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Civic engagement, democracy promotion, community development, wellbeing, and mental health in Higher Education Institutions– a protocol for a systematic literature review

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - This SLR will be supported by publication funding from APPsyCI- Applied Psychology Research Center Capabilities and Inclusion - reference: FT/UIDB/05299/2020.

Review Stage at time of this submission - The review has not yet started.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 25 July 2023 and was last updated on 25 July 2023.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective How are Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) promoting youth civic engagement and/or promoting democracy? What are the main results at the wellbeing students' level, HEI's dynamics level, or community's level?

Rationale We can identify a growing interest on civic engagement research, associated to HEIs. We searched in several databases, considering our main keywords, so we could understand the state of art at a general research level, and on LSR particular level. The databases considered were: Ebsco, PubMed, Scopus, ERIC, Web of Science. We also searched on Google Scholar and Research Gate. For specific LSR we searched on Inplasy and Prospero. The keywords were: Civic Engagement AND Higher Education; Civic Engagement AND Community Development; Civic Engagement AND Wellbeing AND Higher Education; Civic Engagement AND Wellbeing AND

Mental Health; Wellbeing AND Mental Health AND Higher Education; Civic Engagement AND Promotion of Democracy.

We couldn't find any SLR with the mentioned keywords in Inplasy or in Prospero. Through Google Scholar we can find several studies relating CIVIC ENGAGEMENT and social responsibility or service-learning programs. We can also find several studies, including several SLR about wellbeing and mental health in HEIS, as well as mental health and civic engagement. We also found SLR on adult civic education and support for democratic values. In EBSCO we can find several studies related to the association between civic engagement, community and democracy processes, however we could only found a SLR on the promotion of civic engagement among young people associated to political participation, in 2014. In PubMed we found several studies around mental health and wellbeing in HEIS, and some (not many) are SLR. But not about its association with civic engagement, community development, or promotion of democracy. In Scopus we didn't

find any systematic literature review about civic engagement in HEIS but there are some studies about Civic Engagement and Political Participation, wellbeing and emerging adulthood. Eric provides several studies about education contexts, including HEIs, civic engagement and wellbeing but we didn't find there any SLR on these topics. In Web of Science database, we could identify some studies on wellbeing and higher education associated to higher education context, and one SLR on socially responsible universities in HEIS research. Finally, in Research Gate, we can find several published studies on civic engagement, wellbeing, and higher education on research gate, but we didn't identify any SLR. We are then proposing to deepen the research on civic engagement, considering the HEIs context, and to analyze three levels of impact: Students wellbeing, HEIs dynamics, community. This is a more complex approach to these topics, that will be related for the first time within a SLR approach.

Condition being studied The research will look to civic engagement in higher education institutions, considering different ways of promoting civic engagement and democracy in HEIs, and identifying research that integrated its impact at students' wellbeing and mental health, as well as the HEIs dynamics on those processes, and the community changes along with the more engaged students and more open HEIs to their communities.

METHODS

Search strategy We will search on four databases: Web of Science; Scopus; PsycInfo and ERIC, and consider only evidence-based research, excluding gray literature. Our search will use the following equation: (civic engagement AND Higher Education) (Wellbeing OR Mental Health) (Communit* OR Democrac*)(student* OR facult*).

Participant or population We will consider studies with distinct HEIs all over the world, private and public, and with undergraduate and master students, excluding studies with PhD students, and no exclusions based on ethnicity, gender or age. All kind of communities will be considered (urban and rural).

Intervention The study will consider the different levels impact of the HEIs strategies for promoting civic engagement and democracy.

Comparator It will be compared different strategies of promoting civic engagement (eg.

Service-learning, community-based learning, and others).

Study designs to be included We will consider different studies designs to enrich the search.

Eligibility criteria We will consider studies that approached the outcomes on the previously identified levels of impact (students, HEIs dynamics, community). The studies considered will be the ones written in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish, and published in international scientific journals.

Information sources Gray literature, dissertations and theses and other non-bibliographic database sources will not be considered on this SLR.

Main outcome(s) We expect to find some outcomes on:

- wellbeing of the students (subjective wellbeing, psychological wellbeing, eudemonic and hedonic wellbeing, mental health, depression, anxiety, stress)
- HEIs dynamics (openness to community, open to the students and community stakeholders participation - students perception, faculty perception)
- Community (democratic dynamics/ stakeholders perception).

Additional outcome(s) Academic performance.

Data management The data will be gathered by the main researcher, Catarina Rivero on the behalf of her PhD research, with the support of the supervisor Maria João Vargas Moniz, PhD (ISPA) and co-supervisor Sónia P. Gonçalves, PhD (ISCSP – Universidade de Lisboa). We will have an external advisor and judge to help on decision making of inclusion/exclusion process, Christian Compare, PhD on this specific area, Bologna University.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis As we will consider both quantitative and qualitative studies, we will follow the recommendations from these two sources:

- Law M, Stewart D, Pollock N, Letts L, Bosch J, Westmorland M. Critical review form—quantitative studies. Hamilton: Mac- Master University; 1998.
- Letts L, Wilkins S, Stewart D, et al. Critical review form: qualitative studies (version 2.0). Hamilton: MacMaster Univer- sity; 2007.

Strategy of data synthesis Our data will be approached through Content Analysis, specifically Thematic Analysis, considering emergent categories and themes (Braun et al, 2019).

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2019). Reflecting on reflexive thematic analysis. *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health*, 11(4), 589-597. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2159676X.2019.1628806>.

Subgroup analysis There are no subgroups.

Sensitivity analysis The utilized strategy is the Inter-judge agreement.

Language restriction Only studies published in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish will be considered.

Country(ies) involved Portugal; Italy.

Keywords civic engagement; Higher education; wellbeing; mental health; communit*; democrac*.

Dissemination plans We pretend to publish in a scientific journal, as well as present the results in international conferences about civic engagement and Higher Education.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Catarina Rivero - main author, on behalf of her Phd Research.

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Author 2 - Christian Compare - second author, will contribute as judge on inclusion/exclusion criteria and discussions of the research paths.

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Author 3 - Sónia Gonçalves - will contribute as PhD research co-supervisor.

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Author 4 - Maria João Vargas-Moniz - will contribute as PhD research supervisor.

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