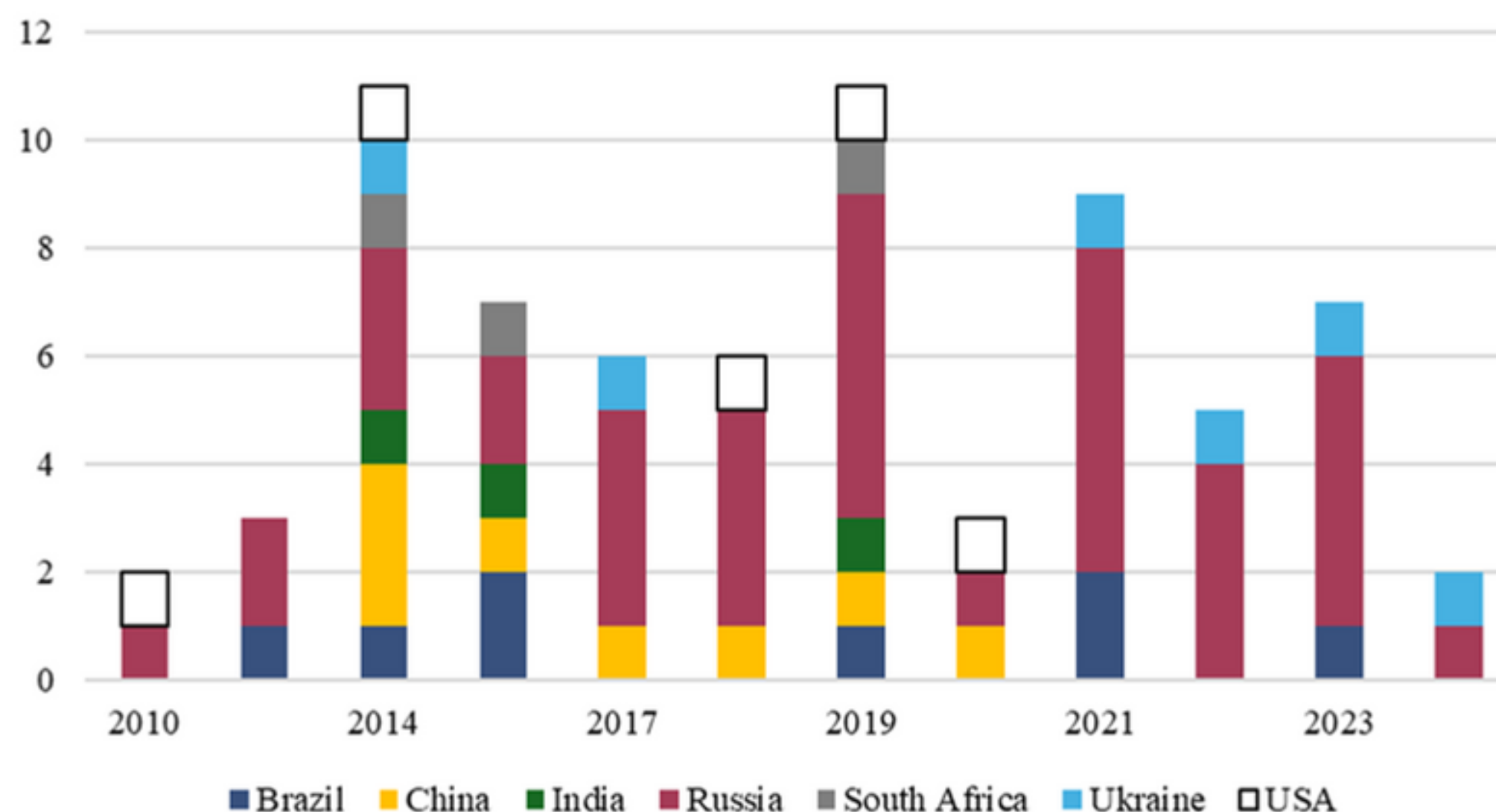
Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

THE BRAZILIAN CASE

4. KEY ACTORS ASSOCIATED

- **Russia's dominance with peaks:** Russia remains the central reference, with peaks in mentions of the United States, China, and Ukraine during key geopolitical events like Crimea (2014) and the Ukraine war (2022).
- **BRICS dimension:** Mentions of BRICS partners, though less frequent, highlight Brazil's engagement with Russia through South–South cooperation frameworks.
- **Relational perspective:** Brazilian research situates Russia within broader dynamics of rivalry and multilateralism, linking its role to other global and regional powers.

Key Actors Mentioned Over 20 Publications In Brazilian Sources (2000-2025)



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025



THE BRAZILIAN CASE

5. REFERENCES TO RELATED STRUCTURES AND REGIONS

- **Central focus on Russia itself:** References to Soviet and Russian state structures dominate, emphasizing institutional and historical frameworks as core to Brazilian research.
- **European prominence:** Europe appears as the main external region, reflecting Russia's strategic and geopolitical positioning.
- **Multilateral and regional scope:** Mentions of international development, regional organizations, and bodies like BRICS and the SCO show attention to Russia's role in cooperative frameworks, while the Middle East, North Africa, and "other regions" remain marginal.

References to related structures and Regions by Publications In Russian Sources (2000-2025)



Universal International Organizations: United Nations, International Criminal Court, United Nations, UNESCO, World Trade Organization. / **International Development:** Global South, IBSA, New Development Bank, OECD, G20, World Bank, Development Financing, International Monetary System, Multilateral Banks, the Cairns Group, National Oil Companies, International Energy Regime, G7/G8 / **Middle East and North Africa:** Middle East, Gulf Countries, Arab World / **Europe:** Western Europe, Baltic States, Eastern Europe, Post-Soviet space / **Regional International Organizations:** Shanghai Cooperation Organization, NATO, European Union, CIS / **Other regions:** East Africa, Southern Ocean, Southern Polar Region / **Structures related to Russian State:** Soviet Union, Valdai, etc.

Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

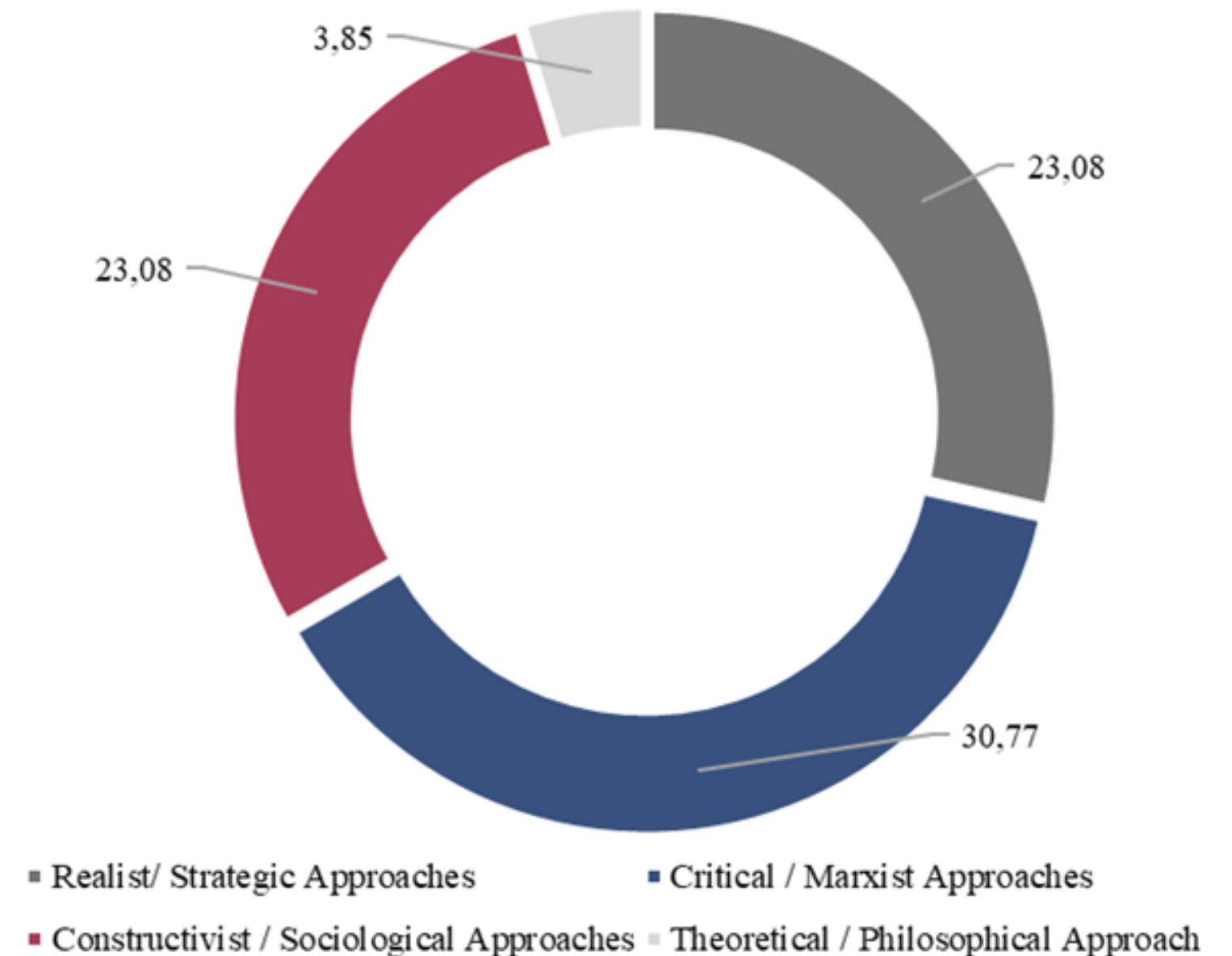


THE BRAZILIAN CASE

6. RESEARCH DESIGN

- **Lack of clarity:** A large share of publications omit theoretical (76,32%) and methodological (50%) frameworks, reflecting a broader pattern in brazilian academic writing.
- **Sociological dominance:** Sociological approaches account for over half of the works, shaping how Brazil's academia frames Russia.
- **Secondary perspectives:** Realist/strategic and critical/Marxist approaches appear less frequently but in balanced proportion.
- **Theoretical–agenda tension:** Despite politics being the main research agenda, the theoretical focus leans toward social structures and processes rather than purely geopolitical or economic paradigms.

Theoretical background indicated in Russian publications on Brazil (2000-2025)



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

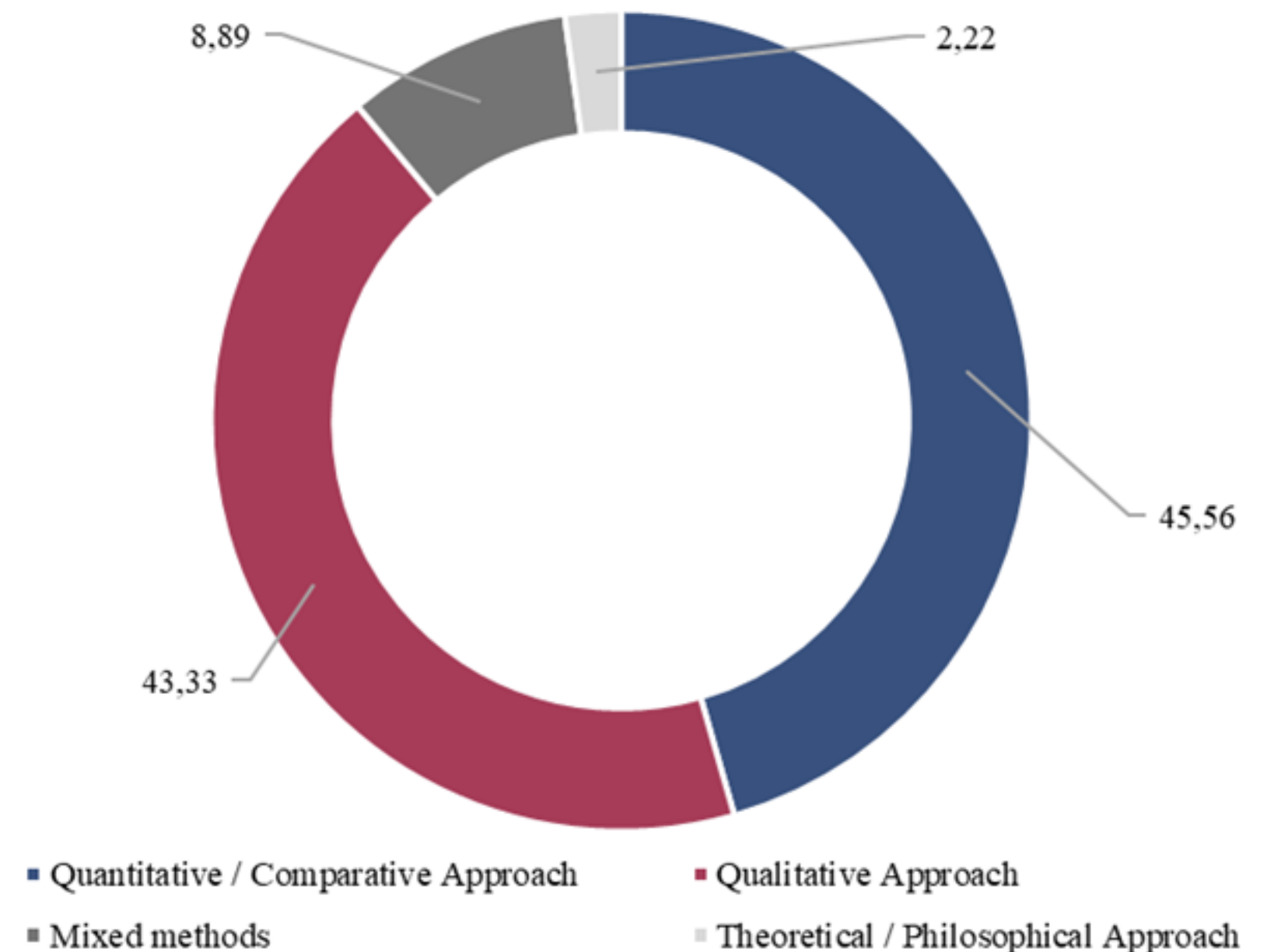


THE BRAZILIAN CASE

6. RESEARCH DESIGN

- **Qualitative prevalence:** Qualitative approaches dominate, though quantitative/comparative and theoretical/philosophical methods also hold a significant share.
- **Low use of mixed methods:** The limited adoption of mixed designs points to a preference for more specialized frameworks, likely tied to disciplinary traditions.
- **Interpretive orientation:** The field combines theoretical diversity with a methodological tilt toward interpretive strategies, signaling attempts to study Russia beyond classical power-politics perspectives.

Methodological structures indicated in Russian publications on Brazil (2000-2025).



Source: Secches; Nascimento, 2025

THE BRAZILIAN CASE

Brazilian academic production on Russia between 2000 and 2025 is relatively small but reveals clear trends: a predominance of political analyses, punctual growth during moments of international crisis, and a methodological preference for qualitative approaches. Although most works do not explicitly state their theoretical or methodological frameworks, there is a prevalence of sociological lenses and interpretive strategies, reflecting an effort to understand Russia beyond classical geopolitics.

Key Findings



LANGUAGE

Absence of Russian as an academic circulation language.



THEME

53% of the research prioritizes political themes, followed by economics (20%), culture/society (14%), and defense/security (12%), highlighting the dominance of geopolitical narratives



METHODS

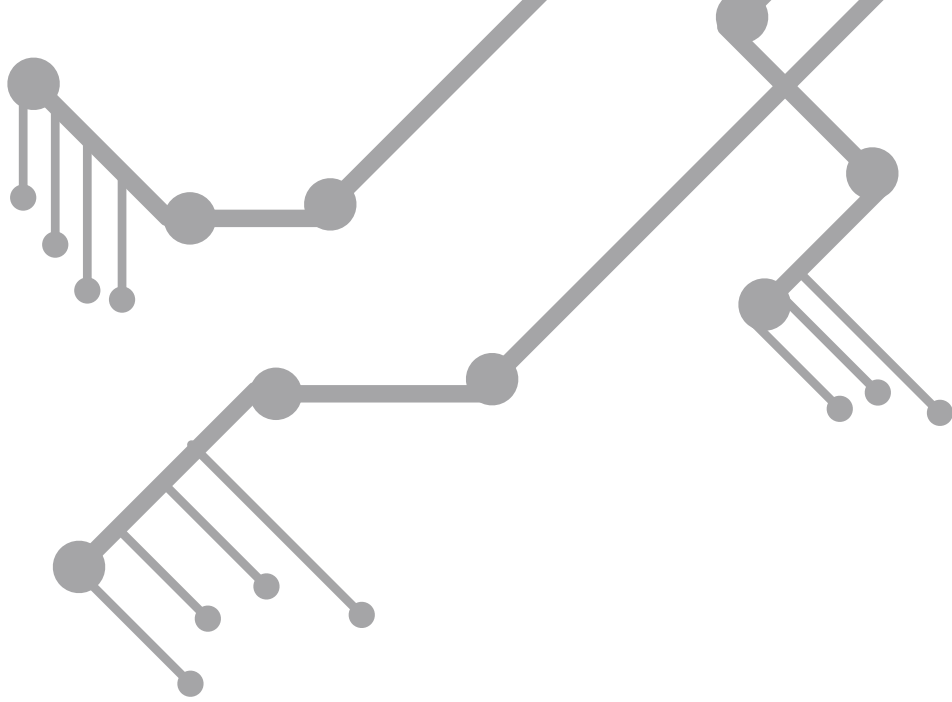
Sociological and qualitative approaches stand out, with limited use of mixed methods.



PEAKS OF INTEREST

The volume of publications increased after critical events such as the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the war in Ukraine in 2022, but dropped sharply in 2024





COMPARING PRODUCTIONS IN BRAZIL AND RUSSIA

● LANGUAGE

In both directions, production is predominantly in the domestic language, with English appearing as a secondary option. This indicates a strong orientation toward domestic audiences and the use of English as an external bridge.

● EVOLUTION

In both cases, there is a high influence of systemic events, showing the agenda's sensitivity to conjunctural shifts. Russian sources have grown steadily since 2010 and have maintained a high volume with fluctuations; in Brazil, the series is more erratic, with 2024 especially low.

● PRIORITIZED AGENDA

Politics leads in both cases; Economics follows in second place. On the Russian side, Economics nearly matches Politics; on the Brazilian side, Politics dominates by a wide margin, while Culture/Society and Defense remain peripheral.

● KEY ACTORS ASSOCIATED

Both fields link the Brazil–Russia dyad to major systemic actors (US, China) and BRICS partners, reinforcing a framework of competition/cooperation among powers.

● RELATED STRUCTURES AND REGIONS

BRICS/NDB, G20, and regional organizations (e.g., Mercosur/EU) appear in both corpora, suggesting an interest in cooperation around “development/multilateralism” that sustains part of the production and aligns with Brazil's and Russia's stance on multipolarity.

● RESEARCH DESIGN

In both corpora, there is a high rate of non-disclosure of theoretical frameworks. On the Russian side, quantitative/comparative methods are more present (almost tied with qualitative approaches); on the Brazilian side, qualitative methods predominate more strongly and there is also a proportionally greater tendency to use mixed methods.

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Большое Спасибо!



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