Mapping the Global Landscape of Islamic Studies Research Using Bibliometric Analysis 2000–2024

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
	This study maps the global landscape of Islamic Studies research from 2000 to 2024 using bibliometric analysis. With the rapid expansion of Islamic Studies across disciplines, including theology, law, economics, and cultural studies, this research highlights significant shifts in both the volume and scope of scholarship. Drawing from databases like Scopus, the study reveals the central role of Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia and Malaysia, in shaping the field, along with a growing academic presence in the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. The study also uncovers emerging trends in Islamic finance, sustainability, and the intersection of Islamic principles with modern technological advancements, such as fintech and artificial intelligence. This comprehensive bibliometric map facilitates a deeper understanding of the regional contributions, thematic evolution, and collaboration networks that are defining the future of Islamic Studies.
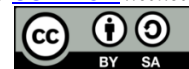
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1. INTRODUCTION

Islamic Studies as an academic field has witnessed profound growth and diversification over the past several decades. Traditionally rooted in theological inquiry, jurisprudence (fiqh), and classical exegesis (tafsir), the field has steadily expanded into interdisciplinary domains such as sociology, history, gender studies, politics, and cultural studies [1], [2]. This expansion reflects broader shifts within the humanities and social sciences, where scholars increasingly question disciplinary boundaries and seek integrative frameworks for understanding complex social phenomena. As a result, Islamic Studies today encompasses both traditional scholarship on foundational religious texts and dynamic engagements with contemporary global challenges, ranging from migration and identity to extremism and globalization [3].

The rapid proliferation of research output in Islamic Studies has been facilitated in large part by globalization and the digital revolution. With enhanced access to academic journals, digital archives, and international research networks, scholars from diverse geographical regions have been able to contribute to the field more effectively than ever before [4]. Universities in the Middle East, South Asia, Europe, and North America have established dedicated centers and graduate programs in Islamic Studies, further institutionalizing the field and promoting cross-cultural intellectual exchange. This global diffusion of research has not only increased the volume of scholarship but also broadened its thematic and methodological diversity, bringing into focus new voices and perspectives that were historically underrepresented [5], [6].

Despite this remarkable growth, systematic efforts to map and quantify the field's development remain limited. While individual reviews and meta-analyses exist within specific sub-domains—such as Islamic law, Qur'anic hermeneutics, or Muslim societies in global politics, there has been no comprehensive bibliometric assessment of Islamic Studies as a whole [7]. Bibliometric analysis, which leverages quantitative techniques to examine patterns of publication, citation, and collaboration, is well-suited for capturing the structural contours of academic fields over time [8], [9]. By analyzing large datasets of scholarly output, researchers can identify core themes, influential authors and institutions, as well as emerging trends that might otherwise remain obscured within fragmented literatures.

The period from 2000 to 2024 is particularly significant for assessing the evolution of Islamic Studies. The early 2000s saw heightened global interest in Islam and Muslim societies, driven in part by geopolitical events, the rise of digital humanities, and expanded funding for area studies research [10]. In the following decades, the field has grappled with pressing topics including post-9/11 discourse, Islamophobia, Muslim minorities in Western societies, and debates over secularism and modernity [11]. Concurrently, methodological pluralism has increased, with qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research coexisting alongside traditional textual and philological approaches. This dynamic landscape presents both opportunities and challenges for scholars seeking to situate their work within a broader intellectual and global context.

In this environment of rapid expansion and diversification, bibliometric mapping offers a powerful lens to make sense of complex scholarly activity. Bibliometric studies have been successfully applied in fields such as education, environmental science, and digital humanities to reveal publication trends, co-authorship networks, and thematic trajectories

[12], [13]. Similar approaches in related areas (like Middle Eastern Studies and Religious Studies) have helped scholars track shifts in research priorities, regional contributions, and collaborative dynamics [14]. However, a holistic bibliometric exploration that captures the full breadth of Islamic Studies research across multiple databases, languages, and sub-fields has yet to be undertaken, leaving significant gaps in our understanding of how the discipline has evolved over the past quarter-century.

Furthermore, the diversification of scholarly output has also introduced challenges in navigating the research landscape. Islamic Studies journals vary widely in scope, language, and indexing status. Some leading journals are indexed in established databases like Web of Science and Scopus, while others, especially those published regionally or in non-English languages, may be excluded from standard bibliometric repositories [15]. This uneven visibility raises important questions regarding the representation of scholarship from the Global South and Muslim-majority regions in global academic assessments. Without systematic mapping, the field risks reinforcing existing hierarchies and overlooking significant contributions that do not appear prominently in mainstream databases [16].

Despite the undeniable growth of Islamic Studies as an academic field, there is currently no comprehensive bibliometric analysis that maps its global landscape from 2000 to 2024. Existing reviews tend to focus on narrow thematic areas or specific journals, leaving the broader patterns of scholarly production, thematic evolution, institutional networks, and cross-regional collaborations inadequately understood. This absence of a systematic, data-driven overview limits the ability of researchers, educators, and policymakers to discern long-term trends, identify emerging research fronts, and evaluate the field's inclusivity across languages, regions, and institutional affiliations [17]. Furthermore, the reliance on selective datasets and conventional indicators has the potential to

perpetuate biases, particularly against scholarship produced outside dominant academic circuits, thereby constraining a truly global understanding of research dynamics within Islamic Studies. This study aims to map the global landscape of Islamic Studies research from 2000 to 2024 through comprehensive bibliometric analysis.

2. METHOD

This study employed a bibliometric research design to systematically analyze the global development of Islamic Studies scholarship published between 2000 and 2024. Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative approach that examines patterns in academic literature through indicators such as publication output, citation impact, authorship, and collaboration networks [18]. The time frame was selected to capture major shifts in Islamic Studies research following the turn of the millennium, including methodological diversification and heightened global academic engagement. The unit of analysis consisted of peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, and review papers related to Islamic Studies, broadly defined to include classical, contemporary, and interdisciplinary perspectives.

Data were retrieved from Scopus database. A structured search strategy was developed using keywords and subject terms related to Islamic Studies, such as "Islamic studies," "Islamic thought," "Qur'anic studies," "Hadith studies," "Islamic law," and related interdisciplinary themes. Boolean operators and truncation techniques were applied to refine the search and minimize irrelevant records. The initial dataset was screened to remove duplicates, non-scholarly materials, and records falling outside the defined time span. Metadata fields including authorship, publication year, journal title, institutional affiliation, country of origin, abstracts, keywords, and citation counts were extracted for analysis [19].

The cleaned dataset was analyzed using VOSviewer. Science mapping techniques such as co-authorship analysis, co-citation analysis, and keyword co-occurrence analysis were applied to visualize intellectual structures, collaboration networks, and thematic evolution within the field [20]. Network visualization and clustering algorithms were employed to identify core research themes and emerging topics over time. To enhance validity and reliability, analytical procedures followed widely accepted bibliometric protocols, and results were interpreted in relation to the broader scholarly and historical context of Islamic Studies research.
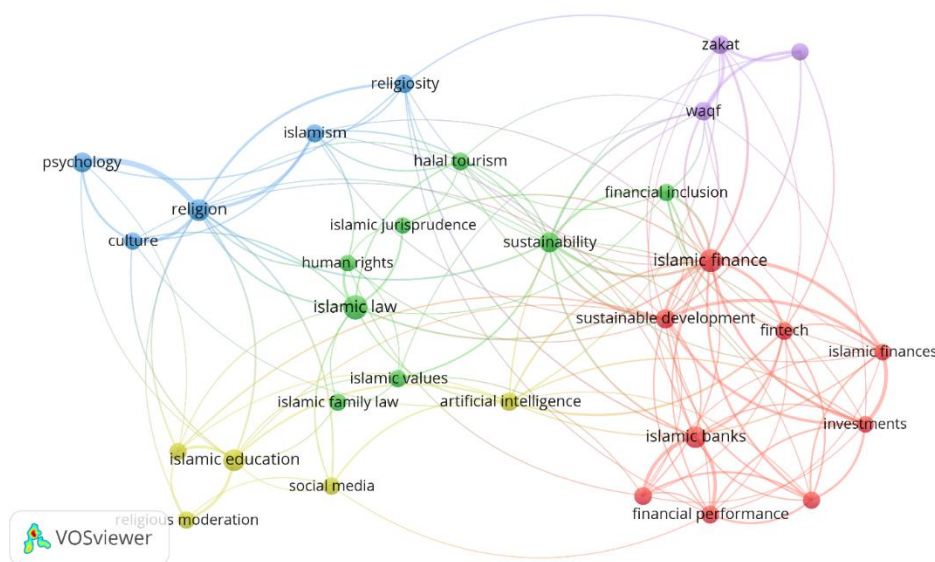
3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Figure 1. Network Visualization
Source; Data Analysis

Figure offers a comprehensive network map of topics within the field of Islamic Studies research, drawn from bibliometric data. It shows how different themes within Islamic Studies are interrelated, based on the co-occurrence of keywords in the academic literature from 2000 to 2024. The map is divided into several distinct clusters that highlight the major areas of research, with links indicating the strength of associations between various topics. This kind of map is useful for understanding the interconnections between different subfields and can be an essential tool for identifying emerging trends in Islamic Studies. In the top-left cluster, we see topics related to religion and culture, which have a direct connection to psychology and religiosity. These areas are associated with broader questions about how Islamic thought and practices intersect with human behavior, cultural expressions, and social systems. The islamism keyword is centrally located in this area, reflecting its relevance across various fields of Islamic Studies. The presence of terms like human rights, islamic law, and islamic jurisprudence signals an ongoing exploration of the ethical and legal dimensions within Islamic thought.

Moving towards the middle section of the map, we encounter the green cluster, which focuses heavily on sustainability, sustainable development, and islamic finance. This section emphasizes the growing importance of environmental concerns and social justice within Islamic scholarship. Islamic finance, specifically, is linked to numerous other areas, such as financial inclusion, islamic banks, and investments, demonstrating the prominence of Islamic economic models that emphasize ethical finance and community welfare. The connection between fintech and islamic finance suggests that modern technological advancements, such as blockchain and digital banking, are increasingly being incorporated into Islamic financial practices. Another significant cluster in the map is the purple section on the far right, where keywords like waqf (Islamic endowment), zakat (charity), and financial performance are prevalent. This reflects the importance of charitable giving and Islamic social finance in contemporary research. These keywords are connected to concepts of financial stability and investment in Islamic contexts, emphasizing the integration of finance with spiritual and societal obligations. The cluster also includes a growing body of research on artificial intelligence and social media, indicating the convergence of traditional Islamic values with modern technological developments.

The map also highlights Islamic education as a key theme in the yellow cluster. It is positioned at the intersection of islamic family law, social media, and moderation. This cluster reveals the increasing scholarly interest in Islamic educational reforms, the role of Islamic teachings in modern social media discourse, and the efforts to foster a balanced approach to Islamic practices in contemporary societies. This thematic area emphasizes how education and the transmission of Islamic knowledge continue to evolve in a globalized, technology-driven world.
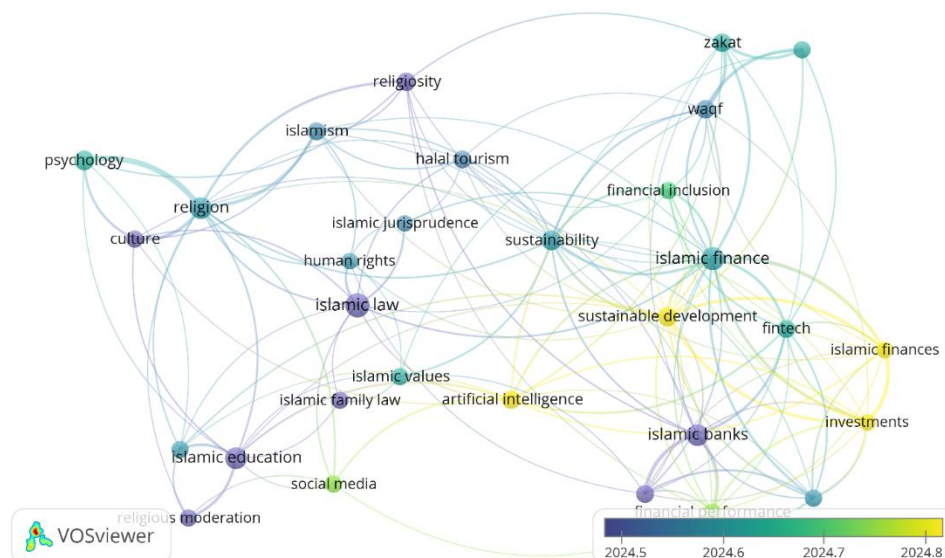
Figure 2. Overlay visualization
Source: Data Analysis

Figure 2 highlights the evolving landscape of Islamic Studies research, focusing on the temporal distribution of research topics from 2024. The colors on the map correspond to the year of publication, with darker shades indicating newer publications. The central cluster continues to center around Islamic finance, sustainability, and Islamic law, which have become increasingly significant as highlighted by their prominence in recent years. Keywords such as financial inclusion, fintech, and investments are also tightly connected to Islamic finance, reflecting the ongoing convergence of traditional Islamic financial principles with modern technological advancements, especially in the fintech space. The second most prominent area on the map revolves around Islamic values, Islamic law, and sustainability, signaling the growing interest in the intersection of religious principles with global sustainability and ethical business practices. The cluster around artificial intelligence and social media indicates a burgeoning area of interest where modern technologies are being integrated with Islamic teachings. Research in Islamic education and Islamic family law also continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the educational and social structures within Muslim communities, as seen in the direct links to culture and moderation.

Additionally, the map suggests an emerging focus on Islamic banking, zakat, and waqf, reflecting the enduring importance of Islamic social finance. These topics are increasingly being tied to broader issues such as financial performance and sustainable development, indicating that research in Islamic finance is no longer limited to financial instruments but is expanding into areas such as wealth redistribution and societal impact. The interconnections between these various research themes emphasize the multidisciplinary nature of Islamic Studies, where topics from law, economics, and technology are closely intertwined, guiding the field toward a more holistic and modern approach to addressing global challenges.
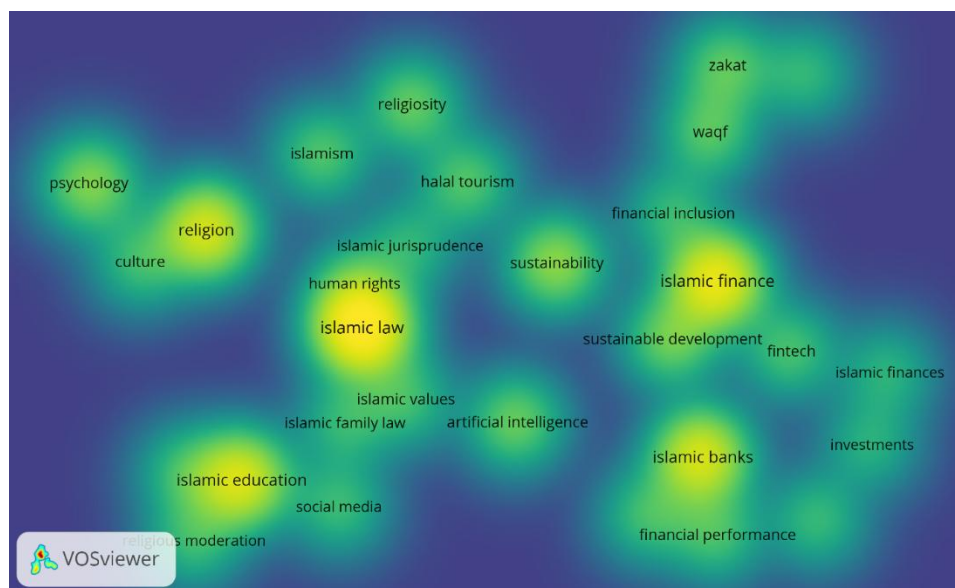
Figure 3. Density Visualization
Source: Data Analysis

Figure 3 shows the concentration of scholarly attention across various topics. The most prominent area on the map is Islamic law, which is at the heart of several closely related themes like Islamic jurisprudence and Islamic values. The high intensity surrounding Islamic finance, sustainable development, and fintech illustrates the growing importance of economic and technological innovations within the field of Islamic Studies. The connection between Islamic law and these contemporary topics highlights how modern challenges are being addressed through Islamic principles, particularly in finance and sustainability. The heatmap also reveals a significant focus on Islamic banks, zakat, and waqf, signaling the continued relevance of Islamic social finance in research. These areas are linked to themes such as financial performance and investments, indicating a broader examination of how Islamic financial models are evaluated and applied. Other key areas like Islamic education, human rights, and social media are scattered throughout the map, emphasizing their rising importance in discussions of cultural and societal impacts within Islamic studies. The distribution shows a clear pattern of interdisciplinary interest, where Islamic thought intersects with technology, economics, law, and social issues.

Figure 4. Author Visualization
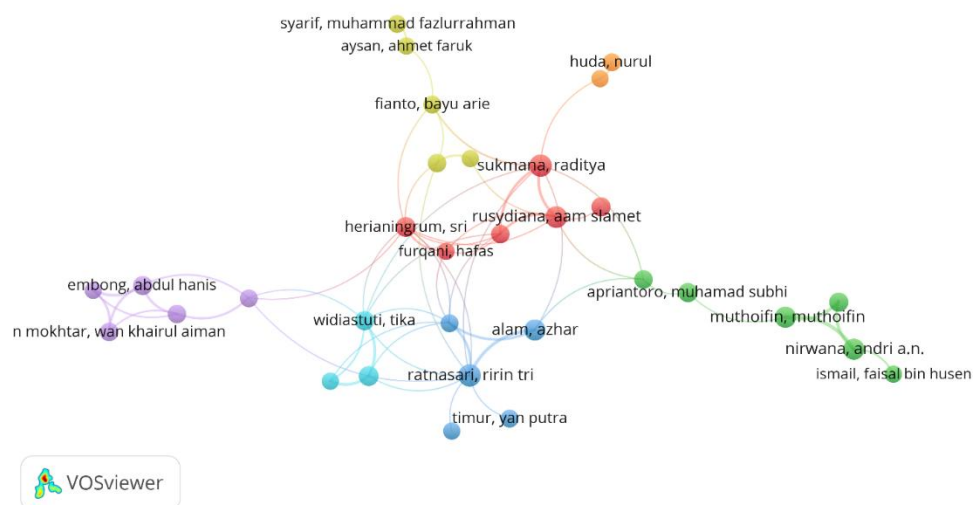Source: Data Analysis

Figure 4 represents the co-authorship relationships between several researchers in Islamic Studies. The nodes, which represent individual researchers, are grouped into different colors based on their collaborative networks. For example, Rusydiana Aam Slamet and Furqani Hafas are central to the red cluster, indicating they have multiple collaborations within this group. Similarly, Sukmana Raditya and Huda Nurul are connected in a separate cluster, demonstrating strong co-authorship ties within their network. The green cluster, including researchers like Muhamad Subhi Apriantoro and Muthoifin, also shows a distinct collaboration pattern. The map suggests diverse research teams across various topics, with specific authors playing pivotal roles in their respective clusters, facilitating academic dialogue and contributing to a broad spectrum of Islamic Studies research.

Figure 5. Institution Visualization
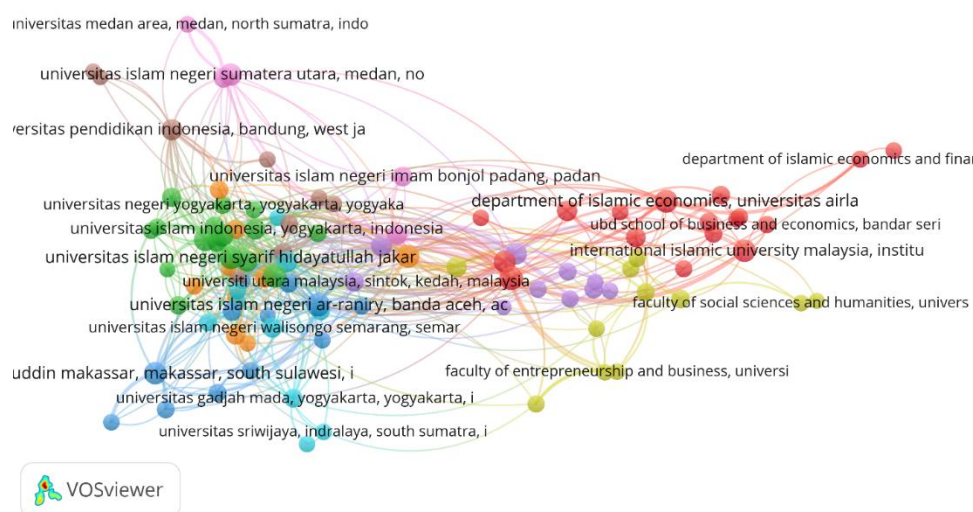Source: Data Analysis

Figure 5 illustrates the collaboration between various institutions in the field of Islamic Studies, particularly focusing on Islamic economics. The nodes, representing different universities and departments, are color-coded to show clusters of related institutions based on their collaborative ties. For instance, there are several institutions in Southeast Asia, such as Universitas Islam Negeri Imam Bonjol Padang and International Islamic University Malaysia, that are connected through shared academic projects and research. The map reveals that certain universities, like Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta and Universitas Gadjah Mada Yogyakarta, form central hubs in the network, collaborating closely with others across the region. This suggests a strong academic exchange in Islamic economics and finance, especially among institutions in Indonesia and Malaysia. The map highlights the interconnectedness of these universities, reflecting a regional effort to advance research and knowledge in Islamic economics.
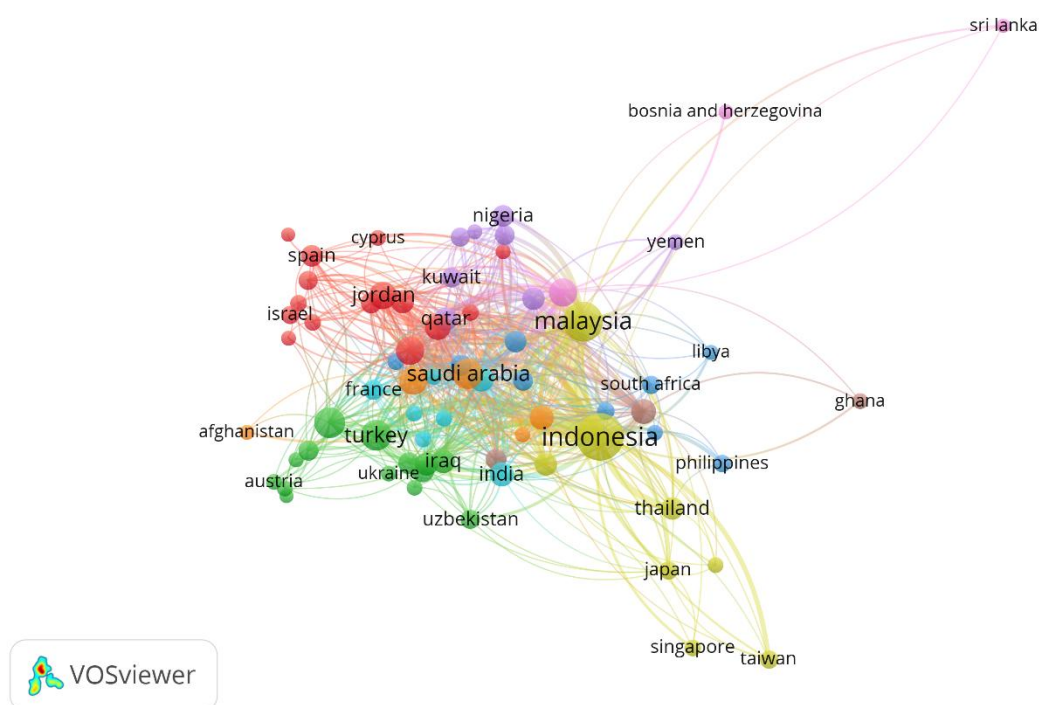

Figure 6. Country Visualization
Source: Data Analysis

Figure 6 illustrates the global distribution and collaborative connections between various countries in the field of Islamic Studies research. The map clearly highlights the central role of Indonesia and Malaysia in the network, with numerous connections to other countries in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, represented in different colors. For example, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Jordan are strongly interconnected, reflecting their significant academic contributions and collaborations within the Islamic Studies community. Turkey and Pakistan are also central to the network, connecting to several other countries in Asia and Europe. The map shows how countries like Nigeria, South Africa, and Philippines are emerging nodes in the global Islamic Studies research network, signaling a growing interest in these regions. The diverse connections across continents reflect the global reach of Islamic Studies and the ongoing exchange of

knowledge and research between institutions in various countries.

Citation Analysis

Citations	Authors and year	Title
2,203	[21]	*Understanding terror networks*
1,127	[22]	*A review on therapeutic potential of Nigella sativa: A miracle herb*
604	[23]	*Organizational culture and knowledge sharing: Critical success factors*
463	[24]	*Faith in moderation: Islamist parties in Jordan and Yemen*
453	[25]	*Shaping the Halal into a brand?*
368	[26]	*Media representation of Muslims and Islam from 2000 to 2015: A meta-analysis*
345	[27]	*Why do Malaysian customers patronise Islamic banks?*
338	[28]	*Intention to choose Halal products: The role of religiosity*
314	[29]	*The impact of religious fasting on human health*
310	[30]	*Islamic work ethic: A moderator between organizational commitment and job satisfaction in a cross-cultural context*

Source: Scopus, 2026

Discussion

The global mapping of Islamic Studies research reveals distinct regional patterns and collaborative networks that are reshaping the landscape of the field. The central role of Indonesia and Malaysia in the map indicates that Southeast Asia is a significant hub for Islamic Studies research, with strong academic collaborations linking these countries to others in the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. The close ties between Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Jordan further emphasize the ongoing scholarly exchange within the Middle East, particularly in areas like Islamic finance, law, and theology. This highlights the importance of these regions in shaping contemporary Islamic thought, especially through the lens of traditional Islamic jurisprudence, education, and modern Islamic economic models. The integration of Turkey and Pakistan within this network also suggests the growing influence of South Asia and Central Asia in Islamic Studies research, particularly regarding the intersection of Islamic law and governance.

In contrast, the connections with European countries, such as Spain, France, and Germany, reflect a significant level of collaboration in comparative and interdisciplinary studies within Islamic Studies. This might suggest that scholars from these regions are focusing on the cultural, social, and philosophical aspects of Islam, especially in the context of migration, multiculturalism, and the integration of Islamic communities in the West. The mapping also highlights the emerging interest in African countries such as Nigeria, South Africa, and Ghana, where Islamic Studies research is expanding in relation to regional issues such as Islamic education, Islamic law, and the role of Islam in addressing socio-economic challenges. These regions are becoming increasingly important in the global network, reflecting the need for a deeper understanding of how Islam is practiced and studied across different cultural and societal contexts.

The visualization also shows that East Asia, particularly Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore, plays a unique role in bridging Islamic Studies with the study of modern technologies, such as artificial intelligence and digital platforms, within an Islamic context. This suggests a growing trend in these countries to explore the intersection of Islamic knowledge

with technological innovations, likely due to the increasing global interest in fintech, Islamic economics, and digital entrepreneurship. These connections are pivotal as they signify how Islamic Studies is evolving, not just within traditional religious boundaries but also in the context of emerging global trends in business, technology, and governance. As the field continues to grow, these global networks of collaboration will play a crucial role in shaping the future directions of Islamic Studies, particularly in understanding how Islamic principles can interact with contemporary global issues such as sustainability, social justice, and technological advancements.

4. CONCLUSION

This study has provided a comprehensive bibliometric mapping of Islamic Studies research, highlighting the diverse global contributions and emerging trends across various regions. Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia and Malaysia, continues to be a central hub for research in Islamic law, economics, and education, while the Middle East remains a dominant region for Islamic jurisprudence and theology. Additionally, the increasing collaboration between South Asia, Africa, and Europe reflects the broadening scope of Islamic Studies, with a growing focus on socio-economic issues and intercultural dialogue. The involvement of East Asia, particularly Japan and Singapore, in exploring the integration of Islamic principles with modern technological and economic frameworks points to the evolving nature of the field in the 21st century. As these diverse regions continue to engage in cross-border collaborations, Islamic Studies is poised to address both traditional and contemporary challenges, reinforcing its relevance in a rapidly changing global landscape.

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