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## **What's the buzz about circular economy? A bibliometric analysis**

### *Abstract*

Circular economy embodies the idea of using resources more circularly, as opposed to traditional linear systems. Recently, more and more researchers and practitioners alike have turned their attention to this growing phenomenon. Indeed, there has been a consecutive growth rate of approximately 150 % in 2019 as well as in 2020 compared to the respective previous year in academic literature and a current publication rate of three hundred articles per month hints to an ongoing magnification of this research field. This dramatic increase has revealed new sub-topics and directions in this last two years that suggest the need for a new literature review to capture such trends. On the one hand, we seek to extract research themes, their relation to established research streams and capture directions for future research. On the other hand, we aim to answer the question *why* this research field is exploding. In this review, we analyze 7,660 documents published until February 2021. We use Bibliometrix, an R-tool for comprehensive science mapping analysis (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017), before manually coding selected papers. Our review is based on a bibliometric analysis as suggested by Linnenluecke, Marrone and Sing (2020) and incorporates recommendations from other researchers to achieve an augmented literature review (Anand et al., 2021). The main outcomes and results of the paper will be the identification of the most influential key themes, whilst paying particular attention to new trend topics with the goal of setting an agenda for future research.

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