

Islamic Economics in Scholarly Publications (2000–2025): Influential Topics, Leading Sources, and Intellectual Linkages

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ABSTRACT

In order to understand the existing literature on Islamic economics, we conducted a bibliometric analysis of publications dedicated to the topic and published between 2000 and 2025 that were included in the Scopus database. With the help of VOSviewer, we performed an analysis of co-authorship, citation patterns, and keywords co-occurrences in order to reveal influential topics, important sources, and knowledge networks among researchers of Islamic economics. As a result of the analysis, we have determined that the research on Islamic economics has been based on a rather small set of central scholars, organizations, and even countries, which, however, have made a considerable contribution to building the knowledge base in the area. The results of our citation analysis suggest that the intellectual basis of the studied literature is based on a combination of ethical, normative, and socio-political discussions, which gradually shifted towards more applied and interdisciplinary studies, specifically in such spheres as Islamic finance and economic development. According to the results of keyword analysis, we can claim that the dominant theme of Islamic economics research papers is Islamic finance (Islamic banking), whereas the other emerging areas include sustainable development, information management, and financial innovation. The study contributes by providing a comprehensive mapping of Islamic economics research and offers insights into future directions, emphasizing the need for stronger global collaboration and broader thematic expansion to enhance the field's relevance in addressing modern economic challenges.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The field of Islamic economics has grown into an independent area of study that incorporates economic concepts along with ethical and normative considerations based on Islamic doctrines [1], [2]. While traditional economic theories focus on profit maximization and utility-based approaches,

Islamic economics stresses the need for justice and social welfare through institutions like zakat, waqf, and riba-free financing. In recent times, there has been a great deal of interest in Islamic economics due to its relevance in the contemporary context. The number of articles published on the topic has steadily increased since the beginning of the new millennium,

with the rise in globalization and economic crisis bringing about renewed interest in Islamic economics [3].

The years 2000 to 2025 are an important stage in the development of literature on Islamic economics. Data provided by bibliometric analysis suggest a clear growth trend in the number of scholarly publications concerning all kinds of issues related to Islamic economic concepts and practices, such as Islamic banking, finance, social finance, and sustainability. Besides growing in numbers, research on Islamic economics has become more diverse in content and has embraced topics from such fields as environmental sustainability, digital finance, and governance. This can be seen in studies identifying the intellectual structure of Islamic economics, which show that Islamic economics has grown from the domain of juridical debates to become a science-based field [4].

Some of the key factors that have led to the rise in the number of studies focusing on Islamic economics include the applicability of the theories discussed in Islamic economics when dealing with economic problems, including stability and inequality worldwide [4], [5]. The global financial crisis of 2007-2009 and other related economic problems have raised the need to explore alternatives, especially regarding the sustainability of interest-based financing systems. As a result, Islamic finance, with its reliance on asset-backed finance and risk-sharing mechanisms, has gained more popularity among academics. In addition, issues related to the environment, poverty, and financial exclusion have made Islamic economics even more relevant.

Apart from thematic evolution, the research environment within the field of Islamic economics has also witnessed the formation of significant journals, authors, and research communities. Scholarly output is now heavily dependent on specialized journals and databases, which act as vital conduits for knowledge dissemination and setting research priorities. Bibliometric studies have shown that there are some

prominent sources and authors who significantly contribute to the development of the field, along with collaborative practices among researchers from various parts of the world. This indicates both the global nature of research within Islamic economics and the significance of research networks in knowledge generation and distribution.

Moreover, the emergence of Islamic economics literature has been considerably impacted by the development of technology and methodology. Through the application of bibliometric techniques like VOS viewer, it is now possible for researchers to effectively map research trends, discover key topics and examine citation patterns. This change in the methodology has allowed researchers to better comprehend the intellectual structure of the field. In particular, some recent research has pointed out how issues of digitalization, fintech and sustainability are gaining importance in Islamic economic scholarship.

Although there have been many academic works in the field of Islamic economics between 2000 and 2025, no holistic approach has been taken so far by researchers to analyze the development of this discipline, its prominent research issues, major sources of references, and intellectual relations. For instance, the studies conducted by scholars in Islamic banking or sustainability are limited in scope, failing to offer a complete picture of the research domain. Therefore, the importance of conducting a bibliometric analysis can be emphasized at this point, which will enable researchers to explore the historical development of Islamic economics literature and highlight the prevalent research themes within the field.

The objective of this study is to conduct an analysis on the development of Islamic economics in scientific literature published between 2000 and 2025. This will be done by analyzing the important issues covered by the research, the most popular academic sources of information on Islamic economics, and the intellectual connections between researchers. The specific objectives include analyzing (1) the evolution of scientific papers published on Islamic

economics, (2) the major issues covered by these papers, (3) the most important journals and researchers contributing to the literature on Islamic economics, and (4) the intellectual network of researchers.

2. METHODS

In the current study, a bibliometric approach is employed to provide an insight into the evolution of Islamic economics in academic works between 2000 and 2025. Bibliometrics is an extensively applied methodology for assessing research trends, evaluating scientific productivity, and examining the intellectual structure of the investigated subject through statistical methods based on publication information. Secondary sources will be used as data sources, collected from Scopus, which are acknowledged for providing a complete list of articles in the peer-reviewed literature. Appropriate keywords such as "Islamic economics," "Islamic finance," and "Sharia economics" have been used to select relevant documents. The timeframe and language restrictions have been considered for this research.

After extracting the information, the collected documents were screened and cleaned. This entailed removing duplicates as well as those that did not concern Islamic economics according to their titles and abstracts. Afterward, the dataset was exported into compatible formats that would facilitate the conducting of bibliometrics.

The analysis will be carried out using the methods of bibliometric mapping and

network analysis. For example, VOSviewer is useful instruments for creating visualizations of author networks, keyword networks, journal networks, institutional networks based on co-authorship analysis, co-citation analysis, and keyword co-occurrence analysis. The co-authorship analysis allows studying researcher collaborations. The co-citation analysis provides information about landmark publications in the subject area. Moreover, the keyword co-occurrence analysis is necessary for identifying key and new emerging areas.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Co-Authorship Analysis

The co-authorship method is used to analyze the cooperative behavior among researchers working on Islamic economics. The reason why the co-authorship method is important for Islamic economics is that this method sheds light on the network of academics, particularly the important authors, their connections at various institutions, and intercountry collaboration.

4. Author-level Visualization

The visual representation of the authorship network reveals the organizational pattern of the researchers involved in the study of Islamic economics from the year 2000 to 2025. With this graphical illustration, it becomes possible to have an understanding of how the researchers collaborate in their academic work.

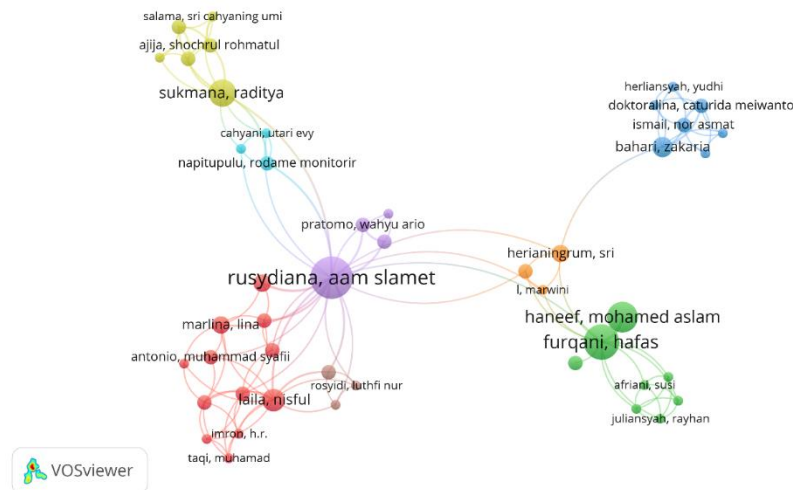


Figure 1. Author-level Visualization

Source: Data Analysis

The graph shows a fragmented but interconnected network of collaboration, featuring several identifiable clusters that consist of groups of researchers working closely together. It is noticeable that there is a large central node located around Rusydiana, Aam Slamet, who serves as a crucial point that connects many clusters. In other words, the researcher plays an important role in creating links between various scientific groups and thus promoting cooperation and knowledge exchange between them. The existence of several links emanating from the central node suggests high intensity of cooperation, which is influential for the formation of the research discourse. Also, the network map reveals the presence of some peripheral clusters that have weak connectivity with the central network, for example, those of Haneef, Mohamed

Aslam and Furqani, Hafas, and other small isolated clusters on the right-hand side of the figure. Such peripheral clusters suggest that there might be some specialized or regional collaborations within the research community.

5. Institution-level Visualization

Co-authorship network graph of institutional affiliations gives the relationship pattern that exists between universities and academic departments involved in Islamic economics scholarship. Through co-authorship network of institutional affiliations, where the affiliation is determined by common publications, we can gain insights into how scholarly knowledge is created within different institutions.



Figure 2. Institution-level Visualization

Source: Data Analysis

This image suggests that the University of Darussalam Gontor has a pivotal role in the collaboration network. This institution serves as an important hub for several other institutions involved in the research process, such as the Faculty of Islamic Studies and the Faculty of Economics. From the presence of multiple linkages coming out of this institution, it can be concluded that this institution has high potential for collaboration. The importance of the position of this institution within the collaboration network can be understood from the fact that not only is it a major contributor to the body of research, but it also facilitates exchange of information between different groups. In contrast, there are some smaller peripheral clusters as well within the network, which include clusters from Sharia Economics Applied Research groups. These clusters usually have less connectivity and seem more specialized/localized in terms of

collaboration. Though these clusters add variety to the subjects being researched, their less connectivity means that collaboration across institutions in Islamic economics is still somewhat fragmented. It becomes important for further development to foster collaboration among institutions in Islamic economics by facilitating more cooperation between central and peripheral research clusters.

6. Country-level Visualization

Visualization of the network of co-authorship at the country level highlights the collaborative tendencies in the research of Islamic economics worldwide. This figure presents an idea of the geographical location of the research process, the level of international collaboration, and the influence of certain countries on the formation of the global scientific network.

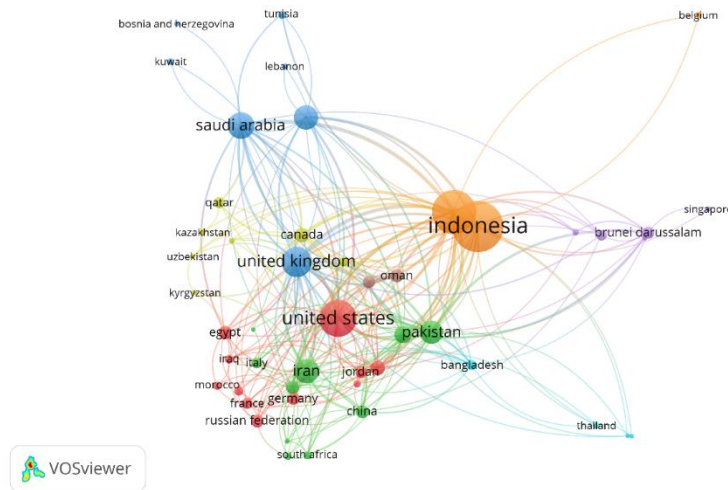


Figure 3. Country-level Visualization

Source: Data Analysis

As shown in the diagram below, Indonesia is a very central and dominant country within the global collaborative network. This can be explained by its big nodal size, as well as links with many other countries that show that Indonesia has great research capacity and interacts a lot with other countries in its activities. From the above, one realizes that Indonesia is a major node linking various regions such as Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Western countries. Just like Indonesia, the UK, Saudi Arabia, and the US are also characterized by great centrality and are major nodes for knowledge diffusion across the globe. Conversely, the network also identifies a number of regional clusters that can be attributed to geographic and cultural

proximity. For instance, there is a tendency for Middle Eastern nations such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait to form a cluster, and there is a separate cluster comprising South and Southeast Asian nations like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Brunei Darussalam. The European nations of France, Germany, and Italy, among others, form yet another cluster with ties to Western and Islamic countries, which implies academic cooperation across regions. While some nations do participate in global collaboration, others are less involved.

3.2 Citation Analysis

Citation analysis is conducted to identify the most influential publications and authors in the Islamic economics literature.

Table 1. The Most Impactful Literatures

Citations	Authors and year	Title
330	[6]	Islam and the moral economy: The challenge of capitalism
320	[7]	Radical Reform: Islamic Ethics and Liberation
197	[8]	Islamic finance: Law, economics, and practice
172	[9]	Islam and mammon: The economic predicaments of islamism
151	[10]	Globalisation and political Islam: The social bases of Turkey's welfare party
150	[11]	Multi-Ethnic France: Immigration, politics, culture and society, Second edition
146	[12]	New transnational geographies of Islamism, capitalism and subjectivity: The veiling-fashion industry in Turkey
142	[13]	Religion, politics and gender equality in Turkey: Implications of a democratic paradox?
139	[14]	Exploring the role of islamic fintech in combating the aftershocks of covid-19: The open social innovation of the islamic financial system

The reason behind this is the importance of the above-mentioned keywords for the entire network, which means that there exists a significant link between both these words and the other sub-topics of the subject under study. Keywords such as Islam, Islamic banking, banking, and inflation indicate that the topic of money and finances has been discussed extensively in the context of Islamic economics. Yet another key group, depicted in the color green, consists of terms related to development topics, including developing countries, demographics, population increase, and macroeconomic aspects. Thus, it can be said that a considerable share of articles deals with the problem of applying Islamic economics to solve issues connected with development, especially those involving emerging and Muslim states. Additional terms such as economic aspects and political factors also prove this point.

In addition, the network shows clusters related to socio-cultural and human rights aspects as well. They include such terms as "human rights," "women's rights," and "women's status." It implies that Islamic economics is not limited to finance and development but includes questions of social justice and equity as well. Such an approach to Islamic economics reveals discussions of scholars concerning the possibility of using Islamic economics concepts in the context of modern human rights theory. Moreover, another group of less numerous yet important studies revolves around governance, ethics, and institutions, using words like ethics, Sharia law, zakat, and sustainable

development. This reveals a rising academic trend toward studying regulatory issues through the lens of Islamic economic theories, which have been examined to serve as ethical frameworks and contribute to sustainable development. The link between sustainable development and Islamic financial terminology shows a rising convergence of Islamic economics with the sustainable development agenda.

The network indicates a very high level of interrelatedness between the clusters, implying that research into Islamic economics is not limited to separate subjects but rather forms an integrated and constantly evolving body of knowledge. The use of keywords such as Islam, religion, and economics as connecting concepts illustrates their role as bridges between various subjects ranging from financial studies to development studies, social sciences, and ethics. Interrelatedness also shows that the field is dynamic in nature, constantly diversifying and changing its direction toward more interdisciplinary subjects.

2. Overlay Visualization

Overlay visualization of keywords co-occurrence offers an insight into the development of Islamic economics studies in terms of time, from 2000 to 2025. The usage of color scale, which is determined by the average year of publication of the keywords, helps to identify the temporal trends in the development of themes within the field of Islamic economics.

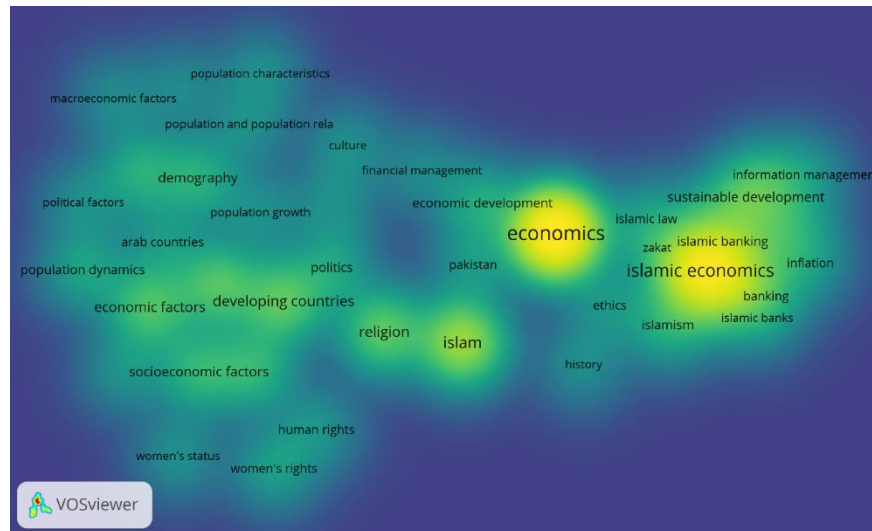


Figure 6. Density Visualization

Source: Data Analysis

From the image, it is clear that the areas having a higher density, shown by bright yellow patches, revolve around the words such as "economics" and "Islamic economics," proving their significance as core focal points in the area. These core concepts are followed by terms such as "Islamic banking," "banking," "inflation," and "sustainable development." These terms imply that the research in this area has mainly been concentrated on financial systems and macroeconomic concepts. Their high density is due to the frequent occurrence and interconnection, thus making Islamic finance and its applications the focus of research. However, for the low density areas depicted through the green-blue continuum, areas like demographics, population dynamics, socio-economic aspects, human rights, and women's rights are covered. It should be noted that these low density areas do form part of the wider research network but attract relatively less attention from scholars compared to the other parts. This indicates that Islamic Economics touches on a number of multidisciplinary subjects but research is quite unevenly spread.

Discussion

From the results presented in this paper, it becomes clear that Islamic economics has become an intricate and interwoven discipline that is concentrated and

fragmented at the same time. It has been shown that only a few individuals and organizations are playing the role of central nodes in the network through which the authors are collaborating and exchanging ideas. At the same time, there are several clusters that show that scholarly collaboration is still not evenly distributed; rather, it is influenced by such factors as regional differences, institutional affiliations, and themes. From an analytical point of view, it can be said that the intellectual roots of the subject matter of Islamic Economics are grounded very deeply within normative, ethical, and socio-political theory. Important texts have drawn attention to the contradictions that arise when comparing the values of Islam and capitalism. With the passage of time, it seems that scholars in Islamic economics have developed greater interest in practical applications and interdisciplinary analysis in fields such as Islamic finance, halal markets, and fintech development.

This is further emphasized through the use of the keyword co-occurrence analysis, which emphasizes how finance-based terms such as Islamic banking, inflation, and financial systems have become significant factors in the literature. However, the inclusion of topics such as sustainable development, information management, and ethics indicates a gradual convergence of

Islamic economics to global development trends. The implication here is that the field of Islamic economics has begun moving away from its conventional roots and adopting a modern framework that can be utilized to address current challenges.

The overlay analysis is another way to gain further knowledge about the development of the research agenda. The earlier papers focused mostly on macroeconomic concerns, demographic influences, and developmental issues within Muslim countries. Modern research, on the other hand, seems to concentrate more on innovations, such as Islamic fintech, sustainability, and governance. It indicates that the field of Islamic economics has a dynamic research agenda, evolving in response to changing international realities while preserving its ethical roots. Still, the unequal focus of research, as seen in the density analysis, reveals some gaps in research, specifically in social and human rights issues.

The paper emphasizes that Islamic economics is inherently characterized by being both value-laden and applied sciences. Although remarkable achievements have been made in devising economic and financial models according to the values of Islam, there are still opportunities available for the expansion of its scope. Future research efforts

must endeavor to foster multidisciplinary, international cooperation, and ventures into relatively neglected areas such as social justice and gender issues. In this way, Islamic economics will be able to consolidate its position as an all-encompassing economic paradigm of global significance.

4. CONCLUSION

The present study indicates that the area of Islamic economics has evolved significantly over the years and become an ever-changing area that has solid foundations in normative and ethical discussions along with a trend towards practical and multi-disciplinary themes. According to the results obtained from bibliometric analysis, although there are important individuals, organizations, and countries that contribute immensely towards the field of Islamic economics, cooperation is not yet fully established, thus opening up space for globalization in the domain. As far as the topics are concerned, there has been a considerable focus on financial matters related to the area of Islamic economics; however, new areas have started to gain relevance recently. Overall, Islamic economics has enormous potential to serve as a holistic approach towards tackling modern-day challenges.

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