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Invited Paper

A Keyword History of Marketing Science

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This paper considers the history of keywords used in *Marketing Science* to develop insights on the evolution of marketing science. Several findings emerge. First, “pricing” and “game theory” are the most ubiquitous words. More generally, the three C’s and four P’s predominate, suggesting that keywords and common practical frameworks align. Various trends exist. Some words, like “pricing,” remain popular over time. Others, like “game theory” and “hierarchical Bayes,” have become more popular. Finally, some words are superseded by others, like “diffusion” by “social networking.” Second, the overall rate of new keyword introductions has increased, but the likelihood they will remain in use has decreased. This suggests a maturation of the discipline or a long-tail effect. Third, a correspondence analysis indicates three distinct eras of marketing modeling, comporting roughly with each of the past three decades. These eras are driven by the emergence of new data and business problems, suggesting a fluid field responsive to practical problems. Fourth, we consider author publication survival rates, which increase up to six papers and then decline, possibly as a result of changes in ability or motivation. Fifth, survival rates vary with the recency and nature of words. We conclude by discussing the implications for additional journal space and the utility of standardized classification codes.

Key words: keywords; history; marketing; data visualization

History: Received: September 19, 2012; accepted: November 9, 2012; Preyas Desai served as the editor-in-chief for this article.

1. Introduction

We characterize the history of marketing science using the keyword choice of authors in *Marketing Science*. Authors’ choices of keywords afford a sense of what topics were once, have always been, or are becoming central to marketing thought. They also reflect factors that drive innovation in the field. That is, the collective efforts of the field, as expressed by the keyword choices of its authors, provide a sense of the field’s interests and the potential for subsequent innovations. This research also complements a strategic review of the journal, appearing in this issue of *Marketing Science*, on stakeholders’ perspectives on the journal’s goals and focus (Chintagunta et al. 2013). Our findings about the state of the field and how it has evolved over time can be viewed as potential input to such a strategic assessment. For example, we consider (i) the interplay between methods and topics and between research and practice and (ii) the rate at which seminal topics have been introduced over time—issues central in that strategic review.

Other research exists with similar aims. These studies can be characterized as either survey based (using the authors’ review of the literature) or citation based

(using citation analyses). For example, Leeflang et al. (2000) characterized five eras of marketing science, the latter three of which are spanned by the publication of *Marketing Science* (see Lilien 1994 for another summary). Our analysis also suggests three eras of marketing science that loosely comport with their characterizations. Likewise, Buzzell (1968) and Lilien et al. (1992) developed definitive texts outlining conceptual foundations for the field of marketing science. In contrast, our work is more empirically grounded. Along these lines, there also exists a broad literature on citation analyses in marketing (e.g., Baumgartner and Pieters 2003, Tellis et al. 1999). By assessing author cross-citations, these papers assess the similarity between journals. More recently, Moussa and Touzani (2010) use Google scholar citations to assess the relative impact of journals. In contrast, we focus on the impact of topics and assess how this varies over time.

We are aware of one marketing paper that also analyzes keywords. Kevork and Vrechopoulos (2009) consider keywords used in customer relationship management research, using expert judgment to classify these keywords into topics. Our approach extends

this work by (i) considering the broader domain of marketing models, (ii) applying multivariate analyses for classification, and (iii) considering dynamics in word usage.

Several findings emerge. First, the modal use of a key word is just once, perhaps reflecting a long tail for keywords. Second, regarding the words that are most prevalent, there is a correspondence between the common marketing vernacular of the “three C’s” and “four P’s” and the most predominant words used. Third, keywords tend to cluster into several themes, including promotions, channels, and new products. Of note, “game theory” is at the top of this hierarchical clustering as the word most likely to connect these various threads. Fourth, patterns exist in the prevalence of keywords over time, with some words in ascendance (like “game theory”), some in maturity (like “promotions”), and some being substituted with newer concepts (like “diffusion” and “social networks”). Fifth, although the rate at which new keywords appear is accelerating, the rate at which they become enduring is decelerating, possibly suggesting a long-tail phenomenon wherein the additional inventory of journal space leads to more variety in keywords. We conclude with an analysis of author productivity rates, in which we observe that about 3/5 of all authors who publish in *Marketing Science* do so just once. Moreover, the probability of continuing to publish peaks around the fifth paper, indicating that longevity per se does not explain survival rates in publication. Of note, these survival rates are related to the choice of words (methods or topics), their novelty, and authors’ tendencies to use different words on new papers.

The remainder of this paper proceeds as follows. First, we detail the key word and authorship data used in our analysis. Next, we outline our approach for analyzing these data. We conclude by summarizing key insights and their potential implications.

2. Data

Data used in this analysis comprise all articles published in *Marketing Science* from its inception in 1982 through 2011—30 volumes in total. For each article, the data include the authors, volume, issue and date of publication, title, and the sets of keywords chosen by the article’s author(s). There are no restrictions on the keywords authors can select in *Marketing Science* nor are there any ex ante classifications of keywords from which to choose (cf. the *Journal of Economic Literature* (JEL) Classification Codes used by many economics journals, which we discuss below). All totaled, there are 4,749 keyword choices of which 2,415 are unique, describing 1,085 articles by 1,051 authors (or coauthors). Given that our interest lies in the

organic evolution of the field, rather than policy, all 35 editorials appearing in the data are excluded, leaving 1,050 articles, 1,050 (co)authors, and 4,654 keywords (of which 2,357 are unique).

One obstacle to analyzing these data arises from conceptual overlap in keywords with slightly different spellings, e.g., “auction” and “auctions”; “word of mouth” and “word-of-mouth”; and “variety seeking,” “variety-seeking,” and “variety-seeking behavior.” Accordingly, highly similar terms are merged. Likewise, we combine synonyms such as “store brands” and “private labels,” and “movies” and “motion pictures” using our collective judgment for these decisions. These substitutions are listed in the online technical appendix (available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1287/mksc.1120.0764>). After combining words, the data reduce further to 1,975 unique keywords.

Remarkably, most of the key words appearing in *Marketing Science* have been used just once, and 97% of papers include at least one keyword never before used. The mean and median number of keyword appearances over more than three decades are 2.3 and 1, respectively. This suggests that most key words never “stick.”

3. Analysis and Historical Insights

3.1. Top Words

Table 1 reports the frequency count of the top 25 words used in *Marketing Science* over the past three decades. “Pricing” appears most often. Of note, elements from the so-called “four P’s”—“pricing,” “advertising” and “promotion,” “channel” and “retailing” (place), and “new products”—occupy 6 of the top 11 slots. This demonstrates the centrality of this framework to the field and provides evidence for a strong alignment between marketing

Table 1 Most Frequently Used Keywords in *Marketing Science*, 1982–2011

Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency
▲ Pricing	122	Diffusion	37
Game theory	89	Hierarchical Bayes	37
▲ Advertising	61	Buyer behavior	27
△ Choice models	59	Forecasting	27
▲ Channel	58	Conjoint analysis	26
△ Competitive strategy	52	Customer satisfaction	25
Econometric models	50	Price discrimination	23
▲ Promotion	46	Market structure	22
▲ New products	46	Marketing mix	22
△ Brand choice	45	Marketing strategy	22
▲ Retailing	45	Structural models	22
△ Competition	43	Internet marketing	21
Bayesian analysis	38	Motion picture	21

Notes. Among the words used more than 40 times, the four P’s are marked with a closed triangle (▲) and the three C’s with an open triangle (△).

science and marketing practice. Likewise, aspects of the so-called three C’s are also heavily represented in the leading words, with “choice models” (customer) and “competitive strategy” in the top six. The impact of methodological innovation is evidenced in *Marketing Science*; over a quarter of the top 20 keywords are method oriented.

The appearances of individual keywords are not independent. To understand how these words relate to each other, we perform a hierarchical cluster analysis using the Jaccard (1901) distance metric, defined as the ratio of the number of times both keywords appear in the same article to the total number of articles featuring either keyword, $\frac{\#(A \cap B)}{\#(A \cup B)}$. This metric classifies words as more similar if they appear alongside many of the same keywords. The dendrogram in Figure 1 depicts the resulting clusters for the top 20 keywords. Distances between leafs in the dendrogram, i.e., the sum of the lengths of the stems separating any two leafs, depict the (dis)similarity of words. For example, “Bayesian analysis” and “hierarchical Bayes” are closely related because they tend to appear with the same sets of other words.

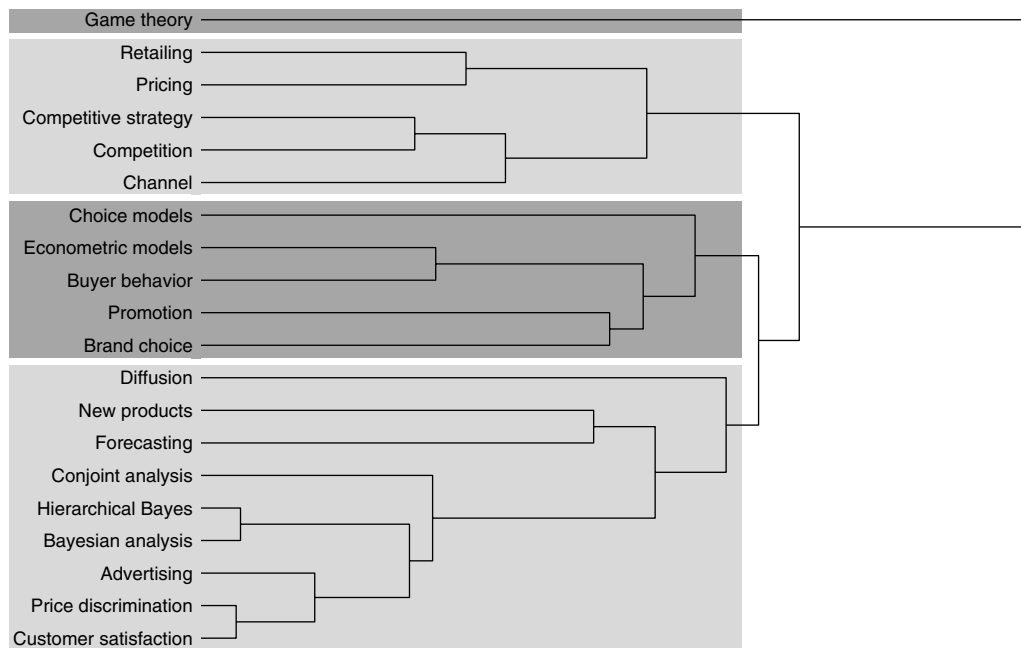
Four key groupings are suggested by Figure 1. The words in the lowest box comprise the most specialized cluster, which represents words not as frequently used. In the lower level of this cluster, we observe “Bayesian analysis,” “price discrimination,” “customer satisfaction,” and “advertising,” which may reflect customer-level targeting. At this

cluster’s highest level, “diffusion,” “new products,” “forecasting,” and “conjoint analysis” focus on new product demand; the upper level’s link to the lower level of the cluster may lie in the concept of demand assessment. The next box up includes “econometric models,” “brand choice,” and “choice models,” possibly reflecting the scanner-data era of research. The second box from the top includes “channel,” “competition,” and “pricing,” and it appears to reflect research pertaining to channel strategy. Finally, of special interest is the keyword “game theory” (at the top of Figure 1), which is not closer to any one topic cluster than another, but rather it spans them all. Applied initially in the context of analytic models, “game theory” can be construed as a unifying lens through which researchers look to study a plethora of issues in marketing science. This trend has been extended to empirical research in the context of structural models, which have also adopted game-theoretic techniques. The theme of how keyword use evolves over time is a point we consider next.

3.2. Keyword Life Cycles

Figure 2 reports word clouds for all keywords occurring over three 10-year periods of our data, aligning roughly with the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s. In the word cloud, the font size of the word is proportional to its frequency of use over that duration. For example, a dominant word in each decade is “pricing.” This is consistent with Table’s 1 result that “pricing” is the most heavily used keyword.

Figure 1 Dendrogram Depicting a Cluster Analysis of the 20 Most Prevalent Keywords



Note. Groups of similar keywords are in the same boxes.

Figure 2 Word Cloud by Decade



Note. Words that were used more frequently in a particular decade are shown in larger type.

Figure 2 suggests that the use of keywords is not static; some have always been popular (e.g., “advertising,” “pricing,” “new products,” “promotion”), some are in growth (e.g., “game theory,” “hierarchical Bayes”), and some are in substitution (“diffusion” was popular in the 1980s, but “social networks” and “Internet marketing” became increasingly popular in the 2000s). The figure also suggests the concentration of the leading keywords by decade; there is a smaller percentage of very popular words in *Marketing Science’s* first decade, perhaps indicating that the field was in the growth phase of its product life cycle (Levitt 1965) but is now becoming more fragmented over time (in terms of words used).

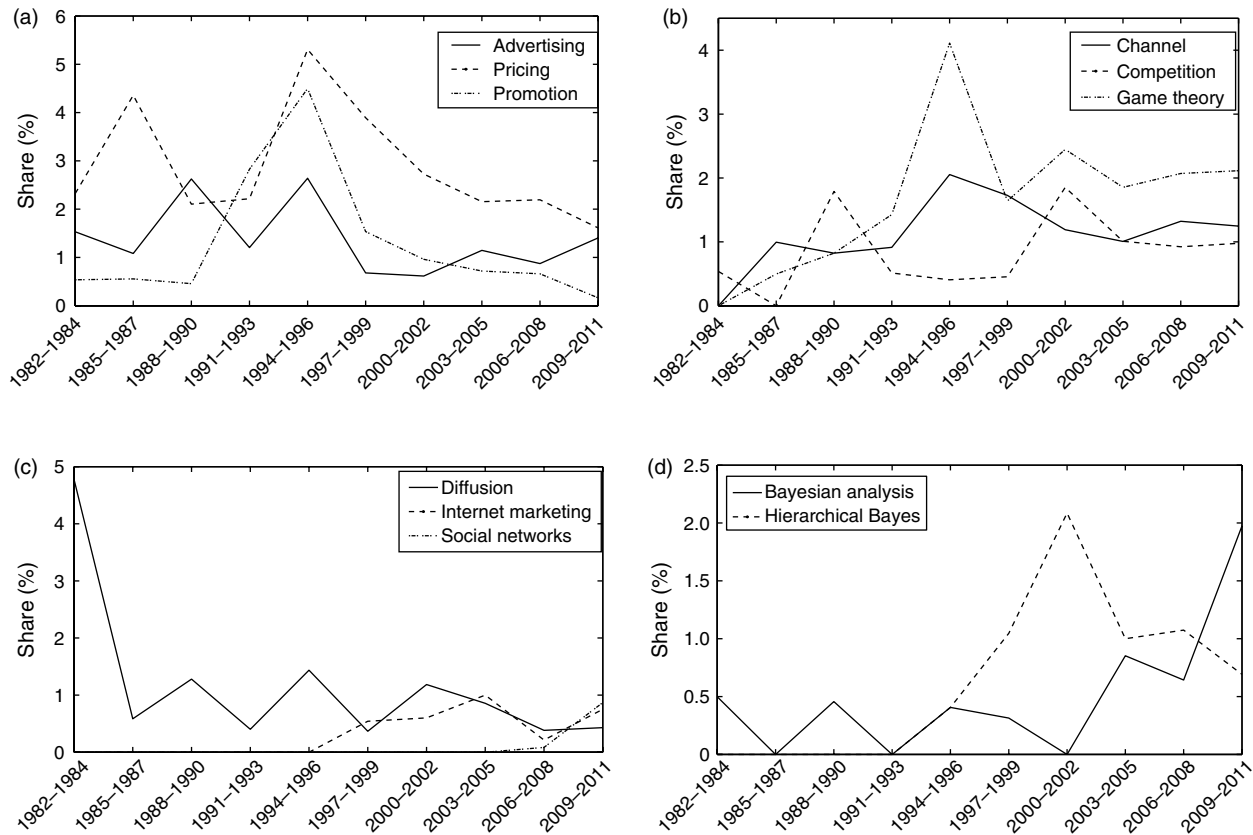
Figure 3 plots the share of selected keywords over time to illustrate some of the more prominent trends in the data: growth, maturity, and substitution. In panel, (b) and (d), one observes the rapid ascendance of game theory and Bayesian methods as prominent paradigms in marketing. In panel (a), we see that “pricing” and “promotion” were especially popular in the 1990s, likely a consequence of the ubiquity of scanner data research at the time and suggestive of maturity. The substitution of “social networks” and “Internet marketing” for “diffusion,” noted earlier, is also evident in panel (c).

3.3. Innovation and What Sticks

Figure 4 depicts a scatter plot of keywords by time. The vertical axis lists keywords in the order of their first appearance in the data (appearing earlier words are at the bottom). The words used are suppressed to conserve space. The horizontal axis represents the

years in which these keywords first appeared. Each circle on the plot represents the appearance of a word in a year, and the size of the circle is proportional to a keyword’s share in that same year. Editor names are listed across the top of the figure for reference.

One insight emerging from the figure is that some words have been quite enduring. Many words appearing in 1982, for example, continue to appear today. Keywords from other years (e.g., 1989 or 2004) have been less enduring. Denser horizontal bands reflect eras during which new, enduring keywords were established (it would be interesting to assess what aspects of these eras led to their more enduring word use). Another insight is that the pace of keyword introduction, as evidenced by the slope of the keyword frontier, is accelerating. Much of this acceleration can be ascribed to an increase in journal space in 2004. The slope of the frontier is roughly linear both before and after this increase (though may have leveled some in the mid-1990s). This acceleration might indicate that the field has entered a growth phase, suggesting that it has never been easier to innovate in terms of keywords (and topics to the extent these equvalate with words). Another potential explanation for the patterns observed is that there is a long-tail phenomenon with keyword choice, wherein a core set of papers continues to have impact, but most of the growth in the field arises from papers with marginally less impact (Anderson 2006). If so, one might expect (as we see in the data) that the increase in the number of new words would not be accompanied by an increase in the number that become widely used.

Figure 3 Keyword Popularity Over Time

Note. The four panels illustrate patterns of growth and substitution.

A similar scatter plot is produced in Figure 5, but it now focuses solely on the top 10 most popular keywords in each of 10 three-year periods (we use three-year increments in lieu of one-year increments to facilitate interpretation, and we include the top 11 words when there is a tie). Note that the first appearance of a word on this plot marks the time at which a word first became popular enough to enter the top 10 in market share, not the first time the word appeared in the literature. For example, even though Coughlan (1985) is the first paper published in *Marketing Science* to use the keyword “game theory,” the topic did not become popular until the mid-1990s. That is, there can be a response latency between a word’s first appearance and when it becomes popular. Of note, Figure 5 reinforces the notion that some words become enduring (e.g., “game theory,” “channel,” “competitive strategy”), whereas some words are more ephemeral (e.g., “variety seeking,” “market segmentation”).

Figures 4 and 5 present an informative contrast: Figure 4, which includes all keywords, is convex, whereas Figure 5, which includes only the most popular keywords, is concave. Apparently, although it has become easier to innovate, it has also become more difficult to become (and remain) popular. This

is consistent with the product life cycle notion that the field may be transitioning from growth to maturity (Klepper 1996). This result is also suggestive of a long-tail aspect to the increase in journal space. Though it is impossible to answer this question with these data (for example, words might not equate to topics, and there is a latency between their first appearance and when they become popular), the issue merits additional consideration.

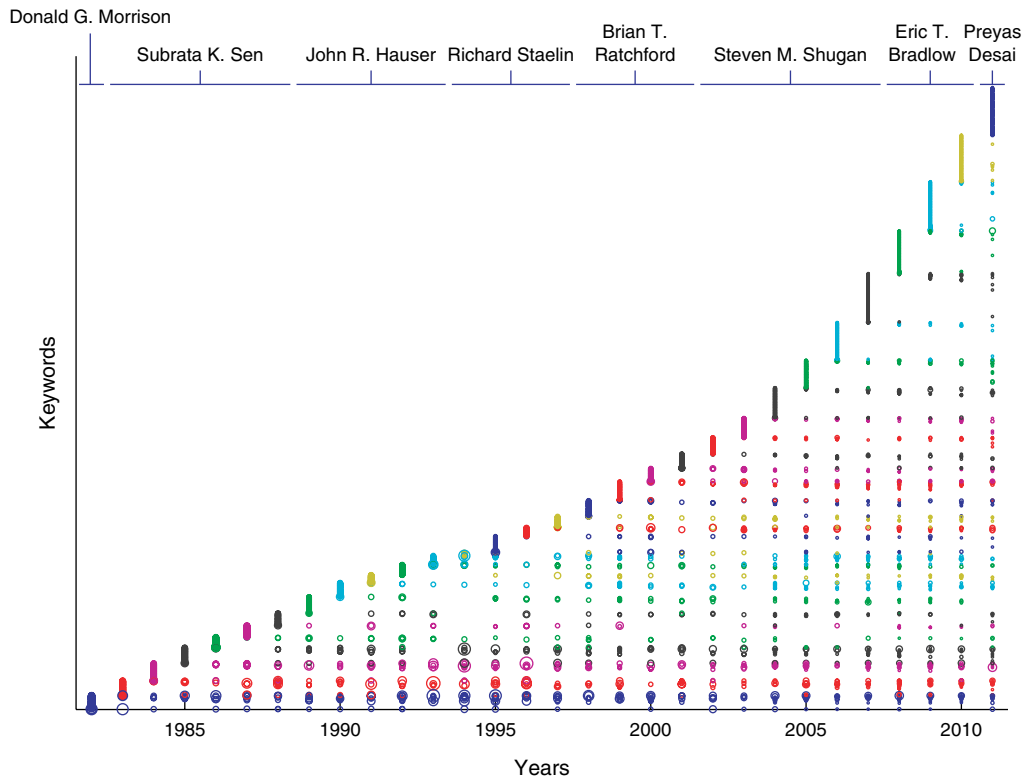
Regarding the concern that words might not align well with topics, one way to assess this is the preceding cluster analysis. Another approach, which further considers dynamics, is correspondence analysis (Hoffman and Franke 1986), which we discuss next.

3.4. Eras of Marketing

In our application of correspondence analysis, years and keywords are colocated based on the frequency with which the words appeared, as depicted in Figure 6. One can think of a year being placed in the center of the words that were used that year and a keyword being placed in the center of the years in which it appeared. To keep the figure interpretable, we focus on words occurring at least 10 times.

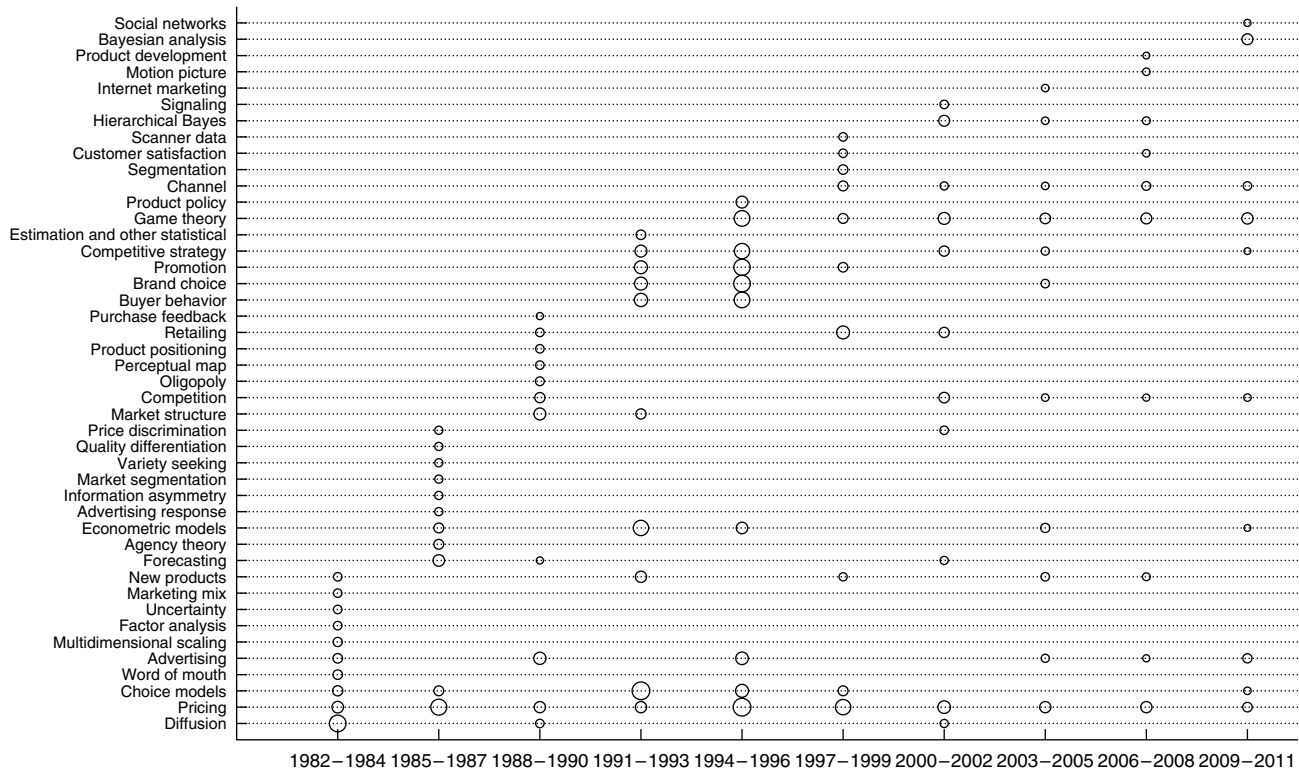
As one might expect, terms that are used in all years, like “pricing,” appear closer to the center of

Figure 4 Emergence and Popularity of New Keywords by Year



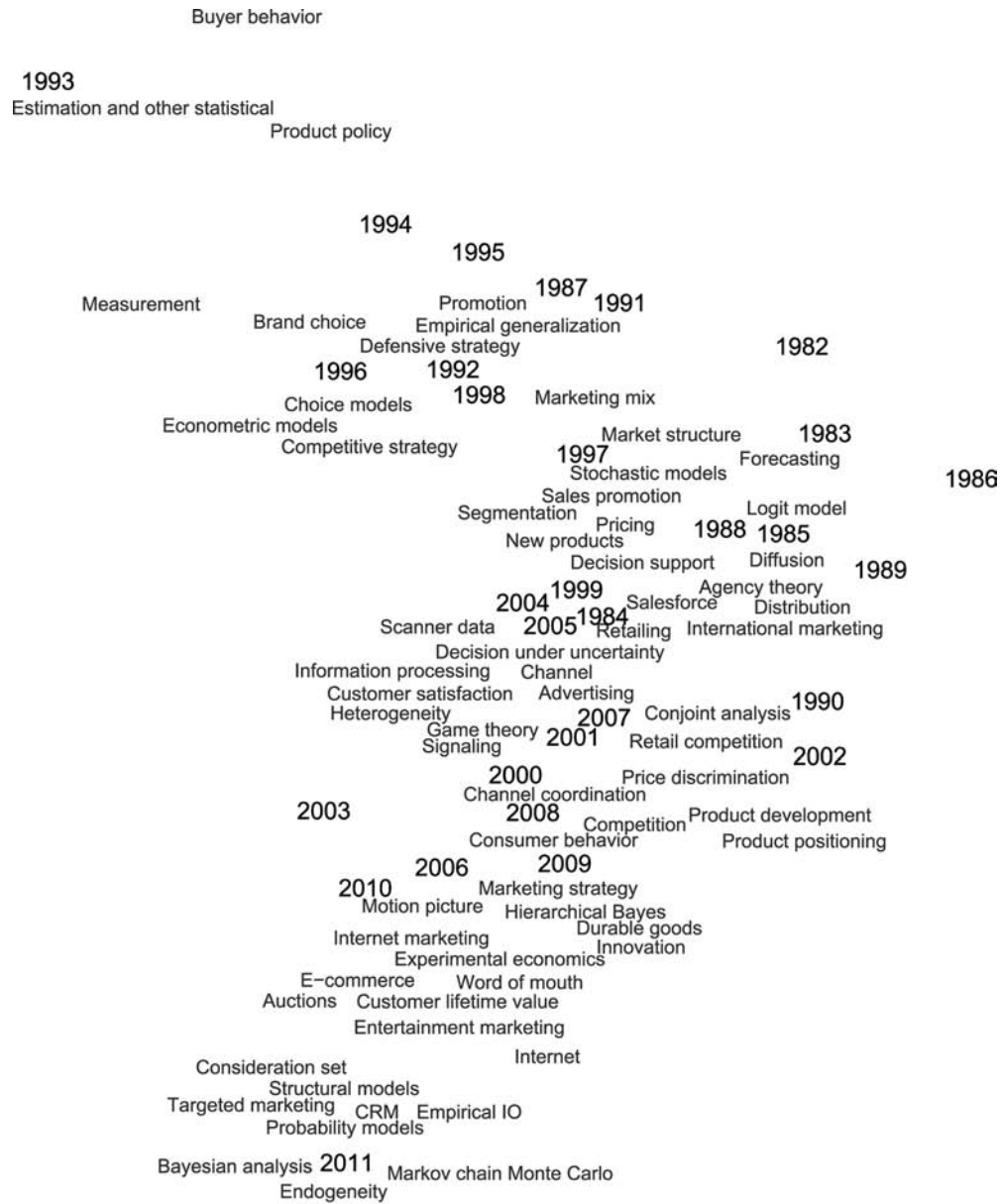
Notes. Rows represent individual keywords. Circle size is proportional to keyword share in each year. Colored bands group keywords together by the year they first appeared.

Figure 5 Emergence, Persistence, and Decline of Highly Popular Keywords, Grouped in Three-Year Periods



Notes. Words are ordered by their popularity in the year they first entered the top 10. Circle size represents popularity within each year.

Figure 6 Correspondence Analysis Showing Keywords and Years



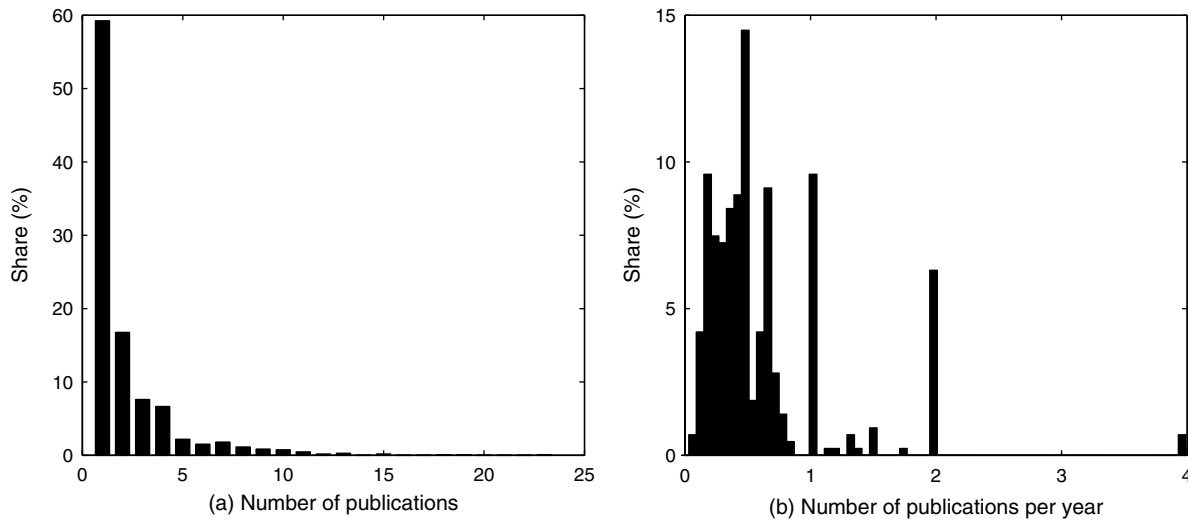
Social networks

Note. Keywords are placed closest to the years in which they were the most popular.

the plot. These terms are less informative about the evolution of the field than those closer to the periphery, which are more representative of words used in specific eras. Three such eras emerge, roughly corresponding to the 1980s (on the right), 1990s (top), and 2000s (bottom). In the 1980s, “consumer choice” and

“logit” were especially popular, reflecting the promotional tools developed in that era (e.g., Guadagni and Little 1983). In the 1990s, scanner data became widely available. Accordingly, emphasis shifted toward work developed around “brand choice” and “econometric models,” as further evidenced in Figure 2. In

Figure 7 Distribution of Research Productivity



Notes. The histogram in panel (a) shows the proportion of authors publishing a certain number times in *Marketing Science*. Panel (b) shows the proportion of authors achieving a given publication rate.

the 2000s, we see the emergence of “Bayesian methods,” “Internet,” “CRM/targeted marketing,” and more recently, “social networks.” The evolution from aggregate models of brand choice to individual-level models of social engagement suggests that the field is reacting strongly to the informational environment in which it operates. As new industries and data (e.g., log files of customer interactions from fields such as the Internet, telecom, and banking) become increasingly available, the field responds in terms of tools and topics. Arguably, Figure 6 stands in contrast to the perspective of some that the field is becoming less relevant (Lehmann et al. 2011).

3.5. Author Publications

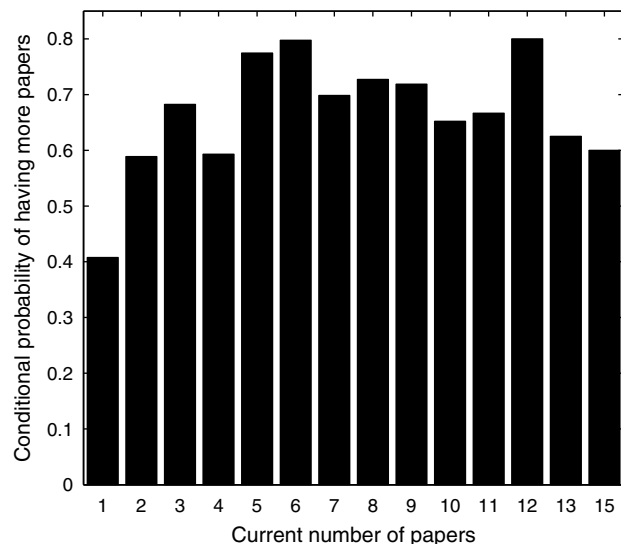
In this section we consider author productivity and mortality at *Marketing Science*, and the potentially moderating role played by keywords.

3.5.1. Author Productivity. Because the publication data are indicative of authors’ research productivity, they allow us to assess norms within the field. Figure 7 plots the distribution of publications per author in panel (a) and rate of publications in panel (b). The latter is defined as the total number of publications divided by the number of years between the first and last publication observed. These figures are conditioned on having published in *Marketing Science*, a challenging task to begin with. Panel (a) indicates that authors who publish more than once are in the top 40% of the field in their productivity, reflecting the challenging nature of publishing in an elite journal. Panel (b) suggests that those who publish two or more papers do so at a rate of about two papers per year (with the caveat that these observations are skewed toward authors with fewer than five papers).

Overall, the message is that it is difficult to publish, but that once this is done, publication rates become somewhat more regular.

Exploring this idea in greater detail, Figure 8 depicts the author survival rate, defined as $\Pr[\sum_{k+1}^K n_k > 0 \mid n_k]$, where $n_k = 1$ if an author publishes k papers and 0 otherwise. One insight is that after the publication of six papers, the likelihood of publishing an additional paper increases to 80%. This might reflect increasing skill or possibly selection bias inasmuch as inately successful authors are more likely to survive. The likelihood of publishing then declines slowly, potentially owing to either

Figure 8 Author Survival Rates



Note. Bars indicate the probability of publishing an additional paper, given a certain number have already been published.

ability (as skills become obsolete) or motivation (as tenured researchers pursue alternative endeavors). One noteworthy aspect of these figures is that it is difficult to publish and remains so over the course of a career; there is no evidence of an “inside club.”

3.5.2. State Dependence and Author Survival.

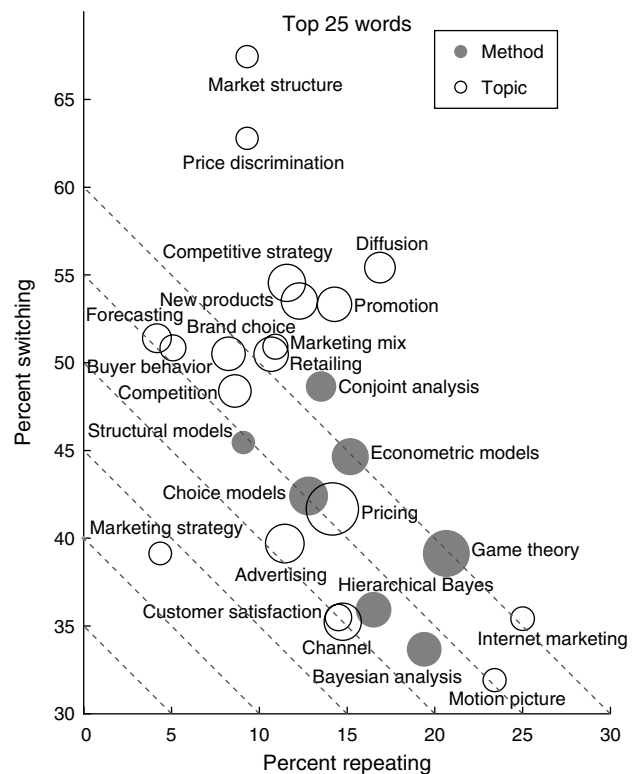
Systematic differences exist among survival rates for authors depending on the types of keywords used (e.g., methods versus topics, growth versus decline) and authors’ tendencies to repeat the same keywords across many papers. Accordingly, we integrate our author survival and keyword analyses. To achieve this aim, we first compute, for each author–paper–keyword observation, the following set of mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive dichotomous variables: (i) whether the author used the same keyword on his next paper (repeat), (ii) whether the author did not use the same keyword on his next paper (switch), or (iii) whether the author who used that keyword published another paper (survival). Then, for each keyword, we computed an empirical probability (across author–papers) of repeating the keyword, switching to a new keyword, or never publishing again. Note that these three state variables sum to 1, and the probability of survival after using a keyword is the sum of that word’s repeat and switch probabilities.

In Figure 9 we compare the resulting repeat, switch, and survival probabilities for the top 25 keywords. Several insights emerge. First, authors using methods words tend to have higher repeat likelihoods and lower switch likelihoods. This finding might be ascribed to the use of these tools as overarching paradigms to study a variegated mixture of substantive topics that change from paper to paper. Greater inertia in methods may be indicative of higher barriers to entry for methods relative to topics (e.g., learning costs). Second, more common words, as evidenced by circle size, tend to be repeated more often, as one might expect owing to their increased prevalence. Third, words that are in their ascendancy (“game theory,” “Bayesian analysis,” and “Internet marketing”) relative to those that are not (“forecasting” and “market structure”) are also high in repeat and low in switching.¹ Such a pattern might arise if authors were to focus on “hot” issues by publishing runs of paper on these topics. In contrast, older words are more likely to have switches because it is harder to publish in declining areas.²

¹ Note the similarity of the upper left to lower right orientation of word order in Figure 9 to the upper right to lower left orientation of word order in Figure 6. This result is consistent with the interpretation of words in growth and decline over the decades.

² This finding pertaining to new words could also relate to censoring in that new words have yet to enter a decline that would

Figure 9 State Dependence in Keyword Usage



Notes. Circles indicate the relative usage of keywords. Larger circles denote greater use. Solid circles indicate methods keywords; open circles indicate topics keywords. The dashed lines are isocurves indicating regions with constant survival rates. The lowest isocurve corresponds to a 35% survival rate, the highest to 60%. Observations in the lower left (upper right) indicate lowest (highest) survival.

Finally, it is possible to link research topics to survival. If all topics had the same survival rate but differed only on the trade-off between repeat and switch, all 25 words would perfectly align along a negative 45° slope, as indicated by the diagonal dashed lines. In fact, a least square error fit of a line to the observations yields an intercept of 0.58 and a slope of -0.94 . This result suggests that the slope of the observations in Figure 9 is indeed very close to -1 , and that keywords lie on an isosurvival curve of 60%. However, there is substantial dispersion from this line, as indicated by an R^2 of 0.29. This dispersion is greatest for the observations on the left-hand side of Figure 9, where repeat rates are low. As discussed earlier, words on the left tend to describe older topics. Two strategies are thus evidenced. First, above the 60% survival isocontour, words such as “market structure” and “price discrimination” indicate higher survival rates. This pattern is consistent with survival by switching to new topics. Second, for older words

incent authors to switch. To explore this possibility, we created the same plot while omitting observations from the past five years. The results appear qualitatively similar.

below the 60% isosurvival contour (such as “marketing strategy”), lower switching corresponded with lower survival rates. Interestingly, there is less dispersion of keywords around the 60% survival isosurvival curve in the right-hand side of the figure. These words evidence higher repeat and lower switching. Given that many of these words are method oriented, one possibility is that authors use a method as a base, switching topics as time passes.

4. Conclusion

This paper identifies trends in marketing science through the lens of keywords used in *Marketing Science*. The analysis first and foremost helps to document the history of the journal and, in that sense, may provide useful input in constructing a situation analysis for assessing the state of the journal. Moreover, the history of *Marketing Science* is potentially of interest in its own right to the authors who helped develop it.

The analysis generates a number of insights. First, the foundational aspects of marketing, as construed via the three C’s and four P’s, comport with the most frequent words used, suggesting a tight link between commonly used frameworks for defining the field and the choice of research questions considered. Second, the field is dynamic, with patterns of growth (e.g., “game theory”) and substitution (e.g., “diffusion” and “social networks”). This is an encouraging sign that the field is actively evolving. In the case of “game theory,” we further find that it does not cluster with other words; in this sense it is more of a unifying theme/paradigm that enables researchers to find common ground across topics and methods, like the “one ring to rule them all” (Tolkien 1954, Chapter 2). Third, there is a direction to this evolution that mirrors the evolution of data and issues faced in practice, indicating that the field does not appear to be veering from its applied roots. More data would be useful to better understand how trends in practice drive trends in research—and whether applied topics lead research or research leads applied topics. Fourth, inspection of publication rates reveals that although it is challenging to publish, it becomes somewhat easier up to a point—and that the choice of keywords seems related to the likelihood of survival. Last, survival rates may be affected by the types of words chosen and the author’s likelihood of repeating them.

In addition, there are a number of relevant policy questions that emerge from this analysis. Owing in part to the addition of more journal space in 2004, it has become easier to innovate with keywords. This is a good thing, in the sense that it potentially enables new ideas and might reflect a field in growth. Yet this growth in innovation has been matched by a deceleration in the rate with which new words endure. This

might indicate a field in maturation or perhaps reflect that more space is coincident with a longer tail in which the marginal papers published are unlikely to be as influential as the inframarginal papers. The latter might suggest that there are diminishing returns to adding additional journal pages. The decrease in rates of new popular words should also be recognized by tenure committees looking for “home run” papers. The data suggest that the likelihood of publishing such papers over time might be declining.

A second policy question pertains to the use of classification codes such as the JEL codes used by the American Economic Association. In *Marketing Science*, it has been possible to use any keywords, and over many years, there has been no code list. There are several advantages to using such a list. First, standardizing keywords makes it easier to link words to topics. In our analysis, because words are often similar, they provide a noisy measure of topics, making it difficult to track the evolution of the field in terms of topics and the relative impact of ideas. Second, keywords make it easier for authors to find similar works, and therefore they encourage relevant early papers to diffuse into subsequent papers. For example, we aggregated several words into “motion picture,” including “film production,” “films,” “motion picture distribution and exhibition,” “motion picture industry,” “movie industry,” “movie theaters,” and “movies.” Papers using “films” might be harder to find by those using “movies” or “motion picture,” even though these are synonyms. Third, keywords enable editors to match reviewers and papers more easily, as one can consider the overlap between the papers and the authors who publish those papers. On the negative side, if the field is moving quickly, it might be somewhat constraining to limit organic growth of words as early indicators of new topics—i.e., it would be difficult for a committee tasked with keyword classification to foresee all new topics as they first emerge. Hence a hybrid system might be of value (e.g., requiring most keywords be chosen from a list while allowing a limited number of new words). It seems sensible to explore these trade-offs in greater depth and assess the suitability of classification codes for *Marketing Science*.

In sum, it is our hope that this analysis of the history of *Marketing Science* keywords provides a portrait of the field that is of historical value and has implications going forward—and that this approach might be more generally applied in the context of other journals to obtain a broader understanding of this and other fields.

Electronic Companion

An electronic companion to this paper is available as part of the online version at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1287/mksc.1120.0764>.

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