

# Islamic Law and Social Sciences: A Bibliometric Analysis of Global Scholarly Trends (2012–2025)

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to map the development of scientific literature on Islamic law through a bibliographic review approach to 201 articles published between 2012 and 2025. All articles were categorized as final stage articles, written in English, and analyzed in the context of the social sciences (Subject Area: Social Sciences). The focus of the study was on key topics such as Islamic Law, Fiqh, Islamic Jurisprudence, Sharia, Islamic Finance, Maslahah, Maqasid al-Shari'ah, and Shari'ah Compliance. Bibliographic data were obtained from indexed scientific literature and cleaned using OpenRefine software to ensure consistency of information related to titles, authors, affiliations, and keywords. The articles were published in 84 different scholarly journals, all of which were categorized as Open Access, either Gold or Hybrid Open Access, demonstrating the open access to Islamic legal knowledge globally. The analysis showed that the publications came from authors with affiliations spread across different countries, with a total of more than 20 countries. The three countries with the highest contributions to the literature are Indonesia (91 publications), Malaysia (26 publications), and Turkey (14 publications). This indicates the academic dominance of the Southeast Asian and West Asian regions in contemporary Islamic law discourse. The results of the analysis also show that the themes of Islamic Law and Fiqh are the most dominant in the titles of publications, while topics such as Maqasid al-Shari'ah and Shari'ah Compliance, although not yet prominent in frequency, show significant potential in the development of applied studies, especially in the fields of Islamic finance and contemporary legal policy. This study contributes to the mapping of academic trends in Islamic law and identifies publication gaps that can serve as a basis for further research based on a bibliometric approach.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Islamic law is a normative system rooted in divine revelation and the *ijtihad* of scholars, which since classical times has shaped the ethical and legal framework of Muslims for centuries. As a non-static legal system, Islamic law has the capacity to adapt to changes in space and time through the universal principles contained in it, such as justice ('*adl*), benefit (*maslahah*), and the purpose of sharia (*maqasid al-shari'ah*) [5]. In contemporary developments, the study of Islamic law has expanded from a purely theological realm to a broader space, covering social, economic, political, and even environmental issues.

This transformation is a response to the complexity of Muslim societies that are increasingly connected in the global system. Amidst the pressures of globalization, legal secularism, and modernization of the government system, Islamic law is required to not only maintain its essential values, but also become a relevant instrument in answering actual problems, both at the individual level and state institutions [1]; [2] In this case, there is a process of revitalization of Islamic legal thought with a contextual and multidisciplinary approach, including the integration of sharia values in public policy, Islamic financial systems, human rights, and equitable governance [3]. Therefore, the development of Islamic legal studies today is not only important in the normative context, but also strategically in responding to the practical needs of the global Muslim community.

The study of Islamic law in the realm of social science has grown rapidly in the last decade, reflecting the need for legal approaches that are not only normative, but also responsive to complex social dynamics. Various themes such as *Fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence), *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* (the goals of sharia), *Maslahah* (benefit), and *Shari'ah Compliance* have now not only become theoretical discourses in academic spaces, but also analytical instruments in designing public policies, financial systems, and inclusive social governance. In this context,

the study of Islamic law has moved beyond its traditional boundaries, becoming an analytical tool in understanding modern social phenomena that require ethical and religious legal foundations [4].

One of the central concepts that has received great attention is *Maqasid al-Shari'ah*, which focuses attention on protecting the five main objectives of sharia: religion, soul, mind, offspring, and property. The *maqasid* approach not only offers flexibility in legal interpretation, but also provides a normative basis that supports the reconstruction of Islamic law within the framework of modernity [5]. This allows Islamic law to transform from a mere set of positive laws into a value system capable of addressing global challenges such as social justice, gender equality, and ethical economic governance. In practice, *maqasid* is increasingly adopted in Islamic banking, fiscal policies of Muslim countries, and Islamic-based environmental regulations.

Furthermore, the discourse on *Shari'ah Compliance* is growing significantly, especially in the context of Islamic financial institutions and halal business regulation. *Shari'ah compliance* is not only seen as a spiritual obligation, but also as an indicator of institutional integrity in the Islamic economic system. Studies by Ahmed emphasize the importance of the ethical dimension in this compliance structure, where Islamic law plays a role in maintaining a balance between economic profit and social responsibility [6]. Thus, the integration of Islamic law in social science studies not only enriches the academic repertoire, but also expands the horizons of sharia applicability in the lives of contemporary plural and dynamic societies.

The bibliometric approach offers an effective tool for analyzing the development of scholarly literature in the field of Islamic law. Through quantitative analysis of publications, it is possible to identify research trends, collaborations between authors, and topics that dominate scientific discourse. emphasizes that bibliometrics allows mapping the structure of science and identifying unexplored research gaps [7].

In the context of Islamic law, this approach helps to understand how concepts such as Shari'ah Compliance and Islamic Finance evolve in the scientific literature. Donthu added that bibliometrics can reveal research dynamics and assist researchers in formulating future research agendas [8].

Bibliometric analysis of Islamic law publications shows a significant increase in the number and quality of research. The study by Akcan reveals that keywords such as "Islamic Law", "Fiqh", and "Islamic Finance" dominate the literature, reflecting the focus of research on the legal and economic aspects of Islam [9]. In addition, there is an increasing interest in topics such as Maqasid al-Shari'ah and Shari'ah Compliance, indicating efforts to integrate shari'ah principles in contemporary practice.

Tumewang et al. [10] in their study highlighted that the application of Maqasid al-Shari'ah in Islamic banking became the largest stream of research, reflecting the awareness of the importance of fundamental values in Islamic financial products [10]. The study also shows that research on Maqasid al-Shari'ah is not limited to Muslim countries, but is also growing in countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States, reflecting the universal acceptance of this concept.

Despite these positive developments, Islamic legal research faces challenges, particularly in terms of methodology and practical application. One of the main challenges is how to translate sharia principles into the context of positive laws applicable in different countries. This requires an interdisciplinary approach that combines legal, social and economic sciences.

In addition, there is a need to improve the quality of research through international collaboration and the use of more robust methodologies. The use of software such as OpenRefine to clean bibliographic data, as done in this study, is an important step to ensure consistency and accuracy of information.

This study aims to map the development of scientific literature on Islamic

law through a bibliographic review approach of 201 articles published between 2012 and 2025. The focus of the study is directed at key topics such as Islamic Law, Fiqh, Islamic Jurisprudence, Sharia, Islamic Finance, Maslahah, Maqasid al-Shari'ah, and Shari'ah Compliance.

By analyzing articles spread across 84 different scholarly journals, this study provides a comprehensive overview of academic trends in Islamic legal studies. The results of the analysis show that the themes of Islamic Law and Fiqh are the most dominant in the titles of publications, while topics such as Maqasid al-Shari'ah and Shari'ah Compliance show significant potential in the development of applied studies, particularly in the fields of Islamic finance and contemporary legal policy.

This study aims to address the research gap in the academic discourse on Islamic Law in the social science domain [11] through a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the peer-reviewed scholarly literature published between 2012 and 2025. By systematically pulling and analyzing data from the Scopus database, this study explores the dominant research themes, geographical trends, and key scholarly contributions that have shaped the development of Islamic legal studies in the contemporary context.

The methodological uniqueness of this research lies in the integration of bibliometric mapping and focused semantic filtering of keywords related to Islamic jurisprudence, such as Fiqh, Sharia, Maqasid al-Shari'ah, and Shari'ah Compliance. This approach enables the identification of traditional jurisprudential discourses as well as emerging interdisciplinary applications particularly in the fields of Islamic finance, policy formulation, and ethics-based governance.

Particular emphasis is placed on tracking the geographical distribution of authors, highlighting the academic leadership of Southeast Asian countries, particularly Indonesia and Malaysia, and their growing influence in shaping global Islamic legal thought. The study also evaluates the

development of concepts such as Maqasid al-Shari'ah in Open Access publications, and provides insights into how Islamic legal theory is adapting to the challenges of modern society.

The research was guided by the following main questions:

1. What are the dominant themes and development trends in Islamic legal studies between 2012 and 2025?
2. Which countries, institutions and scholars have contributed most significantly to this literature?
3. How do interdisciplinary topics such as Islamic finance and sharia compliance intersect with traditional jurisprudence?
4. What gaps remain in the literature and could be a direction for future Islamic law research?

Table 1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

No	Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
1	Articles, conference papers, book chapters, and review papers	"Sharia Law"OR"Islamic Jurisprudence"OR"Islamic Legal System"OR"Fiqh"OR"Muslim Law"
2	Published between January 1, 2012, and Mei 22, 2025	Research published before January 1, 2005, or after November 6, 2024
3	Written in the English language	Written in languages other than English
4	Terbatas pada artikel jurnal ilmiah (tidak termasuk prosiding konferensi, bab buku, dll).	Duplikat (artikel yang sama terindeks lebih dari satu kali)
5	Subject Area Focused on Social Sciences	Articles from subject areas outside the research focus, such as engineering, medicine, and others
6	Accessibility Optional inclusion of Open Access articles only	Avoiding non-scholarly content (e.g., editorials, letters to the editor, or short notes)
7	Database Source Must be Scopus-indexed publications.	Articles not indexed in the Scopus database are excluded from the analysis

## 2. METHODS

### 2.1 Study design

This study uses a bibliometric mapping approach to analyze trends in Islamic law research in social science disciplines over the period 2012-2025. As a statistical method, bibliometric analysis is used to identify publication patterns, interrelationships between concepts, as well as academic collaboration networks in contemporary Islamic law scientific literature [7], [8].

Scopus was chosen as the main data source due to its broad coverage of indexed and peer-reviewed scientific publications, as well as the completeness of metadata that supports the validity of bibliographic analysis. The dataset consists of 201 scientific articles that have been filtered and cleaned using OpenRefine software to ensure consistency in key elements such as title, author, institution affiliation, and keywords [10].

Some of the key metrics analyzed include annual publication trends, the most prolific scholarly journals, the most influential authors and institutions, geographical contributions by country of affiliation, as well as keyword co-existence to uncover the main thematic focus. The analysis showed the dominance of topics such as Islamic Law and Fiqh, as well as the emergence of Maqasid al-Shari'ah and Shari'ah Compliance as topics that are beginning to receive attention in applied approaches, particularly in the realms of Islamic finance and public policy [12]; [9].

The utilization of Maqasid al-Shari'ah in the Islamic finance framework has been an important focus in previous studies due to its ability to integrate Shari'ah values into the modern economic system [5], [10]. Meanwhile, the aspect of Shari'ah Compliance is not only seen as the fulfillment of religious law, but also reflects business ethics and institutional integrity [4]; [9].

This study does not require ethical approval because it does not involve human or animal subjects, and all data used is open and available for academic purposes through the Scopus database. The findings are expected to contribute to the epistemological mapping of Islamic legal studies, and open up opportunities for strengthening interdisciplinary research in the future.

## 2.2 Data collection

Data retrieval was conducted on May 6, 2024 using a keyword-based systematic search strategy. Keywords such as "Sharia Law" OR "Islamic Jurisprudence" OR "Islamic Legal System" OR "Fiqh" OR "Muslim Law" and other relevant equivalents were applied to the title, abstract and keywords (TITLE-ABS-KEY) fields in the Scopus database to ensure coverage of documents that match the focus of the study [8]; [13]

The initial search yielded 201 scientific documents. To ensure the quality and relevance of the analyzed literature, as shown in table 1 structured inclusion and exclusion criteria were systematically applied, as recommended in previous bibliometric studies [7]; [8]; [14]. Inclusion criteria included: article-type documents, published between 2012 and 2025, written in English, in the field of Social Sciences, and indexed in Scopus. Meanwhile, documents that did not meet these categories, such as conference proceedings, editorials, or documents from out-of-focus fields (e.g. engineering or health), were excluded from the dataset [15].

This systematic approach is in line with best practices in bibliometric studies that emphasize consistency of selection and validity of datasets [16]. The metadata cleaning process of was conducted using

OpenRefine software, as also applied in the study by Tumewang, Muhtarom, & Sulaiman [10], to avoid redundancy, ensure consistency of author names and affiliations, and unify keyword variations.

After the selection and cleaning process, the final dataset consisted of 201 scientific journal articles ready for analysis. This dataset was then exported and saved in CSV and RIS formats for further analysis, including thematic mapping and bibliometric visualization using software such as VOSviewer [17], [18] which enables keyword network-based visual mapping and author collaboration [19].

## 2.3 Data analysis

Data analysis in this study was conducted through a comprehensive bibliometric mapping approach to evaluate trends, major themes,[20] and scholarly contributions in Islamic law literature in the social science domain over the period 2012 to 2025. The analysis process utilized VOSviewer software for visualization of author collaboration networks, keyword coexistence, and thematic mapping, and Microsoft Excel for statistical data clustering such as number of publications per year, geographical distribution, and keyword frequency.

By combining quantitative methods and bibliometric visualization,[21] this study provides a systematic overview of the structure and dynamics of the development of contemporary Islamic law studies in the Scopus database. This approach also allows the identification of research gaps and potential directions for the development of interdisciplinary and contextual Islamic legal studies.

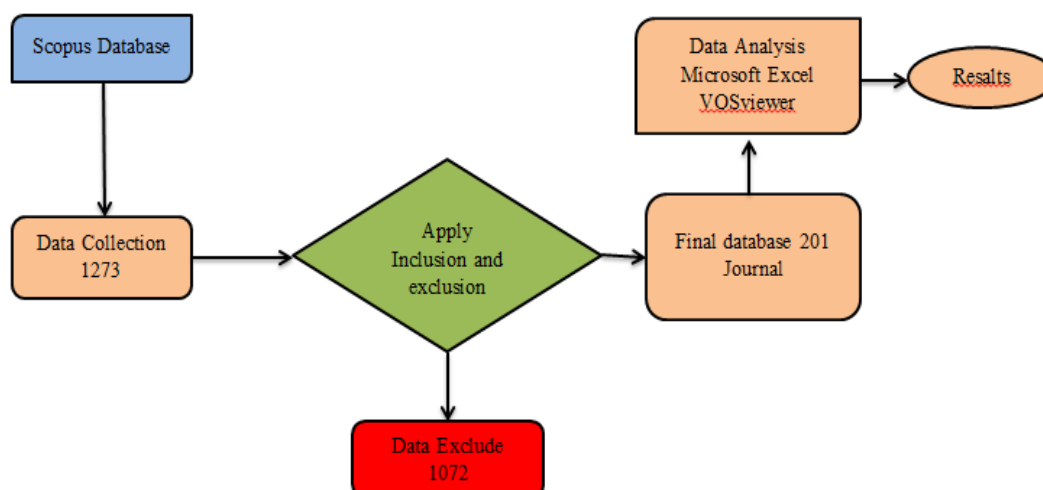


Fig. 1. The steps in collecting and analyzing the data.

Included in this analysis are the most prolific publishers, the most referenced articles, the most prolific authors, as well as the countries with the most contributions to the publication of Islamic law studies [15]; [22]. In addition, an exploration of the temporal occurrence of author keywords was conducted, which provided insights into shifts in thematic focus in Islamic law literature over the period 2012 to 2025 [23]. These analyses provide insights into global collaborative dynamics, influential intellectual trends, and emerging fields of study, particularly those that intersect with economics, public policy, and maqāṣid alsharī'ah values [24].

To further understand the patterns of academic collaboration, this study applies co-authorship analysis and keyword cooccurrence analysis [8]. The co-authorship analysis focuses on collaborative relationships between authors and institutions, and maps crosscountry cooperation networks that indicate the direction and concentration of centers of scholarly productivity in Islamic legal studies [13]. In terms of country attribution, all countries of affiliation of each author in a publication are counted, to reflect a fair and comprehensive coverage of

international contributions. This approach avoids methodological biases that often arise when relying solely on correspondence authors to represent the origin of a publication.

Meanwhile, keyword coexistence analysis was conducted to assess thematic linkages between concepts that frequently co-occur in a single document. Network visualization was performed by utilizing VOSviewer software [18], where each keyword was visualized as a node, and their interrelationships were depicted through connecting lines (links). The size of the node indicates the frequency of occurrence of a keyword, while the thickness of the line reflects the strength of the relationship between concepts. By applying the Louvain algorithm as a community detection method [7], the nodes that have strong relationships are grouped into thematic clusters, and each cluster is assigned a different color. The results show a clear thematic structure in the Islamic legal literature, reflecting areas of study such as Contemporary Fiqh, Islamic Finance, Maqasid al-Shari'ah, and Shariah Compliance as both dominant and emerging themes [25].

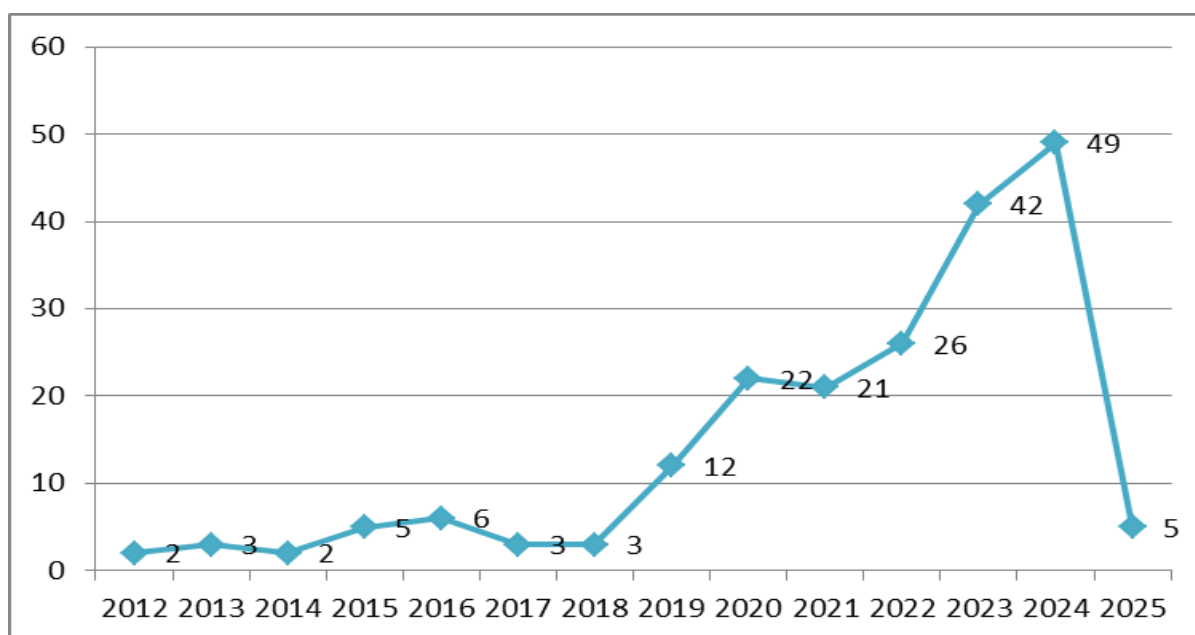


Fig. 2. Number of articles published each year

The thematic patterns and trends that developed during the review period (2012-2025) were identified through bibliometric mapping. The cluster analysis revealed a number of thematically distinct research domains, such as Contemporary Fiqh, Islamic Finance, Islamic Law in Public Policy, and Integration of Maqasid al-Shari'ah in Modern Governance. The findings provide a more systematic understanding of the development of contemporary Islamic legal studies, both in the form of established fields of study and new topics that are on the rise in global scientific discourse [26].

In addition to bibliometric visualization, Microsoft Excel software was used for descriptive analysis, including organization of publication data, calculation of keyword frequencies, annual publication trends, and citation distribution. This combination of bibliometric visualization and statistical analysis formed a solid framework for interpreting the dataset and compiling quantitative and thematic insights into the development of Islamic legal literature over more than a decade [27].

The integration of co-authorship and cooccurrence analysis allows for the identification of influential authors, international networks of collaboration, and interconnected thematic foci within the field of Islamic law. By utilizing network

visualization through software such as VOSviewer, as well as the application of the Louvain clustering algorithm, this study is able to present a detailed and dynamic picture of the global Islamic law academic landscape [27]. It also highlights the contributions of various countries, especially the Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern regions, and shows the direction of development of scientific discourse in the study of Islamic law which is increasingly multidisciplinary and applicable.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Top Publication Sources and Thematic Orientation of Islamic Legal Studies

The study of Islamic law has undergone a significant transformation in the last two decades, moving from the normative-traditional realm towards a more interdisciplinary and contextual approach (Krismono, 2024; Rohmah, 2021). In the midst of times marked by the globalization of knowledge and the integration of scientific information systems, research on Islamic law has not only developed in substance, but also in its dissemination strategies and academic collaboration [30]. Along with the increasing number of open access journals and easy access to bibliometric data from databases such as Scopus, [31] allows for systematic mapping of research trends, cross-country

collaborations, and key thematic foci in Islamic legal literature.

In this context, analyzing the source of publications becomes very important to understand the landscape of knowledge dissemination [32]. Scientific journals are not only a medium for knowledge dissemination, but also play a role in shaping the intellectual orientation and flow of discourse that

develops in the academic community. By identifying which journals are most productive in publishing Islamic legal studies, we not only assess the quantity of publications, but can also interpret the direction of thematic trends, dominant geographical areas, and the quality of scientific collaboration that occurs among researchers.[33]

Table 2. Top 20 sources of publications

Source Title	Number of Documents
Samarah	18
Cumhuriyet Ilahiyat Dergisi	10
Al-Ihkam: Jurnal Hukum dan Pranata Sosial	8
Al-Istinbath: Jurnal Hukum Islam	8
Ahkam: Jurnal Ilmu Syariah	7
Ulumuna	7
Juris: Jurnal Ilmiah Syariah	6
Jurnal Ilmiah Mizani	6
Contemporary Issues on Interfaith Law and Society	6
ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance	5
Mazahib Jurnal Pemikiran Hukum Islam	5
Justicia Islamica	5
Journal of Islamic Thought and Civilization	5
Asian Social Science	4
Al-Ahkam	4
Al-Manahij: Jurnal Kajian Hukum Islam	4
Journal of Indonesian Islam	4
International Journal of Islamic Thought	3
Jurnal Ilmiah Al-Syir'ah	3
De Jure: Jurnal Hukum dan Syar'iah	3

In a bibliometric study of Islamic legal literature from 2012 to 2025, identification of publication sources (source titles) is one of the important steps to measure the map of knowledge distribution and the influence of journals in disseminating scientific discourse. Based on the data analyzed, Samarah emerged as the journal with the highest contribution, with 18 documents. This journal has a broad scope in Islamic law, including normative, institutional, and sharia-based social transformation aspects. Followed by Cumhuriyet Ilahiyat Dergisi with 10 publications, this Turkey-based journal shows

the active role of the Middle Eastern academic community in enriching contemporary Islamic law discourse through academic and textual perspectives [34].

In addition, Indonesian national journals have played a significant role. Journals such as Al-Ihkam: Journal of Law and Social Institutions, Al-Istinbath: Journal of Islamic Law, and Ahkam: Journal of Sharia Science contributed 7 to 8 articles each, showing that Indonesia is not only a big contributor in terms of quantity of publications, but also in the development of open access-based scientific publication platforms. Several other journals such as



Ulumuna, Juris, and Mizani Scientific Journal are also included in this list, reflecting the diversity of publishing institutions and themes, ranging from classical fiqh, maqāṣid al-sharī'ah, Islamic family law, to the interaction between Islamic law and the state legal system. This shows that there is a very active academic publishing ecosystem in the country, which is not only focused on the local space but also increasingly integrated with the global scientific discourse [35].

Furthermore, the existence of international journals such as ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance, Asian Social Science, and International Journal of Islamic Thought shows the interdisciplinary and globalization dimensions of Islamic law research. For example, ISRA provides an important platform for the integration between sharia and contemporary financial systems, while other journals from Asia and the Middle East bring philosophical, sociological, and even comparative approaches to Islamic law in various contexts. Journals such as Contemporary Issues on Interfaith Law and Society indicate that issues of Islamic law are now not exclusive, but have also entered into interfaith and cultural discourse. This shows

that although most of the documents come from local and regional journals, the flow of Islamic law research is widening to a global spectrum that includes contemporary issues, legal inclusivity, and engagement in interdisciplinary and cross-country discussions [36].

### **3.2 Prolific Authors' Contributions to Islamic Legal Literature**

In bibliometric analysis, identifying the most productive and most cited authors is a strategic step to measure the extent of an individual's contribution to the development of a particular discipline. In the context of Islamic legal studies, this not only reflects the frequency of publications, but also shows the epistemological influence and level of acceptance of the discourse built by the author in the scientific community. Through a quantitative approach to open publication data indexed in Scopus, a list of the top 14 authors who show the intensity of scientific contributions in a certain period of time was obtained. This data includes not only the number of documents, but also the accumulated citations and total impact score, which in aggregate gives an idea of each author's strategic position in the global academic landscape.

Table 3. Top 14 Authors

Author	Documents	Citations	Total
meirison	3	9	2
moathalnaief	2	2	2
asmuni	2	7	1
baudouin dupret,	2	7	4
abdel wadoud moustafa moursi el-seoudi	2	1	0
abdul hanis embong	2	2	2
puhnama hidayah harahap	2	11	3
muhammad hasan	2	15	0
hasanudin	2	12	0
monika lindbekk	2	7	4
muhajir	2	7	0
najihah abdul mutalib	2	2	2
mohd anuar ramli	2	1	0
kotb rissouni	2	2	2

Analytically, authors who have a high number of documents with a low citation rate

show a tendency to be productive in quantity, but not necessarily have a wide conceptual

spread. Conversely, authors with fewer documents but a significant number of citations can be assumed to have high quality work that is relevant to contemporary research needs. Therefore, metrics such as "number of documents" and "number of citations" cannot stand alone, but must be read in relation to the relevance of the topic, dissemination strategies, and the reach of scientific collaboration. In addition, the presence of authors from various countries also shows the internationalization dimension of Islamic legal studies, which strengthens the position of this science as part of the global discourse [37].

Furthermore, analysis of the total score also provides its own indicator regarding the intensity of the contribution or relative author impact. Authors with high total scores indicate consistency in the quality and range of citations, which has the potential to become a major reference in the development of applicable Islamic law topics, such as Shari'ah Compliance, Maqasid al-Shari'ah, and Islamic Governance. Conversely, authors with a low total score despite having an equivalent number of documents could be interpreted as contributions that are still developing, or are in a narrower thematic domain, and thus have not gained wide exposure [38].

Thus, this data not only represents a list of author names, but serves as an intellectual map that illustrates the dynamics

of scholarly productivity and influence. Through interpretations based on bibliometric metrics, researchers, institutions, and policy makers can identify central figures in Islamic legal studies, as well as build more targeted collaborative and publication strategies to strengthen their position in the international scientific community.

### 3.3 Map of International Collaboration in Islamic Law Studies

In bibliometric studies of Islamic law literature in the social sciences, international collaboration maps play an important role in identifying productive and globally influential academic networks. Based on the data analyzed from the Scopus database for the period 2012-2025, it appears that crosscountry collaborations have formed a certain pattern that connects academic centers in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and parts of Europe [39].

Countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Turkey emerged as major contributors to open access publications on Islamic law. Indonesia, with the highest number of articles, exhibits a dense collaborative network structure, both at the national and international levels. Authors from major universities such as Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN), Muhammadiyah University, and other Islamic private universities are actively involved in collaborations with academics from Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan.



Fig. 3. Inter-country collaboration network

Collaboration between Indonesia and Malaysia is particularly intense, reflecting historical and cultural similarities, as well as relatively compatible sharia legal frameworks. Many publications on issues such as contemporary fiqh, Islamic

economics, and maqāṣid al-sharī'ah are jointly published by authors from both countries. In addition, Malaysia also collaborates with academic institutions from the Middle East such as Al-Azhar University and King Abdulaziz University.

The contributions of Western countries, such as the United Kingdom and the United States, although not as large as Muslim-majority countries, still have a strategic position in the literature of Islamic

law, especially in interdisciplinary studies, such as human rights in Islamic law, Islamic finance in secular states, and the integration of maqasid in modern public policy [40].

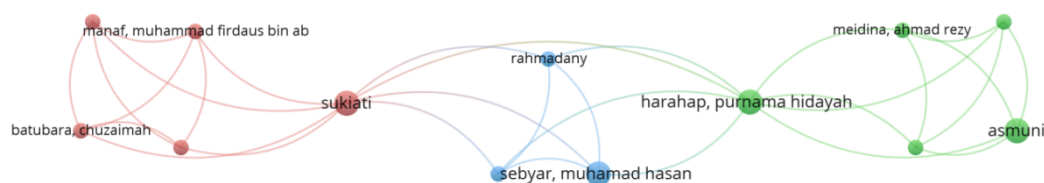


Fig. 4. Visualization of co-authorship network

The VOSviewer visualization reveals key collaborative nodes, such as "Harahap, Purnama Hidayah", "Sukiati", and "Muhammad Firdaus Bin Ab Manaf" who are not only active in publications, but also bridge between clusters of authors from different institutions and countries. These collaborations play an important role in expanding the impact of scholarship and strengthening the global legitimacy of the Islamic legal issues addressed.

Pola kolaborasi internasional ini juga memperlihatkan bahwa keterlibatan dalam jaringan global mampu meningkatkan jumlah sitasi dan jangkauan publikasi. Artikel-artikel yang ditulis oleh tim lintas negara cenderung memiliki cakupan yang lebih luas dan menyasar pembaca dari berbagai latar belakang, baik akademisi, praktisi hukum, maupun pembuat kebijakan.

Dengan demikian, peta kolaborasi internasional dalam kajian hukum Islam tidak hanya menggambarkan konektivitas antara penulis, tetapi juga mencerminkan dinamika globalisasi ilmu pengetahuan Islam dalam konteks sosial dan hukum modern. Dalam konteks ini, kolaborasi menjadi indikator penting dalam mengukur relevansi, otoritas, dan pengaruh sebuah karya ilmiah.

### 3.4 Dominant Keyword Distribution and Intertopic Relationship

Author keywords analysis is one of the important methods in bibliometrics to understand the dominant themes and intertopic relationships in Islamic law literature. Based on data obtained from 201 open access articles published between 2012 and 2025, it was found that the most frequently occurring keywords were "Islamic Law", "Fiqh", "Sharia", "Maqasid al-Shari'ah", and "Shari'ah Compliance". In addition, topics such as "Islamic Finance", "Ethics", and "Governance" also show an increasing trend [41].

This distribution of keywords indicates that contemporary Islamic law studies are no longer limited to a normativeclassical approach, but have shifted towards an applicative, [42] interdisciplinary, and context-based approach. For example, the high frequency occurrence of keywords such as "Maqasid alShari'ah"[43] and "Compliance" reflects the increasing attention to the application of sharia values in financial systems, governance, and public policy making [44].



academic who actively publishes in reputable journals and has strong affiliations with national and international fatwa and Islamic law institutions [46].

Another prominent name is Siti Mashitoh Mahamood, a Malaysian academic who has discussed the relationship between Islamic law, family rights and state policy. She was instrumental in drafting Islamic family law in Malaysia and enriched the literature through a juridical-sociological approach.

Bibliometric data also shows that authors who are active in international collaborations tend to have higher citations. This proves that involvement in global academic networks not only increases the quantity of publications, but also adds to the quality and relevance of the scientific work. These authors are also often the central nodes in co-authorship networks, meaning they serve as links between different thematic clusters and institutions.

Overall, the identification of key authors helps to identify centers of academic excellence in the field of Islamic law. In addition, this data can also be utilized by young researchers to establish strategic collaborations, expand scholarly networks, and design research directions that are relevant and have a global impact.

### ***3.6 Gaps in the literature provide direction for future Islamic law research***

In a bibliometric study of Islamic legal literature analyzed from Scopus-indexed scientific publications for the period 2012-2025, there are a number of findings that indicate that despite significant progress in the number, accessibility, and dissemination of Islamic legal studies, there are still various conceptual, thematic, methodological, and geographical gaps that leave ample room for future research development [47]. Identification of these gaps is crucial not only to enrich scholarship, but also to ensure that Islamic law remains adaptive, relevant and contextual to the changing dynamics of global society.

One of the main gaps that stands out is the lack of a thorough interdisciplinary approach in the study of Islamic law [48].

Despite the increasing trend of integration between Islamic law and other fields such as Islamic economics, finance, and governance, literature that explicitly incorporates social science methodologies (such as legal sociology, anthropology, and public policy studies) is still relatively limited. This implies that most Islamic law studies still focus on normative-textual review and have not fully developed as legal studies in a social and functional sense. Future research needs to explore how Islamic law works empirically in specific social spaces, including the role of fatwa institutions, sharia judicial systems, and maqāṣid al-sharī'ah values-based legislative processes in modern state legal systems.

The second significant gap is the lack of focus on Islamic law themes that are contemporary and responsive to global issues. In the analyzed data, keywords such as Fiqh, Islamic Law, and Sharia still dominate, while issues such as climate justice, artificial intelligence and sharia ethics, personal data protection in sharia digital systems, and Islamic law's response to global migration, are rarely the focus of research. This shows the gap between global social dynamics and the intellectual response of Islamic law. Therefore, the direction of future research should be directed at how the principles of Islamic law can be contextualized in a global landscape influenced by technology, pluralism and international governance.

Another important aspect is the limited geographical and institutional diversity of Islamic law literature. Studies originating from the Southeast Asian region, particularly Indonesia and Malaysia, dominate in terms of number of publications, while regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and Muslim minority communities in the West are relatively underrepresented. In fact, the different social, political and historical contexts in these regions can produce unique and worthy dynamics in the application of Islamic law. By expanding geographical coverage, Islamic law research will be more inclusive and able to reflect the diversity of practices and challenges faced by Muslims globally.

On the other hand, from a methodological perspective, Islamic law studies still tend to be dominated by library research and doctrinal analysis,[49] with very little exploration of quantitative or mixed-methods methods that can enrich the analytical dimension and build generalizations. Methods such as field studies, structured interviews with sharia judges, surveys of public acceptance of Islamic law in the contemporary context, and even the use of digital tools such as text mining of classical fiqh books, have not been widely used. This is a great opportunity for the next generation of researchers to make methodological breakthroughs and present Islamic law research that is not only normative, but also based on strong data and field evidence.

Finally, a fundamental but often overlooked gap is the lack of critical exploration of the concept of *maqāṣid alsharī'ah* in social praxis and state policy. Although *maqāṣid* is often cited as the most adaptive and progressive normative framework in Islamic law, there have not been many studies that dissect how *maqāṣid* is used in drafting public regulations, fiscal policies, education systems, or even criminal laws in Muslim-majority countries. *Maqāṣid* needs to be further studied not only as a theoretical framework, but also as an evaluative approach to public policy and the development of equitable national laws.

Thus, the future direction of Islamic law research should be encouraged to close these gaps through strengthening interdisciplinary approaches, expanding themes and areas of study, methodological innovation, and deepening analysis of the application of *maqāṣid* values. Only in this way, Islamic law can answer the challenges of the times authentically and relevantly, and actively contribute to the increasingly complex and diverse global legal discourse.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

This research successfully mapped the landscape of Islamic law literature through a bibliometric approach to 201

scientific articles published between 2012 and 2025 and indexed in the Scopus database. The results of the analysis show that the study of Islamic law has undergone a significant shift from a normative-traditional approach to a more interdisciplinary, contextual, and applicative approach. The dominating thematic focus includes Islamic Law, Fiqh, Shari'ah Compliance, and Maqasid al-Shari'ah-with strengthening research directions in the fields of Islamic finance, Islamic governance, and public policy based on Islamic legal ethical values.

Geographically, Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia and Malaysia, emerged as a strong center of scholarly productivity, followed by Turkey and several Middle Eastern and European countries. The pattern of international collaboration also shows the intensity of relationships between countries through interconnected author networks, strengthening the globalization capacity of Islamic legal discourse. Visualization of coauthorship networks and keyword linkage analysis reveal a complex yet consistent thematic structure, which divides the focus of studies into several main clusters: from classical fiqh, Islamic finance, to *maqāṣid* approaches in contemporary policy.

The findings also show that Indonesian national journals are major contributors to knowledge dissemination, such as *Samarah*, *Al-Ihkam*, and *Al-Istinbath*, which attest to an active open access scholarly publishing ecosystem that is adaptive to global trends. On the other hand, international journals such as *ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance* and *International Journal of Islamic Thought* reinforce the interdisciplinary and crossgeographical dimensions of Islamic legal studies. This illustrates that Islamic legal literature is no longer an exclusively local or religious domain, but has become an integral part of the global academic discourse in the social and legal sciences.

As such, this study makes an important contribution in building an empirical understanding of the academic trends and intellectual dynamics in Islamic

legal studies. In addition, this study also opens up space for further exploration of unexplored publication gaps, especially in interdisciplinary themes, such as the integration of maqāsid in modern state regulation, Islamic business ethics, and Islamic law's response to contemporary global

issues. The bibliometric approach has proven effective in compiling a knowledge map that not only represents quantitative data, but is also able to strategically and comprehensively reveal the direction of development of Islamic legal discourse.

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