

# Empirical Studies of Planning Practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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## Background

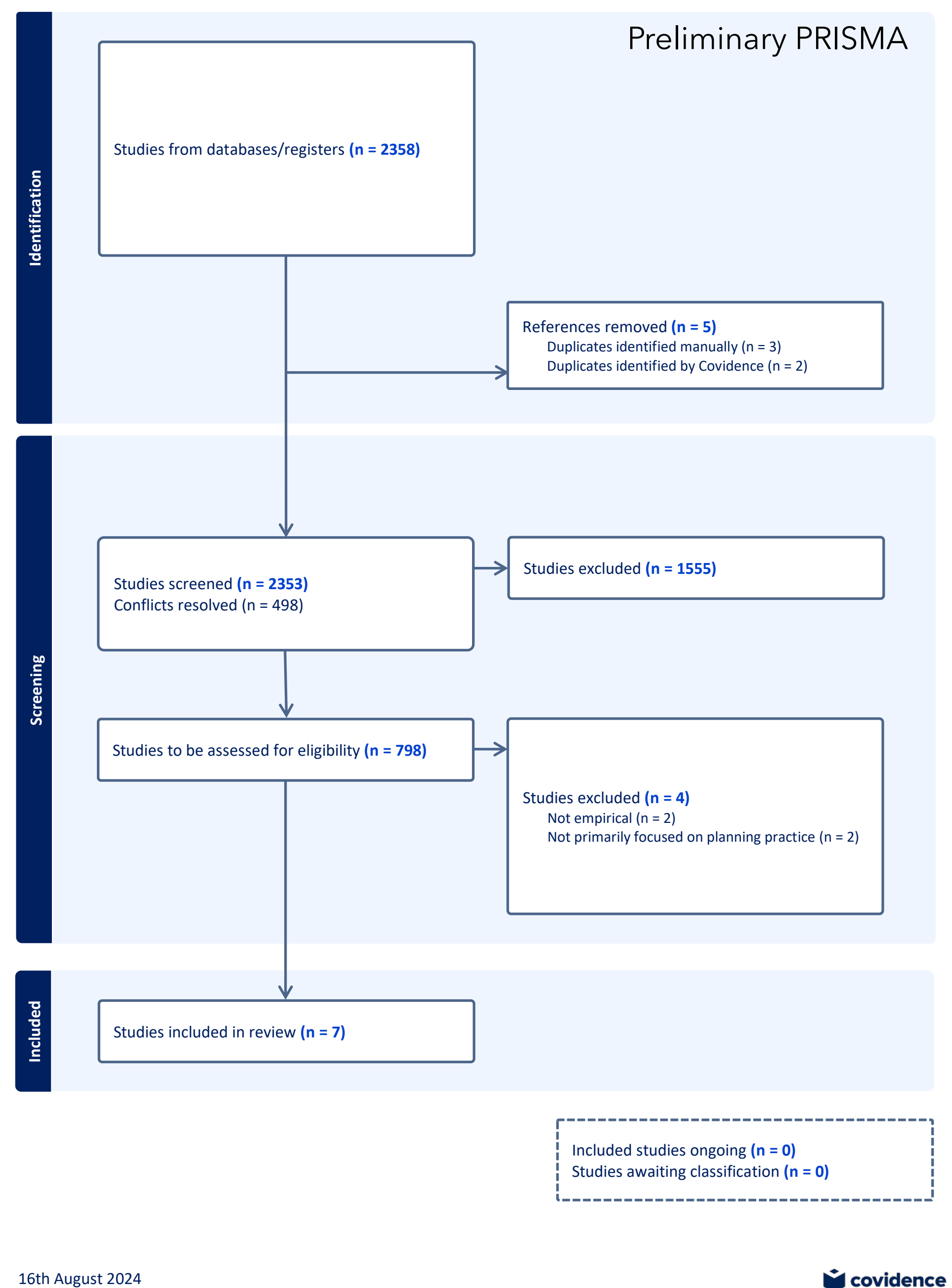
- The purpose of this project is to conduct a preliminary evaluation of **empirical studies of planning practice since 2005** in four of the top planning journals to determine the extent to which (1) planning judgement is evaluated and (2) multiple scales are analyzed. **This is important** for demonstrating how scholarly work over this timeframe has drifted away from two core commitments of our academic field: improving practice and education.

## Research Progress

- Completed abstract screening phase
- Developed detailed guidelines for what constitutes “empirical study” and “planning practice”
- Previous scholars<sup>1,2</sup> have noted the difficulty of delineating planning practice from content areas (e.g., environmental planning). Inclusion and exclusion criteria emerged throughout the abstract screening process:
  - Inclusion:** plan evaluation; historical case studies; focus on local government officials, decision-makers, and/or inter-institutional/organizational collaboration
  - Exclusion:** policy outcome evaluation; new tools for planners; focus on community organizations, local residents, activists; greater emphasis on substantive area (e.g., tactics for affordable housing preservation) than practice/process (e.g., how planners coordinated with organizations to preserve affordable housing)

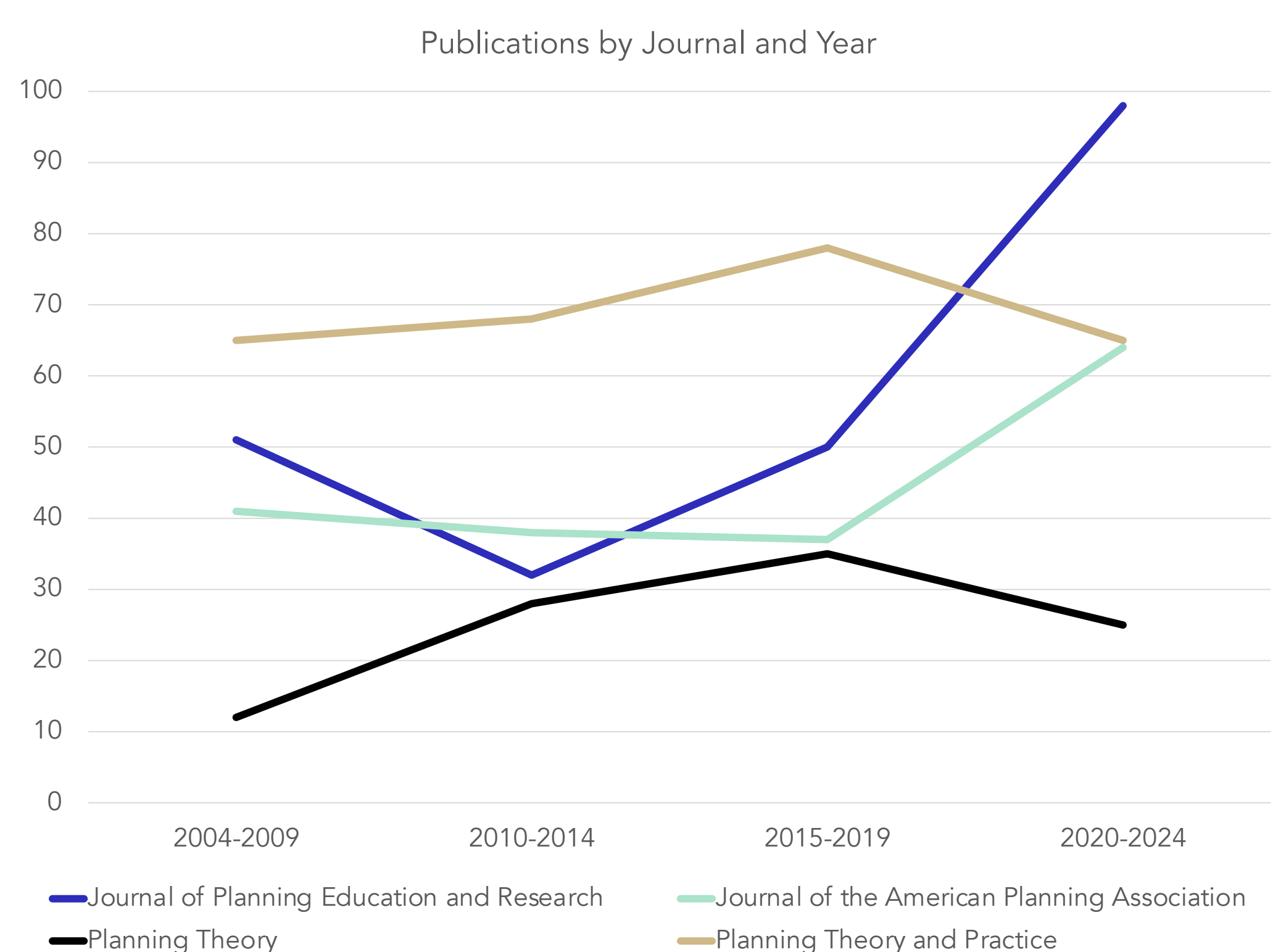
## Next Steps

- Complete full text review with RAs
- Complete analysis & typology
- Expand to include books and additional journals



## Preliminary Findings

- While most case studies come from the US and other Anglophone countries (Australia, Canada, UK), 12 other countries spanning all continents are represented in the included papers



1. Dalton, L. C. (1989). Emerging Knowledge about Planning Practice. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 9(1), 29–44. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X8900900103>

2. Lauria, M., & Wagner, J. A. (2006). What Can We Learn from Empirical Studies of Planning Theory? A Comparative Case Analysis of Extant Literature. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 25(4), 364–381. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X05282351>