

## The early adulthood of the *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*: A literature review 2005–2014

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**Abstract** This research represents a comprehensive review of the articles published in the *Asia Pacific Journal of Management (APJM)* between 2005 and 2014, the journal’s early “adulthood.” It provides an overview of the evolution of this body of research across different dimensions: types of articles, international scope of the research, contributing scholars and institutions, scientific collaboration and non-academic cooperation paths as *APJM* developed as an Academy of Management associated journal. It also analyzes the impact of its published articles on the research field—based on traditional direct, indirect, and weighted impact measurements as well as on alternative metrics—and the journal’s performance. *APJM*’s early adulthood was featured by rapid and positive changes in terms of numbers, reach, international scope, scientific collaboration, article impact, and overall journal performance. Furthermore, the journal is currently ranked among the better management journals worldwide and has become the first among all management journals with a declared regional focus. Some hurdles remain and new challenges must be faced; among them, increasing the volume of conceptual works and developing the journal’s scope by publishing a higher number of pieces of research dealing with organization and management issues relevant from a global (not only regional) perspective and continuing the journal’s general improvement and growth.

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Since its founding in 1983 at the National University of Singapore, the *Asia Pacific Journal of Management* (*APJM*) has been a leading outlet and a major vehicle for the exchange of ideas and research among management scholars interested in the Asia-Pacific (AP) region (Ahlstrom, 2010; Carney, 2013; Delios, 2005; Peng, 2008). In 2002 it became the official journal of the Asia Academy of Management, the Asia affiliate of the Academy of Management (Singh, 2002). Following a mission statement of publishing “empirical or conceptual research which improves a broad understanding of what determines firm success,” it has been publishing management and organization research relevant to the AP region for more than 30 years and it has become the world’s longest running and most prominent academic journal of management that is “in Asia, on Asia, and of Asia”<sup>1</sup> (Peng, 2007a: 385). In brief, *APJM* is a platform for researchers interested in Asia-related organizational issues, scholarship, and empirical evidence (Lau, 2007).

As a body of literature evolves, it is useful to step back and analyze its development and impact (Acedo & Casillas, 2005; Peng & Zhou, 2006). A review of the research published by *APJM* in its first years (its “childhood”) was published by Ang in 1997, followed by a review focused on the journal’s “adolescence” (Pleggenkuhle-Miles, Aroul, Sun, & Su, 2007). The current work reviews the research published in *APJM* between 2005 and 2014 (inclusive), a decade that can be labeled as the journal’s early “adulthood.” The journal’s first selection for coverage in the Web of Science-Social Science Citation Index (WOS-SSCI) in 2008 (first official impact factor for 2010) is a relevant milestone in this stage—see Table 1. Therefore, our study covers the five-year periods prior to and following the journal’s first SSCI assessment.

Our main objective is to analyze the literature published in *APJM* throughout this decade across different dimensions. More specifically, we address the following questions:

- What type of articles have been published in *APJM*?
- What is the scope of the research published in the journal?
- What is the reach of the journal in terms of scholars, institutions, and countries?
- Who are the most prolific individual and institutional contributors to *APJM*?
- What is the role played by scientific collaboration, non-academic cooperation, and funding-support on published research?
- How has the journal’s performance evolved over the analyzed decade?
- What is the impact of the articles published by *APJM* on the research field?

This article is organized as follows: the next section describes the methodology used in the review, followed by a descriptive analysis of the different issues addressed in our research—kind of articles, scope of the research, reach in terms scholars and institutions, scientific collaboration and funding support patterns, and articles’ impact on the research field based on direct, indirect, weighted, and early citation counts, as well as on altmetrics. In the last section we discuss and reflect on the evolution of this body of research by analyzing the results shown in the descriptive section, comparing them with those in previous reviews, and reflecting on their implications in terms of the journal’s

<sup>1</sup> An overview of the journal’s history can be found in Delios (2005), Lee (2007), and Lim (2007).

**Table 1** Breakdown of items published by *APJM* (2005–2014) and journal metrics

| Year  | Documents/<br>Year | Document type   |         |              |        | Journal metrics                |                            |                 |    |
|-------|--------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|--------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----|
|       |                    | Original papers | Reviews | Perspectives | Others | JCR Impact Factor <sup>a</sup> | SJR Indicator <sup>b</sup> |                 |    |
| 2005  | 23                 | 20              | 0       | 0            | 3      |                                | .785                       | Q1 <sup>c</sup> |    |
| 2006  | 31                 | 20              | 3       | 4            | 4      |                                | .834                       | Q1 <sup>d</sup> |    |
| 2007  | 35                 | 17              | 4       | 6            | 8      |                                | 1.161                      | Q1              |    |
| 2008  | 36                 | 27              | 1       | 3            | 5      |                                | 1.309                      | Q1              |    |
| 2009  | 38                 | 27              | 2       | 2            | 7      |                                | 1.722                      | Q1              |    |
| 2010  | 41                 | 33              | 0       | 2            | 6      | 3.355                          | Q1                         | 1.376           | Q1 |
| 2011  | 41                 | 34              | 2       | 1            | 4      | 3.062                          | Q1                         | 1.295           | Q1 |
| 2012  | 57                 | 47              | 2       | 3            | 5      | 4.099                          | Q1                         | 1.627           | Q1 |
| 2013  | 63                 | 51              | 2       | 4            | 6      | 2.742                          | Q1                         | 1.838           | Q1 |
| 2014  | 48                 | 43              | 1       | 2            | 2      | 2.091                          | Q1                         | 1.223           | Q1 |
| Total | 413                | 319             | 17      | 27           | 50     |                                |                            |                 |    |

Prepared by the authors based on *APJM*, Web of Science, and Scimago Journal & Country Rank

<sup>a</sup> Category: Management

<sup>b</sup> Subject areas: Business and International Management; Strategy and Management; Economics, Econometrics and Finance

<sup>c</sup> Ranked above the first quartile

<sup>d</sup> All subject areas except Strategy and Management (Q2)

performance during the analyzed decade (e.g., metrics, numbers, quality and reputation), its international/global reach and scope, and its influence on the academic research field and on non-academic audiences.

## Methods

As a first step we compiled a comprehensive database gathering together the 413 different items published by *APJM* between 2005 and 2014, both inclusive (see Table 1). During this decade, *APJM* published 40 issues (4 issues per year); 10 of which were Special Issues on a variety of research topics of high relevance to Asia, such as the role of networks, conglomerates, and business groups in the AP region; knowledge, strategic, and “ethnic” management of AP firms; distinctive features of corporate governance, leadership, and favors management within the region; and the analysis of different types of Asian capitalism (see Table 2).

We then selected research articles/original papers (319), reviews (17), and perspectives (27). Therefore, commentaries, book reviews, introductions to Special Issues, and editorials are not included in the final database. The total number of articles published in this period (363, an average of over 36 articles per year) was much higher than in previous ones,<sup>2</sup> with a sharp increase in the second half of the period, once *APJM* was selected for coverage in the SSCI.

<sup>2</sup> As shown in Ang (1997) and Pleggenkuhle-Miles et al. (2007), the average number of articles was 15.7 in the 1983–1996 period and 22.3 in the 1997–2006 one.

**Table 2** Special issues published by *APJM* (2005–2014)

| Year | Issue | Special Issue  | Editors                                       |
|------|-------|--|---|
| 2005 | 4     | Networks in Asia Pacific business                                      | Dacin, T., & Delios, A.                       |
| 2006 | 4     | Conglomerates and business groups in the Asia Pacific                  | Peng, M. W., & Delios, A.                     |
| 2007 | 4     | 25th Anniversary   | Peng, M. W.                                   |
| 2008 | 3     | Knowledge management and innovation strategy in the Asia Pacific       | Lu, Y., Tsang, E. W. K., & Peng, M. W.        |
| 2009 | 3     | Varieties of Asian capitalism: Indigenization and internationalization | Carney, M., Gedajlovic, E., & Yang, X.        |
| 2010 | 3     | Managing in ethnic Chinese communities                                 | Ahlstrom, D., Chen, S.-j., & Yeh, K. S.       |
| 2011 | 1     | Managing corporate governance globally: An Asia Pacific perspective    | Globerman, S. Peng, M. W., & Shapiro, D. M.   |
| 2012 | 2     | Leadership in Asia   | Lam, L. W., Huang, S., & Lau, D. C.           |
| 2013 | 2     | Managing favors in a global economy                                    | Puffer, S. M., McCarthy, D. J., & Peng, M. W. |
| 2013 | 3     | Strategic management in private and family businesses                  | Lu, Y., Au, K., Peng, M. W., & Xu, E.         |

Prepared by the authors based on *APJM*

Data relative to each article were collected and categorized by author/s, authors' institutional affiliation at the time of publication, institutions' host countries, and year. Additional information relative to the type of article (conceptual/empirical), its scope, and financial support to the research published was also compiled in the database. Then, information relative to direct, indirect, and weighted citation, as well as to altmetrics, was gathered.

## Descriptive approach

Type of articles and scope of the research published in *APJM*.

Almost 75% of the articles are empirical ones, while the remaining quarter deals with conceptual developments, perspectives and reflections, and literature reviews—this is a tendency similar to that shown by the journal in previous stages. Among empirical studies, there is a clear predominance of quantitative methods. The qualitative approach is used in barely 12% of the empirical articles and in most cases it relies on case studies. Both, the percentage of empirical articles and the volume of works that rely on quantitative methods are higher in the 2010–2014 sub-period than in the previous period. Although the journal mission statement refers to both empirical and conceptual research, quantitative empirical articles are clearly predominant, even more so since the journal was selected for coverage in SSCI. This is a tendency shown in other top-tier business and management journals (Welch, Plakoyiannaki, Piekkari, & Paavilainen-Mäntymäki, 2013), as qualitative empirical studies and conceptual articles that propose and develop theoretical frameworks without testing the validity of their proposals usually face greater publishing difficulties in this kind of journal.

It is worth noting that up to 70% of the articles focus their study (whether an empirical analysis or a conceptual development) on just one country and an additional 6% on bilateral relations/issues. China is undoubtedly the key country covered in the journal's research, with almost 60% of these articles on China, and over 70% if we

consider the Greater China region comprising Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan. Scholarly interest in China's economic growth, its distinctive political/institutional features and changes, its key role as an international player and numerous active research schools in the Greater China region have all driven *APJM*'s publishing path over the analyzed period. Japan and South Korea comprise a distant 7% each and India a scarce 4%—though the attention paid to these countries was lower in the previous stage (Pleggenkuhle-Miles et al., 2007), and a Special Issue was published on India and innovation recently, after the period under study (Jain, Nair, & Ahlstrom, 2015; Prabhu & Jain, 2015). Research focused on other AP countries is not so extensive; however, the range of researched nation-states includes countries already analyzed in previous stages—Australia, Indonesia Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam as well as “new” countries, among them, Iran, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Russia, pointing to a more Asia-wide perspective further encompassing Central and West Asia (e.g., Ismail & Ford, 2010). The remaining articles deal with organization and management issues relevant to the AP area as a whole and/or without any kind of regional context, thus giving a global perspective or scope.

### Authors and institutions

Tables 3 and 4 include information about the number of published articles by scholars and institutions. For each of the 363 articles within the database we recorded information about the authors, their institutional affiliation at the time of publication, and the home country of each individual institution, considering both academic and non-academic institutions. For each individual author or institution we examined both total and fractional (or adjusted) counting (Glänzel, 2001). The adjusted contribution takes into account the number of different co-authors in an article; therefore, it is adjusted according to that portion of the article attributable to the scholar/institution alone.

Following prior research (e.g., Knight, Hult, & Bashaw, 2000; Kumar & Kundu, 2004; Quer, Claver, & Rienda, 2007, Treviño, Mixon, Funk, & Inkpen, 2010), if an article was co-authored by more than one author from the same institution, then the institution was credited with one appearance (total or adjusted) per author, and if an author listed multiple institutional affiliations, full credit (total or adjusted) was given to each institution; and finally, no distinction was made regarding the order of appearance of scholars.

A total of 666 different authors and 335 institutions are involved in the set of selected articles. A mere 5% of the latter are non-academic institutions. Almost 80% of the authors and 56% of the academic institutions contributed only one article (absolute counting). Neither the authors' nor the institutions' distribution adjust to the Lotka or Square Root laws,<sup>3</sup> pointing to a wider than expected range of scholars and institutions publishing their work in *APJM*.

<sup>3</sup> These are two different laws traditionally used in bibliometric studies to analyze the spread of different scholars contributing to a particular field/topic/journal (Glänzel & Schubert, 1985). The Lotka's law states that (1) the number of authors making  $n$  contributions is about  $1/n^2$  of those making one and (2) the proportion of all contributors that make a single contribution is about 60%. The *square root law* states that half of the scientific papers within a selected set are contributed by the top square root of the total number of scientific authors.

**Table 3** Most prolific authors contributing to *APJM* (2005–2014)

| Rank <sup>a</sup> | Authors         | Adjusted contributions | Total contributions |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1                 | Peng, M. W.     | 7.17                   | 17                  |
| 2                 | Tjosvold, D.    | 4.08                   | 11                  |
| 3                 | Carney, M.      | 2.83                   | 4                   |
| 4                 | Ralston, D. A.  | 2.75                   | 11                  |
| 5                 | Chung, H.-M.    | 2.50                   | 3                   |
| 6–7               | Beamish, P. W.  | 2.33                   | 4                   |
| 6–7               | Li, P. P.       | 2.33                   | 3                   |
| 8–9               | Tung, R. L.     | 2.00                   | 3                   |
| 8–9               | Chen, M.-J.     | 2.00                   | 2                   |
| 10                | Li, Y.          | 1.92                   | 4                   |
| 11                | Tang, J.        | 1.83                   | 3                   |
| 12                | Syed, J.        | 1.75                   | 3                   |
| 13–14             | Li, Y.          | 1.67                   | 6                   |
| 13–14             | Tsang, E. W. K. | 1.67                   | 3                   |
| 15–22             | Sun, S. L.      | 1.50                   | 5                   |
| 15–22             | Wong, A.        | 1.50                   | 4                   |
| 15–22             | Wu, J.          | 1.50                   | 3                   |
| 15–22             | Zhou, J. Q.     | 1.50                   | 3                   |
| 15–22             | Brookfield, J.  | 1.50                   | 2                   |
| 15–22             | Chu, W.         | 1.50                   | 2                   |
| 15–22             | Dieleman, M.    | 1.50                   | 2                   |
| 15–22             | Meyer, K. E.    | 1.50                   | 2                   |
| 23                | Law, K. S.      | 1.42                   | 4                   |
| 24                | Loi, R.         | 1.37                   | 4                   |
| 25–31             | Bruton, G. D.   | 1.33                   | 4                   |
| 25–31             | Chen, G.        | 1.33                   | 3                   |
| 25–31             | Li, J.          | 1.33                   | 3                   |
| 25–31             | McGuire, J.     | 1.33                   | 3                   |
| 25–31             | Lahiri, S.      | 1.33                   | 2                   |
| 25–31             | Tipton, F. B.   | 1.33                   | 2                   |
| 25–31             | Xu, D.          | 1.33                   | 2                   |

Prepared by authors

<sup>a</sup> Ranked by adjusted number of contributions (as first criterion) and by total contributions as second one

As shown in Table 3, Mike W. Peng, Dean Tjosvold, and Michael Carney are among the top 10 authors, considering both raw and adjusted counting, who contribute more than 2.8 times (adjusted contribution) to *APJM* in the analyzed period. Some prolific authors like Yuan Li and Sunny Li Sun are among the top 10 when only considering raw contributions, but are in lower positions when considering adjusted contributions, pointing to publishing patterns related to scientific collaboration in large research networks. Conversely, other authors like Hsi-Mei Chung, Paul W. Beamish, Peter Ping Li, Ming-Jer Chen, Rosalie L. Tung, and Yan Li are at the top of the list in adjusted (but not in raw) contributions pointing to smaller teams<sup>4</sup> or even single authorship.<sup>5</sup> It is worth mentioning that some of these authors (e.g., Mike W. Peng, Michael Carney, Dean Tjosvold) were also key contributors in earlier stages as shown in Pleggenkuhle-Miles et al. (2007). The magnitude of contribution of most prolific authors can best be viewed in comparison to the average appearance of .54.

<sup>4</sup> E.g., Li, Ahlstrom, and Ashkanasy (2010); Li, Chun, Ashkanasy, and Ahlstrom (2012); Peng and Beamish (2014).

<sup>5</sup> E.g., Li (2007); Li (2011).

**Table 4** Most prolific institutions contributing to *APJM* (2005–2014)

| Rank <sup>a</sup> | Institutions                                 | Country     | Adjusted contributions | Total contributions |
|-------------------|--|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1                 | Chinese University of Hong Kong              | Hong Kong   | 17.15                  | 50                  |
| 2                 | Xi'an Jiaotong University                    | China       | 16.92                  | 57                  |
| 3                 | University of Texas at Dallas                | US          | 13.50                  | 36                  |
| 4                 | National University of Singapore             | Singapore   | 8.85                   | 17                  |
| 5                 | Lingnan University                           | Hong Kong   | 8.75                   | 25                  |
| 6                 | University of Macau                          | Macau       | 6.70                   | 18                  |
| 7–8               | Hong Kong Baptist University                 | Hong Kong   | 6.58                   | 19                  |
| 7–8               | City University of Hong Kong                 | Hong Kong   | 6.58                   | 18                  |
| 9                 | Simon Fraser University                      | Canada      | 5.69                   | 14                  |
| 10                | University of Hong Kong                      | Hong Kong   | 5.08                   | 9                   |
| 11                | Hong Kong Polytechnic University             | Hong Kong   | 4.75                   | 13                  |
| 12                | University of Sydney                         | Australia   | 4.50                   | 10                  |
| 13                | National Taiwan University                   | Taiwan      | 4.33                   | 8                   |
| 14                | Concordia University                         | Canada      | 3.83                   | 6                   |
| 15                | I-Shou University                            | Taiwan      | 3.75                   | 5                   |
| 16                | University of Western Ontario                | Canada      | 3.70                   | 8                   |
| 17                | Shanghai Jiao Tong University                | China       | 3.50                   | 11                  |
| 18                | Seoul National University                    | South Korea | 3.35                   | 11                  |
| 19–20             | National Sun Yat-sen University              | Taiwan      | 3.25                   | 8                   |
| 19–20             | California State University                  | US          | 3.25                   | 7                   |
| 21                | Korea University                             | South Korea | 3.17                   | 5                   |
| 22                | Chinese Academy of Sciences                  | China       | 2.94                   | 11                  |
| 23–24             | University of London                         | UK          | 2.83                   | 6                   |
| 23–24             | Saint Louis University                       | US          | 2.83                   | 5                   |
| 25                | Renmin University of China                   | China       | 2.70                   | 8                   |
| 26                | Erasmus University Rotterdam                 | Netherlands | 2.67                   | 7                   |
| 27–28             | Arizona State University                     | US          | 2.50                   | 6                   |
| 27–28             | Hong Kong University of Science & Technology | Hong Kong   | 2.50                   | 6                   |
| 29                | Sun Yat-sen University                       | China       | 2.43                   | 8                   |
| 30                | University of New South Wales                | Australia   | 2.33                   | 6                   |

Prepared by authors

<sup>a</sup> Ranked by adjusted number of contributions (as first criterion) and by total contributions as second one

The rankings of most prolific institutions (both raw and adjusted) are led by The Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Xi'an Jiaotong University (China), the University of Texas in Dallas (US), the National University of Singapore, the Lingnan University (Hong Kong), the University of Macau, Hong Kong Baptist University, City University of Hong Kong, and Simon Fraser University (Canada). In addition, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and University of Hong Kong enter the top 10 when considering total or adjusted contributions respectively. Some of these institutions entered this top-10 ranking during the analyzed decade (e.g., the University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Macau, or Simon Fraser University), while some others were already key players in previous stages (e.g., The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Xi'an Jiaotong University, National University of Singapore, Lingnan University, Hong Kong Baptist University, and City University of Hong Kong).

The contributing institutions are located in 32 different countries, pointing to an increase in the international scope of the authorship—as shown in Ang (1997) and

Pleggenkuhle-Miles et al. (2007), country affiliations were 24 and 27 in the journal's childhood and adolescence, respectively. Not surprisingly, AP institutions keep dominating the research published in *APJM*—over 60% of total contributions—while North American ones are a long way back in second place with a modest 30% representation. Conversely, European institutions play a clearly minor role. There is a steady increase in non-US scholars publishing in *APJM*; this is a trend noted by Ang (1997) and later confirmed by Pleggenkuhle-Miles et al. (2007). Chinese institutions (coming from both Mainland China and Greater China) and American institutions are the most prolific contributors to *APJM*. Among the European institutions, the English and Dutch ones are the major contributors to the journal.

### Scientific collaboration and research funding support

Collaborative research plays an important role in the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge (Beaver, 2004). The development of collaborative networks facilitates access to resources and data, increases efficiency, allows bigger challenges to be faced, and/or improves scholars' prestige and visibility (Beaver, 2001). In his 1997 review, Ang pointed to the interest of increasing collaborative research in Asian management studies as a way to overcome time and resource constraints and deal with the complexity of the Asian environment.

Following Ang (1997) and Pleggenkuhle-Miles et al. (2007) scientific collaboration has been undertaken through co-authorship. About 18% of the articles gathered in the database are single-authored, pointing to a relevant and steady increase in collaborative research when compared to previous stages; the percentage of single-authored articles was over 40% in the journal's childhood (Ang, 1997) and over 35% in the journal's adolescence (Pleggenkuhle-Miles et al., 2007). Furthermore, statistically significant differences can be found when comparing collaboration patterns within the two different five-year sub-periods analyzed in our study. As shown in Table 5, the number of co-authored articles is higher than expected within the second sub-period, pointing to a stronger role of collaborative research.

Tables 6 and 7 show information relative to team size and scope. Our analysis points to a particularly high number of multi-authored articles, as at least three researchers collaborate in over 50% of the co-authored articles—much higher than in previous stages. Larger teams play a (statistically significant) more active role within the second sub-period. International collaboration (e.g., research networks whose authors' institutional affiliation includes different countries) is the outstanding type of collaboration throughout the whole analyzed period—over 55% of the co-authored articles gathered in the database reflect this international pattern. Among them, there is a majority of articles that reflect inter-regional

**Table 5** Scientific collaboration path 2005–2014

|               | 2005–2009             | 2010–2014             | Total 2005–2014 |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Single author | 39<br>28.7%<br>(4.1)  | 26<br>11.5%<br>(-4.1) | 65<br>17.9%     |
| Co-authorship | 97<br>71.3%<br>(-4.1) | 201<br>88.5%<br>(4.1) | 298<br>82.1%    |
| Total         | 136                   | 227                   | 363             |

Chi<sup>2</sup>: 17.16\*\*\* (adjusted residuals in parentheses)

\*  $p < .1$ ; \*\*  $p < .05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .01$



**Table 6** Scientific collaboration:  
Size of the network

|                   | 2005–2009            | 2010–2014             | Total 2005–2004 |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 2 authors         | 52<br>53.6%<br>(1.8) | 85<br>42.3%<br>(-1.8) | 137<br>46.0%    |
| 3 authors         | 37<br>38.1%<br>-2    | 74<br>36.8%<br>(-2)   | 111<br>37.2%    |
| 4 or more authors | 8<br>8.2%<br>(-2.7)  | 42<br>20.9%<br>(2.7)  | 50<br>16.8%     |
| Total             | 97                   | 201                   | 298             |

Chi<sup>2</sup>: 8.09\*\* (adjusted residuals in parentheses)

\*  $p < .1$ ; \*\*  $p < .05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .01$

cooperation, that is, research networks whose authors' institutional affiliation includes different regions, with collaboration among AP and North American authors being the most salient (over 60% of inter-regional cooperation). Co-authorship networks among AP and European partners are less common (about 20% of inter-regional co-authorship), while cooperation among North American and European partners is the least common type (about 10%). Finally, only seven articles reflect inter-regional ties that include the three key regions (AP, North America, and Europe).

Both intramural (e.g., networks participated in by authors affiliated to the same institution) and national collaboration (e.g., networks whose authors' institutional affiliation includes different institutions, but only one country) also play a relevant role as 46% of the set of co-authored articles show some degree of intramural cooperative ties and more than 43% of them show national cooperation. The latter is more salient (in a statistically significant way) in the second sub-period. As shown in Fernández, Ferrándiz, and León (2016), both organizational proximity (e.g., same/similar regulations and routines) and institutional proximity (e.g., same/similar laws, policies, culture, and language) foster scientific collaboration. Conversely, collaboration with non-academic institutions is extremely scarce, although it is more salient within the second sub-period.

As shown in Ebadi and Schiffauerova (2016), researchers and their projects are highly dependent on funding; in addition, supporting funding programs lead to a higher quality of publication. Thus, we analyzed the funding patterns underlying the research articles published in *APJM*. As shown in Table 8, one-third of the analyzed articles is related to funded research projects and/or grants. The percentage of financially supported studies is higher during the second sub-period and it is highly correlated to scientific collaboration—the latter is a trend already shown in other fields (e.g., Adams, Black, Clemmons, & Stephan, 2005; Ebadi & Schiffauerova, 2016).

### An overview of *APJM*'s performance based on journal metrics

Journal metrics provide an assessment of a journal's performance in terms of significance, role, and position in the international formal communication network, as well as in terms of quality and prestige as perceived by scholars (Glänzel & Moed, 2002). Although different journal metrics exist such as the broader Google Scholar, Scopus and the Web of Science measurements have traditionally been considered the "gold standard" for citation analysis (Harzing

**Table 7** Scientific collaboration: Scope of the network

|                           | 2005–2009  | 2010–2014            | Total 2005–2014 |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| Intra-uni cooperation     | 43<br>44.3%<br>(-.4)<br>Chi <sup>2</sup> : .56 (adjusted residuals in parentheses)     | 94<br>46.8%<br>(.4)  | 137<br>46.0%    |
| National cooperation      | 35<br>36.1%<br>(-1.8)<br>Chi <sup>2</sup> : 3.326* (adjusted residuals in parentheses) | 95<br>47.3%<br>(1.8) | 130<br>43.6%    |
| International cooperation | 50<br>51.5%<br>(-.9)<br>Chi <sup>2</sup> : .85 (adjusted residuals in parentheses)     | 115<br>57.2%<br>(.9) | 165<br>55.4%    |
| Non academic cooperation  | 2<br>2.1%<br>(-1.4)<br>Chi <sup>2</sup> : 1.824 (adjusted residuals in parentheses)    | 9<br>4.5%<br>(1.4)   | 11<br>3.7%      |
| Total cooperation         | 97   | 201                  | 298             |

\*  $p < .1$ ; \*\*  $p < .05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .01$

& Alakangas, 2016). Based on citation counts to the set of articles published by the journal, the Scimago Journal Rankings (SJR) provided by Scopus and the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) by the WOS-SSCI all measure the frequency with which the *average* article in the journal has been cited by the research community over a given period.<sup>6</sup>

*APJM* has been tracked by Scopus since 1983 (first SJR impact factor in 1999); therefore, it has been included in SJR rankings over all the analyzed period. The journal SJR indicator improved from .785 in 2005 to 1.223 in 2014, reaching its highest values in 2013 (1.838), 2009 (1.722), and 2012 (1.627). Its ranking remained above the SJR index first quartile during the whole period (see Table 1). The journal got its first JCR impact factor for the year 2010. Moreover, it achieved a ranking above the first quartile in 2010 and it kept this position until the end of the analyzed period—the journal achieved its highest JCR impact factor in 2012 (4.099) getting to be ranked above the index's first decile.

Getting such high Scopus and SSCI recognitions is a huge achievement and a widely-accepted indicator of quality for a journal. In the following section we provide information on the particular articles contributing most to this recognition (e.g., the articles having the strongest impact on the research field in terms of citations counts).

<sup>6</sup> The JCR annual-impact factor is a ratio between current year citations to any item published in the journal during the previous two years and the total number of articles published by this journal in the same two-year period. The WOS-SSCI is the database used to gather citation counts. The SJR uses Scopus as a data source; therefore, it gathers citations from a wider number of journals than the JCR. It relies on three-year citations weighted by subject field and quality/influence of the citing journal (journals are considered to be influential if they are cited often by other influential journals).

**Table 8** Funding support to the research published in *APJM* (2005–2014)

|                     | 2005–2009             | 2010–2014              | Total 2005–2014 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Funded research     | 37<br>27.2%<br>(-2.2) | 87<br>38.3%<br>(2.2)   | 124<br>34.2%    |
| Non-funded research | 99<br>72.8%<br>(2.2)  | 140<br>61.7%<br>(-2.2) | 239<br>65.8%    |
| Total               | 136                   | 227                    | 363             |

Chi<sup>2</sup>: 4.67\*\* (adjusted residuals in parentheses)

\*  $p < .1$ ; \*\*  $p < .05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < .01$

## Article impact on the research field

A traditional citation analysis has been performed in order to analyze article impact on the research field. Then we have complemented this analysis with a study based on alternative metrics. A citation analysis is a way to measure the actual impact of a particular article on its research field (Harzing & van der Wal, 2008). Citation counts provide an indicator of the work's reception and use by colleagues (Glänzel & Schoepflin, 1999); as pointed out by Kochen (1987), any citation of a piece of research reflects an explicit recognition of an intellectual debt. To assess the impact of the articles published by *APJM* we conducted a citation analysis up to December 31, 2016 using the Scopus database.<sup>7</sup> Although we have allowed a minimum three-year period for articles to be cited, this analysis is somehow unfair on more recent articles. That is the rationale for (1) splitting the database in two different periods (2005–2009 and 2010–2014), (2) including the ratio of citations per year, considering the number of years since the article was published, (3) measuring the early citation for most recent articles (e.g., citation counts in the three-year period following each article publication, and (4) analyzing the article's field weighted citation impact (FWCI) and citation benchmark (CB).

### Direct and accumulated impact

Tables 9 and 10 show the articles that comprise *APJM*'s *h-core* in each sub-period. The *h-core* of a particular set of articles, also known as the *h-classics* (Martinez et al., 2014), is comprised of the *h* highly cited papers with more than *h* direct (first generation) citations received.<sup>8</sup> *APJM*'s *h-core* for the 2005–2009 period is comprised of 37 articles (about 27% of the articles published in the period that involve almost 2/3 of total citations counts), while the journal's *h-core* for 2009–2014 involves 24 articles (10% of published articles representing more than 30% of total citation counts).

As shown in the Table 9, the review by Mathews (2006), dealing with the role of dragon multinationals (e.g., multinationals from the AP) as new players and challengers in the global arena, is the most cited work. Although focused on different specific

<sup>7</sup> This is one the most commonly used sources of bibliometric data traditionally used in many international rankings of universities (Harzing & van der Wal, 2008).

<sup>8</sup> The classical *h-index* was introduced by Hirsch in 2005. It was initially employed for individuals and defined as "a scientist has index *h* if *h* of her/his papers have at least *h* citations each" (Hirsch 2005: 16,569). The set of articles occupying the first *h* ranks constitutes the so-called *h-core* (Rosseau 2006), that is, a group of high-performance publications (in terms of citation) with respect to the scientist's career (Jin, Avery & Bergsteiner, 2007). Researchers have extended the application of the *h-index* to other units such as journals, institutions, and topics.

**Table 9** *h-core* (2005–2009). Total citation counts and SP *h-index*

| Rank <sup>a</sup> | Article   | Year | Total citations <sup>b</sup> | SP <i>h-index</i> |
|-------------------|---|------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1                 | Mathews, J. A.  | 2006 | 574                          | 46                |
| 2                 | Meyer, K. E.  | 2006 | 172                          | 32                |
| 3                 | Dunning, J. H., & Lundan, S. M.                                     | 2008 | 166                          | 24                |
| 4                 | Hofstede, G.  | 2007 | 157                          | 21                |
| 5                 | Peng, M. W., & Zhou, J. Q.  | 2005 | 149                          | 31                |
| 6                 | Filatotehev, I., Lien, Y.-C., & Piesse, J.                          | 2005 | 109                          | 22                |
| 7                 | Huang, Q., Davison, R. M., & Gu, J.                                 | 2008 | 89                           | 17                |
| 8                 | Peng, M. W.   | 2005 | 77                           | 20                |
| 9                 | Yeung, H. W. C.   | 2006 | 74                           | 20                |
| 10                | Ahlstrom, D., Bruton, G. D., & Yeh, K. S.                           | 2007 | 70                           | 16                |
| 11                | Li, J. J.   | 2005 | 67                           | 21                |
| 12                | Su, Y.-S., Tsang, E. W. K., & Peng, M. W.                           | 2009 | 66                           | 11                |
| 13                | Quer, D., Claver, E., & Rienda, L.                                  | 2007 | 63                           | 19                |
| 14                | Law, K. S., Wong, C.-S., Huang, G.-H., & Li, X.                     | 2008 | 62                           | 13                |
| 15                | Globerman, S., & Shapiro, D.  | 2009 | 61                           | 18                |
| 16–17             | Ma, X., Yao, X., & Xi, Y.   | 2006 | 60                           | 20                |
| 16–17             | Bruton, G. D., Dess, G. G., & Janney, J. J.                         | 2007 | 60                           | 16                |
| 18                | Chen, N. Y.-F., & Tjosvold, D.                                      | 2007 | 57                           | 16                |
| 19                | Zhou, K. Z., & Li, C. B.  | 2007 | 56                           | 14                |
| 20                | Heugens, P. P. M. A. R., van Essen, M., & van Oosterhout, J. (Hans) | 2009 | 54                           | 16                |
| 21                | Yang, X., Jiang, Y., Kang, R., & Ke, Y.                             | 2009 | 53                           | 14                |
| 22                | Wu, W.-P., & Leung, A.  | 2005 | 51                           | 16                |
| 23–24             | Li, S., & Scullion, H.  | 2006 | 50                           | 15                |
| 23–24             | Gao, S., Xu, K., & Yang, J.   | 2008 | 50                           | 12                |
| 25–26             | Asakawa, K., & Som, A.  | 2008 | 49                           | 10                |
| 25–26             | Yang, J. Y., & Li, J.   | 2008 | 49                           | 10                |
| 27                | Li, J., & Kozhikode, R. K.  | 2008 | 47                           | 11                |
| 28                | Kedia, B. L., Mukherjee, D., & Lahiri, S.                           | 2006 | 46                           | 15                |
| 29–30             | Collinson, S., & Rugman, A. M.                                      | 2007 | 44                           | 15                |
| 29–30             | Zhang, J., & Ma, H.   | 2009 | 44                           | 11                |
| 31                | Huang, X., Shi, K., Zhang, Z., & Cheung, Y. L.                      | 2006 | 43                           | 10                |
| 32                | Hill, C. W. L.  | 2007 | 42                           | 12                |
| 33                | Li, P. P.   | 2007 | 41                           | 8                 |
| 34–35             | Lu, Y., & Yao, J.   | 2006 | 38                           | 12                |
| 34–35             | Cuervo-Cazurra, A.  | 2006 | 38                           | 8                 |
| 36–37             | He, Y., Tian, Z., & Chen, Y.  | 2007 | 37                           | 14                |
| 36–37             | Chen, C.C., & Chen, X.-P.   | 2009 | 37                           | 11                |

Prepared by authors based on Scopus Database

<sup>a</sup> Ranked by total number of citations (excluded self-citation as first criterion) and by SP *h-index* as second one

<sup>b</sup> Citations count up to December 31, 2016

issues and drawing from different perspectives, the articles by Dunning and Lundan (2008), Hofstede (2007), Meyer (2006) and Pen and Zhou (2005) place the emphasis on the institutional approach when developing research in business and management in the AP area. The work by Filatotehev, Lien, and Piesse (2005) analyzing the performance of family-controlled firms is the last article receiving more than 100 citations. Additionally, four articles specifically focused on China and its different features and

**Table 10** *h*-core (2010–2014). Total citation counts and SP *h* Index

| Rank <sup>a</sup> | Article   | Year  | Total citations <sup>b</sup> | SP <i>h</i> -index |
|-------------------|---|-------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1                 | Chen, Y. Y., & Young, M. N.                                 | 2010  | 83                           | 19                 |
| 2–3               | Estrin, S., & Prevezer, M.                                  | 2011  | 53                           | 12                 |
| 2–3               | Jiang, Y., & Peng, M. W.                                    | 2011a | 53                           | 11                 |
| 4                 | Zhu, Y., Wittmann, X., & Peng, M. W.                        | 2012  | 50                           | 6                  |
| 5–6               | Chu, W.   | 2011  | 48                           | 11                 |
| 5–6               | Li, P. P.   | 2012  | 48                           | 8                  |
| 7                 | Cui, L., & Jiang, F.  | 2010  | 46                           | 12                 |
| 8                 | Hu, H. W., Tam, O. K., & Tan, M. G.-S.                      | 2010  | 43                           | 8                  |
| 9–10              | Bhagat, R. B., McDevitt, A. S., & McDevitt, I.              | 2010  | 40                           | 12                 |
| 9–10              | Chen, V. Z., Li, J., & Shapiro, D. M.                       | 2011b | 40                           | 10                 |
| 11                | Lin, J., & Si, S. X.  | 2010  | 39                           | 9                  |
| 12                | Chen, Y., Friedman, F., Yu, E., & Sun, F.                   | 2011a | 38                           | 6                  |
| 13                | Peng, M. W., Li, Y. Xie, E., & Su, Z.                       | 2010  | 37                           | 7                  |
| 14                | Quer, D., Claver, E., & Rienda, L.                          | 2012  | 34                           | 8                  |
| 15                | Ahn, M. J. & York, A. S.                                    | 2011  | 33                           | 5                  |
| 16                | Young, M. N., & Tsai, T., Wang, X., Liu, S., & Ahlstrom, D. | 2014  | 32                           | 6                  |
| 17                | Jiang, Y., & Peng, M. W.                                    | 2011b | 30                           | 9                  |
| 18–19             | Tung, R. S., & Chung, H. F. L.                              | 2010  | 28                           | 7                  |
| 18–19             | Li, Y., Chen, H., Liu, Y., & Peng, M. W.                    | 2014b | 28                           | 3                  |
| 20–22             | Liden, R. C.  | 2012  | 27                           | 7                  |
| 20–22             | Syed, J., & Pio, E.   | 2010  | 27                           | 5                  |
| 20–22             | van Essen, M., van Oosterhout, J. (Hans), & Carney, M.      | 2012  | 27                           | 5                  |
| 23–24             | Park, B. I.   | 2010  | 25                           | 7                  |
| 23–24             | Gong, Y., Chow, I. H.-S., & Ahlstrom, D.                    | 2011  | 25                           | 5                  |

Prepared by authors based on Scopus Database

<sup>a</sup> Ranked by total number of citations (excluded self-citation as first criterion), and by SP *h*-index as second one

<sup>b</sup> Citations count up to December 31, 2016

characteristics related to business management are among the top-10 most cited articles in the 2005–2009 period (Ahlstrom, Bruton, & Yeh, 2007; Huang, Davison, & Wu, 2008; Peng, 2005; Yeung, 2006).

The analysis of cross-border mergers and acquisitions by Chinese companies (Chen & Young, 2010) is the most cited paper within the 2010–2014 period (see Table 10). The role of institutions remains a relevant issue among the most cited papers in these years (Cui & Jiang, 2010; Estrin & Prevezer, 2011; Zhu, Wittmann, & Peng, 2012); however, other issues, such as the role of family ownership and management on firms' performance and evolution (Chu, 2011; Jiang & Peng, 2011a), and the different features of governance mechanisms in the AP region (Chen, Li, & Shapiro, 2011b; Hu, Tam, & Tan, 2010), arise among the works having the strongest impact on the research field. Within the top-10 list of most cited articles there are two works dealing with the need for developing management theories that are applicable in the Asian context and the role to be played by indigenous research (Bhagat, McDevitt, & McDevitt, 2010; Li, 2012). These issues have been also addressed in more recent articles published in the journal (Li & Ahlstrom, 2016).

A direct (first generation) citation of an article shows the article's direct influence on its citing works. Therefore, direct citation counting is a basic indicator for assessing an article's first-level impact on its research field. However, to measure a work's actual or accumulated impact it becomes necessary to consider its indirect (further generations) citation. Indirect citations point to a connection (indirect influence) between the article under scrutiny and the works included in each generation of citations (Fragkiadaki & Evangelidis, 2016). To measure the indirect impact of the set of articles in the *h-core*, we conducted an analysis of the second generation of citations and then identified each article's Single Publication *h-index* (SP *h-index*) as in Tables 9 and 10. The second generation of citations refers to citations received by the citing articles of the target one.<sup>9</sup> The SP *h-index* is based on these citations and is defined as *h* such that *h* of the papers citing the target work have *h* citations or more (Schubert, 2009).<sup>10</sup> This measurement does not only assess the impact of an article, but also its centrality by considering the quality and quantity of its citing publications (Schubert, 2009). In other words, it evaluates if a particular article is cited by relevant articles. Therefore, it provides a more comprehensive and refined picture of the performance of an article (Bormmann, Mutz, Hug, & Daniel, 2011).

Some articles show a sharp increase in impact on the research field when this index is employed. Such articles include the analysis of managerial networks of foreign firms in China (Li, 2005), the study of the relationship between business group affiliation and firm performance in transition economies (Ma, Yao, & Xi, 2006), the review on business and management in China (Quer et al., 2007), the analysis of *guanxi* and social capital in China (Lin & Si, 2010), the study of main conflicts in corporate governance during times of economic crisis (Jiang & Peng, 2011b), and the role played by political risk and cultural distance as drivers of outward Chinese foreign direct investment (Quer, Claver, & Rienda, 2012).

### *Per-year and early citation*

To do justice to most recent articles, it is advisable to measure the ratio of citations per year and to analyze early citation. Some recent articles are particularly influential when considering the per-year citations counts (Table 11), such as the study on strategy in emerging economies (Young, Tsai, Wang, Liu, & Ahlstrom, 2014), the analysis of managerial ties and organizational learning by Li, Chen, Liu, and Peng (2014b), or the study on board turnover in Taiwan's public firms (Liu, Wang, Zhao, & Ahlstrom, 2013). Initial or early citations represent some of the first (usually positive) feedback from the scientific community (Tahamtan, Afshar, & Ahamdzadeh, 2016).

Furthermore, in the particular case of most recent articles, it is important to measure early citations as they may be a good predictor of the articles' future impact on the research field (Chakraborty, Kumar, Goyal, Ganguly, & Mukherjee, 2014; Garner, Porter, & Newman, 2014; Guerrero-Bote & Moya-Anegón, 2014). Early citation counts reflect the immediacy degree of the citation process and deal with cutting-

<sup>9</sup> See, for instance Egghe (2011), Fragkiadaki, Evangelidis, Samaras, and Dervos (2011); Fragkiadaki and Evangelidis (2014).

<sup>10</sup> As shown in Schubert (2009), analyzing the SP *h-index* adds almost no value when the article receives a low number of direct (first generation) citations.

**Table 11** Citation analysis: Citations per year (2005–2014)

| Rank  | Articles  | Year  | Citations per year |
|-------|---|-------|--------------------|
| 1     | Mathews, J. A.  | 2006  | 57.40              |
| 2     | Dunning, J. H., & Lundan, S. M.                                     | 2008  | 20.75              |
| 3     | Hofstede, G.  | 2007  | 17.44              |
| 4     | Meyer, K. E.  | 2006  | 17.20              |
| 5     | Young, M. N., Tsai, T., Wang, X., Liu, S., & Ahlstrom, D.           | 2014  | 16.00              |
| 6     | Li, Y., Chen, H., Liu, Y., & Peng, M. W.                            | 2014b | 14.00              |
| 7     | Chen, Y. Y., & Young, M. N.   | 2010  | 13.83              |
| 8     | Peng, M. W., & Zhou, J. Q.  | 2005  | 13.55              |
| 9     | Zhu, Y., Wittmann, X., & Peng, M. W.                                | 2012  | 12.50              |
| 10    | Li, P. P.   | 2012  | 12.00              |
| 11    | Huang, Q., Davison, R. M., & Gu, J.                                 | 2008  | 11.13              |
| 12–13 | Estrin, S., & Prevezer, M.  | 2011  | 10.60              |
| 12–13 | Jiang, Y., & Peng, M. W.  | 2011a | 10.60              |
| 14    | Filatovchev, I., Lien, Y.-C., & Piesse, J.                          | 2005  | 9.91               |
| 15    | Chu, W.   | 2011  | 9.60               |
| 16    | Su, Y.-S., Tsang, E. W. K., & Peng, M. W.                           | 2009  | 9.43               |
| 17    | Globerman, S., & Shapiro, D.  | 2009  | 8.71               |
| 18    | Quer, D., Claver, E., & Rienda, L.                                  | 2012  | 8.50               |
| 19    | Chen, V. Z., Li, J., & Shapiro, D. M.                               | 2011b | 8.00               |
| 20    | Ahlstrom, D., Bruton, G. D., & Yeh, K. S.                           | 2007  | 7.78               |
| 21    | Law, K. S., Wong, C.-S., Huang, G.-H., & Li, X.                     | 2008  | 7.75               |
| 22    | Heugens, P. P. M. A. R., van Essen, M., & van Oosterhout, J. (Hans) | 2009  | 7.71               |
| 23    | Cui, L., & Jiang, F.  | 2010  | 7.67               |
| 24    | Chen, Y., Friedman, R., Yu, E., & Sun, F.                           | 2011a | 7.60               |
| 25    | Yang, X., Jiang, Y., Kang, R., & Ke, Y.                             | 2009  | 7.57               |
| 26    | Yeung, H. W. C.   | 2006  | 7.40               |
| 27    | Liu, Y., Wang, L. C., Zhao, L., & Ahlstrom, D.                      | 2013  | 7.33               |
| 28    | Hu, H. W., Tam, O. K., & Tan, M. G.-S.                              | 2010  | 7.17               |
| 29–30 | Quer, D., Claver, E., & Rienda, L.                                  | 2007  | 7.00               |
| 29–30 | Peng, M. W.   | 2005  | 7.00               |

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edge research quickly acknowledged and cited by colleagues. This is particularly interesting in the social science fields where the publishing process is usually longer than in other disciplines (Harzing & Van der Wal, 2008).

Table 12 includes the list of the top-30 articles published in 2013–2014 receiving more citations in the three-year period<sup>11</sup> after their publication (working with a three-year period allows analyzing a homogeneous time window for all of them). Apart from the above mentioned studies by Li et al. (2014a, b), Liu et al. (2013) and Young et al. (2014) among the other most promising articles there are studies related to job behavior, supervision, and job attitudes (Ngo, Loi, Foley, Zheng, & Zhang, 2013; Wei & Si, 2013); analyses related to family business management and succession (Au, Chiang, Birtch, & Ding, 2013); works focused on knowledge management and transfer (Ling, 2013; Lunnan & Zhao, 2014), as well as studies focusing on innovation and internationalization processes developed from an emerging economy perspective (Chen, Shapiro, & Zhang, 2014; Meyer & Thaijongrak, 2013).

<sup>11</sup> We are considering the year of publication and the two following ones.

**Table 12** Citation analysis: Early citation (2013–2014)

| Rank  | Articles  | Year  | 3-year citation |
|-------|---|-------|-----------------|
| 1     | Young, M. N., Tsai, T., Wang, X., Liu, S., & Ahlstrom, D.   | 2014  | 32              |
| 2     | Li, Y., Chen, H., Liu, Y., & Peng, M. W.                    | 2014b | 28              |
| 3–4   | Wei, F., & Si, S.   | 2013  | 13              |
| 3–4   | Au, K., Chiang, F. F. T., Birtch, T. A., & Ding, Z.         | 2013  | 13              |
| 5     | Liu, Y., Wang, L. C., Zhao, L., & Ahlstrom, D.              | 2013  | 12              |
| 6–8   | Ngo, H.-Y., Loi, R., Foley, S., Zheng, X., & Zhang, L.      | 2013  | 11              |
| 6–8   | Ling, Y.-H.   | 2013  | 11              |
| 6–8   | Meyer, K. E., & Thajjongrak, O.                             | 2013  | 11              |
| 9–11  | Chen, V. Z., Li, J., Shapiro, D. M., & Zhang, X.            | 2014  | 9               |
| 9–11  | Lunnan, R., & Zhao, Y.                                      | 2014  | 9               |
| 9–11  | Zhan, W., & Chen, R. R.                                     | 2013  | 9               |
| 12–14 | Froese, F. J.   | 2013  | 8               |
| 12–14 | Filatotchev, I., Jackson, G., & Nakajima, C.                | 2013  | 8               |
| 12–14 | Puffer, S. M., McCarthy, D. J., Jaeger, A. M., & Dunlap, D. | 2013  | 8               |
| 15–23 | Deng, Z., Hofman, P. S., & Newman, A.                       | 2013  | 7               |
| 15–23 | Ding, Z., Sun, S. L., & Au, K.                              | 2014  | 7               |
| 15–23 | Lam, L. W., Loi, R., & Leong, C.                            | 2013  | 7               |
| 15–23 | Sauerwald, S., & Peng, M. W.                                | 2013  | 7               |
| 15–23 | Sharma, P., & Chua, J. H.                                   | 2013  | 7               |
| 15–23 | Wang, L., Hinrichs, K. T., Prieto, L., & Howell, J. P.      | 2013  | 7               |
| 15–23 | Wu, J., Li, S., & Li, Z.                                    | 2013  | 7               |
| 15–23 | Yu, B., Hao, S., Ahlstrom, D., Si, S., & Liang, D.          | 2014  | 7               |
| 15–23 | Zhu, Y., Sun, L.-Y., & Leung, A. S. M.                      | 2014  | 7               |
| 24–32 | Asaba, S.   | 2013  | 6               |
| 24–32 | Choi, S. B., & Williams, C.                                 | 2014  | 6               |
| 24–32 | Frenkel, S., Sanders, K., & Bednall, T.                     | 2013  | 6               |
| 24–32 | Ismail, K. M., & Ford, Jr., D. L., Wu, Q., & Peng, M. W.    | 2013  | 6               |
| 24–32 | Leung, K., Chen, Z., Zhou, F., & Lim, K.                    | 2014  | 6               |
| 24–32 | Li, Y., Ashkanasy, N. M., & Ahlstrom, D.                    | 2014a | 6               |
| 24–32 | Shih, C.-T., & Chuang, C.-H.                                | 2013  | 6               |
| 24–32 | Stan, C. V., Peng, M. W., & Bruton, G. D.                   | 2014  | 6               |
| 24–32 | Sun, W., Xu, A., & Shang, Y.                                | 2014  | 6               |

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### *Field weighted citation impact*

By considering the articles' FWCI it is possible to analyze not only the article's age or year of publication, but also its discipline or specific field of research. The FWCI indicates how the number of citations received by a publication compares with the average number of citations received by all other similar publications indexed in the Scopus database—similar publications are those publications in the Scopus database that have the same publication year, publication type (e.g., article, book chapter, etc.), and discipline. A FWCI higher/lower than 1 means that the article is more/less cited than expected, based on the average for similar publications. A second tool for contextualizing citations counts is the CB. The CB compares journal articles of the same age and subject area by providing information about the articles citation percentile (e.g., a 90% CB means that 90% of similar articles receive less citations than the analyzed work).



**Table 13** Citation analysis: Field-Weighted Citation Impact (2005–2014)

| Rank  | Article   | Year  | FWCI  |
|-------|---|-------|-------|
| 1     | Meyer, K. E.  | 2006  | 52.99 |
| 2     | Mathews, J. A.  | 2006  | 39.4  |
| 3     | Peng, M. W., & Zhou, J. Q.                                | 2005  | 26.1  |
| 4     | Peng, M. W.   | 2005  | 22.02 |
| 5     | Hofstede, G.  | 2007  | 20.17 |
| 6     | Bruton, G. D., Dess, G. G., & Janney, J. J.               | 2007  | 16.18 |
| 7     | Ma, X., Yao, X., & Xi, Y.                                 | 2006  | 14.67 |
| 8     | Quer, D., Claver, E., & Rienda, L.                        | 2007  | 14.47 |
| 9     | Young, M. N., Tsai, T., Wang, X., Liu, S., & Ahlstrom, D. | 2014  | 13.67 |
| 10    | Dunning, J. H., & Lundan, S. M.                           | 2008  | 13.01 |
| 11    | Yeung, H. W. C.   | 2006  | 13    |
| 12    | Li, Y., Chen, H., Liu, Y., & Peng, M. W.                  | 2014b | 11.62 |
| 13    | Li, J. J.   | 2005  | 11.04 |
| 14    | Carney, M.  | 2005  | 10.89 |
| 15    | Tung, R. L.   | 2005  | 10.6  |
| 16    | Li, Y., Sun, Y. F., & Liu, Y.                             | 2006  | 10.43 |
| 17    | Hill, C. W. L.  | 2007  | 10.32 |
| 18    | Li, P. P.   | 2012  | 9.79  |
| 19    | Huang, Q., Davison, R. M., & Gu, J.                       | 2008  | 9.5   |
| 20    | Zhu, Y., Wittmann, X., & Peng, M. W.                      | 2012  | 9.05  |
| 21    | Wu, W.-P., & Leung, A.                                    | 2005  | 8.97  |
| 22    | Law, K. S., Wong, C.-S., Huang, G.-H., & Li, X.           | 2008  | 8.71  |
| 23–24 | Bhagat, R. S., McDevitt, A. S., & McDevitt, I.            | 2010  | 8.42  |
| 23–24 | Chen, Y.Y., & Young, M. N.                                | 2010  | 8.42  |
| 25    | Syed, J.  | 2008  | 8.31  |
| 26    | Jiang, Y., & Peng, M. W.                                  | 2011a | 8.24  |
| 27    | Kedia, B. L., Mukherjee, D., & Lahiri, S.                 | 2006  | 8.23  |
| 28    | Collinson, S. & Rugman, A. M.                             | 2007  | 7.89  |
| 29    | Ahlstrom, D., Bruton, G. D., & Yeh, K. S.                 | 2007  | 7.78  |
| 30    | Estrin, S., & Prevezer, M.                                | 2011  | 7.3   |

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Table 13 shows the list of the top 30 articles based on their FWC—as all of them are above the 90% CB we have not included information relative to this indicator on the table. As shown in the table, the articles showing the highest FWCI are the above-mentioned works by Hofstede (2007), Mathews (2006), Meyer (2006), Peng (2005) and Peng and Zhou (2005) that were also in top positions when considering absolute citation counts. However, other articles sharply improve their performance in terms of impact when citation counts are weighted in terms of an article's age and discipline, among them the study of knowledge management in technology firms from emerging economies (Bruton, Dess, & Janney, 2007), the analysis of the relationship between business group affiliation and firm performance in transition economies by Ma et al. (2006), the review of empirical research focused on business and management in China by Quer et al. (2007), and the study of the influence of emerging economies' institutional context on local firms' strategy and competitive (dis)advantages<sup>12</sup> (Young et al., 2014). Furthermore, some articles that received a lower number of first-generation

<sup>12</sup> This remains as a particularly relevant issue within the most recent literature, see for instance, Liu, Chen, and Wang (2017).

citations in absolute terms and were not included in their respective *h-cores*, arise as particularly influential when the FWCI is considered; among them, the analysis about how Asia's business networks are responding to the growing integration of the region into the global economy (Carney, 2005); the research agenda on Asian management issues put forward by Tung (2005), the study on the precedents and outcomes of market orientation in state-owned enterprises in transitional China (Li, Sun, & Liu, 2006) and the analysis of gender equality and its implications for equal employment opportunity in Islamic societies (Syed, 2008).

### *Impact based on alternative metrics*

Finally, we performed an analysis of article impact based on altmetrics; that is, alternative metrics for measuring scholarly impact that rely on different user activities in social media platforms and tools (Erdt, Nagarajan, Sin, & Theng, 2016; Piwowar, 2013; Weller, 2015). In other words, altmetrics measure the interactions happening on the Internet and the social media and employ new procedures to measure the impact of authorship and publication (Ebrahimi, Mehrad, Setareh, & Hosseinchari, 2016). They provide fast and real-time indications of impact (traditional citation processes usually require long periods of time), as well as information about the impact of scientific publications on different (including non-academic) audiences (Priem, Piwowar, & Hemminger, 2012; Wouters & Costas, 2012). Therefore, they measure a different kind of research impact, thus acting as a complement rather than a substitute to traditional metrics (Erdt et al., 2016). Different altmetrics exist, among them those related to saving, discussion, and recommendation. Data relative to discussion and recommendation altmetrics (e.g., tweets, "likes" in Facebook, coverage by the media or blogs) are not available for a large number of articles in our database. Therefore, we focus this analysis on saving metrics. To measure saving and download activities related to the articles gathered in our database, we have relied on Mendeley. This is a social network and reference manager that allows users to download, save, and bookmark articles. Information relative to each article of Mendeley readership activity was gathered from Scopus. Table 14 shows the top-30 articles based on this indicator. As shown in this table, the articles leading this ranking—Dunning and Lundan (2008), Estrin and Prevezer (2011), Hofstede (2007), Su, Tsang, and Peng (2009), Zhu et al. (2012)—were previously included in their respective *h-core* based on traditional citation counts. Nevertheless, some recent articles not included in their *h-core* emerge as highly influential when considering this altmetrics indicator, among them, the study of the impact of transformational leadership on technological innovation by Chen, Lin, Lin, and McDonough (2012), the analysis relative to the dynamics of emerging economy MNEs (Meyer & Thajjongrak, 2013); the study relative to the influence of different leadership types on team performance (Ishikawa, 2012), and two studies related to small firm performance (Jing, Avery, & Bergsteiner, 2014; Tang & Tang, 2012).

## **Analysis and discussion**

This research represents a comprehensive review of the literature published in *APJM* between 2005 and 2014, during the journal's "early adulthood." Throughout this decade,

**Table 14** Articles impact based on almetrics (2005–2014)

| Rank  | Article  | Year  | Mendeley readers |
|-------|--|-------|------------------|
| 1     | Dunning, J. H., & Lundan, S. M.                                    | 2008  | 298              |
| 2     | Estrin, S., & Prevezer, M.   | 2011  | 226              |
| 3     | Hofstede, G.   | 2007  | 179              |
| 4     | Zhu, Y., Wittmann, X., & Peng, M. W.                               | 2012  | 150              |
| 5     | Su, Y.-S., & Tsang, E. W. K., & Peng, M. W.                        | 2009  | 136              |
| 6     | Chen, M. Y.-C., Lin, C. Y.-Y., Lin, H.-E., & McDonough, III, E. F. | 2012  | 120              |
| 7     | Meyer, K. E., & Thaijongrak, O.                                    | 2013  | 105              |
| 8     | Chu, W.  | 2011  | 104              |
| 9–10  | Law, K. S., Wong, C.-S., Huang, G.-H., & Li, X.                    | 2008  | 93               |
| 9–10  | van Essen, M., van Oosterhout, J. (Hans), & Carney, M.             | 2012  | 93               |
| 11    | Li, J., & Kozhikode, R. K.   | 2008  | 92               |
| 12    | Huang, Q., Davison, R. M., & Gu, J.                                | 2008  | 91               |
| 13    | Ishikawa, J.   | 2012  | 90               |
| 14    | Cuervo-Cazurra, A.   | 2006  | 87               |
| 15    | Peng, M. W., & Zhou, J. Q.   | 2005  | 86               |
| 16    | Tang, Z., & Tang, J.   | 2012  | 84               |
| 17–19 | Meyer, K. E.   | 2006  | 82               |
| 17–19 | Gao, X., Xu, K., & Yang, J.  | 2008  | 82               |
| 17–19 | Jing, F. F., Avery, G. C., & Bergsteiner, H.                       | 2014  | 82               |
| 20–21 | Lin, J., & Si, S. X.   | 2010  | 81               |
| 20–21 | Dodgson, M.  | 2009  | 81               |
| 22–24 | Hill, C. W. L.   | 2007  | 80               |
| 22–24 | Li, Y., Chen, H., Liu, Y., & Peng, M. W.                           | 2014b | 80               |
| 22–24 | Tang, J.   | 2010  | 80               |
| 25    | Quer, D., Claver, E., & Rienda, L.                                 | 2012  | 78               |
| 26–29 | Li, P. P.  | 2007  | 77               |
| 26–29 | Ling, Y.-H.  | 2013  | 77               |
| 26–29 | Zhan, W., & Chen, R. R.  | 2013  | 77               |
| 26–29 | Zheng, C., & Lamond, D.  | 2010  | 77               |
| 30    | Wei, F., & Si, S.  | 2013  | 75               |

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*APJM* has achieved some key objectives established by its editorial board at the beginning of the period, among them, improving the journal's "numbers," quality, reputation, and influence (Ahlstrom, 2010; Delios, 2005). Although measuring journal quality and reputation is a complex task, several indicators can be analyzed, among them, a journal's reach and international scope, its performance in terms of journal metrics, the funding support to the research published in the journal, cooperative research patterns, and the published articles' impact on the research and professional field.

### ***APJM* numbers and reach**

The number of articles published per year has sharply increased from a mean of 25 articles in the first 4 years of this century to a mean of 36 articles in the analyzed period (about 9 articles per issue) and to 45 articles (more than 11 articles per issue) if we focus on the 2010–2014 period, after the journal attained SSCI coverage. Among these are research articles dealing with conceptual developments and empirical tests (319 articles), literature reviews that map a field and reflect on its research agenda (17), and

perspectives relative to a specific theme developed by leaders in their respective research fields (27). The “perspectives” and “reviews” sections deserve special attention as they were created by the editorial board at the beginning of the analyzed period to enhance the journal’s visibility (Delios, 2005). These two sections include articles written “by established and up-and-coming scholars, with perspective pieces being more speculative and forward-looking and review articles being solid literature reviews” (Peng, 2007b: 5).

The first Perspectives articles were published by the journal in 2006. Since then, *APJM* has been able to attract a wide range of top authors such as Geert Hofstede, Mike W. Peng, and Robert Liden, just to name a few, that have reflected on an extensive list of key topics relevant to the AP region. Furthermore, some of these articles have had a strong impact on their research fields (in terms of total citation, FWCI, and/or early citation); among them, the reflections by Ahlstrom, Bruton, and Yeh (2007) on venture capital in China; Asakawa and Som (2008) on internationalization of R&D in China and India; Bhagat et al. (2010) on improving the robustness of Asian management theories; Bruton et al. (2007) on knowledge management in technology-focused firms in emerging economies; Hill (2007) on digital piracy; Li (2012) on indigenous research; Liden (2012) on leadership research in Asia; Yeung (2006) on ethnic Chinese business, and Young et al. (2014) on strategy in emerging economies.

The Reviews section was more prolific in the 2005–2009 period; furthermore, some of the reviews published by *APJM* in this period are among the most cited articles in absolute terms and/or among the articles showing the strongest impact on their respective fields: the review by Mathews (2006) on the role of dragon multinationals in the global arena; the one by Meyer (2006) relative to Asian management research and its need for confidence; the article by Kedia, Mukherjee, and Lahiri (2006) about Indian business groups; the review by Li (2007) about the role of social ties, social capital, and social behavior in informal exchanges; and the article by Quer et al. (2007) on business and management in China.

The weight of both perspectives and reviews has decreased during the second sub-period. Different factors may underlie this decrease—among them, the increasing number of regular papers and the higher visibility already achieved by the journal as well as a near tripling of submissions during that latter period. However, it is noteworthy that the volume of reviews and perspectives that are included among the most influential articles is higher than expected considering their weight on the total number of articles. Therefore, these two sections have consistently contributed to boosting the journal’s visibility and impact and it may be expected that they will contribute further in the future.

Regardless of the increase in the number of regular articles, there is a clear predominance of empirical articles based on quantitative methods like that shown in previous stages and some lack of both conceptual articles and empirical papers based on qualitative methods different from case studies. Research developed from a qualitative perspective (e.g., qualitative comparative, ethnographic, longitudinal qualitative, or phenomenological studies) can make substantial contributions to a research field (Doz, 2011). This type of research is suited not only to exploration, discovery, induction, and theory building, but also to theory-testing and confirmation (Welch et al., 2013). Increasing the volume of conceptual works and empirical-qualitative articles remains a longstanding pending assignment. Actually, the interest of publishing

articles that move theoretical conceptualization forward was already pointed out by Pleggenkuhle-Miles et al. in their 2007 review. Furthermore, this is a trend already shown by other top-tier management journals (Welch et al., 2013); it seems that assumptions/expectations relative to dominant methodological conventions and requirements involved in the review and publishing processes make it difficult for scholars to publish conceptual or qualitative research in this kind of journals. In Peng's (2009b) words, there is an increasing number of articles focused almost exclusively on exploitation at the expense of exploration. In short, it seems that the need for thorough conceptual developments already raised by Lau (2002b), is still in force.

### Stepping back

Over 660 authors and 330 institutions contributed to *APJM* over the analyzed decade. Both the number of scholars and the volume of institutions are much higher than in the journal's childhood (Ang, 1997) and adolescence (Pleggenkuhle-Miles et al., 2007). Moreover, when traditional bibliometric laws are used to analyze these data, results point to a particularly high number of scholars/institutions (higher than would commonly be expected) publishing their work in *APJM*. In addition, the international scope of authorship has also increased, which can be understood both as a cause and a consequence of the journal's international reputation. The increase in the volume and international scope of institutional authorship is tightly related to the extensive work undertaken to globalize *APJM*'s editorship—see discussions by recent *APJM* Chief Editors Mike Peng (2007b, 2008), David Ahlstrom (2010), and Michael Carney (2013, 2014).

In short, it is quite clear that “the numbers” of the journal have improved considerably over this recent 10-year period and the journal has extended its reach in terms of scholars and institutions coming together in a growing research community on management in Asia. Furthermore, the number of submission rose from about 100 per year in 2005 to 450 in 2010 and 800 in 2014 (see Carney, 2015). Such a high increase points to a wider range of scholars considering the *APJM* as an appropriate outlet for publishing their research; in other words, the journal's assessment by the research community improved very noticeably throughout the decade. The rise in the number of published articles in the analyzed period is much lower than the rise in the number of submissions. This means a decrease in the acceptance rate, which fell to about 5% in 2014.<sup>13</sup> As shown in Carney (2015), this rate is similar to that shown by the best ranked journals in the management and international business areas and points to increasingly rigorous and demanding review processes.

*APJM* published ten Special Issues in the analyzed decade involving a total of 106 articles. Publishing Special Issues that bundle together a collection of articles on a topic of high relevance to the AP region was a deliberate strategy of the journal's editorial board aimed at increasing the journal's reach and reputation—see Delios (2005). Usually these Special Issues provide opportunities for analyzing state of the art research on a specific theme, improving our understanding about it, bringing together scholars from diverse areas, and explaining theoretical advances and empirical tests. Furthermore, each article in a Special Issue increases its exposure to the research community

<sup>13</sup> Information about yearly evolution of submission and acceptance rates can be found in editorials by Ahlstrom (2010, 2011), Carney (2013), and Peng (2007b, 2008).

and its impact on it due to the high synergy within the issue (Olk & Griffith 2004). Up to 36% of the articles included in the journal's *h-cores* were published in Special Issues (it rises to 40% for the 2005–2009 period). These are percentages which are higher than expected when we consider the weight of Special-Issue-articles on the total amount of articles published by *APJM*. More than one-third of the articles included in the top-30 articles in terms of FWCI were published in Special Issues, confirming the role of these special volumes in expanding the journal's visibility and impact. Special Issues published in the first sub-period have achieved a particularly high impact on the research field (in terms of citation and FWCI), among them, the Special Issues on networks in AP business (2005), conglomerates and business groups in the AP region (2006), knowledge management and innovation strategy, as well as the volume dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the journal. Among the most recent Special Issues, the most influential volumes are the one focused on management issues in ethnic Chinese communities (Ahlstrom, Chen, & Yeh, 2010) and the one dealing with managing corporate governance in Asia (Globerman, Peng, & Shapiro, 2011). In short, these Special Issues positively impacted knowledge development (Olk and Griffith, 2004), as well as the journal's performance and metrics.

#### *Journal performance based on journal metrics*

As previously stated, journal metrics provide an assessment of a journal's performance in terms of quality and prestige (Glänzel & Moed, 2002). *APJM* got its first SJR and JCR impact factors in 1999 and 2010 respectively. It sharply improved its performance based on the SJR indicator and it kept its ranking above the SJR index first quartile over the whole analyzed period in different categories—*Business and International Management, Strategy and Management, Economics, and Econometrics and Finance*. In 2008 the journal got to be selected for WOS-SSCI coverage (Peng, 2009a), getting its first JCR impact factor in 2010. It achieved a ranking above the JCR's first quartile (*Management* category) in 2010 and it kept this position until the end of the analyzed period. These metrics confirm that *APJM* has consolidated itself as a leading international business journal: based on these metrics, *APJM* is ranked among the top management journals worldwide and is the first among all management journals with a declared regional focus.

Actually getting to be listed in the SSCI was the most relevant challenge facing *APJM*'s editorial board at the beginning of the analyzed period—see Delios (2005) and Peng (2007b). Many factors are considered when evaluating journals for SSCI coverage, among them: The application of some basic publishing standards (e.g., peer-review process, ethical publishing practices, timeliness of publication, etc.), the editorial contents, the journal's international focus, and the citation analysis both in terms of total citation counts and impact factors that focus on the recent effect of the journal on the literature of its subject. Some of these issues heavily depend on the editorial board; therefore, an explicit recognition should be given to the different members of the board and Editors-in-Chief during the analyzed decade—Andrew Delios (National University of Singapore) was the Editor-in-Chief from 2004 to 2006, Mike W. Peng (the University of Texas at Dallas, US) in 2007–2009, David Ahlstrom (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) in 2010–2012, and Michael (Mick) Carney (Concordia

University, Canada) in 2013–2015. When dealing with citation counts and recent impact factors, the articles published in the 2005–2009 period played a key role as promoters of the journal's selection for SSCI coverage, particularly, those achieving the highest citation counts and included in the 2005–2009 *APJM*'s *h-core*. Furthermore, some of these articles show a high Single-Publication-*h-index* based on second generation citations, pointing to central articles in the research field (Schubert, 2009)—we will now refer to the specific articles contributing the most to this recognition.

### *Scientific collaboration and funding-support*

When compared to individual researchers, research networks facilitate facing bigger challenges and studying more complex problems and environments (Beaver, 2001). *APJM* publication pattern has consistently evolved towards collaborative research. Our analysis points to a relevant and steady increase in collaborative research not only when compared to previous stages, but also when comparing different sub-periods within the analyzed decade. Furthermore, our study shows that large international teams play a key role in the research published in *APJM*. Therefore, it seems that collaboration among scholars and participation in large cross-national networks are tools that help to achieve the increasing standards of conceptual and methodological rigor required by *APJM*. However, collaborative patterns are limited to collaboration ties and networks among academic institutions, as active collaboration between academic institutions and firms or governmental agencies is extremely scarce. This low number of non-academic institutions involved in article authorship points to weak cooperation ties among different actors in the triple helix model of university-industry-government relations (Leydesdorff & Meyer, 2003). In other words, firms and non-academic institutions do not collaborate with academic institutions in scientific research in a way that gives rise to co-authored works.

About one-third of the articles published by *APJM* in this period deals with funded research projects and/or grants. Data relative to funding patterns in previous stages are not available; anyhow, we have found a significant increase of funding-supported articles in the second sub-period. External support to research projects means that both the issue under research and the research team in charge of it have received external recognition (in terms of funding). Therefore, it can be regarded as an additional sign of the relevance and quality of the research project and the published article. In addition, it creates a wider context for the piece of research and the journal.

Quite surprisingly, we have not found a statistically significant correlation between article impact or visibility and collaborative research or external support. It seems that participating in larger or international teams, cooperating with non-academic institutions or getting financial support influence neither the articles' impact on the research field (in terms of citation counts) nor their visibility (in terms of Mendeley readers). This is an unexpected result, as articles pieced together through collaborative research and international research networks and funding-supported pieces of research are usually more influential in their research fields—see Tahamtan et al. (2016) for an extensive review.

### *International scope of article content and authorship*

First, in terms of article content, the journal has increased its international scope and reach, which is a particularly relevant issue given the increasingly global scope of management research and the integration of regional studies in the management field into a comprehensive theoretical literature (Delios, 2005). Up to 25% of the articles published by the journal over this decade deal with general (e.g., not country-focused) management and organizational issues or with these kinds of issues in a bilateral or multilateral international context. Getting to publish articles that foster new insights, raise questions which are pertinent worldwide, and focus on themes of interest to global management researchers was (and still is) a big challenge faced by *APJM*, as recognized early on by Bartunek (2002) and Lau (2002a).

Among the articles focused on just one country, there is no doubt that China has attracted the attention of a wide range of scholars (most of them interested in its role as an international economic player)—the percentage of articles focused on this nation has increased throughout the decade, as has the volume of articles focused on Japan, South Korea, and India. Nevertheless, a significant number of articles focuses on different nations, among them, countries that were not considered by authors in previous stages (e.g., Iran, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia), pointing to a more Asia-wide focus than in previous years. Widening the journal's geographical focus to cover the whole AP region (encompassing the Pacific Rim countries and mainland Asia) has been an editorial endeavor during the analyzed decade, as shown in Ahlstrom (2010).

In addition, there is a strong internationalization of the journal's authorship, as scholars are affiliated to institutions located in more than 30 different countries. As was previously mentioned, there is a majority of articles developed by international research networks. Most of them reflect inter-regional cooperation, that is, research networks whose authors' institutional affiliation includes different regions. This is a distinctive and valuable feature of the literature published in *APJM*—recent studies have focused on the international business field (López-Duarte, Vidal-Suárez, González-Díaz, & Rosa-Reis, 2016) and multi-field studies (Fernández et al., 2016; Hoekman, Frenken, & Tijssen, 2010) show a much lower ratio of inter-regional scientific collaboration.

### *Impact of published articles*

As pointed out by Peng (2009a), a journal is only as good as its authors (and articles). To measure the actual impact of each article published in the journal we performed a citation study (based on direct, indirect, weighted, and early citation counts) and an altmetrics analysis. A citation of a work means that it has been used and recognized as relevant by the citing scholar and that the cited work is somehow related in content to the citing one (Glänzel & Schoepflin, 1999). In other words, citation counts measure influence (Starbuck, 1994). To take into account the articles age and specific discipline, we relied on absolute citation counts (splitting the database into two different sub-periods), per-year citation counts, early citation, and field-weighted citation impacts.

Based on absolute citation counts we identified the set of articles included in *APJM*'s *h-core* in 2005–2009 and in 2010–2014. The 2005–2009 *h-core* gathers together 37 articles (more than 25% of the total number of articles published by the journal in this



period), while the 2010–2014 one includes 24 articles (about 10% of the total number of articles)—obviously, the number of articles included in the most recent *h-core* is lower, as the articles published in this period had a shorter period of time to be cited. Among them, the above-mentioned reviews and perspectives, as well as research articles published in Special Issues or regular ones, among them some conceptual developments (e.g., Dunning & Lundan, 2008; Estrin & Prevezer, 2011; Hofstede, 2007; Peng & Zhou, 2005) and empirical tests based on quantitative methodologies (among them, Chen & Young, 2010; Filatochev et al., 2005; Jiang & Peng, 2011a; Zhu et al., 2012). In order to measure the indirect impact of highly cited articles, as well as their centrality, we analyzed their Single Publication *h-index* based on second generation citations (Schubert, 2009). Some articles increase their influence on the field when considering this accumulated impact (e.g., Li, 2005; Ma et al., 2006; Quer et al., 2007). Analyzing citation per year and early citation allows the identification of articles that have been recently published and show a high expected impact (e.g., Li et al., 2014a, b; Ooi, Cheah, Lin, & Teh, 2012; Young et al., 2014).

More than 75% of the articles published by *APJM* over the decade show a FWCI higher than 1—this percentage rises to almost 90% in 2005–2009—therefore, these articles have been cited more than would be expected based on the average for similar publications (e.g., same year, discipline and type of article). Furthermore, up to 50% of the articles show a FWCI higher than 2, which means they have been cited as much as twice as expected (or more). The CB is over 90% for about one-third of the articles (once again, the percentage is higher in the first sub-period than in the second one). Therefore, this set of articles are among the 10% most cited works in their year/subject area. Furthermore, 22 articles (6% of the total) show a 99% CB being included among the 1% most influential articles (in terms of citations) in their respective year/discipline (more than half of them published between 2010 and 2014).

All of these data point to a sharp increase in citation counts when compared to previous stages (Pleggenkuhle-Miles et al., 2007). *APJM* has come a long way since the “modest but promising” citation numbers analyzed by Delios in his 2005 editorial. All of these data demonstrate the increased prestige of *APJM* throughout recent years and among the academic community.

As a complement to the citation analysis, we performed a study based on altmetrics, as these indicators provide faster indications of impact and information about the impact of articles on wider audiences (including non-academic ones). This analysis has allowed us to identify some articles recently published by *APJM* that show a high impact based on social media interactions (e.g., Chen et al., 2012; Ishikawa, 2012; Jing et al., 2014; Meyer & Thaijongrak, 2013; Tang & Tang, 2012). It would have been interesting to perform analysis based on additional altmetrics indexes (posts on social media platforms, mass media); however, an extremely low percentage of the articles in the database showed activity related to these alternative indexes.

All in all, *APJM*'s early adulthood is featured by rapid and positive changes in terms of numbers, reach, international scope, scientific collaboration, article impact, and journal's performance. Some key challenges remain (e.g., increasing the volume of conceptual and theory-building works and non-quantitative or case-based empirical articles) and new research foci are arising such as increasing demands for entrepreneurship and small business research (e.g., Guo, Su, & Ahlstrom, 2016), family business (Liu et al., 2017), emotion (Li, 2011; Peng, 2017), history and management

(Ahlstrom, Lamond, & Ding, 2009), and work beyond East Asia (e.g., Bruton, Ahlstrom, & Si, 2015; Nair, Guldiken, Fainshmidt, & Pezeshkan, 2015). In doing so, *APJM* can continue to keep the journal's performance ratings up, while continuing to attract fine contributors (and reviewers), while positioning the journal among the best management journals contributing to the important research on emerging Asia.

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