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ORIENTALISM AND ISLAM: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract:

This study explores the intellectual landscape of research on "Orientalism and Islam" through a bibliometric analysis, aiming to uncover patterns, trends, and emerging themes that have shaped scholarly engagement with this topic. Despite the longstanding significance of Orientalist discourse in shaping global perceptions of Islam, a comprehensive mapping of its academic treatment has remained limited. To address this gap, data were collected from the Scopus database using advanced searching techniques, yielding a total of 2,183 documents. The dataset was refined and harmonized using OpenRefine to ensure consistency and accuracy in author names, keywords, and institutional affiliations. Statistical distributions and graph-based analyses were then generated using the Scopus Analyzer, while VOSviewer software was employed to visualize co-authorship networks, keyword co-occurrence, and country-level collaboration patterns. The findings reveal the United States and the United Kingdom as the leading contributors, followed by growing participation from Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, and Iran, indicating a diversification of research voices beyond traditional Western centers. Keyword co-occurrence analysis identified six major clusters, highlighting dominant themes such as Orientalist discourse, Islamic identity, postcolonialism, political Islam, Islamophobia, and intercultural dialogue. These clusters suggest a dynamic interplay between historical critiques of Orientalism and contemporary issues related to Islam and Muslim societies. Furthermore, citation analysis demonstrated the prominence of interdisciplinary contributions spanning religious studies, sociology, political science, and cultural studies, underscoring the cross-cutting nature of the discourse. In conclusion, this bibliometric mapping provides a holistic overview of the field, contributes to a deeper understanding of global research dynamics on Orientalism and Islam, and offers valuable insights for future scholarship seeking to bridge critical theory with contemporary socio-political realities.

Introduction

Orientalism, as conceptualized by Edward Said, refers to the Western portrayal of Eastern societies, particularly Islamic cultures, in a manner that emphasizes their exoticism, backwardness, and inferiority compared to the West. This portrayal has historically been used to justify colonial and imperial ambitions. Said's work has significantly influenced the study of Orientalism, highlighting how these representations perpetuate stereotypes and contribute to a skewed understanding of Islam and Muslim societies (Abubakar et al., 2019; Nebot & Boubrit, 2024; Samiei, 2010) . Despite the critical reception of Said's ideas, Orientalist depictions persist in various forms, including literature, media, and academic discourse, often reinforcing negative stereotypes about Muslims and Islam (Abubakar et al., 2019; Amin-Khan, 2012; Husseini de Araújo, 2022).

The persistence of Orientalist narratives in Western media and literature has significant implications for contemporary perceptions of Muslims. For instance, the portrayal of Muslims as terrorists, misogynists, or uncivilized in Western writings continues to shape public opinion and policy, contributing to Islamophobia and the marginalization of Muslim communities (Abubakar et al., 2019; Amin-Khan, 2012). The media's role in perpetuating these stereotypes is particularly notable, as it often frames Muslims and Islam through a lens of suspicion and hostility, especially in the context of global events such as the 'War on Terror' (Al-Zo'by, 2015; Amin-Khan, 2012; Husseini de Araújo, 2022). This has led to a securitization of Muslim identities, where Muslims are viewed primarily through the prism of security threats, further entrenching negative stereotypes (Amin-Khan, 2012).

However, there are also instances where Orientalist narratives are challenged and reinterpreted. Some scholars and writers have sought to present more nuanced and positive representations of Islamic cultures. For example, Jürgen Wasim Frembgen's travelogue, "Nocturnal Music in the Land of the Sufis," offers a rich and respectful portrayal of Pakistani culture, countering the typical Orientalist clichés (Pourya Asl et al., 2024) . Similarly, the examination of autobiographical accounts by Ottoman and Western women reveals alternative dialogues that challenge Western stereotypes about Middle Eastern cultures (Lewis, 2004). These efforts highlight the potential for more balanced and respectful representations of Islam and Muslim societies, which can contribute to greater understanding and intercultural dialogue (Pourya Asl et al., 2024; Shah, 2005; Lewis, 2004) .

In recent years, the concept of Orientalism has evolved to address new forms of representation and ideological agendas. The emergence of neo-Orientalism reflects contemporary geopolitical realities and the influence of neoliberal ideologies. For instance, in the context of the globalized halal market, Muslims are sometimes portrayed as economically valuable rather than culturally threatening, indicating a shift in how Orientalist narratives are constructed and disseminated (Husseini de Araújo, 2022; Kerboua, 2016). This evolution underscores the need for ongoing critical examination of how Islam and Muslim societies are represented in various discourses, and the importance of promoting diversity and intercultural understanding to counteract the negative impacts of Orientalism (Al-Zo'by, 2015; Kerboua,

2016; Samiei, 2010).

Research Question

1. What is the trend of research in Orientalism and Islam by year?
2. What are the popular subject areas related to the study and how much percentages for each subject?
3. What are the most cited articles in the field?
4. What are the top 10 country based on the number of publications?
5. What are the popular keywords related to the study?
6. What is the co-authorship by countries collaboration?

Methodology

Bibliometrics involves collecting and analyzing bibliographic data from scientific publications. Beyond basic statistics, such as identifying journals, years, and key authors, it also applies advanced methods like co-citation analysis. A systematic review requires iterative keyword selection, literature searching, and in-depth analysis to build a reliable bibliography (Donthu et al., 2021). This study emphasized high-impact publications to capture key theoretical insights, using SCOPUS as the primary data source. Publications indexed in Elsevier's Scopus from 1921 to August 2025 formed the dataset for analysis.

Following the data extraction, OpenRefine was utilized to clean and standardize the bibliometric dataset. This open-source application is widely used in research for handling messy data, as it provides efficient functions to identify and remove duplicate records, correct typographical inconsistencies, and normalize variations in author names, journal titles, and keywords. Its faceting and clustering features were particularly valuable for detecting hidden discrepancies in metadata, thereby ensuring the accuracy and consistency of the dataset prior to analysis. By integrating OpenRefine into the workflow, the study enhanced the reliability of the bibliometric results and maintained transparency in data preprocessing.

Data Search Strategy

The bibliometric search was conducted using the Scopus database with the search string: *TITLE-ABS-KEY (Orient* AND Islam) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE, "final"))*, accessed in August 2025. This formulation was designed to capture publications that directly address the intersection between Orientalist studies and Islam by targeting the terms in titles, abstracts, and keywords, ensuring relevance to the research focus. The truncation symbol (*) following *Orient* allowed the inclusion of multiple variations of the term such as *Orientalism, Orientalist,* and *Orient*, thereby broadening the scope of coverage while maintaining thematic accuracy. Limiting the dataset to English-language publications ensured consistency, accessibility, and comparability, given English's role as the dominant medium in academic communication. Additionally, filtering results to the "final" publication stage excluded early access or in-press works, thereby enhancing the reliability of the dataset (Refer Table 1).

The search process resulted in a total of 2,183 documents, which forms a robust dataset for bibliometric analysis. This volume of literature reflects the considerable global academic interest in examining Islam through the lens of Orientalism, whether from historical, cultural, religious, or political perspectives. The dataset provides a strong foundation for mapping patterns such as publication trends over time, the distribution of research across disciplines,

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prolific authors and institutions, as well as collaboration and citation networks. By focusing on finalized works, the dataset ensures stability and scholarly validity, offering meaningful insights into how Orientalist discourse on Islam has been conceptualized, critiqued, and reinterpreted in contemporary academic scholarship.

TABLE 1: The Search String

Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY (Orient* AND Islam) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE , "final"))

Table 2: The Selection Criterion in Searching

Criterion	Inclusion	Exclusion
Language	English	Non-English
Publication Stage	Final	In Press

Data Analysis

VOSviewer is a widely used bibliometric analysis software developed by Nees Jan van Eck and Ludo Waltman at Leiden University, Netherlands (van Eck & Waltman, 2010, 2017). Designed for visualizing and analyzing scientific literature, it specializes in producing network visualizations, clustering related items, and generating density maps. The software enables researchers to investigate co-authorship, co-citation, and keyword co-occurrence networks, thereby providing comprehensive insights into the structure of research fields. With its interactive interface and regular updates, VOSviewer supports both efficiency and flexibility in exploring large-scale datasets. Its ability to calculate metrics, offer customizable visualizations, and integrate with multiple bibliometric data sources makes it a highly valuable tool for scholars seeking to navigate and interpret complex research domains.

A key strength of VOSviewer lies in its ability to convert complex bibliometric data into clear, visually interpretable maps and diagrams. Emphasizing network visualization, the software is particularly effective in clustering related elements, examining keyword co-occurrence patterns, and producing density visualizations. The intuitive interface caters to both new and experienced users, ensuring accessible exploration of scholarly landscapes. Ongoing development further secures its position as a leading bibliometric tool, offering advanced metrics and adaptable visualization features. Its compatibility with diverse bibliometric data, such as co-authorship and citation analyses, underscores its role as an indispensable resource for deeper scholarly insights.

For this analysis, bibliographic records were extracted from the Scopus database in PlainText format, spanning the years 1921 to August 2025. The dataset contained essential information such as publication year, article title, author details, journal source, citation frequency, and keywords. The collected data were processed using VOSviewer software version 1.6.20, which applies clustering and mapping techniques to produce network-based visualizations. Unlike the traditional Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) approach, which relies on similarity indices such
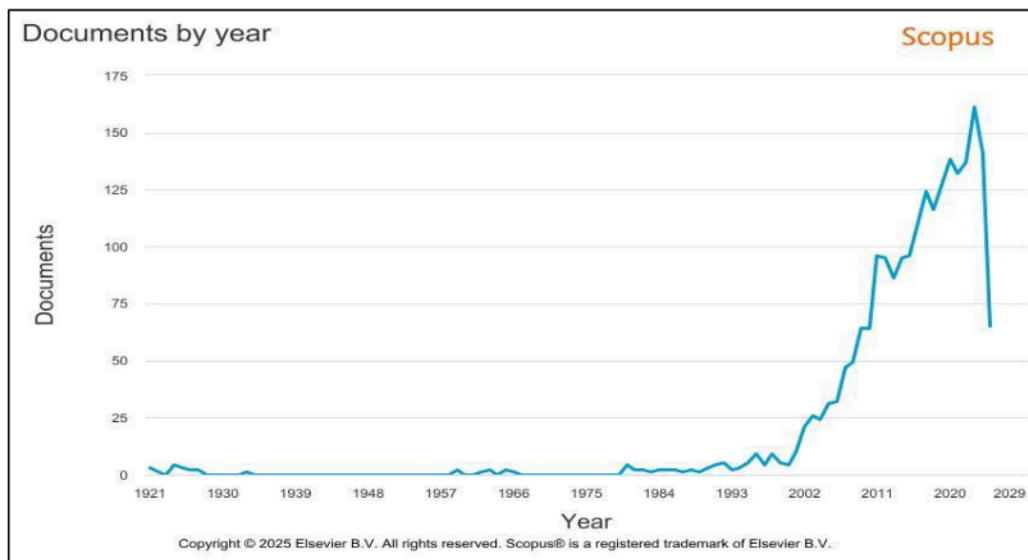
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as cosine or Jaccard measures (Appio et al., 2014), VOSviewer emphasizes the placement of items in a low-dimensional space where distances between nodes mirror their degree of association (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). To normalize co-occurrence values, the software adopts the association strength method, defined as:

$$AS_{ij} = \frac{C_{ij}}{w_i w_j}$$

where C_{ij} represents the observed co-occurrence of items i and j, and w_i and w_j denote their total frequencies in the dataset (van Eck & Waltman, 2007).

Result and Discussion

What Is the Trend of Publication in Orientalism and Islam by Year?

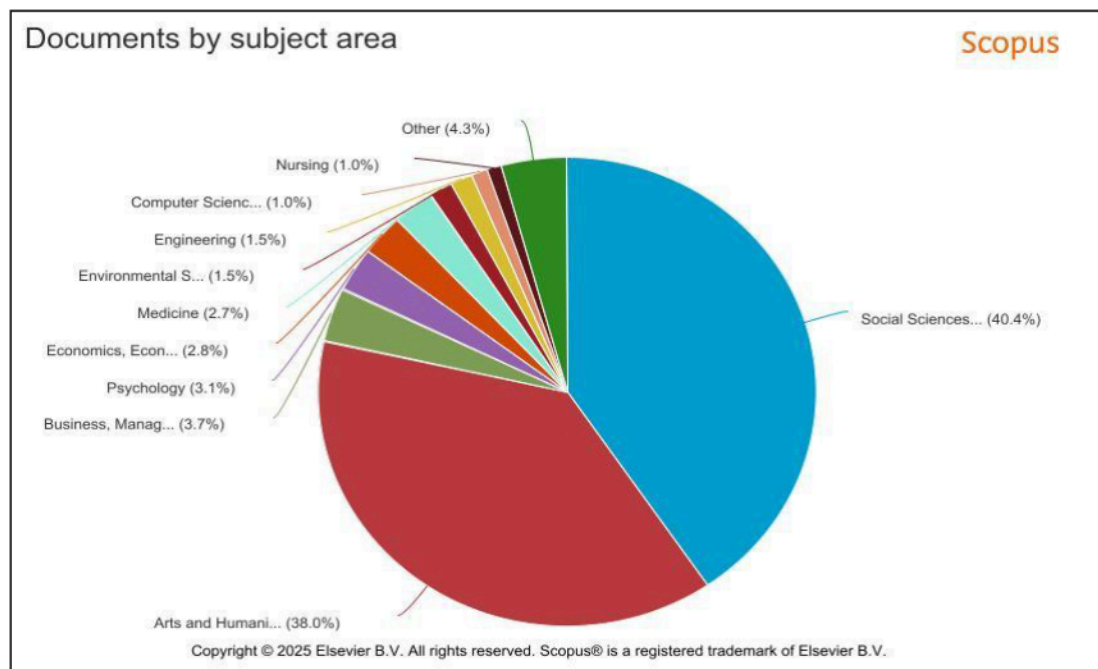**Figure 1: Trend Of Research in Orientalism and Islam by Years**

The publication trend on *Orientalism and Islam* from 1921 to August 2025 shows a gradual rise over the decades, with an initial period of very limited output between 1921 and the late 20th century, followed by a sharp increase in the 2000s and a peak during the years 2023 (161 publications) and 2024 (141 publications). The early decades, particularly before the 1980s, display very minimal scholarly activity, often recording only one to three publications per year. This scarcity can be attributed to the limited academic engagement with Orientalism as a critical framework during that period, as well as the dominance of Western-centric scholarship that often sidelined Islamic studies. From the mid-1990s onwards, however, a steady rise is observed, reflecting the growing academic attention on postcolonial studies, Edward Said's seminal work on Orientalism (1978), and the increased critical interest in the representation of Islam in global scholarship.

The significant surge in publications from 2000 onwards, and especially the spike between 2010 and 2024, can be explained by multiple interrelated factors. First, the post-9/11 context fuelled global debates on Islam, Orientalism, and the portrayal of Muslims in political, cultural, and media discourses, leading to heightened academic scrutiny. Second, the rise of digital databases and open-access publishing broadened both the accessibility and dissemination of

research, enabling more scholars worldwide to contribute to the discourse. Third, the interdisciplinary nature of the topic which spans across religion, history, politics, literature, and cultural studies attracted contributions from diverse academic fields.

The slight decline as portrayed in 2025 (65 publications, up to August only) does not indicate reduced interest but rather reflects the partial data collection within that year. Overall, the upward trajectory highlights how global socio-political events, academic movements such as postcolonial theory, and the expansion of international research platforms have collectively driven scholarly engagement with Orientalism and Islam.

What Are the Popular Subject Areas Related to The Study and How Much Percentages for Each Subjects?

Figure 2: Popular Subject Areas and Percentages for Each Subject

While Figure 2 above offers a visual representation of the subject area distribution through a pie chart; the same data is presented in Table 3 below for greater clarity and clearer interpretation through a more detailed numerical breakdown:

Table 3: Popular Subject Areas and Percentages for Each Subject

Subject Area	Number of Publication	Percentage
Social Sciences	1389	40.4
Arts and Humanities	1306	38
Business, Management and Accounting	128	3.7
Psychology	105	3.1
Economics, Econometrics and Finance	97	2.8

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Medicine	94	2.7
Environmental Science	51	1.5
Engineering	50	1.5
Computer Science	35	1
Nursing	33	1
Others	146	4.3

The analysis of the subject area distribution for publications on *Orientalism and Islam* reveals clear disciplinary patterns that reflect both the nature of the topic and the interdisciplinary engagement it attracts. The largest proportion of research is concentrated in the Social Sciences (40.4%), followed closely by Arts and Humanities (38.0%). This dominance is expected, as studies on Orientalism are primarily anchored in critical theory, sociology, history, cultural studies, and religious studies, all of which sit within these two subject categories. The heavy presence of these disciplines indicates that scholarship in this area is largely driven by debates on identity, representation, politics, and cultural interpretation. These two subject areas together account for nearly four-fifths of the total research output, underlining their centrality to the discourse.

Beyond these dominant fields, smaller but notable contributions emerge from applied and professional disciplines. Business, Management and Accounting (3.7%), Psychology (3.1%), Economics, Econometrics and Finance (2.8%), and Medicine (2.7%) demonstrate how the study of Orientalism and Islam extends into contemporary issues such as organizational culture, mental health and identity formation, development economics, and even healthcare perceptions among Muslim societies. Meanwhile, Environmental Science (1.5%), Engineering (1.5%), Computer Science (1.0%), and Nursing (1.0%) represent emerging intersections where Orientalism and Islam may be contextualized within technology, sustainability, or professional practice. The "Other" category (4.3%) further emphasizes the wide reach of the topic across diverse knowledge domains.

Overall, the findings highlight a strong concentration of research in social and humanistic fields, reflecting the critical, theoretical, and interpretive nature of the subject. However, the presence of interdisciplinary contributions signals the expanding relevance of Orientalism and Islam beyond classical debates into applied domains. This distribution not only reflects the maturity of the field in its core disciplines but also its diversification as it intersects with global challenges and new scholarly conversations.

What Are the Most Cited Articles In the Field?

Table 4: Most Cited Article

Authors	Title	Year	Source title	Cited by
Z., Lockman, Zachary (Lockman, 2004)	Contending visions of the middle east: The history and politics of orientalism	2004	Cambridge University Press	339
P., Mepschen, Paul; J.W., Duyvendak, Jan	Sexual politics, orientalism and multicultural	2010	Sociology	314

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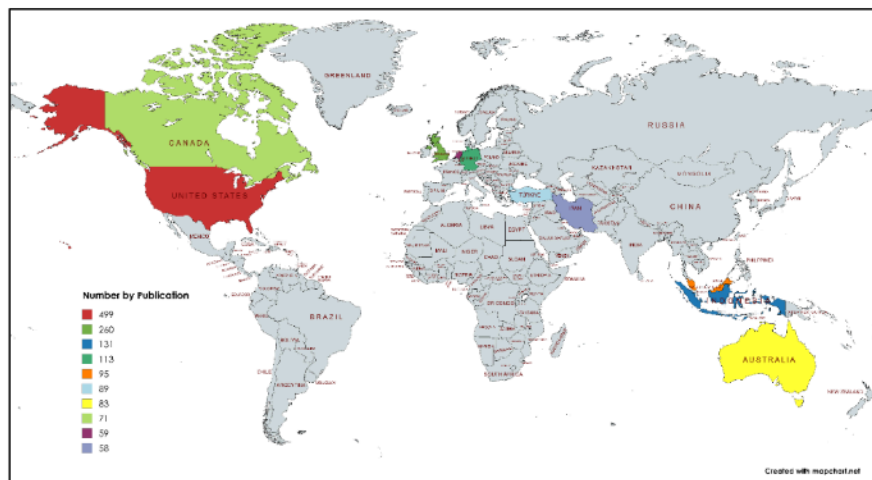| Willem; E.H., Tonkens, Evelien H. (Mepschen et al., 2010)	citizenship in the netherlands			
K.A., Powell, Kimberly A. (Powell, 2011)	Framing islam: An analysis of U.S. media coverage of terrorism since 9/11	2011	Communication Studies	279
S., Farook, Sayd; M.K., Hassan, M. Kabir; R., Lanis, Roman (Farook et al., 2011)	Determinants of corporate social responsibility disclosure: the case of Islamic banks	2011	Journal of Islamic Accounting and Business Research	250
M.A., Tessler, Mark A. (Tessler, 2002)	Islam and democracy in the Middle East: The impact of religious orientations on attitudes toward democracy in four Arab countries	2002	Comparative Politics	243
J., Zine, Jasmin (Zine, 2006)	Unveiled sentiments: Gendered islamophobia and experiences of veiling among muslim girls in a canadian islamic school	2006	Equity and Excellence in Education	212
J.C., Cohrs, Jan Christopher; B., Moschner, Barbara; J., Macs, Jürgen; S., Kielmann, Sven (Cohrs et al., 2005)	The motivational bases of right-wing authoritarianism and social dominance orientation: Relations to values and attitudes in the aftermath of August 11, 2001	2005	Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin	197
L.L., Wall, L. Lewis (Lewis, 2004)	Dead mothers and injured wives: The social context of maternal morbidity and mortality among the Hausa of Northern Nigeria	1998	Studies in Family Planning	196
J.D., Latner, Janet D.; K.S., O'Brien, Kerry S.; L.E., Durso, Laura E.; L.A., Brinkman, L. A.; T., MacDonald, T.	Weighing obesity stigma: The relative strength of different forms of bias	2008	International Journal of Obesity	176

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(Latner et al., 2008)				
S., Kumar, Satish; S., Sahoo, Saumyaranjan; W.M., Lim, Weng Marc; L.P., Dana, Léo Paul (Kumar et al., 2022)	Religion as a social shaping force in entrepreneurship and business: Insights from a technology-empowered systematic literature review	2022	Technological Forecasting and Social Change	168

The citation analysis of the most influential publications on *Orientalism and Islam* underscores the intellectual diversity and interdisciplinary nature of the field. The highest-cited work, Zachary Lockman's *Contending Visions of the Middle East* (2004), with 339 citations, reflects the foundational role of critical historical and political studies of Orientalism in shaping subsequent scholarship. Similarly, Paul Mepschen et al.'s (2010) article on *Sexual politics, orientalism and multicultural citizenship in the Netherlands* (314 citations) demonstrates how Orientalism has been recontextualized within debates on multiculturalism, identity politics, and European citizenship, showing that the discourse extends well beyond Middle Eastern studies into broader sociological contexts. Kimberly Powell's (2011) *Framing Islam* (279 citations) further reveals the strong impact of media studies in the post-9/11 era, where the intersection of Orientalism and Islam has been critically examined through representations of terrorism and Muslim identity in Western media.

The table also highlights the influence of applied fields such as business and economics, as illustrated by Farook et al. (2011) with 250 citations, focusing on corporate social responsibility in Islamic banking. This finding indicates that the Orientalism–Islam discourse is not confined to theory and politics, but also intersects with global financial systems and ethical business practices. Mark Tessler's (2002) work on *Islam and democracy in the Middle East* (243 citations) represents a seminal contribution linking political science and religious orientations, while Jasmin Zine's (2006) *Unveiled sentiments* (212 citations) foregrounds gendered Islamophobia and experiences of Muslim women, adding depth to feminist and identity-based studies. Collectively, these works highlight that Orientalism and Islam research spans political science, sociology, gender studies, communication, and religious studies.

Interestingly, the presence of Cohrs et al. (2005) and Latner et al. (2008), focusing on authoritarianism, bias, and stigma, as well as Lewis Wall's (1998) research on maternal morbidity in Nigeria, demonstrate that the field often intersects with psychology, public health, and social development. The most recent entry, Kumar et al. (2022) on religion and entrepreneurship (168 citations in just two years), signals the field's growing engagement with contemporary global issues, particularly the role of Islam in shaping business and innovation. Taken together, these highly cited works contribute significantly to the body of knowledge by demonstrating the breadth of Orientalism and Islam research which ranges from classical critiques of Orientalism to modern concerns about media, gender, democracy, economics, health, and entrepreneurship. All these highlight the field's interdisciplinary and evolving nature.

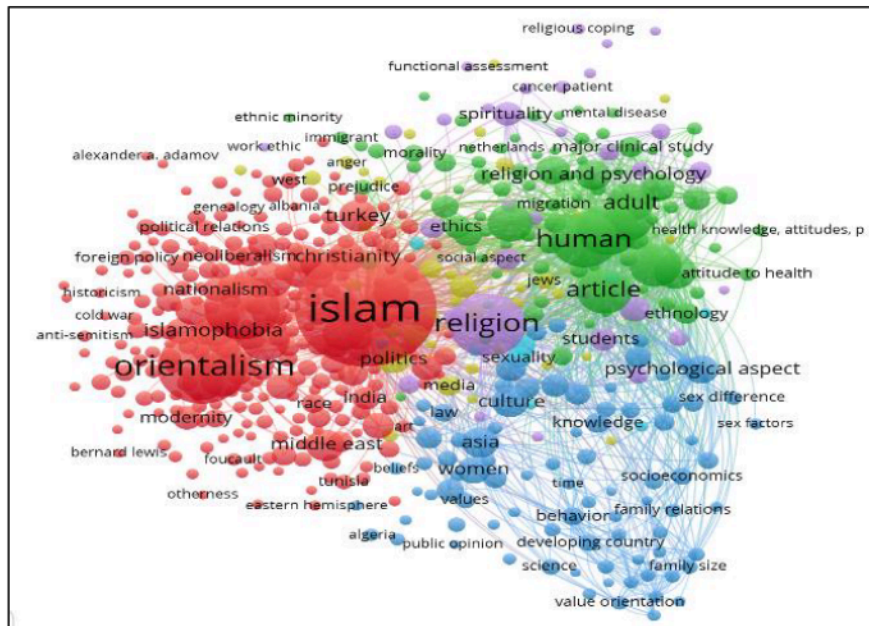*What Are The Top 10 Country Based on The Number Of Publications?*

Figure 3: Top 10 Country Based on Publication

The figure above highlights the United States as the leading contributor with 499 publications (34.2%), followed by the United Kingdom (17.8%) and Indonesia (9%). The dominance of the United States and the United Kingdom can be explained by their strong academic infrastructure, well-established research funding mechanisms, and the global influence of their higher education institutions. These countries also host internationally recognized journals and publishing platforms, making them central hubs for scholarly communication. Indonesia's position in third place is noteworthy, reflecting a growing academic interest in religious, cultural, and social studies, coupled with government policies that encourage scholarly productivity through research grants and mandatory publication requirements for academics. Germany, Malaysia, and Turkey also show significant representation, indicating their rising engagement in scholarly discourse within this field.

Meanwhile, countries such as Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, and Iran make up the remaining top 10, each contributing between 3–6% of the total output. These figures suggest that while Western countries maintain a stronghold due to resources and global networks, Asian and Middle Eastern nations are steadily gaining visibility in the international academic landscape. Malaysia and Turkey's strong representation can be attributed to their emphasis on Islamic studies and the integration of research output into university rankings and accreditation standards. Similarly, Iran's appearance reflects its scholarly tradition in Islamic sciences, despite limitations such as restricted international collaboration. Overall, the distribution indicates a balance between established Western academic powers and emerging contributors from Asia and the Middle East, suggesting a diversifying trend in global research productivity.

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What Are The Popular Keywords Related To The Study?

Figure 4: Network Visualization Map of Keywords' Co-Occurrence

The co-occurrence analysis of author keywords using VOSviewer is a bibliometric technique that visualizes the frequency with which keywords appear together across publications. This method highlights thematic relationships, conceptual overlaps, and the intellectual structure of a given research field. In the present dataset, keywords such as *Islam* (685 occurrences), *religion* (203), *orientalism* (277), and *Islamism* (201) emerge as central nodes with high link strengths, indicating that these terms are consistently used in combination with others across the literature. The larger the node, the more frequently the keyword appears, while the link strength shows how strongly it is connected with other concepts. As such, the co-occurrence analysis does not merely count frequency but also maps how clusters of keywords form meaningful research themes, reflecting the intellectual and thematic directions within the field.
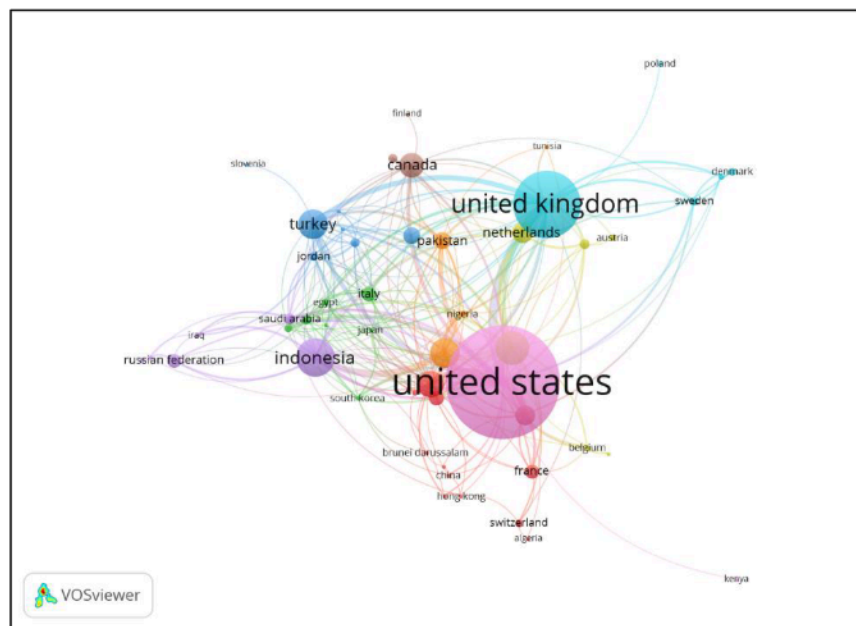
In generating the visualization, the analysis was conducted using the full counting method, which gives equal weight to each occurrence of a keyword, ensuring that both frequent and less frequent terms contribute to the mapping. A minimum occurrence threshold of five was set, filtering the dataset from 4,258 keywords down to 517 significant terms that represent the most common and impactful concepts. Furthermore, by setting the minimum cluster size at one, all potential clusters were included in the map, allowing the identification of smaller but emerging themes. Based on these parameters, VOSviewer generated six distinct clusters, each grouping together keywords with strong co-occurrence relationships. For example, one cluster revolves around concepts such as *Islam*, *Muslim*, *Islamophobia*, and *Sharia*, while another emphasizes *psychology*, *mental health*, and *social values*. This clustering reflects both dominant discourses in Islamic studies and their intersections with broader disciplines such as psychology, sociology, and politics.

The findings of this analysis make a substantial contribution to the body of knowledge by mapping not only the major themes but also the diversity of scholarship in this domain. The prominence of clusters related to *Islam*, *religion*, and *orientalism* underscores the centrality of

theological and cultural debates in the literature, while the presence of clusters focusing on *psychological aspects*, *gender*, *identity*, and *politics* highlights interdisciplinary engagement with contemporary social issues. Moreover, the inclusion of region-specific terms such as *Middle East*, *Asia*, *Turkey*, and *Indonesia* demonstrates the geographical breadth of the discourse, pointing to the global spread of research on Islam and related topics. By revealing these interconnections, the co-occurrence map offers researchers a clearer understanding of the research landscape, identifies dominant and emerging areas of study, and provides guidance for future scholarly inquiry.

What Is The Co-Authorship By Countries Collaboration?

Figure 5: Network Visulisation of Top Contributing Countries

The co-authorship analysis of countries' collaboration in VOSviewer provides insights into how research partnerships are formed across national boundaries. In this approach, each country is represented as a node, and links between nodes signify co-authorship relationships based on shared publications. The strength of these connections, often referred to as *total link strength*, indicates the intensity of collaboration between countries. For example, the United States not only dominates in the number of documents (500) and citations (8064) but also shows the highest link strength (135), suggesting its pivotal role in facilitating international scholarly networks. Similarly, the United Kingdom and Germany demonstrate strong visibility both in publication volume and in building global research ties. This visualization allows researchers to identify leading contributors, collaborative hubs, and the extent of interconnectedness within the research field.

To generate this network map, the full counting method was employed, which means that all co-authorships were counted equally, regardless of the number of co-authors involved in a publication. A minimum threshold of five documents per country was applied, filtering the initial dataset of 105 countries down to 54 active research contributors. This ensures that only countries with a consistent level of productivity are included in the visualization. Additionally,

the minimum cluster size was set to one, enabling smaller clusters of collaboration to be captured rather than excluded. Based on these parameters, VOSviewer produced nine clusters, which represent distinct regional or thematic collaboration patterns. For instance, one cluster may group Western nations such as the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada, while another may bring together Asian or Middle Eastern countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.

The findings from this co-authorship analysis contribute meaningfully to the body of knowledge by mapping the global structure of academic collaboration. They highlight the dominance of established research economies like the United States, United Kingdom, and Germany in driving knowledge production, while also showing the growing involvement of emerging contributors such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Turkey. Moreover, the presence of countries like Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt indicates the increasing importance of research from the Global South in shaping scholarly discourse. These insights underscore how international partnerships enrich research quality through shared expertise, cross-cultural perspectives, and diversified funding opportunities. Ultimately, this co-authorship network not only reflects the global distribution of research but also emphasizes the collaborative nature of knowledge production in the modern academic landscape.

Conclusion

This study set out to map the scholarly landscape of research on Orientalism and Islam through bibliometric methods. Its primary aim was to identify publication trends, subject area distributions, highly cited works, leading contributing countries, keyword patterns, and international collaboration networks. By addressing these questions, the analysis has provided a structured overview of how academic attention to this topic has evolved over time.

The findings demonstrate a steady growth of research output, with a particularly notable surge after the turn of the twenty-first century, reflecting the influence of global political events and the expansion of interdisciplinary approaches. The majority of contributions originated in the fields of Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities, while smaller but meaningful representation was found in disciplines such as Business, Psychology, and Economics, pointing to the gradual extension of Orientalism-related inquiry into broader academic domains.

The analysis of citations highlighted a set of foundational texts that continue to shape debates around Islam and its representation. At the international level, the United States and United Kingdom remain the most prolific contributors, though countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, and Iran have gained increasing visibility, signalling a diversification of research voices. Keyword mapping revealed six prominent clusters, illustrating how themes of Orientalist discourse intersect with discussions of postcolonialism, identity, politics, and intercultural dialogue. Collaboration networks further confirmed the centrality of Western academic centres, while also showing the growing participation of Asian and Middle Eastern scholars.

This research contributes to the field by offering an integrated mapping of Orientalism and Islam across more than a century of academic output. Beyond documenting dominant patterns, it reveals the intellectual breadth and interdisciplinary character of the field, highlighting both well-established debates and emerging areas of inquiry. Such an overview provides scholars

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with a clearer understanding of the current state of research and the directions in which the discourse is expanding.

The implications extend to both scholarship and practice. For academics, the findings offer guidance on key works, influential themes, and collaborative networks that may support future projects. For practitioners and policymakers, the mapping underscores how Orientalist narratives continue to shape perceptions of Islam, with potential consequences for intercultural relations, media framing, and social policy.

Despite these contributions, certain limitations must be acknowledged. The analysis was confined to documents indexed in the Scopus database and limited to English-language publications, which may exclude relevant scholarship in other languages or formats. Furthermore, bibliometric methods primarily capture structural patterns and cannot fully represent the depth of theoretical arguments or the quality of individual contributions. Future studies could expand by incorporating multiple databases, non-English sources, or qualitative content analysis to provide a richer understanding of the intellectual debates surrounding Orientalism and Islam.

In conclusion, this study affirms the importance of bibliometric analysis as a tool for uncovering historical and contemporary trends in the study of Orientalism and Islam. By tracing publication patterns, subject emphases, and collaboration networks, it contributes to a more comprehensive view of how this discourse has been shaped and reshaped in response to global intellectual and political currents. The results emphasize the continuing relevance of Orientalism as a critical lens and encourage further scholarship that bridges historical critique with present-day challenges.

Acknowledgements

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