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# Transitional Justice in Colombia: A Systematic Literature Review

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## Abstract

Transitional justice in Colombia has evolved, reflecting the political, social, and academic changes in the country. This study is a systematic review of the literature through articles indexed in Web of Science, applying the PRISMA protocol. Out of 3819 articles published in the last five years (2019-2024), 109 articles were selected following strict exclusion criteria. The methodology includes a quantitative analysis complemented with the visual analysis tool Posit PBC<sup>TM</sup> for bibliometric analysis in Biblioshyni. The study addresses the research question on the evolution of the main research interests in the field of Transitional Justice in Colombia. The results show that initially, analyses on transitional justice focused on documenting the atrocities of the armed conflict, with a focus on truth and reparation, grounding legal mechanisms such as the Justice and Peace Law of 2005; with the 2016 Peace Agreement, research expanded into more complex issues, including the interaction between transitional justice and development, and the importance of civil society and victim engagement. The inclusion of the gender perspective, particularly after the 2016 Peace Agreement, led to studies on how women and LGBTI+ communities were differentially affected by the conflict. In addition, recent research has focused on the comparison between the peace processes with the AUC and the FARC-EP, analyzing the differences in their transitional justice frameworks and the challenges of implementing these agreements in a context of persistent violence.

**Keywords:** Transitional Justice, Peace Agreement, Gender, Victim Participation, Demobilization, Colombia.

#### 1. Introduction

"Latin America has always been central to the configuration, interpretation, and operation of the field of transitional justice" (Alviar-García & Betancur-Restrepo, 2022, p. 297). This development has included a shift towards "transformative justice", which seeks to "ensure substantive justice through the transformation of social, economic, and political structures and relations" (Bries, 2024, p. 143). This approach is evident in the transformation of transitional justice in Colombia, especially in the recognition of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace;

contributions from Latin America have influenced not only local policies but have also enriched the global debate on how societies can confront legacies of violence and oppression "academia and activism in Latin America have contributed significantly to the theory and practice of transitional justice" (Alviar-García & Betancur-Restrepo, 2022, p. 297).

Despite the advances, transitional justice has traditionally been packaged in a "multi-pillar model with criminal justice, truth recovery, reparations, institutional reform, and commemoration" (Carvajalino & Davidović, 2023, p. 1). However, it has been criticized that this model often does not sufficiently address the deep socio-economic and structural causes and consequences of conflicts, the need for a model that truly contemplates transformative justice is increasingly evident. This transformative model suggests a reassessment of existing policies and practices to include a more holistic and coordinated approach that can effectively transform the structural and social conditions that perpetuate violence and inequality.

In response to a 60-year internal armed conflict with deep structural roots, Colombia adopted a comprehensive approach to transitional justice beginning in 2011. This approach was significantly expanded with the signing of the Peace Agreement in 2016, which established the "Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition" (Velásquez-Ruiz & Olarte-Bácares, 2022, p. 469). This system seeks to "provide comprehensive responses and contribute to the ultimate goal of national reconciliation" (Velásquez-Ruiz & Olarte-Bácares, 2022, p. 468). Institutions within this system work together to address the full spectrum of injustices and human rights violations that occurred during the conflict, thereby facilitating a path to lasting peace and reconciliation.

In Colombia, transitional justice has been deployed through a comprehensive approach that includes various institutions and practices aimed at addressing the protracted armed conflict that has affected the country. After the failure of the peace process under the administration of Andrés Pastrana in 2002, Álvaro Uribe assumed the presidency and received an offer of negotiation from the AUC, which announced a ceasefire. In 2003, an agreement was reached for the demobilization of paramilitaries, and in 2005, Congress passed Law 975, known as the Justice and Peace Law, to facilitate the reintegration of armed groups into the law. In 2010, Juan Manuel Santos was elected president and supported the enactment of the Victims' Law (Law 1448 of 2011) and the Legal Framework for Peace (Legislative Act July 1, 2012), which established transitional justice instruments with constitutional rank, prioritizing the rights of victims rather than a punitive approach.

Subsequently, on August 26, 2012, the "General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace" was established, with a negotiation agenda composed of six points. In 2016, Congress approved Legislative Act 01, which implemented mechanisms to facilitate the development and execution of the agreement through a special legislative procedure (fast track) for the approval of legislative acts, laws and statutory bills, also granting extraordinary powers to the president for a period of six months, extendable for another six. to issue decrees with the force of law. On August 24, 2016, the final agreement was signed, and was submitted for popular ratification through a plebiscite on October 2 of the same year, however, the majority of voters in Colombia voted "No", so the government carried out new negotiations with political actors opposed to the agreement, resulting in modifications to the text.

The new final agreement was signed in Bogotá on November 24, 2016 and ratified by Congress on November 30 of the same year. "The new agreement (...) for its development and implementation, more than 50 regulations were issued between July 2012 and December 2017, reviewed by the Court between 2013 and 2018 (Gutiérrez, 2022, p. 71).

With the adoption of the "Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition" (Peace Agreement, 2016), Colombia has sought to address not only human rights violations, but also the structural causes of the conflict. This system includes mechanisms such as the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), the Unit for the Search for Disappeared Persons, and the Truth Commission, each focused on different aspects of the transitional justice process, from truth-telling to reparation and non-repetition.

One of the most significant achievements of this approach has been the ability to adapt to the socio-political realities of Colombia, incorporating elements of "..., restorative justice and recognizing the particularities of the affected communities" (Velásquez-Ruiz & Olarte-Bácares, 2022). This recognition has allowed the ancestral practices and perspectives of Afro-descendant communities to be incorporated into the justice process, which is a crucial step towards a more inclusive and representative justice. In addition, Law 1448 of 2011, known as the Victims' Law, determines from the outset the commitment of the Colombian State to take action to focus on the victims of the internal armed conflict as a fundamental part of its protection: "..., to carry out priority actions aimed at strengthening the autonomy of victims so that the care, assistance and reparation measures established in this law, contribute to recovering them as citizens in full exercise of their rights and duties" (Congress of the Republic, 2011) generating a massive process of administrative reparation and land restitution, which has been fundamental in addressing the injustices and losses suffered by thousands of Colombians.

However, the implementation of transitional justice in Colombia has not been without challenges, the complexity of the Colombian conflict, with multiple armed actors and collaborators, not being exclusive to violations by organized armed groups outside the law but also military and corporate actors "On the other hand, it has been established that certain business actors had some degree of complicity in the commission of human rights violations and crimes international partners" (Velásquez-Ruiz & Olarte-Bácares, 2022), coupled with deep socioeconomic inequality, has hindered the process of implementing transitional justice policies. Criticisms of this approach focus on the perception that, although progress has been made in legal and formal aspects, the socio-economic and structural transformations necessary for lasting peace are still insufficient; the need for a more holistic and transformative approach, which not only focuses on past injustices but also on the reconfiguration of existing structures, remains a crucial point to ensure the effectiveness of transitional justice in Colombia.

## 1.1 Research questions

Research in the field of transitional justice in Colombia has undergone a significant evolution since its inception, publications derived from research beyond allowing "..., to identify and consolidate consensus, theories and gaps in research" (Romero et al. 2023, p. 63), reflect the changes in the political, social and academic context of the country. Initially, studies focused on understanding and documenting the atrocities committed during the armed conflict, with a

particular focus on reparation and truth. According to Uprimny and Saffon (2005), the first transitional justice efforts in Colombia were characterized by a search for criminal and reparative justice, with an emphasis on the responsibility of armed actors and the recognition of victims. These studies laid the groundwork for the creation of legal and regulatory mechanisms, such as the Justice and Peace Law of 2005, which sought to facilitate the demobilization and reintegration of paramilitary groups.

As the peace processes progressed, especially with the Peace Agreement with the FARC-EP in 2016, the investigation began to expand into more complex and multidimensional topics. Rettberg (2016) notes that scholars began to explore the interplay between transitional justice and development, analyzing how justice and reconciliation could contribute to long-term economic and social stability. This period also saw an increase in studies on civil society participation and the role of victims in peace processes, highlighting the importance of inclusion and active participation for the legitimacy and effectiveness of peace agreements (Orozco, 2017).

The gender approach emerged as a key area of research, especially after the inclusion of the gender perspective in the 2016 Peace Agreement. According to Garrido Ortolá (2023), studies began to analyze how women and LGBTI+ communities were differentially affected by the armed conflict and how transitional justice policies could be adapted to address these inequalities. This shift reflected a heightened awareness of the need for inclusive transitional justice that recognizes and redresses the various forms of violence and oppression suffered by different demographics.

In recent years, research on transitional justice in Colombia has continued to evolve, incorporating new methodologies and interdisciplinary approaches. Espinosa-Díaz and Ríos (2022) highlight the importance of comparing different peace processes, analyzing the lessons learned from the agreements with the AUC and the FARC-EP. This comparative approach has allowed for a deeper understanding of the challenges and successes of transitional justice in different contexts, providing valuable insights for future peace initiatives. In addition, recent studies have begun to focus on the sustainability of peace and the effective implementation of transitional justice policies, assessing the long-term impact of these mechanisms on the reconstruction of the social fabric and the prevention of the recurrence of violence (Palacios Valencia & García Marín, 2023). Therefore, the research question is:

Rq1: How have the main research interests in the field of Transitional Justice evolved in Colombia?

# 2. Methodology

# 2.1 Importance of systematic review in the field of transitional justice

Systematic reviews in this field are crucial because they allow "a contribution to the critique from political philosophy to transitional justice" and an in-depth review of "justice as equity and in accordance with political liberalism" (Huertas Diaz, 2022). This type of analysis helps to critically evaluate existing policies and to propose adjustments based on rigorous evidence, since transitional justice has been linked to structural changes in society itself: "the conception of

justice associated with periods of political change, characterized by legal responses to confront the harms of previous repressive regimes or of an internal armed conflict" (Both, Zuluaga & Cortés, 2018), this framework establishes the ground on which the systematic review can explore various implementations and adaptations of the model to specific national contexts, identifying patterns of success and areas for improvement.

In the study of political and social phenomena that follow periods of conflict or authoritarian regimes, the concept of transitional justice emerges as a fundamental pillar, through an approach that spans multiple disciplines and geographies, scholars have explored how nations embark on the challenging path towards reconciliation and reparation; This global effort seeks to understand and structure the responses of emerging democratic governments to demands for justice and accountability for historical human rights violations. Transitional justice not only facilitates political transition, but also imposes on new democratic governments the responsibility to address the crimes of their predecessors, this complex process is crucial to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated, thus setting a precedent for future governance and political stability, "The field of transitional justice studies has addressed in various latitudes the analysis of political transition processes during which democratic governments assume responsibility for accountability for crimes committed by previous regimes" (Schneider, 2019).

In Colombia, debates on transitional justice have shown a division between those who defend it as a state policy and those who question its applicability in certain contexts, indicating that "the context in which it is to be applied does not correspond to the minimum conditions in which this paradigm can be applied" (González, 2022). This highlights the importance of systematic reviews to discern between perceptions and actual results, ensuring that policies respond appropriately to contextual needs. Transitional justice is not only manifested through policies, but also in jurisprudence, the "precepts of Transitional Justice recognized by Colombian constitutional jurisprudence" (Aponte García & Llano Franco, 2022) are fundamental to understanding how transitional principles are incorporated into the legal framework and how they influence the interpretation of rights and duties during transition periods.

Systematic reviews allow us to maintain the necessary dynamism in a field as affected by changing political and social contexts as transitional justice, "Systematic reviews with meta-analyses help us to analyze the efficacy and safety of one treatment in relation to another with a high level of quality and scientific rigor" (Higuera, 2021), by constantly reviewing and updating understandings and practices, ensures that transitional justice not only responds to current conditions, but also anticipates and shapes the future needs of societies in transition.

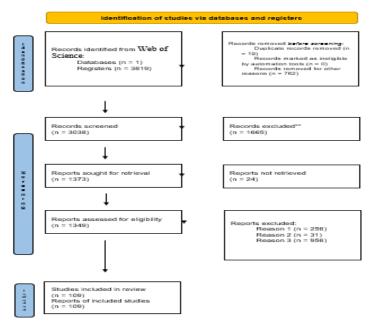
# 2.2. Definition of a Systematic Review of Literature for Transitional Justice in Colombia

A systematic literature review is a research method that allows you to identify, evaluate and synthesize all available research on a specific question, topic or area of study, the goal is to generate a compendium of evidence that supports decision-making and the development of future research, "It is the first step to obtain information that will help you identify a gap that needs to be filled in your practice. It is a comprehensive and critical analysis of articles on a topic of interest that has been published in the literature" (Cuellar, 2019), this approach to ensure

objectivity and replicability, reducing bias through the application of strict and predefined methodological criteria for the selection of studies.

For this review, the Web of Science database was selected instead of combining multiple databases since the literature has indicated that the multiplicity of databases can become complex due to the differences between the interfaces and codes of each database. "There are disadvantages to using multiple databases. It is laborious for search engines to translate a search strategy into multiple interfaces and search syntax, since field codes and proximity operators differ between interfaces" (Bramer, 2017), and in addition to the fact that Web of Science is recognized for the quality and accuracy in the indexing of academic publications and is widely valued for its rigor in the inclusion criteria of publications, which is crucial to obtain a reliable and representative dataset.

The search was conducted using a Boolean equation to capture as many pertinent studies as possible: "transitional justice" OR "transitional justice" OR "transitional justice" OR "restorative justice" OR "post-conflict justice" OR "transition mechanisms" OR "reconciliation processes" OR "transitional measures" AND Colombia AND Colombian AND Colombian AND Colombian, initially, the search yielded 3,819 results in the Web of Science Core Collection.



In the Identification stage, an exhaustive search is carried out in academic databases and other relevant sources to collect all, Alviar-García and Betancur-Restrepo highlight the importance of considering various sources and potentially relevant studies for the review, which is necessary in an analysis of transitional justice in Colombia perspectives, both local and international, For a Complete Understanding of Transitional Justice (2022). Therefore, a total of 3,819 records

were identified in the Web of Science database. Of these, 19 duplicate records were eliminated, as they appeared more than once in the initial search. In addition, 762 additional records were excluded because they were not scientific articles, but books, book chapters, or conference papers. 1,665 records were also eliminated for not being published within the range of the last five years (2019-2024).

In the Selection stage, the collected studies are reviewed to determine their relevance and methodological quality, this involves reading abstracts and, in some cases, the full texts, and applying previously defined inclusion criteria, it was determined that 24 reports could not be retrieved, specifically those from conferences, due to the lack of full access to these documents, 31 were also excluded because they did not have free access for the review of the articles. Then, the abstracts and keywords of the remaining articles were reviewed, and 256 articles were excluded because they were not related to the topic of search, that is, they did not address the armed conflict and transitional justice. In addition, 956 articles were eliminated that, although related to transitional justice and the armed conflict, did not focus on the Colombian case, but on other countries. Perona et al, in their study on transitional justice in Colombia, point out the need to rigorously evaluate legislation and judicial developments to ensure the inclusion of relevant and high-quality studies (2023).

Finally, in the Inclusion stage, 109 articles were selected that met all the inclusion criteria and were directly related to transitional justice in the Colombian context. These articles were included in the final systematic review to be analysed in depth, systematic review studies can benefit significantly by adapting their approach to incorporate contextual and local details, which is essential to understand how interventions may work within a specific context, especially in complex interventions (Booth et al., 2013), quality assessment is essential to ensure that synthesized data are reliable and valid (Taylor, 2015). Methodological adaptation in systematic reviews that focus on a single country can be crucial in exploring the cultural and social particularities that affect research outcomes, as evidenced in studies on community-based conservation involving specific characteristics of the local community (Brooks et al., 2013).

Board 1. Criteria for the retrieval of cited documents in our data set.

Items	Criteria
Time horizon:	2019-2024
Database:	Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science Core Collection <sup>TM</sup>
Citation Index:	SSCI (Social Sciences Citation Index)
The keywords combination and	"Transitional Justice" (All Fields)
Booleans/Search Equation†:	RW "Transitional justice" (All Fields)
	RW "Transitional Justice" (All Fields)
	RW "Restorative Justice" (All Fields)
	RW "Post-Conflict Justice" (All Fields)
	OR "Transition Mechanisms" (All Fields)
	RW "Reconciliation Processes" (All Fields)
	RW "Transitional Measures" (All Fields)
	AND Colombia (All Fields)
	AND Colombian (All Fields)
	Colombian AND (All Fields)
	AND Colombiana (All Fields)
Seriation by Web of Science Categories:	Law, Political Science, International Relations, Social Science
	interdisciplinary, Social Issues
Quick filters by Web of Science:	Highly cited papers; hot papers; open access; Enriched cited references

Seriation by type of document: Software used <sup>††</sup> :	Only original research articles VosViewer®; Gephi 0.10.1®; Posit PBC™ formerly known as RStudio. It is a rebranding that reflects the expansion into Python
	and VS Code and its web interface Biblioshiny: the shiny app for
	bibliometrics.

Source: Modified from Romero et al. (2024).

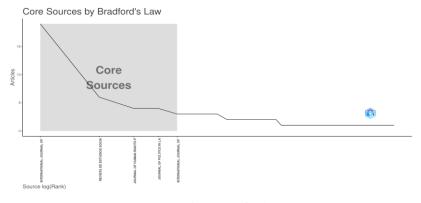
#### 3. Results

#### 3.1 The most relevant sources applying Bradford's Law of key factors

Bradford's Law, formulated by Samuel C. Bradford in 1934, is a bibliometric theory that describes the dispersion of scientific articles in academic journals. The importance of Bradford's Law lies in its ability to identify the most influential and relevant journals in a given field of study (Egghe, 1990) (Brookes, 1969). In the context of transitional justice in Colombia, understanding the dispersion of literature through this law allows us to identify the journals with the greatest impact and relevance.

The analysis of 109 articles on transitional justice in Colombia, represented in the Bradford Law graph, shows that the distribution of articles follows the typical Bradford curve, where a small number of highly productive journals (Zone 1) concentrate most of the relevant articles on the topic. The main sources of information identified in the graph include "International Journal of Transitional Justice", "Journal of Social Studies", "Journal of Human Rights", "Journal of Politics in LA" and "International Journal of Human Rights". These journals form the nucleus, evidencing their central role in the dissemination of research on transitional justice in Colombia. This finding is fundamental for our systematic review, as it indicates that these journals should be prioritized in the bibliographic analysis due to their high density of relevant studies and their significant academic influence in the field.

In particular, "International Journal of Transitional Justice" stands out within this Zone 1, classified in quartile 2 (Q2) of citations and included in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) within the main collection of Web of Science, with an index h=32. (see Figure 1)



Graphic 1. Bradford

The application of Bradford's Law to a selection of 109 articles on transitional justice in Colombia, distributing them in this case in two main areas, having as a main factor, the frequency of publications in different journals, allows us to highlight the essential sources of information in this field.

In this sense, the "International Journal of Transitional Justice" stands out as the most prolific source, with 19 articles, belonging to Zone 1, which indicates its preeminence in the dissemination of research in this field. Other journals in Zone 1 include "Revista de Estudios Sociales" with 6 articles, "Journal of Human Rights Practice" with 4 articles, "Journal of Politics in Latin America" with 4 articles, and "International Journal of Human Rights" with 3 articles. Together, these journals accumulate 36 articles, underlining their relevance and influence in the field of study.

Journals classified in Zone 2, such as "Journal of International Criminal Justice", "OÑATI Socio-Legal Series", "Peacebuilding", "Colombia International" and "Human Rights Review" (See Table 2), although less prolific, also make significant contributions to the field, with a cumulative total of 13 articles. The distribution reflects that, although a small nucleus of journals concentrates the majority of publications, a significant number of articles are also dispersed in other sources, which illustrates the typical dispersion described by Bradford's Law. This finding indicates that journals in Zone 1 should be prioritized in the bibliographic analysis due to their high density of relevant studies and their significant academic influence. The clear identification of these main sources ensures comprehensive and high-quality coverage in the literature on transitional justice in Colombia.

Board 2- Magazine, frequency and area

SOURCE	Rank	Freq	cumFreq	Zone
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE		19	19	Zone 1
JOURNAL OF SOCIAL STUDIES	2	6	25	Zone 1
JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICE	3	4	29	Zone 1
JOURNAL OF POLITICS IN LATIN AMERICA	4	4	33	Zone 1
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS	5	3	36	Zone 1
JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE	6	3	39	Zone 2
OÑATI SOCIO-LEGAL SERIES	7	3	42	Zone 2
PEACEBUILDING	8	3	45	Zone 2
COLOMBIA INTERNATIONAL	9	2	47	Zone 2
HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW	10	2	49	Zone 2

## 3.3. Temporal development of production (2019-2024) and distribution of authors by country.

Figure 2 and Table 3 provide a detailed view of the geographic distribution and collaborative nature of publications on transitional justice, based on a systematic review of the literature. This analysis is crucial to understand the dynamics of scientific production and international collaboration in this field.

The bar graph and table highlight that Colombia is the country with the highest number of publications, with 39 articles, representing 35.8% of the total. Of these, 27 are Single Country Publications (SCPs) and 12 are Multi-Country Publications (MCPs), indicating that 30.8% of Colombian publications involve international collaboration. This may reflect a strong local production of research on transitional justice, possibly influenced by the national context of conflicts and peace processes.

The United Kingdom and the United States follow in the ranking, with 17 and 16 articles respectively. In the UK, 23.5% of posts are MCPs, while in the US this percentage is significantly lower, at just 6.3%. This suggests that although both countries have a high number of publications, the UK tends to collaborate more internationally compared to the US, possibly due to academic policies that encourage transnational cooperation.

Spain and the Netherlands show a high percentage of CCMs, with 57.1% and 66.7% respectively. Spain has 7 articles in total, with 3 SCPs and 4 MCPs. The Netherlands, with 6 articles, presents 2 SCPs and 4 CCMs. These data highlight the strong inclination towards international collaboration in these countries, which could be related to their policies and research structures that encourage transnational cooperation. This high level of international collaboration may be a reflection of their open policies and their integration into global research networks.

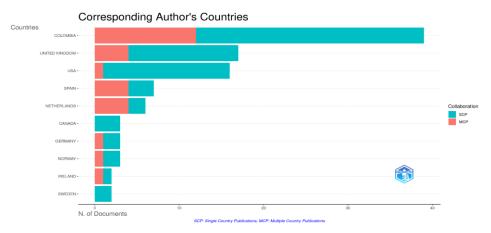
In contrast, Canada and Sweden do not report MCPs, indicating that all of their publications are SCPs. Canada has 3 articles (2.8%), all SCPs, while Sweden has 2 articles (1.8%), also all SCPs. This may reflect a trend towards more independent research or less integrated into international networks, which may be influenced by the funding policies and orientation of their research institutions.

Germany, Norway and Ireland show a balanced combination of SCPs and CCMs. Germany and Norway have 3 articles each, with a third of their publications being CCMs (33.3%). Ireland, with 2 articles, has 50% CCM (see Table 3). These countries, although with a smaller number of publications, show significant participation in international collaborations, which may be indicative of more integrated and collaborative research networks.

These data show that both robust national contexts and effective international collaborations are essential factors for the understanding of transitional justice, especially in peace processes. The diversity in the collaborations suggests the relevance of geographical, institutional and social factors, which are elements of unprecedented relevance, particularly for an emerging country like Colombia. This country has faced and continues to face the challenges of peace, and in this context, transitional justice plays a crucial role in consolidating reconciliation and reparation for victims. The systematic review of the literature is invaluable, as it provides a rigorous and exhaustive analysis of the different experiences and approaches in transitional justice, thus allowing a deeper and more grounded understanding of its problems and best practices at the global level.

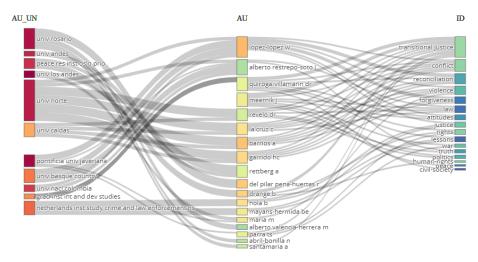
Board 3. Countries and distribution of articles.

Bould of Countries and distribution of artificial					
Country	Articles	Articles %	SCP	MCP	CCM %
COLOMBIA	39	35,8	27	12	30,8
UNITED KINGDOM	17	15,6	13	4	23,5
USED	16	14,7	15	1	6,3
SPAIN	7	6,4	3	4	57,1
NETHERLANDS	6	5,5	2	4	66,7
CANADA	3	2,8	3	0	0
GERMANY	3	2,8	2	1	33,3
NORWAY	3	2,8	2	1	33,3
IRELAND	2	1,8	1	1	50
SWEDEN	2	1,8	2	0	0



Graphic 2. Corresponding authors countries about transitional justice

Figure 2, entitled "Three Field Plot", provides a detailed perspective on the interconnections between institutions (AU\_UN), authors (AU), and keywords (IDs) in the field of transitional justice. This multidimensional graph makes it easier to understand the relationships and impact of academic institutions and researchers in this field.



Graphic 3. Three Field Plot about Transitional Justice

In the left column (AU\_UN), the most influential academic and research institutions are presented. Institutions such as the Universidad del Rosario, the Universidad de los Andes, and the Universidad del Norte are prominent in the production of research on transitional justice. These institutions have contributed significantly to the development of knowledge in this field,

often collaborating with other international research centers such as the Peace Research Institute Oslo and the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement.

The central column (AU) lists the most influential authors, such as López-López W, Alberto Restrepo-Soto J, and Quiroga-Villamarín, among others. These authors are key actors in transitional justice research and have published numerous papers addressing various aspects of this topic. The connections between this column and the left column indicate the institutional affiliations of these authors, underscoring the importance of certain universities in academic production.

In the right-hand column (ID), the most recurrent keywords in transitional justice publications are shown, such as "transitional justice", "conflict", "reconciliation", "violence", and "forgiveness". These keywords reflect the main themes and areas of interest in the research conducted by the authors listed in the middle column. The lines connecting this column to the authors' column reveal which researchers focus on which specific topics, providing a clear view of their specializations and contributions to the field.

Figure 3 highlights not only the topics researched and prominent authors, but also the distribution and interconnectedness of the academic institutions that support this research. Collaboration between different institutions and authors is crucial to advance the understanding and application of transitional justice in diverse contexts. This integrative approach is essential to address the complex challenges of peace and reconciliation in post-conflict societies, underscoring the importance of a systematic and collaborative approach to transitional justice research.

# 3.4. Temporal development of production (2019-2024) and distribution of authors by country.

Table 4 shows that Colombia leads academic production in transitional justice with 136 publications, standing out significantly from other countries. This high number of publications can be attributed to Colombia's historical and socio-political context, characterized by a protracted armed conflict and an ongoing process of peace and reconciliation. The intense investigative activity in this country reflects a considerable effort to understand and address the challenges of transitional justice. The United States and the United Kingdom follow with 46 and 45 publications, respectively. The considerable academic output in these countries may be related to their long academic traditions and availability of resources for research, in addition to their sustained interest in human rights and international justice issues.

Spain and the Netherlands also show notable participation with 23 and 21 publications, respectively. These European countries have been active in research on transitional justice, possibly due to their history of internal conflict and their role in promoting human rights internationally. Germany and Norway, with 11 publications each, together with Canada (10), Switzerland (8) and Ireland (6) (see Table 4), complete the list of major contributors. Although these countries have a lower number of publications compared to Colombia, the United States, and the United Kingdom, their contribution is significant and reflects an active participation in the debate and research on transitional justice.

These data on the frequency of publications indicate that research on transitional justice is geographically diversified, with a strong presence in Latin America (Colombia), North America

(United States), and Europe (United Kingdom, Spain, Netherlands). This distribution suggests that transitional justice challenges are recognized and studied in diverse geographic and cultural contexts, which enriches academic debate and practices in this field. The case of Colombia is particularly noteworthy, given that the country not only leads in terms of the number of publications, but also reflects a context where transitional justice is not a theoretical issue, but a practical and urgent need. The intense research activity in Colombia can provide valuable lessons and models that can be applied in other similar contexts.

Board 4. Academic production in transitional justice

Country	Frequency
COLOMBIA	136
USED	46
UK	45
SPAIN	23
NETHERLANDS	21
GERMANY	11
NORWAY	11
CANADA	10
SWITZERLAND	8
IRELAND	6

#### 3.5. The most relevant authors in Transitional Justice

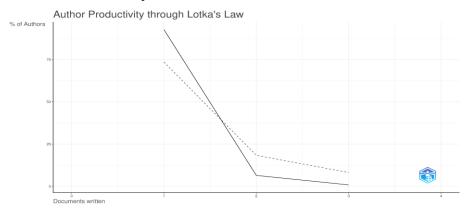
In the bibliometric review of the most relevant authors component, the graph and table provide a combined perspective on the production of scientific articles and their impact in terms of citations over time, for various authors in the field of transitional justice. Gómez CT stands out with the highest production and the most significant impact in 2022, with three articles and 17 citations, resulting in a TCpY (citations per year) of 5,667, suggesting a notable influence in the field. Barrios A published one article in 2022 with one citation (TCpY of 0.333) and another in 2023 without citations, indicating a decrease in recent impact. Del Pilar Peña-Huertas R had two articles in 2021 that accumulated five citations, with a TCpY of 1.25, pointing to a significant impact in that year. Drange B showed activity in 2022 with one paper receiving two citations (TCpY of 0.667) and another in 2023 with no citations, suggesting that his recent work is still gaining visibility. Garrido HC published one article in 2022 with one citation (TCpY of 0.333) and another in 2023 without citations, following a similar pattern to that of Drange B. Holá Barbora had a remarkable production in 2023 with two articles that received six citations in total, resulting in a TCpY of 3, reflecting a considerable impact and good reception of her publications. The C-Cross published a paper in 2022 with a citation, resulting in a TCpY of 0.333, indicating a modest but present impact. The combined data in the graph and table underscore the variability in the output and impact of authors' publications, reflecting different levels of recognition and relevance in the field of transitional justice. Authors such as Gómez CT and Hola B have shown high production and significant impact in citations, highlighting the quality and relevance of their research, while other authors have less recent impact.

Board 5. The most relevant authors

Author	year	Freq	TC	TCpY
NEIGHBORHOODS A	2022	1	1	0,333
NEIGHBORHOODS A	2023	1	0	0
DEL PILAR PEÑA-HUERTAS R	2021	2	5	1,25
DRANGE B	2022	1	2	0,667

DRANGE B	2023	1	0	0	
GARRIDO HC	2022	1	1	0,333	
GARRIDO HC	2023	1	0	0	
GOMEZ CT	2022	3	17	5,667	
HELLO BARBORA	2023	2	6	3	
THE CROSS C	2022	1	1	0,333	
GOMEZ CT - LOPEZ-LOPEZ W -			•		
LOPEZ-LOPEZ W					
BARRIOS A-			•	-	
PILAR PENA-HUERTAS R	•				
DRANGE B -			•	•	т
GARRIDO HC -					- '

Graphic 4. Authors Production Over Time



Graphic 5. Author Productivity through lotka's law

In graphs 4 and 5 above, which are based on knowing the number of publications, citations of the most influential authors on the construct of transitional justice, an analysis was carried out to evidence the specific patterns that allow us to discern the influence and consistency in the academic production of the authors over time. having as its conceptual epicenter the Loka's Law that highlights the intricate distribution of academic production within a given area of study, as described by Qiu et al., (2017). This measure provides a quantitative approach to analyze the volume of production, emphasizing the precise number of authors who contribute a specific number of published works, as indicated by Romero et al 2024.

Each author is represented by a horizontal line, with dots indicating the number of articles published and the color and size of each dot reflecting the number of citations received per year.

For example, an author such as "Gomez CT" shows a line with multiple dots, indicating a constant production and numerous publications throughout the observed period. The larger and darker dots in their line suggest that certain works have received a higher number of citations, indicating a high impact in certain years.

On the other hand, an author like "Maria M" shows fewer dots in her line, but one of the dots is significantly larger and darker, indicating that although her publications are less frequent, one of her works has achieved a high impact through a substantial number of citations in a particular year. This pattern suggests that Maria M may have peaks of critical influence in the field, despite less consistency in publication.

By correlating this information with the first graph based on Lotka's Law, we can see that most authors publish few articles, consistent with what is shown in the 75% line for a single article, but the variability in the impact of those articles, measured in citations, varies significantly. The exponential distribution in Lotka's Law is reflected in the fact that few authors have many publications, and even fewer receive a large number of citations, indicating that productivity and impact are not evenly distributed.

This combined analysis highlights the importance of considering both the quantity and the quality or impact of publications in order to fully understand the dynamics of academic production in transitional justice. It shows how some authors can be highly influential with few highly cited articles, while others can contribute more regularly but with fewer citations per article, offering a diverse view of how knowledge develops in this field

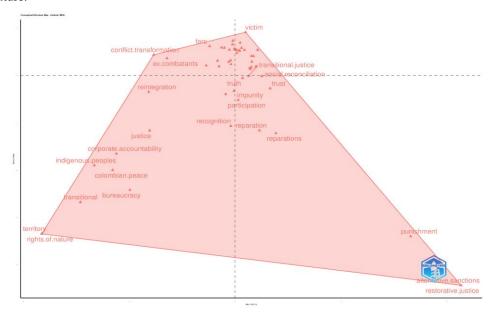
# 3.6 Factor analysis of clusters in the world.

The factor analysis chart comprehensively breaks down and visualizes the crucial components of transitional justice, with particular emphasis on the principles of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-repetition. These elements are critical to addressing the aftermath of conflict and ensuring lasting and meaningful peace.

On the horizontal axis, the graph distinguishes between more abstract and concrete approaches within transitional justice. Terms such as "truth" and "victim" are placed towards the center and to the right, emphasizing the importance of revealing the facts of the past and acknowledging those who suffered during the conflict. This recognition of the truth is essential not only to validate victims' experiences, but also as a critical step towards achieving equitable justice. Justice, represented by terms such as "punishment" and "alternative sanctions" that also appear towards the far right of the graph, reflects the need to hold perpetrators accountable, ensuring that they receive appropriate sanctions and that impunity is avoided.

Vertically, from "transitional bureaucracy" at the bottom to terms like "reparation" and "social reconciliation" at the top, there is a movement from structural implementation to direct impacts on victims and society at large. Reparation, crucial to restoring the dignity of victims, is envisioned not only in material reparations but also in broader efforts of social and cultural restoration. In addition, the placement of concepts related to "reparation" next to "recognition" and "victim" in the graph underscores the link between the recognition of the truth and the delivery of restorative justice.

This analysis highlights the necessary interaction between these four fundamental pillars of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-repetition within the framework of transitional justice. By focusing on these principles, a path to reconciliation and restoration can be forged, ensuring that the horrors of the past are not repeated and that societies build a more just and peaceful future.



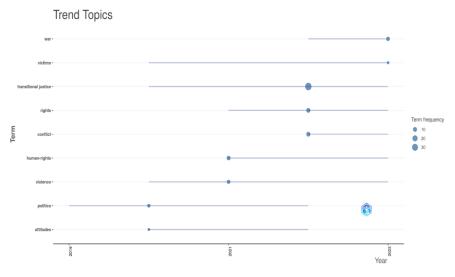
Graphic 6. Factor Analysis of Clusters

# 3.7 Trends Topic in transitional justice

Figure 7 "Trend Topics" provides a detailed longitudinal analysis that allows us to examine the evolution of key concepts in the field of transitional justice in the period from 2019 to 2024, reflecting how certain topics have varied in terms of their frequency and emphasis in the academic literature. Terms such as "war", "victims", and "transitional justice" have shown a constant presence throughout this period, denoting a sustained attention to the foundations of the conflict and its immediate consequences. This pattern of persistence suggests that, despite developments and advances in transitional justice policy and practice, issues related to the conflict and its victims continue to be a central focus of research and debate.

On the other hand, terms such as "human-rights" and "rights" have seen a notable increase in frequency over time, highlighting a gradual but significant shift in academic focus towards a more human rights-oriented framework within transitional justice. This change suggests an expansion in the scope of the concept, to include not only the aspects of justice and reparation, but also the promotion and protection of human rights as an integral element in the prevention of future conflicts. The evolution of these terms over time reflects an adaptation and response to

global demands for a more comprehensive and holistic justice that encompasses all dimensions of human dignity and international legality in post-conflict contexts, see (Figure 7).



Graphic 7. Factor Analysis of Clusters

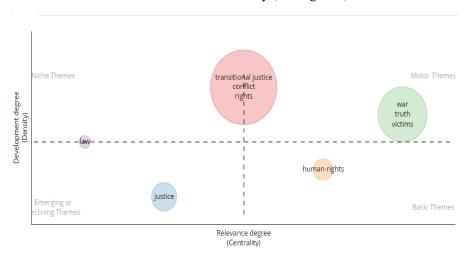
## 3.8 Thematic map

Figure 8 "Thematic Map" allows us to have a structured representation of the classification and evolution of issues within the field of transitional justice. Each cluster of topics is categorized according to its relevance (centrality) and its development (density), providing a clear view of how different aspects of transitional justice are being prioritized and developed in academic research.

From a legal perspective, the categorization of topics such as "war," "truth," and "victims" in the domain of "Motor Themes" reveals their centrality in the normative structure of transitional justice. These issues not only reflect the basic legal concerns of any post-conflict peace process, but also underscore the responsibility of the state and international actors in implementing mechanisms that guarantee truth, justice, and reparation. The persistence and centrality of these terms within academic discourse highlights a continued commitment to the consolidation of a solid legal basis that sustains the principles of accountability and comprehensive reparation in post-conflict situations.

In theoretical terms, niche themes such as "transitional justice", "conflict", and "rights" indicate an expansion of interpretive and methodological frameworks in transitional justice. These themes suggest an area of expertise that is exploring new dimensions of conflict and its resolution, such as the integration of human rights approaches within the broader framework of transitional justice. The evolution of these terms shows an enrichment of existing theories through the inclusion of perspectives that address the inherent complexity of modern conflicts and the demands of a globalized society in terms of rights and justice.

The emergence and development of "justice" as an emerging or declining theme and the placement of "human-rights" within the "Basic Themes" reflect a dynamism in the conceptualization and application of transitional justice. This suggests a critical reassessment of what constitutes justice in the post-conflict context, prompting a debate on how justice norms and practices should be adapted to better address the changing realities and needs of conflict-affected societies. Thus, the analysis reveals a field in transition, seeking to balance the demands of legal justice with human needs and fundamental rights, in an effort to build peace and reconciliation in a more effective and sustainable way (See Figure 8).



Graphic 8. Thematic Map

The joint analysis of the "Trend Topics" and "Thematic Map" charts highlights the evolution and interrelatedness of crucial issues within the field of transitional justice, offering perspectives on both temporal and thematic trends. Over time, terms such as "war", "victims", and "transitional justice" in the "Trend Topics" graph have demonstrated a consistency in the literature, indicating a continued relevance and need to address these issues in the academic and practical context. This persistence reflects not only the critical importance of these issues in transitional justice, but also the need to continue exploring and deepening them in order to move towards more effective and comprehensive solutions.

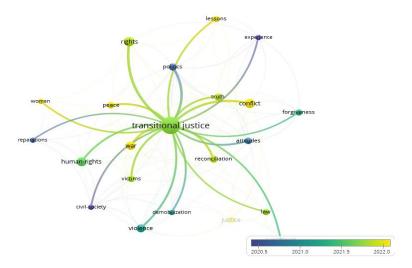
This convergence of key themes between the two graphs reinforces the relevance of the systematic review of the literature carried out, as it shows how fundamental concepts remain in the focus of discussions and analyses over time. The alignment and repetition of these themes in diverse but related studies underscore their continued importance and the usefulness of systematic review in capturing the dynamics and essential dimensions of transitional justice. Thus, this approach not only validates the methodology employed but also ensures that the selected research areas are relevant and critical, providing a solid basis for future research and developments in the field.

## 3.9. Co-occurrence keywords of the transitional justice

Graph 9 of co-occurrence provides a detailed visualization of how fundamental concepts in the field of transitional justice are interrelated, highlighting the central role of "transitional justice". This term serves as a point of convergence between several key areas such as "war", "peace", "reconciliation", "human-rights", and "justice", evidencing its position as an integral concept in post-conflict research and practice. The prominent position of "transitional justice" in the center of the graph (see Figure 9) indicates that it is a point of convergence for the study of how societies address the legacies of conflict and violence, integrating legal, ethical, and political efforts to foster lasting and effective peace.

The lines connecting "transitional justice" with terms such as "truth", "forgiveness", and "reconciliation" illustrate the importance of these processes in building a shared understanding and repairing the social fabric. These connections not only underscore the multidimensional nature of transitional justice, but also reflect an academic trend toward other approaches that consider both retributive and restorative justice. This dialectical approach is crucial to resolving the root causes of conflict and ensuring that injustices are not repeated. Moreover, the inclusion of terms such as "human-rights" and "justice" alongside "transitional justice" reinforces the idea that the protection of human rights and the application of justice are not only desirable outcomes, but also essential elements in the process of reconciliation and national reconstruction.

The co-occurrence of the keywords not only illustrates the interdependence between various key concepts within the field of transitional justice, but also underscores the evolution of these terms in academic discourse over time. The analysis of these connections provides a valuable perspective on the trajectory of transitional justice research, highlighting emerging areas of study and underscoring the importance of a theoretical framework that adequately balances demands for legal justice, victim reparation, and institutional strengthening.



Graphic 9. Co-occurrence keywords of the transitional justice

#### 4. Discussion

# 4.1. Exploring the transitional justice agenda in the period from 2019 to 2024

In the period from 2019 to 2024, the transitional justice agenda in Colombia has been the subject of various studies that have explored multiple facets of the armed conflict and strategies to address its aftermath, this analysis focuses on the predominant themes and dynamics in transitional justice research and practice during this period. highlighting the participation of victims in transitional justice processes. De Waardt and Weber (2019) emphasize that although the 2011 Victims Law (Law 1448 of 2011) in Colombia created a progressive framework for reparation, the actual participation of victims is often limited to a symbolic presence with no significant impact on decision-making "Participation should privilege genuinely participatory processes which take survivors and their agency as a starting point" (de Waardt and Weber, 2019), this underscores the importance of designing transitional justice processes that truly include and empower victims.

It should be noted that victims are an essential axis in transitional justice, recognizing the importance of reparation as a fundamental right in Colombia not only implies economic compensation, but also access to truth, justice, and symbolic measures that recognize the suffering of victims, these rights have been enshrined in Colombian laws such as Law 975 of 2005 which, although it does not determine that reparation for victims is a fundamental right sets a benchmark by equating the right to reparation with a right similar to the right to life and dignity, and includes actions that must be carried out by the Colombian State as guarantor of the victims "The Government (...) must implement an institutional program of collective reparation that includes actions (...) to recover and promote the rights of citizens affected by acts of violence, and to recognize and dignify the victims of violence" (Congress of the Republic of Colombia (2005), Law 975)

In this same direction, as mentioned above, Law 1448 of 2011 was born, which gives a status of constitutional right to reparation for victims "..., the substantive place of victims within any process of restoration of rights in a context of armed conflict; the judicial, legal, administrative, social, economic, individual and collective actions through which reparation is possible are defined" (Restrepo, 2023, p. 1677)

For their part, other authors such as Villa et al. (2020) analyze the relationship between transitional justice and political actors in Colombia and how different government administrations have handled peace processes and concessions made to perpetrators, often to the detriment of victims: "Forgiveness cannot be considered a moral duty, nor even less to be conditioned or demanded of the victims under supposedly noble pretexts of peace and social reconciliation" (Villa et al, 2020, p 66). The research by Villa Gómez et al. complements Restrepo's work by agreeing that the actions taken by virtue of the termination of the conflict at all costs and the prerogatives in favor of the perpetrators end up affecting the effectiveness of reparation and justice for the victims.

Several States have faced transitional justice processes that demand comprehensive reparation for the victims, and States such as Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, and Colombia have implemented truth commissions, as strategies to confront the massive human rights

violations and serious breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), caused by various political circumstances prior to regime change. as dictatorships and internal armed conflicts, "In Latin America they have been implemented since the 1980s, to deal with dictatorships and internal armed conflicts, the main causes of periods of violence in that region (Botero and Rojas, 2023, p. 123), in Colombia the Truth Commission was established as part of the Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace, signed on November 24, 2016 and although its role is vital in clarifying the truth, recognizing the victims, and guaranteeing non-repetition, Botero and Rojas (2023) point out that "Colombia has implemented transitional justice measures with several armed groups without there being a true political transition" (p, 129). Why, according to the authors, although the transitional process carried out by President Santos and the FARC-ep ended the conflict with this guerrilla group, but there are still its dissidents, and other armed groups such as the ELN that dispute drug trafficking and illegal mining routes, given that Colombia faces a paradox of high levels of social unrest and political polarization in opposition to the transitional process signed in the Agreement for the termination of the of the conflict

Another issue that is glimpsed is judicial independence and its role in transitional justice as a crucial issue, Rodríguez-Garavito (2021) analyzes how judicial independence has been fundamental in addressing atrocity crimes in Colombia, highlighting the role of the Constitutional Court in protecting this independence. "Judicial independence has been a fundamental pillar in the transitional justice process in Colombia" (Rodríguez-Garavito, 2021), this analysis highlights the need for a strong and autonomous judiciary to guarantee justice in transitional contexts, in addition the Constitutional Court of Colombia has played a crucial role in the stabilization and legitimization of the peace process in Colombia, especially through the control and review of the norms related to the peace agreements with the FARC "..., had a leading role from the revision of Legislative Acts 01 of 2012 and 01 of 2016 (Legal Framework for Peace and fast track), through the call for the plebiscite of 2016, until the implementation of the second" (Gutierrez, 2022, p.71). The analysis of the Court's decisions shows that its intervention has been essential to ensure the implementation of the agreements and protect the rights of victims, for example, the Court has reviewed the constitutional reform known as the Legal Framework for Peace and has conditioned the interpretation of decrees issued under the special legislative procedure for peace, establishing limits and guarantees that strengthen the legitimacy and effectiveness of the peace process.

On the other hand, various studies have compared the process with the paramilitary groups of the AUC and the FARC-EP. Espinosa-Díaz and Ríos (2022) highlight how the agreement with the AUC, established under Law 975 of 2005, focused mainly on disarmament and demobilization, with a minimalist and limited focus on transitional justice, this process was strongly influenced by the post-September 11 security agenda, with limited support from the international community and minimal participation of civil society and victims. In contrast, the peace agreement with the FARC-EP in 2016 was more ambitious and broad, encompassing structural, institutional and territorial aspects of the violence, with strong international support and a significant inclusion of victims in the dialogue process "..., the Justice and Peace Law (2005) is appreciated minimum standards of transitional justice, it is the Agreement with the

FARC-EP where there is a greater commitment to truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition" (Espinosa-Díaz & Ríos, 2022, p.194).

The treatment and reintegration of ex-combatants also presents unique challenges in the Colombian context, Ariza and Iturralde (2019) explore the experience of incarcerated paramilitaries and how prison conditions affect their prospects for reintegration. They argue that the lack of minimum human rights standards in prisons and the weakness of state authority and rehabilitation programs impede peaceful reintegration and increase the risk of recidivism and reentry into illegal armed groups. "The precariousness of rehabilitation and reintegration programs is manifest, they have little opportunity to peacefully reintegrate into their communities and society" (Ariza and Iturralde, 2019, p. 597), this approach highlights the importance of appropriate prison conditions for the success of transitional justice and peacebuilding, underscoring the need for effective state and community support to facilitate the transition of excombatants to civilian life.

Likewise, the agenda has been strongly marked by the vindication of women's rights and transitional justice has not been the exception, since violence against women and the LGTBI+ population has been a central concern and legislative measures seek to address these specificities, transitional justice in Colombia has been a pioneer in integrating the Women's Agenda. Peace and Security, establishing an international precedent in the management of the post-conflict, "The creation of the Gender Subcommission, made up of organized civil society, was instituted as an innovative measure that promoted the transversal incorporation of the gender approach in the Final Peace Agreement (2016)" (Garrido, 2023, p. 406), in addition as Cabello and Quiñonez (2018) point out "..., It is transcendental to apply itself to understanding how peace is conceived in the minds of citizens and women (...), since this territorial vision imposes the challenge of recognition and respect for difference (p. 13), however, the persistent challenges in the implementation of these agendas are also highlighted, including political and social resistance, as well as the need for greater commitment and resources to address structural inequalities "..., the negotiation with the FARC there was a minimal participation of the female population, given that the seven agreements were officially signed by 43 men and 8 women" (Cabello & Quiñonez, 2018, p. 2).

Similarly, the integration of intercultural and decolonial approaches in transitional justice has been the subject of study, Santamaría et al. (2023) explore how indigenous women in Colombia use decolonial and intercultural approaches to articulate their experiences and demands for justice. "This approach highlights the importance of adopting an intercultural perspective that respects and values the worldviews and experiences of indigenous communities in the transitional justice process" (Santamaría et al., 2023). This emphasizes the need for transitional justice that is inclusive and reflects the diverse experiences of conflict-affected communities.

Finally, research has highlighted the need for comprehensive and flexible approaches to repairs. Butti and McGonigle Leyh (2019) argue that reparation mechanisms in Colombia have failed to adequately address the needs of marginalized youth, proposing more inclusive and effective approaches. "The lack of access to meaningful reparations reflects a disconnection between the legal frameworks and the lived realities of marginalized youth" (Butti & McGonigle Leyh,

2019). This analysis underscores the importance of designing reparations programs that are truly inclusive and adaptive to the diverse realities of victims.

## 4.2. Literature analysis on transitional justice trends in Colombia

The literature analysis reveals how transitional justice trends have evolved in Colombia as the internal armed conflict has evolved, we find relevant topics such as that of authors such as Ciro et al. (2024), who reflect on the recent findings of the Truth Commission in Colombia, advocating for a legal regulation of drug markets as a form of transformative reparation to break the cycles of violence related to drug trafficking. drugs. On the other hand, Botero and Rojas (2023) analyze how political actors influence Truth Commissions in Latin America, including Colombia, highlighting the dynamics of support and resistance to transitional justice policies. Accordingly, Villa et al. (2022) examine Canada's intervention in the implementation of the peace agreement with the FARC in Colombia, pointing to the influence of international agendas in shaping transitional justice policies.

Continuing the analysis of the previous articles, Rettberg et al. (2022) explore how research and activism around gender have evolved at the intersection of armed conflict and peacebuilding in Colombia, highlighting the significant influence of international agendas and women's experiences in war. Likewise, Garrido (2023) addresses from a gender perspective the legislative innovations in Colombia after the Peace Agreement with the FARC-EP, emphasizing the importance of the Gender Subcommission in the promotion of equitable transitional justice. Finally, Rico et al. (2023) focus on the psychosocial processes linked to memory and forgiveness in victims of the armed conflict, highlighting how these experiences affect the willingness to forgive and reconcile in transitional justice contexts. These studies show an evolution in transitional justice in Colombia that not only addresses reparation and recognition of victims, but also integrates gender approaches and considers the psychosocial dimensions of conflict and peace.

Continuing with the evolution of transitional justice in Colombia, Restrepo (2023) argues that reparation should be considered a fundamental right, essential for the legitimacy of victims when demanding positive actions from the State that guarantee their dignity and survival. Rojas (2024) suggests that impunity for the crimes of the powerful in the Global South, including Colombia, is a continuation of colonial state crime, highlighting the importance of understanding the narratives of marginalized survivors that are often silenced by modern legality. Rodríguez and Pérez (2022) examine how enduring resentment among victims of conflict influences social reconciliation, underscoring the need for public policies that address both the emotional and legal dimensions of transitional justice. These studies are integrated by highlighting the importance of a comprehensive perspective that combines material reparation with the consideration of emotional and colonial dynamics in the search for sustainable peace in Colombia.

Rettberg (2020) analyzes the transitional justice mechanisms established in the 2016 Peace Agreement, highlighting the creation of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition, which includes the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) and the Truth Commission. This system has faced significant challenges, including political opposition and difficulties in implementation, but it has also made important progress in clarifying crimes

committed during the armed conflict, such as the case of "false positives." On the other hand, McClanahan et al. (2019) explore the intersection between transitional justice and environmental justice, arguing that the transition should not only focus on the reparation of human victims but also on ecological damages. They highlight how the exploitation of natural resources and the introduction of development projects such as ecotourism can generate new forms of violence and perpetuate inequalities, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and minority communities.

Gutiérrez (2017) addresses the role of the Colombian Constitutional Court in overseeing the Peace Agreement, underscoring its importance in ensuring that the provisions of the agreement are implemented in a manner consistent with the Constitution. This perspective highlights how judicial decisions have been crucial to the legitimization and sustainability of the peace process, despite the political and social challenges facing the country. For his part, the author Castillejo-Cuéllar (2021) "The transitional device: from the administrations of uncertainty to the new emerging socialities," argues that transitional justice should not be seen simply as a set of legal and administrative procedures, but as a cultural and social phenomenon that transforms the categories with which we inhabit the world. Castillejo-Cuéllar stresses that the transitional scenario in Colombia implies the re-inscription of the State over itself through practices of spatialization, nomination, and territorialization, suggesting the need for an agenda of critical studies that addresses these transitions from a more holistic perspective.

Espinosa-Díaz and Ríos (2022) analyze the peace agreements signed with the paramilitary groups of the AUC in 2005 and with the FARC-EP in 2016, emphasizing the significant differences between the two transitional processes. Its study focuses on aspects such as the duration of the process, the mechanisms of clarification and investigation, the nature of the sanctions and the procedural benefits, among others, highlighting the greater complexity and sophistication of the transitional justice mechanisms used in the agreement with the FARC-EP compared to that of the AUC. On the other hand, Cabello-Tijerina and Quiñones (2019) offer a perspective from ireology with a gender approach, underlining the importance of women's participation and the need for peacebuilding to involve citizens in general, not only from the political sphere but also from everyday life. Her research highlights how theoretical advances in peace must be materialized in practice for territorial peace to be effective and sustainable.

Estrada-Fuentes and Ribeiro (2022) highlight the importance of a care practice based on body and emotional awareness in reintegration processes, emphasizing the need for spaces for caregivers' self-care in the Colombian context. They propose that care relationships should be seen as artistic and performative spaces that facilitate mutual transformation between excombatants and reintegration guardians, highlighting Jessica Benjamin's concept of "moral Third" to understand these dynamics. now, with regard to Drange (2022), he examines the constant "tug-of-war" between actors who seek to reveal and those who try to hide human rights violations in the context of the Colombian armed conflict. This study highlights how these tensions have influenced the formation of institutions and legal frameworks. On the other hand, Uribe et al. (2023) focus on reparation policies and their impact on the identities of victims and survivors in Tolima. Using primary data from six municipalities, this paper highlights the complex coexistence of victim and survivor identities, reflecting the transformative aspirations of Law 1448 and its limited realization due to insufficient resources and weak institutional

implementation. Both studies underscore the need for a balanced approach that contemplates both justice and reconciliation, recognizing the challenges that persist in the effective implementation of reparation policies in Colombia.

Anzueto et al. (2022) analyze Canada's intervention in post-agreement Colombia, highlighting the weaknesses of the Colombian state and the crucial role of international actors in the peace process. On the other hand, Ariza Iturralde (2018) focuses on the prison experience of paramilitaries, underlining the lack of respect and recognition for these actors and how these dynamics influence reconciliation and the fulfillment of justice. Finally, Ochoa Ronderos (2023) explores participatory artistic practices, specifically the Atarraya project, to communicate painful experiences and encourage greater participation of affected communities.

Now, Botero (2020) analyzes trust in the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) through experimental evidence, demonstrating that more punitive sentences generate greater support than restorative sentences. This study underscores the importance of how the characteristics of the case and the ruling affect citizens' perception of transitional justice. On the other hand, Wesche (2020) examines the role of business actors in land restitution, highlighting how these actors influence restitution policies and the implementation of transitional justice in the Colombian context, suggesting that the participation of these actors can complicate or facilitate the transition depending on their interests and actions. Finally, Carlin et al. (2020) investigate the political participation of former FARC combatants and its impact on public support for peace agreements, finding that the political integration of former guerrillas reduces mass support for negotiated peace due to fears about democratic legitimacy and institutional stability.

A multifaceted field that addresses diverse perspectives, including feminist militancy, the participation of women's movements in peace processes and the political construction of victim categories. Anctil Avoine (2023) analyzes feminism à la Fariana and how former FARC-EP combatants continue their militancy in the post-agreement, facing challenges to maintain their identity and objectives in a context of transition. Gómez and Montealegre (2021) focus on the women's and feminist movements in the peace negotiations in Havana, highlighting the achievements and complexities they faced in incorporating a gender perspective into the peace agreement, despite the resistance and difficulties in the effective implementation of these measures. For his part, Foringer (2020) examines the political construction of the category of victim in the Colombian Congress between 2007 and 2011, showing how definitions of victim are shaped by political dynamics and affect the implementation of transitional justice policies.

Palacios Valencia (2023) addresses the modalities of violence and criminality in the context of the Colombian conflict, highlighting how the mutation of new actors and the ambiguity in the categorization of emerging criminal groups present significant legal challenges. On the other hand, Ruiz et al. (2022) analyze the perception and effectiveness of the Truth Commission in Colombia, underscoring the importance of knowledge and emotions associated with this body in the construction of a collective narrative of truth. Finally, Paredes (2022) presents a transformative experience of transitional justice from below, focusing on the contributions of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to the participation of victims in Pasto. This study highlights the relevance of victims' participation in the transitional justice process, providing a more inclusive and representative approach.

Bula Baleño (2022) analyzes the influence of the transnational legal order of responsibility in shaping the justice model of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), highlighting how international norms have shaped the design and implementation of this special tribunal in Colombia. Iversen (2022) examines resistance within and outside the Participation Tables established for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Colombia, showing how these spaces of participation, although initially conceived to stabilize and delegitimize dissent, have facilitated resistance and confrontational collective action among the displaced. On the other hand, González Villamizar (2022) investigates intersectional feminist activism in Colombia's Truth Commission, underlining how counter-hegemonic narratives of the armed conflict are constructed in the Colombian Caribbean, and how these activist practices challenge official narratives and promote greater inclusion and representation of marginalized voices.

Suárez (2022) analyzes the limitations and risks of quantification in transitional justice, highlighting how reliance on figures to attribute responsibilities in contexts of mass violence can generate biased interpretations and hide the complexities of the armed conflict. On the other hand, Franko and Rodriguez Goyes (2022) investigate the distinction between drug-related violence and war crimes, and the hierarchies of victimization that emerge from these categorizations. This study reveals how prevailing narratives can influence the perception and treatment of different types of violence, affecting transitional justice and reconciliation. Nauenberg Dunkell (2022) examines how global transitional justice norms adapt and transform in the Colombian political context, highlighting the tension between the adoption of international standards and local political realities.

Gaviria et al. (2022) present the "Peace Classrooms" model, which promotes truth, forgiveness, and reconciliation through interaction between victims and ex-combatants, highlighting how these interactions can facilitate individual and collective restoration in the Colombian context. On the other hand, Counter (2022) explores the political persecution of the Patriotic Union party in Colombia, arguing that the common use of the term genocide reflects the deep pain and political struggle of its members, underscoring the need to recognize and address this violence within the framework of transitional justice. Mayans-Hermida and Holá (2022) examine the adequacy of alternative criminal sanctions in transitional contexts, using the case of Colombia to discuss how these sanctions can contribute to justice while still considering the needs and demands of victims. Finally, Dixon and Firchow (2022) address collective justice and community reparations, highlighting how the active participation of communities and excombatants in the reparations process can strengthen reconciliation and restorative justice.

Sandoval, Martínez-Carrillo, and Cruz-Rodríguez (2022) explore the challenges of implementing special sanctions (Own Sanctions) in Colombia, underscoring the difficulties of balancing retribution, reparation, participation, and reincorporation in a transitional justice context. Daigle, Duffy, and López Castañeda (2022) address abortion access in Colombia and its relationship to the legacy of the civil war, arguing that reproductive violence and reproductive governance are intrinsically linked to gender politics in post-conflict contexts.

# 5. Future research agenda

In the field of transitional justice, future research could focus on the development and application of art-based methodologies to facilitate the articulation of experiences and narratives of pain and resistance among indigenous women, Santamaría et al. (2020) suggest the need to recognize and translate technical knowledge into the daily lives of indigenous communities, in addition to including the political perspectives of women ex-combatants in the Truth Commission process. Such an approach could not only enrich the understanding of the impact of conflict but also improve the participation and representation of marginalized communities in national dialogues.

On the other hand, research on ongoing violence and its impact on transitional justice is crucial, Figari, et al. (2023) recommends conducting comparative studies to understand how the persistence of violence affects participation in transitional justice processes and the implementation of effective strategies to address post-agreement violence. This aligns with the suggestions of Malmin et al. (2023), who propose to examine the relationship between justice processes during and after conflict, considering how these processes influence and are influenced by global trends and best practices in transitional justice.

In addition, González (2024) highlights the importance of evaluating the impact of intersectional strategies operationalized within the final reports of truth commissions. Research in this direction could provide valuable insights into how intersectional approaches can improve the effectiveness of transitional justice processes, ensuring that inclusion and recognition practices truly transform existing socio-political structures and foster lasting peace.

Finally, Tamayo (2019) highlights the role of recognition in transitional justice 'from below'. Future research could explore effective methods to implement recognition processes that ensure that all voices, especially those of victims, are heard and that their participation translates into meaningful representation and reconciliation at the community and national levels. These studies could provide a framework to better understand how transitional justice can evolve from state-centered approaches to more inclusive and representative processes that address the needs and rights of all parties affected by conflict.

Beatriz E Mayans-Hermida suggests that it is essential to explore the perceptions and experiences of the actors involved once the special sanctions have been implemented in practice. This type of research can provide a deeper understanding of the effectiveness and reception of alternatives to conventional sentences in the transitional justice system, which can inform how to improve these mechanisms to achieve more meaningful reparations and effective victim participation.

On the other hand, Peter Dixon and his co-author suggest that future research could explore how to overcome policy and institutional challenges to implement community-led reparations programs that dismiss binary labels in favor of shared rural community identities. This approach can provide new perspectives on how to foster coexistence and justice in conflict-affected rural areas, where tensions and legacies of conflict can be especially persistent.

In addition, Estefanía Ciro and her team recommend focusing on collaborative and participatory processes to design future drug policies in Colombia, involving multiple actors, including peasants and drug users. Investigating how such policies can incorporate reparations and social

equity programs adapted to the Colombian context could offer innovative models to address the consequences of long decades of repressive policies and conflicts associated with drug trafficking.

Finally, an area suggested by several researchers, such as Kiran Stallone, focuses on broadening the understanding of strategic submission in contexts of sexual violence beyond armed conflict. Research that delves into how educational and community campaigns can change attitudes towards victims and change gender stereotypes could have a significant impact on reducing sexual violence and improving support for victims in diverse settings.

These suggestions for future research highlight the importance of interdisciplinary and participatory approaches to addressing the diverse and complex consequences of armed conflict and transitional justice processes. The inclusion of diverse voices and a focus on reparation and social reconstruction are essential to building more just and peaceful societies.

#### 6. Conclusions

Transitional justice in Colombia has shown a remarkable evolution from the adoption of traditional approaches focused on truth and reparation to a more comprehensive and transformative approach. This shift has been reflected in the inclusion of gender perspectives and the recognition of the needs of diverse communities affected by conflict, such as LGBTI+communities and women. Transformative justice seeks to address the structural and socioeconomic causes of conflict, focusing not only on human rights violations but also on transforming the conditions that enable the perpetuation of violence and inequality.

The signing of the Peace Agreement in 2016 represented a turning point for transitional justice in Colombia, establishing the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition. This system has been instrumental in providing comprehensive responses and contributing to national reconciliation. Despite the challenges in its implementation, especially given the ongoing challenges of violence, the agreement has allowed for significant progress in documenting atrocities and broadening research topics related to transitional justice.

The implementation of transitional justice in Colombia faces complex challenges due to the depth and duration of the armed conflict, as well as the participation of multiple armed actors and the complicity of business actors in human rights violations. In addition, criticisms of the traditional approach, which often does not sufficiently address the root causes of conflict, highlight the need to adopt a more holistic and transformative model that can effectively transform the structural conditions that perpetuate violence and inequality.

Transitional justice in Colombia has seen a significant shift in the role of civil society and victims, who now play a more central and active role in peace processes. This change reflects greater inclusion and participation that is essential to the legitimacy and effectiveness of peace agreements. Research on victim engagement has highlighted the importance of their contributions to ensuring that transitional justice processes are more inclusive and representative.

The paper provides a valuable contribution by critically evaluating the existing literature and proposing adjustments based on rigorous evidence. The use of a systematic and detailed methodology for literature review has made it possible to effectively identify and synthesize the available research, offering a broad and detailed overview of developments and trends in the field of transitional justice in Colombia.

## Data Availability Statement.

We are committed to the transparent and open availability of all data integral to the composition of this paper. Researchers, scholars and interested parties are encouraged to explore and use the provided dataset for further analysis and scholarly endeavours. This commitment to data accessibility is consistent with the principles of openness and reproducibility in scientific research, and fosters an environment of collaborative inquiry and the advancement of knowledge. Inquiries should be directed e-mail: maponte@uceva.edu.co

## Conflict of interest statement

We have no conflicts of interest to disclose. This document reflects our views only and not those of the institution to which we belong.

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