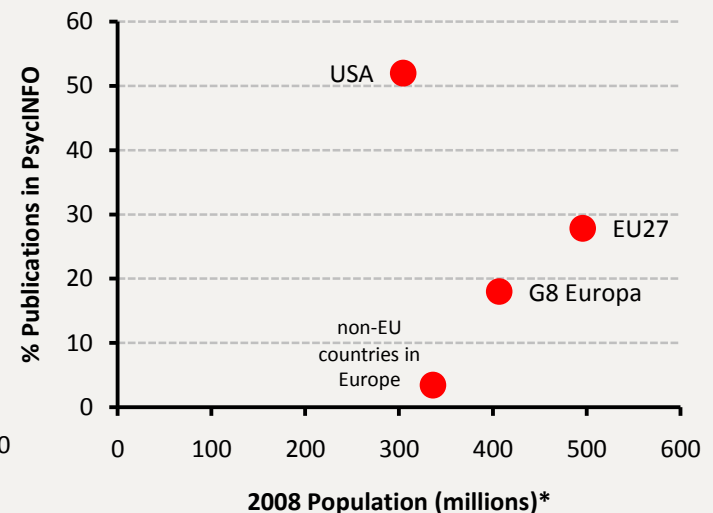
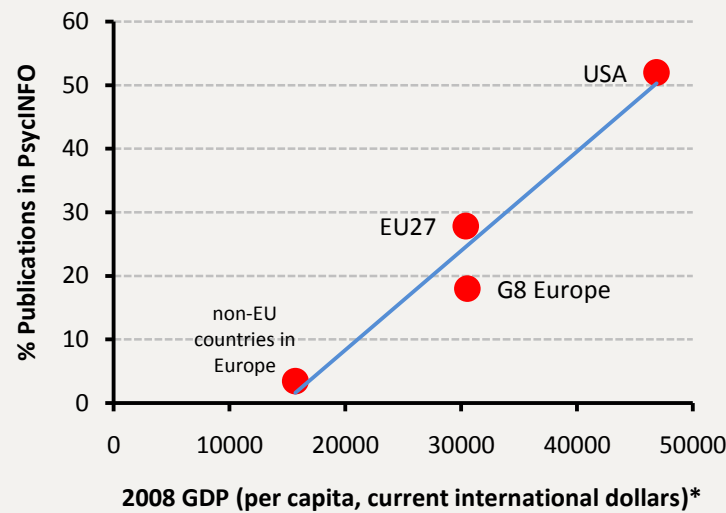


The Under-Representation of European Psychology Literature in the International Database PsycINFO. A Bibliometric Study

International visibility, population and economic strength: Europe vs. United States

International visibility is operationalized here as relative number of publications per country in the international database PsycINFO in the timespan from 2000 to 2009. These are related to 2008 per capita GDP and population size figures. Data of the European countries were aggregated into the political entities European Union (EU), Group of 8 (G8, European members only) and countries not represented therein (,non-EU'). The left chart clearly shows, that visibility is strongly related to economic strength, as indicated by the GDP ($r=.97^*$, $N=4$), although there are exceptions to that rule like Luxembourg or Norway with their extraordinarily high per capita GDP. In relation to the number of people who live in

Europe, it's representation in PsycINFO is comparably weak (right chart). This is especially true for the non-EU countries, that still have more inhabitants than the United States. In light of the already overwhelmingly strong influence of american norms and culture on ,international' psychology, described and criticized by Arnett (2008), this is especially alarming. Europe should strive to contribute to a more open, multi-faceted international discourse, that will then be able to invite und integrate as well the psychologies from asia, africa and latin/south america.

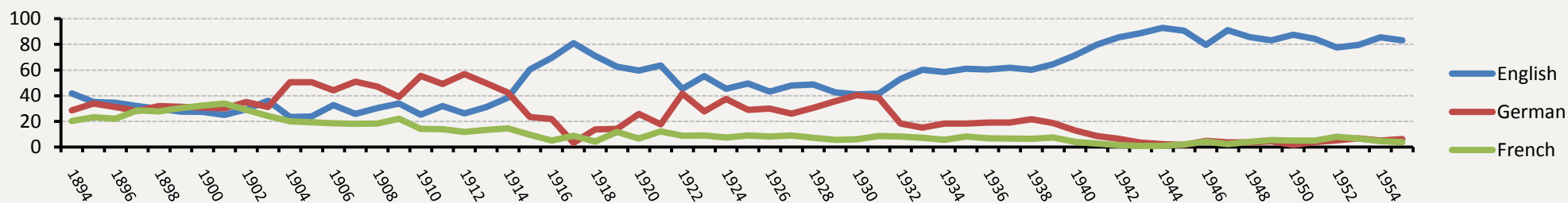


* Data: World Economic Outlook Database: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2009/01/weodata/index.aspx>

A publication-language history of psychology: From three languages to one

A historical view:

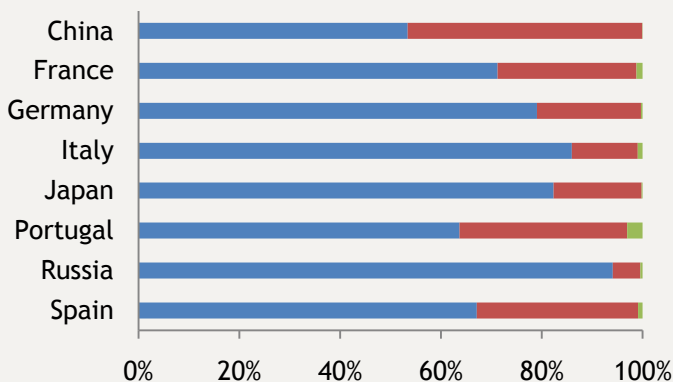
Languages of Psychology in the first half of the 20th century (Source: Psychological Index, Psychological Abstracts*)



* Data by Fernberger (1917, 1926, 1936, 1946, 1956)

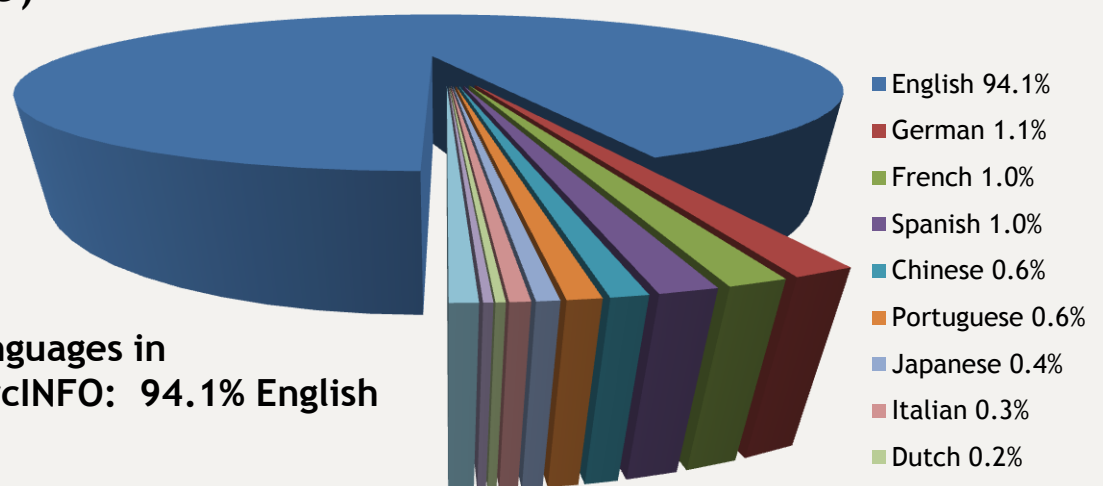
Modern day: 2000-2009 (Source: PsycINFO)

English Native Other



Percentages of English vs. native language publications for several countries in PsycINFO

Languages in PsycINFO: 94.1% English



Further thoughts

The publication-distribution in PsycINFO is 'fair' when related to countries' economic strength, but not when related to population size. Especially countries not in the EU have a small chance of international visibility.

In PsycINFO, clearly English is the *lingua franca* of psychology. Other languages make up less than 6% of the database (since 2000). However, extrapolating from the contents of the German PSYNDEX database as well as the results of a survey conducted by ZPID in the European psychological research community (Weichselgartner & Uhl, in press), it is safe to assume that most countries have a strong locally active community that produces considerable native language output never showing up in PsycINFO.

References

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- Weichselgartner, E. & Uhl, M. (Eds.) (in press). Proceedings of the workshop on European Psychology Publication Issues. *Supplement to Psychology Science Quarterly*. Lengerich: Pabst