

#MORALINJURY: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY

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The purpose of this study was to describe the frequency with which the term moral injury appears in scholarly literature and social media. This description provided a baseline for establishing current awareness of moral injury as a source of traumatic stress. In February 2016, we searched seven scholarly databases for use of the term moral injury. Seventy-nine articles met our search criteria. Time comparisons revealed a significant increase in the number of scholarly articles published within the last 5 years. We also searched the social media platform Twitter for use of “#moralinjury.” Appearing first in 2011, this hashtag saw an 86% increase in use by 2016. Further results revealed that most research is performed in the United States, is dominated by psychologists, and is focused on the military. Our findings reflect an increased awareness of the trauma of moral injury, but future research needs to address international and interdisciplinary work across populations.