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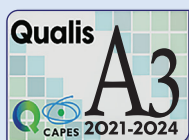
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LAW: PROFILE AND BEHAVIOR IN BRAZILIAN ACADEMIA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE INDEX LAW JOURNALS OF CONPEDI AND IN LIGHT OF SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS

Inteligência Artificial no Direito: Perfil e
Comportamento na Academia Brasileira
Sob a Perspectiva do Index Law Journals do
CONPEDI e à Luz da Análise de Redes Sociais

*Inteligencia Artificial en Derecho: Perfil
y Comportamiento en La Academia
Brasileña desde la Perspectiva del
Index Law Journals del CONPEDI y a la
Luz del Análisis de Redes Sociales*

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ABSTRACT | Objective: The objective of this study was to investigate the profile and behavior of AI in Law in Brazilian academia from the perspective of the Index Law Journals (ILJ) of the National Council for Research and Postgraduate Studies in Law (CONPEDI) and in light of Social Network Analysis (SNA). **Methodology:** Methodologically, SNA was used as a research technique in 62 studies. **Results:** The main results were: 2021, 2022, and 2023 were the most central periods; Revista de Direito, Governança e Novas Tecnologias was the most dominant journal; Valéria Silva Galdino Cardin and Ricardo Libel Waldman were the most influential authors; Cesumar University (UNICESUMAR) and Paranaense University (UNIPAR) were the most relevant institutions; and artificial intelligence, algorithms, surveillance, personality rights, fundamental rights, technology, privacy, efficiency, data protection, tax collection, access to justice, new technologies, law, information society, regulation,





non-things, innovation, and comparative law were the most central keywords. **Conclusion:** It concludes by highlighting, from the perspective of the ILJ of the CONPEDI database and the SNA, the state of the art on AI in Law, thus contributing to its better understanding and comprehension, as well as contributing, synchronously, to its growth, development, maturation, dissemination and socialization of its publications in the academic literature of Brazil.

Keywords | Artificial intelligence in Law, Brazilian academia, Index Law Journals, CONPEDI, SNA.

RESUMO | Objetivo: O objetivo deste estudo foi investigar o perfil e comportamento na academia brasileira da IA no Direito sob a perspectiva do *Index Law Journals* (ILJ) do Conselho Nacional de Pesquisa e Pós-graduação em Direito (CONPEDI) e à luz da Análise de Redes Sociais (ARS). **Metodologia:** Metodologicamente, utilizou-se a ARS como técnica de investigação em 62 estudos. **Resultados:** Os principais resultados foram: 2021, 2022 e 2023 que foram os períodos mais centrais; Revista de Direito, Governança e Novas Tecnologias, o periódico mais dominante; Valéria Silva Galdino Cardin e Ricardo Libel Waldman, os autores mais influentes; Universidade Cesumar (UNICESUMAR) e Universidade Paranaense (UNIPAR), as instituições mais relevantes; e inteligência artificial, algoritmos, vigilância, direitos da personalidade, direito fundamental, tecnologia, privacidade, eficiência, proteção de dados, arrecadação, acesso à justiça, novas tecnologias, direito, sociedade da informação, regulação, não-coisas, inovação e direito comparado, as palavras-chave mais centrais. **Conclusão:** Conclui-se ao colocar em destaque, sob a perspectiva do banco de dados ILJ do CONPEDI e da ARS, o estado da arte sobre IA no Direito, contribuindo assim para o seu melhor entendimento e compreensão, como, também, na contribuição, de maneira síncrona, em seu crescimento, desenvolvimento, amadurecimento, disseminação e socialização de suas publicações na literatura acadêmica do Brasil.

Palavras-chave | Inteligência artificial no Direito, Academia brasileira, Index Law Journals, CONPEDI, ARS.

RESUMEN | Objetivo: El objetivo de este estudio fue investigar el perfil y el comportamiento de la IA en Derecho en la academia brasileña desde la perspectiva de las *Index Law Journals* (ILJ) del Consejo Nacional de Investigación y Posgrado en Derecho (CONPEDI) y a la luz del Análisis de Redes Sociales (ARS). **Metodología:** Metodológicamente, el ARS se utilizó como técnica de investigación en 62 estudios. **Resultados:** Los principales resultados fueron: 2021, 2022 y 2023 fueron los períodos más importantes; Revista de Direito, Governança e Novas Tecnologias fue la revista más dominante; Valéria Silva Galdino Cardin y Ricardo Libel Waldman fueron los autores más influyentes; la Universidad Cesumar (UNICESUMAR) y la Universidad de Paraná (UNIPAR) fueron las instituciones más relevantes; e inteligencia artificial, algoritmos, vigilancia, derechos de la personalidad, derechos fundamentales, tecnología, privacidad, eficiencia, protección de datos, recaudación tributaria, acceso a la justicia, nuevas tecnologías, derecho, sociedad de la información, regulación, no-cosas, innovación y derecho comparado fueron las palabras clave más importantes. **Conclusión:** El artículo concluye destacando, desde la perspectiva de las bases de datos CONPEDI y ARS ILJ, el estado del arte de la IA en Derecho, contribuyendo así a su mejor comprensión y entendimiento, así como, simultáneamente, al crecimiento, desarrollo, maduración, difusión y socialización de sus publicaciones en la literatura académica brasileña.

Palabras clave | Inteligencia artificial en Derecho, Academia brasileña, Index Law Journals, CONPEDI, ARS.

1 INTRODUCCION

Due to its capacity to process data, identify directions, make diagnoses, and accelerate bureaucratic processes, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been disruptively impacting the fields toward which it leans. Thus, AI's powers have grown to the point where it has become evident that its applications in various economic sectors help promote a just society. That said, it is emphasized that several established legal topics, problems, and principles are already being questioned through



the use of AI in numerous applications, therefore, AI's competencies have grown to the point where its execution in the field of Law has become evident (NTI et al., 2023; LUZ; LIMA, 2025).

Thus, AI in Law advances data processing, makes findings, and brings unprecedented efficiency in results to legal practice. Therefore, new disruptive technologies, such as AI, are here to stay and will greatly impact the field of Law and, consequently, society in the coming years (NTI et al., 2023; LUZ; LIMA, 2025).

Based on the results of studies conducted by researchers on AI in Law, the following points are identified: application of AI in the analysis and prediction of legal trends; AI in the personalization of the legal learning experience; AI and professional legal ethics; development of AI tools to support legal teaching and research; and integration of AI into *online* learning systems for legal education (MONG; THANH, 2024).

Therefore, considering the extent of AI applications within Law, it is important to carry out further studies in countries through comprehensive perspectives using metric measures to investigate AI in Law in the academic environment (AYDEMIR; CEBECI, 2023b).

Given the above and in a broad manner, it is understood that AI improves itself with the characteristic of serving different objectives, and the field of Law is one of the areas most influenced by this technology. Thus, it is observed that the convergence of AI and Law occurs through the implementation of legal mechanisms or through impacts on society that reverberate in Law. It is concluded that AI has the power to significantly influence existing rights, both in economic, political, and social aspects (LUZ; LIMA, 2025).

Nevertheless, and consequently, in recent years, there has been growing interest in the use of AI in the legal domain among professionals, policymakers, academics, and researchers (NTI et al., 2023).

That said, it is highlighted that among the countries with the highest number of publications focusing on AI and the field of Law, the United States of America (USA), China, the United Kingdom, and Germany stand out, while Italy, Australia, and Brazil are also prominent in terms of publication numbers (AYDEMIR; CEBECI, 2023a). Regarding Brazil, this statement is corroborated by the authors Carvalho, Gouveia, and Ramos (2022), who observe a growing movement of AI in Law, a field within the Applied Social Sciences.

Given the above, it is observed the relevance of AI in view of technological innovations, as well as its influence on the field of Law as a whole. In light of this, it is recognized that the future has arrived, and the urgency of adapting AI within the Brazilian legal apparatus is indisputable (MORAIS DA ROSA, 2019).

Parallel to this, there is an observed growth in scientific production focused on the analysis of AI in the Brazilian academic sphere in the field of Applied Social Sciences (RIBEIRO, 2025a), and, because of this, in the field of legal knowledge, which constitutes a fertile and emerging area of academic investigation in Brazil (LÁZARO; SILVA, 2025).

In this manner, the research question that grounded and guided this study is emphasized here, which was: What is the profile and behavior of AI in Law within Brazilian academia from the perspective of the CONPEDI *Index Law Journals* and in light of SNA? Thus, the aim of the study was



to investigate the profile and behavior of AI in Law within Brazilian academia from the perspective of the CONPEDI *Index Law Journals* and in light of SNA.

Regarding scientific production, it is said that it is a relevant indicator that deepens the understanding and comprehension of the paths and possibilities of a given field of knowledge (CARRILHO; MATOS; NASU, 2025).

The use of Social Network Analysis (SNA) in this study is justified because it is a method that contributes to investigations seeking to develop understanding and, consequently, comprehension of the possible relationships existing among the elements of the study, such as periods, journals, authors, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and keywords (CALLADO; SILVA, 2018; LULEWICZ; THOMPSON, 2022; CHEN et al., 2023; RIBEIRO, 2025b).

Therefore, this methodology is a mechanism whose purpose is to observe the existence of study groups, *clusters* that stand out, and the structure and formation of actors' networks, thus enabling the creation of data, information, and knowledge that may become research references on certain topics and fields of knowledge saber (CALLADO; SILVA, 2018; LULEWICZ; THOMPSON, 2022; CHEN et al., 2023; RIBEIRO, 2025b), as in the case of AI and Law, respectively.

Regarding research focused on the academic panorama of Brazil, the *Index Law Journals* (ILJ) of the National Council for Research and Graduate Studies in Law (CONPEDI) was chosen for the selection of studies on AI in Law. CONPEDI is a Scientific Society of Law in Brazil, organized as a civil association with legal personality under private law and without economic purposes, which encourages and promotes legal studies and the development of graduate programs in Law in Brazil. Its institutional initiatives respond to the challenge of projecting legal research toward the social advancement of Brazil (CONPEDI, 2025).

It is further emphasized that CONPEDI has already been used as a research base, as in the study by Silva, Martins, and Moreira (2018), which verified how the use of technological resources available to the executive secretary can impact the execution of activities related to the organization of scientific events. The aforementioned authors observed that CONPEDI structures its actions on a theoretical basis, a fact that, they believe, promotes an appropriate management of contemporary events, focusing on legal teaching and research, with the purpose of encouraging and supporting studies in the field of Law (SILVA; MARTINS; MOREIRA, 2018).

Although there are already studies in the scientific literature focusing on AI and Law together (AYDEMIR; CEBECI, 2023a; NTI et al., 2023; MONG; THANH, 2024), none of these investigations have proposed to examine AI in Law within Brazilian academia and from the perspective of the CONPEDI ILJ database and SNA. Therefore, for the first time and up to the present moment, this current study brings within its scope AI in Law, investigated through research with an emphasis on the scientific production of Brazilian articles published in journals from the perspective of the CONPEDI ILJ and under the predominant lens of SNA.

Regarding the ILJ, it is stated that it is an open-access electronic portal that contains scientific journals in the field of Law that are gradually being indexed in Brazilian and international databases (ELGUETA, 2025). It is further noted that the ILJ has already been used as a data platform for research on the topic of AI in the national academic context (ACIOLY; MENDES; MONTEIRO NETO, 2024).



Thus, the importance of this study is expressed here, as it is grounded and guided by its originality, and, as a consequence, it brings state-of-the-art data, information, and knowledge on the topic of AI in the field of legal knowledge. Consequently, this scientific research, which reveals the contemporaneity of studies on AI in Law, contributes to the creation and simultaneous publication of further investigations on the academic production of this referenced and prominent subject, thereby contributing to its better understanding and comprehension, and influencing, in a synchronous manner, its growth, improvement, and maturation in the Brazilian scientific literature.

2 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LAW

In general, AI is defined as the constellation of items such as algorithms, robotics, and neural networks that allow *software* to possess intelligence properties comparable to those of a human being, among them learning with minimal human interference from databases (MESQUITA, 2017; RODRIGUES et al., 2024).

In other terms, AI is a technology that enables a machine to perform tasks that previously could only be carried out through the presence of human intelligence. That said, the essence of AI is the presence of algorithms that allow machine learning, combined with computational processing capacity (MESQUITA, 2017; RODRIGUES et al., 2024).

With regard to algorithms, it is further emphasized that AI has its roots in the development of algorithms, since this is the logical means that allows the creation of its responses. Thus, the symbiotic logic that governs the evolution of technology, based on academic knowledge, has a similar logic between algorithmic evolution and the evolution of AI. Therefore, not only did the logic of algorithms need to evolve, but before that, the knowledge founded on the structures of neural processes needed to point to more refined solutions for increasingly complex problems (RODRIGUES, 2025).

Thus, more refined algorithms, grounded in models of deeper neural network functioning, need to be improved to drive the evolution of AI itself. At this stage of AI development, tackling problems to be solved by AI is approached by area, such as in the case of Law, considering the nature of the obstacles. For this reason, there are various AIs, each focused on a specific specialty of an adversity within a given field, which, for this study, was Law (RODRIGUES, 2025).

Given the above, it is emphasized that the world is in constant economic, political, and technological change, and contemporary society is inserted in a transformation process in which new technologies are the main drivers of the so-called information society. A new model of societal organization is being experienced, based on a mode of economic and social development in which information, as a means of creating knowledge, plays an essential and relevant role in the production and circulation of wealth, as well as in contributing to the well-being and quality of life of human beings (ROCHA; WALDMAN, 2020).

Thus, a prerequisite for the advancement of the information society is that everyone can access new technologies, especially the advancement of AI through highly capable algorithms that significantly impact personal, professional, and leisure communications (ROCHA; WALDMAN, 2020).



AI is a tool developed as a result of the advancement of Science, because to reach the point where it currently stands, the close multidisciplinary cooperation and extensive research were essential, involving everything from the understanding and comprehension of learning processes and the mechanics of information processing in the brain to the programming of algorithms and the improvement of new technologies capable of supporting a large chain of data and information (TAKAKURA; DUARTE, 2022).

Thus, it is observed that AI can indeed be used, judicially, for example, to draft a decision in assistance to the legal operator, since it would be subject to committing fewer errors when analyzing the large volume of cases that a human being may generate for several reasons, such as fatigue and heuristics, due to the common aspects of legal proceedings. In this way, it is stated that AI and humans can work together in the field of Law, in a co-robotic manner, so as to enhance the efficiency of judicial performance (TAKAKURA; DUARTE, 2022).

In light of the above, it is added and emphasized that the number of claims reaching the Judiciary has become a warning sign, prompting the search for tools capable of achieving swift and economical Justice. Information Technology (IT), through AI, presents a significant transformative direction for this reality. In view of this, it is highlighted that many countries employ AI in their daily litigation practices, and its applications are numerous (FELIPE; PERROTA, 2025).

However, resistance is observed among legal professionals, which dates back to the Luddite movement that occurred in the context of the Industrial Revolution, however, the path presented alternates, then, between resisting or converging to the ongoing technological transformation. Despite this, it is not a choice to be made, but certainly a reality to be incorporated and guided, since AI mechanisms are indeed devices of transformation within the legal work system (FELIPE; PERROTA, 2025).

In view of this, it is reiterated and verified that AI has come to be prioritized in critical decision-support processes due to its success in solving complex and uncertain problems. Likewise, the field of Law, where decisions directly impact human life, can also be evaluated within this scope. Thus, AI finds practical application at various levels within the legal system to support decision-making, such as legal research, electronic discovery, contract analysis, case prediction, and document automation (TAKAKURA; DUARTE, 2022; AYDEMIR; CEBECI, 2023b; TRITTO; PONCE, 2025).

Thus, the scope of AI can be expanded to provide support for the management of the legal system, however, it is coherent to emphasize that a balanced integration of AI innovation with the narrative functions in the field of Law is always necessary, thereby preserving interpretation in legal analysis. In other words, AI in Law must be used in close cooperation with human beings, with the final decision-making process always resting with humans (TAKAKURA; DUARTE, 2022; AYDEMIR; CEBECI, 2023b; TRITTO; PONCE, 2025).

Here an addendum is made, regarding innovation in AI, highlighting *Lawtech/Legaltech*, which comes from the english word *Law*, meaning law or legislation, while *tech* is an abbreviation of *technology*. Frequently, the term *Legaltech* is used to define *startups/companies* that create products and services of technological innovations, with the focus on improving the provision of services in the legal sphere. In other words, these are companies that develop solutions to improve the management of law firms, public legal departments, and similar entities, making the routine of



the legal professional more efficient and with reduced operational costs, thus having an evident impact on the budget of those who use it (CARVALHO; ALONSO, 2022).

Considering this, the research by Queiroz and Disconzi (2024) is addressed, in which they discussed the impact of AI on the Brazilian legal field. In the results found by the aforementioned authors, it was evidenced that AI is used to automate the review and analysis of legal documents, such as contracts, agreements, and petitions, saving time and reducing human errors. Furthermore, machine learning algorithms are used to anticipate legal outcomes based on previous cases and jurisprudence. This can assist lawyers in making strategic decisions (QUEIROZ; DISCONZI, 2024).

Thus, the integration of AI in the field of Law can improve efficiency, mitigate costs, and provide valuable *insights*. However, it also raises some ethical and legal issues, such as responsibility for decisions made by AI tools and, with that, generates the need to protect the privacy of the data involved. Therefore, the responsible and ethical use of AI in the area of Law is a relevant consideration as this technology continues to develop and evolve (QUEIROZ; DISCONZI, 2024).

Now, in practice, regarding AI in Law, the study by Santos et al. (2024) is highlighted. They analyzed the influences of the application of AI through *Legaltech*, “as a means of debureaucratizing routines typically carried out by legal operators that do not have a scientific nature but require time, bringing as a benefit the optimization of these routines to improve the productivity of law firms and Courts” (SANTOS et al., 2024, p. 1).

Thus, the aforementioned authors found that *Legaltech* is revolutionizing the legal sector, as it is providing several benefits, such as process automation, increased efficiency, and cost minimization, as a logical consequence, it leads to the debureaucratization of administrative routines, which also exist within the legal field, resulting in a more effective approach by legal professionals in solving the problems presented by their clients and court users *jurisdicionados* (SANTOS et al., 2024).

Still with respect to the Courts, the authors Broglio and Salgado (2024) discussed the impacts of AI on the Court of Justice of the State of Tocantins. Based on their analysis, the authors found that the technology, that is, AI has arrived to open new frontiers, receiving substantial acceptance and even encouragement for its implementation by bodies of the Judiciary, with existing projects and targets. Thus, it is stated that the impacts experienced by the Court of Justice due to the implementation of AI are positive.

It is further added, by way of example, that the massive incorporation of technologies could alleviate the 81,4 million pending cases, according to the latest Judiciary Report, referring to the year 2022, particularly through the use of AI. Therefore, AI stands out among digital technologies as a means of accelerating the Judiciary. In other words, its direct impact on society (AI in Law) is to enable greater access to justice and to reduce social disputes (RODRIGUES et al., 2024).

On the other hand, because AI is devoid of moral values and ethical principles, it could lead society to legal instability and social imbalance. For now, however, its use (AI in Law) cannot dispense with the direct involvement of human initiative in adjudication and sentencing (RODRIGUES et al., 2024).

Henceforth, in the academic context, sociobibliometric research (bibliometrics and sociometrics) is envisioned here, exploring AI in the field of Law and emphasizing its respective



objectives, results, and conclusions. An addition is made here by highlighting that bibliometric and sociometric procedures are used in quantitative approaches and are essential for improving the understanding and comprehension of the context of a given topic or area of knowledge, deepening the discussion and the investigated content, while also enhancing the visibility of review studies (RIBEIRO et al., 2014; FERREIRA; SILVA, 2019; RIBEIRO, 2024b).

Aydemir and Cebeci (2023a) analyzed studies on AI in the field of law. The research results observed by the aforementioned authors indicate that there has been a significant increase in the number of studies after 2017, focusing on topics such as big data, robots, ethics, rights, data protection, autonomous weapons, and natural language processing.

In terms of the number of publications, Italy, Australia, and Brazil stand out after the United States, China, and England. Although the focus of the relationships among the authors of the study was on the countries of the European Union (EU), there was intense cooperation between China and the United States and between Australia and EU countries. The growing number of studies in the field of Law suggests that AI will advance even further and become more prominent in the legal field in the near future (AYDEMIR; CEBECI, 2023a).

The authors Nti et al. (2023) investigated AI and its application in the field of Law. As main results, the researchers found: the evolution of scientific production on AI and Law at the international level; the United States, Italy, Austria, and the United Kingdom were the most productive and, consequently, the most central countries. The most prolific universities were Vilniaus, Innsbruck, Stanford, Salerno, and Aegean.

The most central keywords were: artificial intelligence, legal informatics, laws and legislation, informatics, law, and ethics. The aforementioned scholars conclude that, although AI has the potential to significantly improve the efficiency of legal professionals and organizations, its integration requires a comprehensive legal framework to regulate its behavior and mitigate the risks associated with it. Thus, a balanced approach is necessary to ensure the safe and beneficial integration of AI into Law (NTI et al., 2023).

Mong and Thanh (2024) investigated the relationship between AI and legal education. The results reported by the aforementioned authors indicate that research on AI and legal education, although still limited, has been conducted in various countries, focusing on five main research directions, including: enhancing technical education systems in colleges and universities through educational technology and modern legal learning systems; the application of AI and algorithms in the legal field; the application of computational theory and *e-learning* technology in legal education; legal education and legal knowledge; and digital transformation in the area of legal training (MONG; THANH, 2024).

3 METHODOLOGICAL PROCEDURES

The objective of this research was to investigate the profile and behavior of AI in Law within the Brazilian academic setting, from the perspective of CONPEDI *Index Law Journals* and in light of SNA. SNA is significant for examining the connections, interactions, and activities present in



the scientific and knowledge production of elements within a scientific article, such as periods, journals, authors, higher education institutions (HEIs), and keywords (RIBEIRO, 2025c).

It is further noted that researchers and their respective HEIs are the main actors (elements) of a study, as they create academic value by researching, publishing, disseminating, and sharing knowledge on specific scientific topics within defined areas of expertise through communication channels, especially scientific journals. Accordingly, it can be understood that SNA creates a network of nodes concerning social structures and formations, mapping similarities or cooperation networks among the elements (members) of an academic study, which may include periods, journals, authors, institutions, and keywords (TRIVINO et al., 2024; RIBEIRO, 2025c).

It is reinforced by stating that SNA, from the English expression *Social Network Analysis*, originates from sociometrics and, with the contributions of the social history of knowledge, gained strength as a methodology in the field of Information Science. Thus, the need to understand the structures and social formations of the social network was accompanied by the refinement of ways to investigate trends and influences of thought, content evaluation, categories, lines, and research approaches (BUFREM; GABRIEL JUNIOR; SORRIBAS, 2011).

As a consequence of studies under this analytical approach, that is, SNA, an understanding is developed and, consequently, a comprehension not only of the field of knowledge under analysis but also of its social meaning and the characteristics of an emerging field of intellectual production, in light of a defined academic theme (BUFREM; GABRIEL JUNIOR; SORRIBAS, 2011).

It is further stated that one-mode networks are characterized when elements in a network have links with other elements of the same category, such as the members of an authors network, which is recognized as co-authorship networks. Here an addendum is made and simultaneously reiterated by noting that the term “mode” refers to specific categories of elements that make up a scientific article (TOMAÉL; MARTELETO, 2013; RIBEIRO, 2024a).

Two-mode networks comprise the relationships between two different sets of elements in a study, in other words, a two-mode network is characterized when its elements have connections with elements from other categories (TOMAÉL; MARTELETO, 2013; RIBEIRO, 2024a).

In view of the above, it is understood that the two-mode network is represented by the relationship between disparate elements of a research within a single social system, such as, for example, the links between periods and authors or between journals and authors (two distinct sets of elements) within the same social network (TOMAÉL; MARTELETO, 2013; RIBEIRO, 2024a). Finally, it is observed that studies focusing on the analysis of one-mode and two-mode networks have been published recently (RIBEIRO, 2024a; RIBEIRO, 2025b e 2025c), grounding and guiding the present research on AI in Law.

Still regarding SNA, it is emphasized that the structure and formation of social networks are investigated through the components that constitute them, which are: nodes (actors), ties (connections between actors), dyad (a connection composed of two actors), triad (a relationship formed by a set of three actors), cohesion (dense network), giant component (the largest group in the network), small-world (*clusters* of actors with strong ties), structural holes or gaps (failures in the formation and structure of the network), density (number of interactions between actors), and centrality (actors with the highest number of relationships/partnerships in the network) (SAMPAIO



et al., 2015; GRÁCIO, 2018; URBIZAGÁSTEGUI-ALVARADO, 2022; MELO; JESUS; MUSIAL, 2024; RIBEIRO, 2024b; RIBEIRO, 2025c).

That said, it is emphasized that, in order to investigate more deeply the formation and structure of social networks, this study made more robust use of the concepts of network density and actor centrality, thus allowing the identification of their roles within the respective social networks constituted (SAMPAIO et al., 2015; GRÁCIO, 2018; URBIZAGÁSTEGUI-ALVARADO, 2022; MELO; JESUS; MUSIAL, 2024; RIBEIRO, 2024b; RIBEIRO, 2025c).

Highlighting density, it is emphasized that it is a network measure that focuses on the strength of internal relationships within a cluster or group of actors. In other terms, density measures indicate that the more reciprocal interactions exist within a network, the more data, information, and knowledge will be shared among the actors regarding what they are effectively studying, researching, and publishing (WILLIAMS DOS SANTOS; FARIAS FILHO, 2016; URBIZAGÁSTEGUI-ALVARADO, 2022; RIBEIRO, 2025a).

In a macro sense, density is a measure of the proportion between actual and possible ties. In this way, density indicates that the denser a network is, the closer its value will be to 1,0, revealing that the actors are harmoniously related. However, low density is calculated with a value below 0,2, indicating that the network is dispersed and has low internal cohesion (WILLIAMS DOS SANTOS; FARIAS FILHO, 2016; URBIZAGÁSTEGUI-ALVARADO, 2022; RIBEIRO, 2025a).

Now highlighting the property of centrality, it is emphasized that it is a property that emphasizes the interactions of a group of actors with other groups of actors, in other words, it calculates the direct relational activity of an actor, which is identified by the number of ties an actor has within a given network (MAIA, 2017; RIBEIRO; SOUZA, 2022; URBIZAGÁSTEGUI-ALVARADO, 2022).

Among the measures of centrality, the following stand out: i) (*degree*) centrality, which measures the number of connections (partnerships) of each actor in the network; ii) (*betweenness*) centrality, which measures the ability of each actor to mediate the flow and exchange of communication, information, and knowledge within the network; and iii) (*closeness*) centrality, which calculates the greater or lesser distance of an actor in relation to the other actors in the network (MAIA, 2017; RIBEIRO; SOUZA, 2022; URBIZAGÁSTEGUI-ALVARADO, 2022).

Among these centrality properties, only betweenness centrality was used in this research, since it is the most predominant with regard to establishing relationships among groups of actors; that is, *betweenness* serves as a “bridge” for the relationships among actors, which, in this investigation, were the authors, higher education institutions (HEIs), and keywords (FERREIRA; MARTINS, 2016; FAVARETTO; FRANCISCO, 2017; SANTOS; SOUZA, 2021; RIBEIRO, 2025c).

Degree centrality was also used to measure the most central elements in the two mode networks, which, for this study, were: periods and authors; and journals and authors, both within a single social network. In summary, having knowledge of the densities and centralities of the actors responsible for the creation of academic knowledge is beneficial for enhancing the understanding and comprehension of the relationships effectively established among these actors (FERREIRA; MARTINS, 2016; FAVARETTO; FRANCISCO, 2017; SANTOS; SOUZA, 2021; RIBEIRO, 2025c).



3.1 Data Collection and Analysis Procedures

The universe of investigation highlighted all studies from scientific journals listed in the CONPEDI ILJ database. The choice of CONPEDI is reinforced because, since its creation on October 17, 1989, it has held national Meetings and Congresses that provide visibility to scientific production in the field of Law. Through these scientific events, it has enabled the publication of thousands of legal scientific articles and poster presentations produced by Brazilian researchers on a wide range of themes related to the legal field (CONPEDI, 2025).

It is further emphasized that, starting in 2014, in association with International Higher Education Institutions, CONPEDI began to internationalize the institution and to project the scientific production developed in Brazilian Graduate Programs in Law (PPGD) to the American and European continents (CONPEDI, 2025).

In summary, CONPEDI supports the Graduate Programs in Law (PPGD) in Brazilian higher education institutions HEIs, collaborates in the definition of policies for the training of faculty and students in the legal field, prepares and proposes topics of interest to research and PPGD to educational authorities, and defends and promotes the qualification of legal education (CONPEDI, 2025).

It is further stated that CONPEDI's native scientific journals are organized in the ILJ database, which is an electronic portal that includes "open access" academic journals in the field of Law. The objective of this ILJ electronic portal is to serve as an *online* repository that provides fast access to the scientific articles of each academic journal indexed in the aforementioned scientific portal (CONPEDI, 2025).

Finally, it is observed that CONPEDI, through the ILJ, has already been used as a database for searching studies in the field of Law in the following research: Finally, it is observed that CONPEDI, through the ILJ, has already been used as a database for searching studies in the field of Law in the following research: Aquino (2016), Dias (2020) e Figueiredo e Perez Filho (2023).

The process of collecting the sample of studies on AI in Law occurred as follows: (a) typing the selected keywords into the search filter of the CONPEDI ILJ, described as "drop-down boxes"; (b) selection of the studies in CONPEDI; (c) searching for the keywords in the "Search" field located at: < <https://indexlaw.org/index.php/earch/earch>>; (d) definition of the sample by reading the titles and/or abstracts of each study. In the ILJ, a filter was applied using the following keywords: "Inteligência Artificial"; "Artificial intelligence"; e "Inteligencia Artificial". It is emphasized that only these keywords were used because they had been employed in a database essentially focused on the field of Law (CONPEDI, 2025). The selection of these keywords is asserted and reinforced because they enable the search for and selection of articles published on AI in Law in the journals organized within the CONPEDI ILJ database.

It is emphasized that the start and end period of the search and the simultaneous tabulation of data from the scientific articles occurred between 23/09/2025 and 25/09/2025. Consequently, the sample returned 62 academic works within a temporal scope spanning from 2018 to 2025, totaling eight years.



It is emphasized that the aforementioned temporality was conditioned by the studies that were found in the ILJ database of CONPEDI; that is, the first research on AI in Law was only found in the year 2018, and its most recent publication occurred in the year 2025, more specifically in 25/09/2025.

It is also noted that the measurement of SNA indicators, as well as the construction of symmetric matrices (one-mode networks) and asymmetric matrices (two-mode networks) of the actors' networks (Ribeiro, 2025b), along with their respective graphical visualizations, took place between the start date of 26/09/2025, and the end date of 01/10/2025.

The SNA data and information were calculated using the *UCINET software*, and the graphical visualization of the social networks was carried out using the *NetDraw software*. It is also emphasized that the analyses of the 62 scientific studies were conducted according to the following SNA indicators: (i) two-mode networks of periods and authors; (ii) two-mode networks of journals and authors; (iii) co-authorship networks; (iv) networks of higher education institutions (HEIs); and (v) keyword networks.

It is stated that, in order to better visualize the keyword networks of this investigation, codes were created for the keywords, such as code 53, which is equivalent to the keyword “new technologies”. That said, it is also emphasized that these codes were generated using *software Microsoft Excel* spreadsheets, as the keywords were identified and tabulated in the symmetric matrix of the keyword networks (TOMAÉL; MARTELETO, 2013; RIBEIRO, 2025c).

Thus, each code does not correspond to the centrality position of the keyword with regard to betweenness centrality, but rather to the spreadsheet row number representing the moment at which the keywords were identified in the respective studies under investigation (TOMAÉL; MARTELETO, 2013; RIBEIRO, 2025c). Finally, Figure 1 provides a summary of the step-by-step methodological pathway of this investigation.

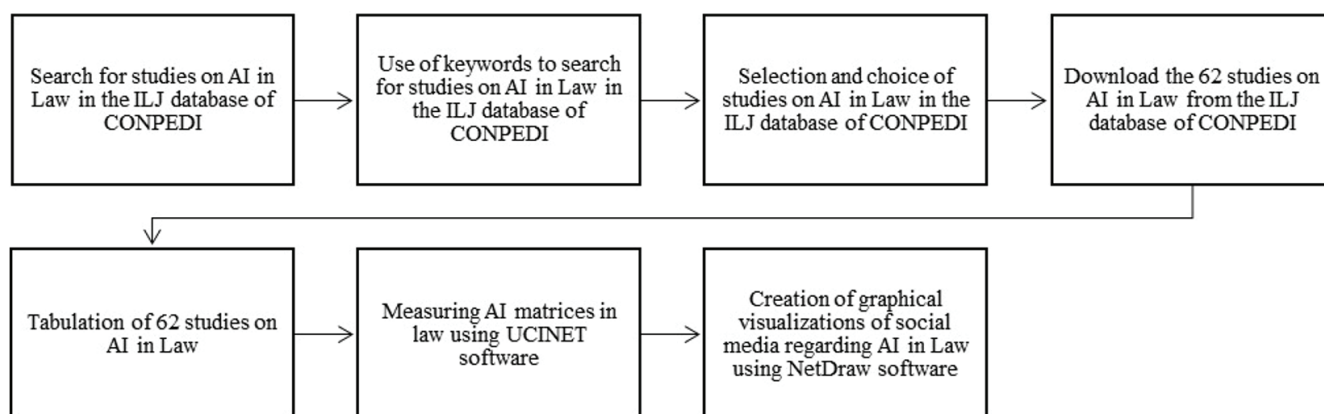


Figure 1. Methodological pathway

Source: Prepared by the authors (2025)

4 ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The present section focused on the analysis and discussion of the results of the 62 scientific articles identified on AI in Law, from the perspective of the journals indexed in the ILJ database of CONPEDI and through the lens of SNA.

4.1 Two-mode networks of periods and authors

Figure 2 highlights the two-mode networks of the eight periods and the 115 authors. It is recalled that degree centrality was used as a measure to emphasize the most central periods in light of the authors.

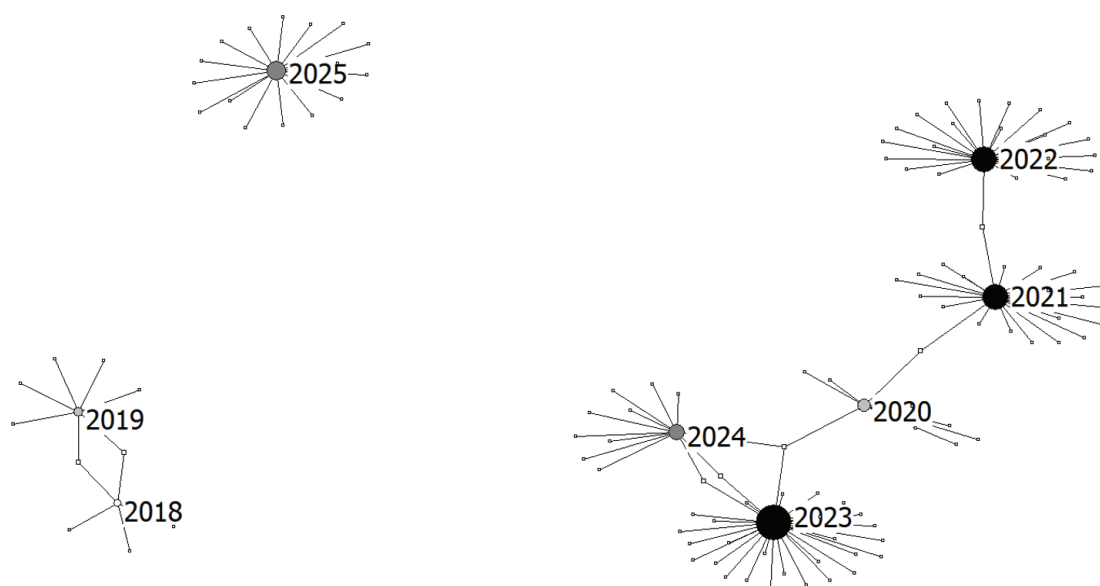


Figure 2. Two-mode networks of periods and authors

Source: Research data (2025)

Thus, the most central periods, in descending order of prominence, were 2023, 2022, and 2021, followed by the years 2025 and 2024. Observing this finding, it is evident that the topic of AI in Law is growing, in other words, an increasing number of authors are studying, researching, and disseminating their respective findings and contributions regarding AI in the legal field, moving toward a possible trend of evolution, development, and maturity of the subject within the Brazilian academic context, from the perspective of the scientific journals indexed in the CONPEDI ILJ database.

The results presented in this subsection are similarly corroborated by other metric studies (Aydemir & Cebeci, 2023a; Nti et al., 2023; Mong & Thanh, 2024) that are analogous to the present research, thereby confirming and reinforcing the relevance and growth of AI in the academic sphere of the legal field within the global panorama.

4.2 Two-mode networks of journals and authors

Figure 3 highlights the two-mode networks of the 21 journals and the 115 authors. It is reiterated that *degree* centrality was the measure used to emphasize the most central scientific journals from the authors' perspective.



Figure 3. Two-mode networks of journals and authors

Source: Research data (2025)

Thus, the journals that stood out in Figure 3, in descending order of importance, were: Revista de Direito, Governança e Novas Tecnologias (RDGNT), Revista de Direito, Inovação, Propriedade Intelectual e Concorrência (RDIPIC), Revista de Direito Brasileira (RDB), Revista de Processo, Jurisdição e Efetividade da Justiça (RPJEJ), Revista Cidadania e Acesso à Justiça (RCAJ), Revista Brasileira de Filosofia do Direito (Rbfd) and Revista de Direito Tributário e Financeiro (RDTF).

Therefore, these academic journals are the most sought after and, consequently, most pursued by researchers so that they may publish, disseminate, and share their respective results and contributions on AI in Law within the Brazilian academic context, from the perspective of the ILJ database of CONPEDI. It is further complemented by providing some additional information about the three most central journals in this research, namely: RDGNT, RDIPIC and RDB.

RDGNT is a multidisciplinary journal that aims to interrelate three major fields of knowledge: Law, Governance and New Technologies, with a specific scope and focus on reflecting on topics such as Information Technology Law. Legal Informatics. Internet and social networks; Information society; Democracy and technology; the world of work in the information society; Electronic Government; Governance; Information security; Cybercrime; Artificial intelligence and legal expert systems (RDGNT, 2025).

RDIPIC seeks to reflect on the following themes: interfaces between Law, innovation, intellectual property, and competition; International system for the protection of intellectual property: WIPO and WTO; industrial property; protection of companies intangible assets; innovation and technological development; copyright law; freedom of expression; the right to free access to information, culture, and knowledge; copyright and multimedia; copyright and file sharing on networks; the social function of intellectual property; the challenges of intellectual property law in the face of the information technology revolution; and the search for balance between public and private interests. It also proposes an interface between the themes of new technologies and innovation from a legal perspective (RDIPIC, 2025).

RDB main mission is to foster the study of the most important issues involving constitutional jurisdiction at both the national and international levels. Its focus lies in the publication of scientific articles, emphasizing commented case law, reviews of legal works, commented national, foreign, or international legislation, and legal opinions. Contributions from Brazil and abroad in the field of constitutional jurisdiction are accepted. A plurality of approaches and perspectives is encouraged. Due to the breadth of the theme of constitutional jurisdiction, this scientific journal encompasses a wide spectrum of knowledge subdomains, perspectives, and issues (RDB, 2025).

4.3 Co-authorship networks

Figure 4 visualizes the co-authorship networks, which were composed of 115 nodes and 152 ties. It is emphasized that betweenness centrality was used to highlight the most central authors.

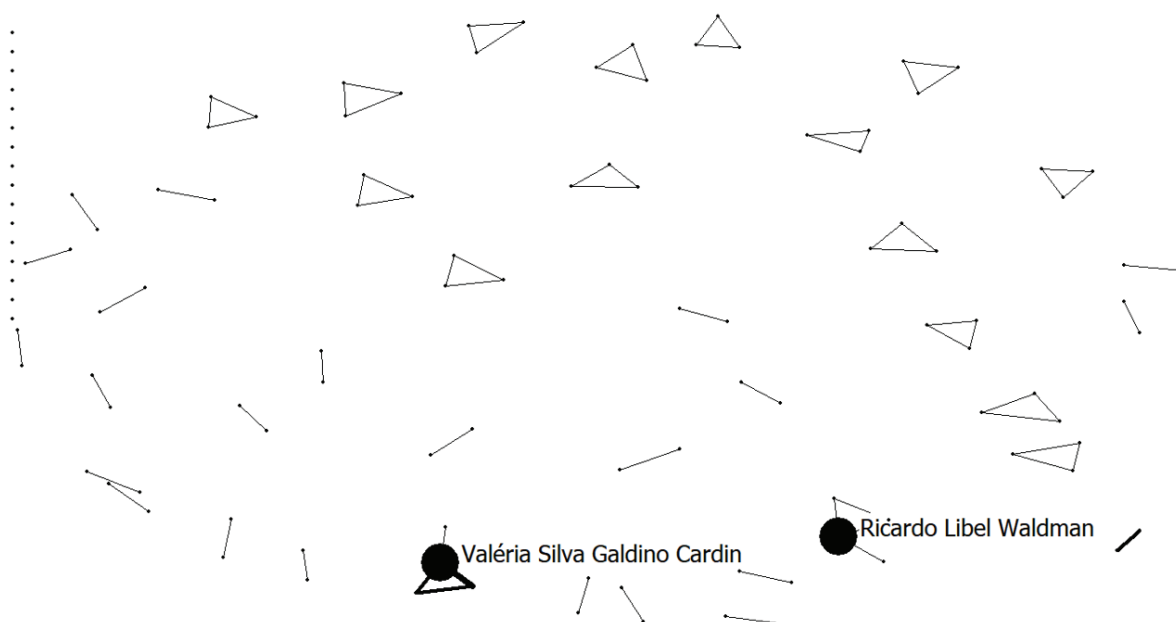


Figure 4. Co-authorship Networks

Source: Research data (2025)



In view of the foregoing, the most central authors, were: Valéria Silva Galdino Cardin and Ricardo Libel Waldman, affiliated with UNICESUMAR and Faculdades Metropolitanas Unidas (FMU), respectively.

Therefore, these researchers may be considered, for the purposes of this study, as strategic scholars, since they serve as a “bridge” and a “path” to mediate and foster interaction among the other researchers involved in this study, acting and inducing the expansion and strengthening of informational flow and the exchange of knowledge on the main theme of this research (Favaretto; Francisco, 2017; Ribeiro; Souza, 2022; Ribeiro, 2025a), in other words, with regard to the scientific production of the topic under investigation.

It is emphasized that understanding co-authorship networks is important, as it allows for comprehension of how authors, on the subject under investigation, establish partnerships and with whom they collaborate, thereby enabling the comparison of information and knowledge regarding the phenomenon studied.

With regard to this, it was observed in Figure 4, that the most dominant relationships were established through dyads and triads, in addition it was found that there were two larger research groups composed of four or more scholars, and, that there were authors who published their respective findings and contributions on the core theme of this research individually, therefore, the co-authorship networks of this study can be considered multirelational social networks (RIBEIRO et al., 2014; MELO; JESUS; MUSIAL, 2024).

It is added that, with regard to partnerships, the authors who published the most through this modality, were: Valéria Silva Galdino Cardin and Raissa Arantes Tobbin, with three studies published jointly.

With regard to the most prolific researchers, they are: Valéria Silva Galdino Cardin, with four publications; Raissa Arantes Tobbin, with three studies; and Ana Débora Rocha Sales, Ricardo Libel Waldman, Tereza Rodrigues Vieira, Samuel Rodrigues de Oliveira, and Ramon Silva Costa, all with two publications each.

Here it should be stated that the number of studies published is not a condition for an author to stand out in terms of betweenness centrality, since this measure emphasizes the exchange of information and knowledge among the other actors (authors) in the network (RIBEIRO, 2024a), and, for this reason Valéria Silva Galdino Cardin and Ricardo Libel Waldman are the most central researchers in this study, as both achieved a greater number of relationships with other researchers, that is, the two highlighted authors published with three different coauthors.

Still investigating the coauthorship networks of this study, it is stated that their density was measured at 0.0124, meaning that only 1.24% of the relationships among the 115 authors identified in this study were actually realized, this thus symbolizes a social network with low density, contributing to the emergence of so-called *small-worlds*, thereby impacting the dispersion and the weakening of internal cohesion among scholars, as a result, a coauthorship network with weak ties emerges and, consequently, with relational failures, that is, in its structure and in the formation of the authors' networks, this, in turn, influences the appearance of structural gaps (holes) in the researchers' networks, directly affecting the fluidity of the flow and exchange of communication,

4.4 HEI Networks

*UFJF
 *UNISINOS
 *UIT
 *UNICHRISTUS
 *UFS
 *UNIMAR
 *UEL
 *UEMG
 *FGV (RJ)
 *UNESA
 *FDMC
 *UMSA
 *UFSM
 *ATITUS
 *UNICERRADO
 *UCSAL
 *PUC (PR)
 *UNB
 *CESUPA
 *UNIPÊ
 *UFMA
 *UNIMEP
 *UFC
 *UCAM
 *FL
 *UNIVAR
 *UNIARA
 *UCC
 *UNISALENTO
 *UNITUIT

*UNIVALI
 *FCR
 *ABDN
 *UERJ
 *UNIVEM
 UC
 PUC (SP)
 *UNICURITIBA
 UNIPAR
 UNICESUMAR
 *UENP
 *UNIBRA
 UNILASALLE
 *UNINOVE
 *FMU
 *UNIMEP
 *UFMA
 *UNIPÊ
 *CESUPA

Source: Research data (2025)

Here, an addendum is made to emphasize that UNICESUMAR has the Graduate Program in Legal Sciences (PPGCJ) which was established in 2005, completing more than two decades of uninterrupted activity in the training of researchers and faculty members. Throughout this



period, the PPGCJ has developed based on an academic proposal, with its area of concentration being “Personality Rights,” a topic of high legal and social relevance in the contemporary context. Since its creation, the PPGCJ has been structured into two lines of research (Line 1 – Personality rights and their scope in contemporaneity; Line 2 – Instruments for the effectiveness of personality rights) which interact organically with the area of concentration, providing solid theoretical and methodological training to students. These lines have enabled the development of high-impact research that contributes to the advancement of legal knowledge in the field of personality rights, from both national and international perspectives (UNICESUMAR, 2025).

UNIPAR, in turn, has the Academic Master’s Degree Program in Procedural Law and Citizenship, which began its activities with its first cohort in 1999, is recommended by CAPES and recognized pursuant to MEC Ordinance nº 609, of 14 of march of 2019, published in the Official Gazette (D.O.U.) nº 52 – Section 1, pp. 63–97, of 18 of march of 2019. The aforementioned Master’s program integrates the set of formative processes of UNIPAR, of progressive implementation, aimed at the improvement of Law, whether at the institutional level or within its environment, articulating with undergraduate and lato sensu postgraduate courses, intended for the training of teaching staff and specialists in Law (UNIPAR, 2025).

Finally, it is emphasized that the density of the HEIs networks, in this study was measured at 0.0111, corresponding to 1.11% of the relationships effectively established among the 47 HEIs in this research. This result is close to that found in the co-authorship networks of this study, and, therefore, the conclusion is also similar, since the aforementioned collaboration network has low density, directly influencing its internal cohesion and, consequently, the harmony of the flow and exchange of communication and knowledge regarding the focal theme of this study (WILLIAMS DOS SANTOS; FARIAS FILHO, 2016; FAVARETTO; FRANCISCO, 2017; GRÁCIO, 2018; RIBEIRO, 2024b), influencing its growth, development, and maturity in the Brazilian academic sphere, under the perspective of the scientific journals indexed in the ILJ database of CONPEDI.

4.5 Keyword networks

Figure 6 reveals the keyword networks, which were composed of 209 nodes and 1.160 ties. It is reiterated that betweenness centrality was the measure chosen to highlight the most central keywords.

It is emphasized that the analysis of keyword networks is of fundamental relevance in order to gain knowledge of the main subjects that are most central to the core theme of this research. It is also highlighted that, the 62 studies contained 209 occurrences of keywords, and that, to arrive at this total, the following criteria were used: (i) no differentiation between uppercase and lowercase letters; and (ii) keywords in the singular and keywords in the plural were kept distinct (FAVARETTO; FRANCISCO, 2017; RIBEIRO, 2025b).

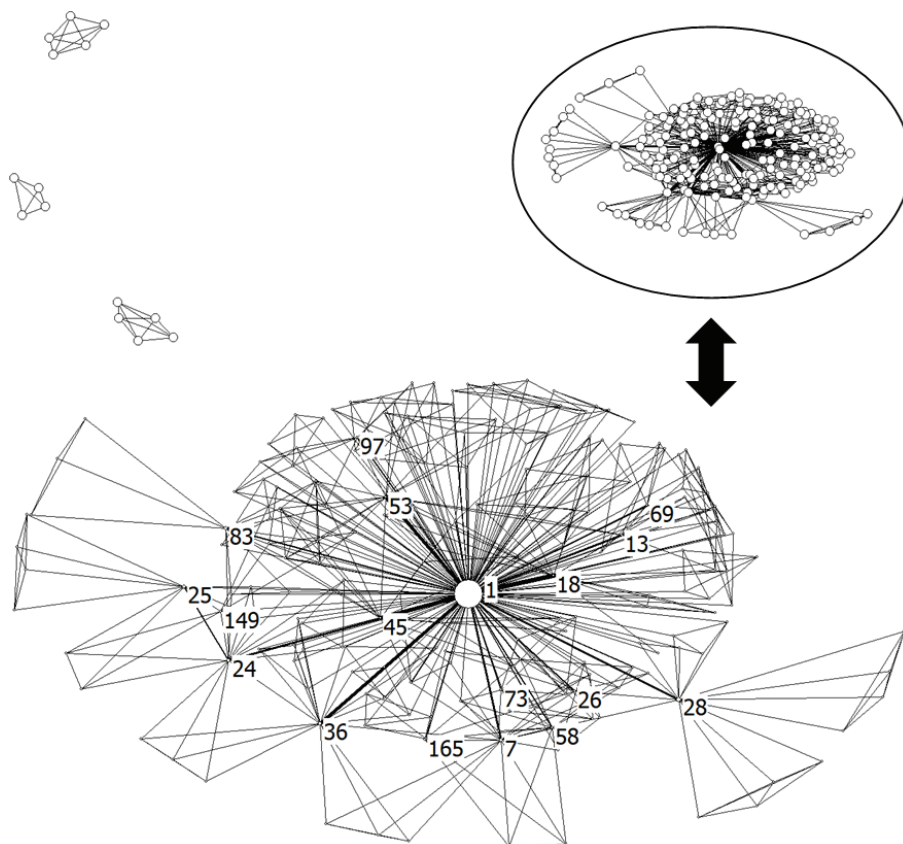


Figure 6. Keyword networks

Source: Research data (2025)

It is noted that the giant component in Figure 6 reveals and indicates the presence of a flow, and, simultaneously, a greater exchange of information and knowledge among a large number of actors in the network (SAMPAIO et al., 2015; RIBEIRO, 2025b), in this case, the keywords. Thus, the giant component of the keywords highlighted in Figure 6 was composed of 190 nodes and 1.088 ties. It is added that the size of the keyword corresponds to the frequency of occurrence of the keyword in the studies, therefore, the more frequently the keyword appeared, the larger its size in the giant component of Figure 6 (CHEN et al., 2023).

It is emphasized that, within this giant component, when measuring the most central keywords by means of *betweenness*, emphasis was placed on the keywords with the greatest capacity to mediate the flow of communication, information, and knowledge with the other keywords, therefore, these keywords with higher *betweenness* serve as “bridges” for interaction with the other keywords of the giant component (FAVARETTO; FRANCISCO, 2017; RIBEIRO, 2024b; RIBEIRO, 2025c).

As a result, the giant component made it possible to visualize the most central keywords of this research, which, in descending order of relevance, were: 1. Artificial intelligence; 28. Algorithms; 25. Surveillance; 36. Personality rights; 83. Fundamental right; 7. Technology; 24. Privacy; 58. Efficiency; 149. Data protection; 165. Tax collection; 45. Access to justice; 53. New technologies; 18. Law; 26. Information society; 13. Regulation; 97. Non-things; 73. Innovation; and 69. Comparative



law. Here an explanation is provided regarding the keyword “artificial intelligence” being the most prominent among the most central keywords of this study, this fact is due to this keyword being one of the keywords used in the search for studies on AI in Law in the journals classified in the ILJ database of CONPEDI.

With regard, to the most central keywords of this research, it can be stated that these keywords are the most relevant and influential in terms of the publication of studies on AI in Law in the Brazilian academy, and, these most prominent keywords also highlight the subjects with the greatest influence in the context of the theme under investigation in the national academic literature; that is, these more dominant keywords have the “power” to underpin, guide, ground, and mediate the flow of communication, knowledge, information, and expertise (FAVARETTO; FRANCISCO, 2017; URBIZAGÁSTEGUI-ALVARADO, 2022; RIBEIRO, 2024a; RIBEIRO, 2025b), regarding AI in Law within the Brazilian scientific landscape, from the perspective of the journals organized in the ILJ database of CONPEDI.

It is important to emphasize that, in addition to these more central keywords (Figure 6), others can also be mentioned, although they are not highlighted in the aforementioned figure, it is worthwhile and relevant to know them and, therefore, to consider them, thus, these keywords were: civil liability, machine learning, public administration, and the judiciary. In view of the foregoing, these less central keywords on AI in Law may represent an opportunity for the emergence of new research, through authors and researchers who dedicate themselves to studying the topic of AI in the field of Legal Knowledge, thereby impacting the development, growth, and maturation of studies on the aforementioned subject within the referenced field of knowledge in the Brazilian academic context.

5 CONCLUSION

The objective of this research was to investigate the profile and behavior of AI in Law within the Brazilian academy from the perspective of the *Index Law Journals* of CONPEDI and in light of SNA. To this end, the SNA research method was used in 62 studies identified on AI in Law, from the perspective of the scientific journals systematized in the ILJ database of CONPEDI. Thus, this research provides two central contributions to the field of knowledge of Law: the first, related to the theme of Artificial Intelligence; and the second, related to the SNA metric indicators, which were: (i) two-mode networks of periods and authors; (ii) two-mode networks of journals and authors; (iii) co-authorship networks; (iv) HEI networks; and (v) keyword networks.

The study showed that the most central periods from the perspective of the authors were: 2021, 2022, and 2023, capturing a certain trend of growth in research on AI in Law in the Brazilian literary context from the perspective of the journals organized in the ILJ database of CONPEDI. With regard to journals, the most influential were RDGNT, RDIPIC, and RDB, with the first two showing a greater aptitude for studies focused on technology, especially the first with a specific focus on AI, thus, these scientific journals are the main outlets in which authors seek to publish their respective findings and contributions on AI in Law in the Brazilian academy, from the perspective of the ILJ database of CONPEDI.



With regard to the authors, the most strategic in mediating the informational flow and the exchange of knowledge and expertise on AI in Law in Brazil were: Valéria Silva Galdino Cardin and Ricardo Libel Waldman, affiliated with UNICESUMAR and FMU, respectively. As for the HEIs, the most important and prominent in permeating the flow and exchange of information and knowledge on AI in Law were: UNICESUMAR and UNIPAR, thus, these universities are at the forefront of research focused on AI in Law, and, to some extent, on themes inherent to the object of study of this research, from the perspective of the academic journals classified on the ILJ data platform of CONPEDI.

As for the most central keywords, the following are listed: artificial intelligence, algorithms, surveillance, personality rights, fundamental right, technology, privacy, efficiency, data protection, revenue collection, access to justice, new technologies, law, information society, regulation, non-things, innovation, and comparative law. In light of this result, it can be stated, for this study, that these most central keywords represent the research *corpus* on AI in Law in the Brazilian academic scenario, from the perspective of the scientific journals organized and listed in the ILJ database of CONPEDI.

In general terms, it is understood that the academic contribution of this research was to advance theory by investigating frontier studies and contemporaneity on AI in Law from the perspective of SNA, which focused on the structure and formation of the social networks of actors, this approach made it possible to ground and guide future research, particularly on themes that stood out (the most central keywords) and that branch out around AI in Law within the Brazilian academy, from the perspective of the journals cataloged in the ILJ data system of CONPEDI. With regard to practical contributions, this investigation offered legal practitioners a macro-level view of AI in the field of Law, highlighting terms that stood out (the most central keywords) related to AI in Law, which can be studied and applied by lawyers, jurists, legal scholars, legal experts, legislative experts, forensic specialists, among others.

The limitation of this study lies in the use of a single database, which was the ILJ of CONPEDI, therefore, as a suggestion for future research, it is recommended to foster this scientific article by using other national and international databases, such as *Web of Science*, *Scopus*, *SciELO*, *EBSCO*, *ProQuest*, *CAPEs Journals*, *vLex*, *Jusbrasil*, the *Dizer o Direito* Search Engine, among others. It is also advised to carry out research on AI focusing on other areas of knowledge, such as Health, Technology, Finance, Economics, among others. Furthermore, it is suggested to improve the SNA by conducting a co-citation analysis of the 62 studies in this research, as well as to perform a bibliometric study, since, through this method, it will be possible to investigate more precisely the longitudinal scientific production of publications on AI in Law, through the inclusion of tables, and to carry out a Systematic Literature Review of the 62 identified studies on AI in Law.

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