# Bibliometric Trends in Research on Islam and Morality: Contextualizing Findings Within Qur'anic Thought

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*Abstract :*

*This study addresses the underexplored global patterns in research on Islam and morality, which has been fragmented across various academic disciplines. The central problem lies in the absence of a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the existing literature, leaving gaps in understanding the volume, thematic distribution, and geographical trends in the field. The objective of this research is to systematically map the academic output on Islam and morality by employing a bibliometric approach, focusing on the publications indexed in Scopus between 2015 and 2025. The methodology involves three stages: a literature review, a database search for relevant articles, and an in-depth analysis of publication trends, authorship, and thematic connections using tools like RStudio and VOSviewer. The findings indicate a substantial increase in research output from 2015 to 2024, with a notable peak in 2024, signaling a growing interest in the subject. Key thematic areas that emerged from the network analysis include morality, Islamic law, ethics, and gender, demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of the field. The study also highlights a dominance of certain countries like Indonesia, the United States, and Turkey in contributing to the literature. The results suggest that Islam and morality are gaining importance not only in religious studies but also in bioethics, social sciences, and gender studies. The implications of this research stress the need for further exploration of underrepresented topics, such as sustainability and bureaucracy, and call for increased global collaboration to bridge knowledge gaps.*
*Keywords: Bibliometrics, Islamic Ethics, Morality, Research Trends, Sustainability.*

**Abstrak:**

Kajian ini membahas pola global yang masih kurang dieksplorasi dalam penelitian mengenai Islam dan moralitas, yang selama ini terfragmentasi di berbagai disiplin ilmu. Permasalahan utama terletak pada belum adanya analisis bibliometrik komprehensif terhadap literatur yang tersedia, sehingga menyisakan kekosongan dalam memahami volume, distribusi tematik, dan tren geografis di bidang tersebut. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memetakan secara sistematis keluaran akademik mengenai Islam dan moralitas dengan menggunakan pendekatan bibliometrik, berfokus pada publikasi yang terindeks dalam Scopus antara tahun 2015 hingga 2025. Metodologi yang digunakan meliputi tiga tahap: tinjauan literatur, pencarian basis data untuk artikel relevan, serta analisis mendalam terhadap tren publikasi, kepenulisan, dan keterkaitan tematik menggunakan perangkat seperti RStudio dan VOSviewer. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan adanya peningkatan signifikan dalam jumlah publikasi dari 2015 hingga 2024, dengan puncak tertinggi pada tahun 2024, yang menandakan meningkatnya minat terhadap topik ini. Area tematik utama yang muncul dari analisis jaringan meliputi moralitas, hukum Islam, etika, dan gender, yang mencerminkan sifat interdisipliner bidang ini. Studi ini juga menyoroti dominasi beberapa negara seperti Indonesia, Amerika Serikat, dan Turki dalam kontribusi literaturnya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Islam dan moralitas semakin mendapatkan perhatian tidak hanya dalam studi keagamaan tetapi juga dalam bioetika, ilmu sosial, dan studi gender. Implikasi penelitian ini menekankan perlunya eksplorasi lebih lanjut terhadap topik-topik yang kurang terwakili, seperti keberlanjutan dan birokrasi, serta menyerukan peningkatan kolaborasi global untuk menjembatani kesenjangan pengetahuan.
Kata Kunci : Bibliometrik, Etika Islam, Moralitas, Tren Penelitian, Keberlanjutan

## Introduction

Islam and morality are two closely interconnected concepts within religious, social, and philosophical studies (Al-Kandari et al., 2025; Asutay, 2025; Zafar & Abu-Hussin, 2025). As a religion that governs various aspects of human life, Islam views morality as an integral component of everyday existence (Abboud, 2025). The moral values embedded in Islamic teachings include justice, compassion, and social responsibility. With more than 1.8 billion adherents worldwide, the study of Islam and morality holds considerable significance in the context of global social and cultural interaction (Lu, 2025).

Despite the existence of numerous academic works exploring the relationship between Islam and morality, there remains a lack of comprehensive understanding regarding how this topic has developed globally (Bocheńska & Hajiagha, 2025). Quantitative data concerning the volume of publications related to Islam and morality, as well as the ways in which the topic is analyzed across different academic disciplines, is notably limited. Based on data analysis from Scopus and Google Scholar, the number of publications discussing Islam in the context of morality has increased significantly over the past two decades. However, this body of research has yet to reveal a clear global pattern or identify areas that warrant further investigation (Daoudi, 2025; Sinulingga et al., 2025).

In recent years, the literature on Islam and morality has expanded across a range of disciplines, including theology, moral philosophy, sociology, and ethics. These studies not only address moral values within Islamic contexts but also connect them with contemporary issues such as human rights, economics, and global politics (Asman, 2025; Latjompoh et al., 2025). Key studies include analyses of moral interpretations within Islamic teachings and the application of Islamic values in the daily lives of individuals in modern societies. Nevertheless, much of this research is scattered across various journals, lacking a coherent mapping of thematic influence or inter-topic relationships (Özturan, 2025). Although there have been some systematic efforts to study the concept of morality in Islam, these attempts remain relatively unstructured and do not reflect broader global patterns (Sudirman et al., 2025).

Despite the growing body of literature on Islam and morality, research on their interrelation remains fragmented and poorly coordinated at the global level (Karademir-Hazir & Yaren, 2025; Rahman et al., 2025; Sunaryo et al., 2025). To date, there has been no comprehensive bibliometric study mapping research trends related to Islam and morality—whether in terms of publication volume, disciplinary distribution, or geographical coverage. This absence has led to limited awareness of which areas have been extensively studied and which remain underexplored. Existing gaps include imbalances in the representation of Muslim-majority countries compared to Western nations, as well as a lack of understanding of how Islamic moral values are interpreted and applied in the context of the contemporary world.

Given this background, the central issue addressed in this study is the lack of a systematic and quantitative mapping of the relationship between Islam and morality within global academic literature. Considering the importance of the topic, a bibliometric approach can offer valuable insights by identifying research patterns and clarifying the development of this field on a global scale (Gazali et al., 2023; Hussain & Saddiqa, 2020; Rusydiana & As-Salafiyah, 2021). The use of bibliometric methods in this study is crucial, as it enables a more objective and structured analysis of publication volume, prominent authors, and the most researched topics (Al Mubarok et al., 2024; Antonio et al., 2021; Javed et al., 2020; Tal & Gordon, 2018). This approach also provides a clearer picture of

emerging research trends and facilitates the identification of gaps within the existing literature (Al Mubarok et al., 2025).

The urgency of this research lies in the fact that current literature does not offer a comprehensive overview of the development of studies on Islam and morality at the global level. This study aims to inform researchers, academics, and policymakers about the latest trends and developments in the field. Moreover, such mapping can pave the way for more focused future studies and contribute to the advancement of research on morality in Islam in ways that are more relevant to contemporary social, political, and economic challenges. By employing a bibliometric approach, this article seeks to provide deeper insights into existing research patterns, uncover underexplored areas within the global literature, and lay a strong foundation for future scholarship in this field..

## Methods

This study employs the bibliometric analysis method to systematically explore the intersection of Islam and morality in global research. The data, spanning from 2014 to 2026, was obtained from the Scopus database on October 18, 2025, using a Boolean search strategy. The advanced tools such as R and RStudio, VOSviewer, and Microsoft Excel were used to analyze citations, document content, and interconnections within the dataset (Apriantoro et al., 2023). The analysis followed a structured three-stage process to ensure the accuracy of the examined data.

### Initial Stage

In the first stage, a literature review was conducted to assess the relevance of the research topic within the scope of bibliometric studies. This step ensured that the alignment between the research theme and the search methodology was consistent, as well as assisting in identifying appropriate keywords that comprehensively represented the research area.

### Second Stage

In the second stage, a detailed search of the Scopus database was performed using the Boolean operator TITLE-ABS-KEY ("islamic" AND "moral"), yielding 2,850 documents. Publications were limited to those from the years 2015 to 2025, and only documents from the subject areas of Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities were included. Furthermore, the document type was restricted to journal articles (ar). The search string used for this process was: TITLE-ABS-KEY ("islamic" AND "morality") AND PUBYEAR > 2014 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "SOCI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "ARTS")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")), which resulted in 360 relevant documents being identified.

### Final Stage

In the final stage, the selected documents were subjected to an in-depth analysis. Scopus AnalyseR, R, and RStudio were utilized to evaluate publication trends over time, analyze patterns in document distribution, and gather details about authors, institutional affiliations, and countries of origin. Additionally, inter-document relationships were examined and visualized through VOSviewer. The processed data was subsequently organized and further analyzed using Microsoft Excel. One important methodological limitation lay in the reliance on keyword-based searches, which could introduce keyword bias. This limitation was addressed by incorporating alternative terminology that might have captured other relevant works, especially those published in languages other than

English, which may have overlooked pertinent research in other non-English academic publications. These steps are summarised visually in the figure 1 below:
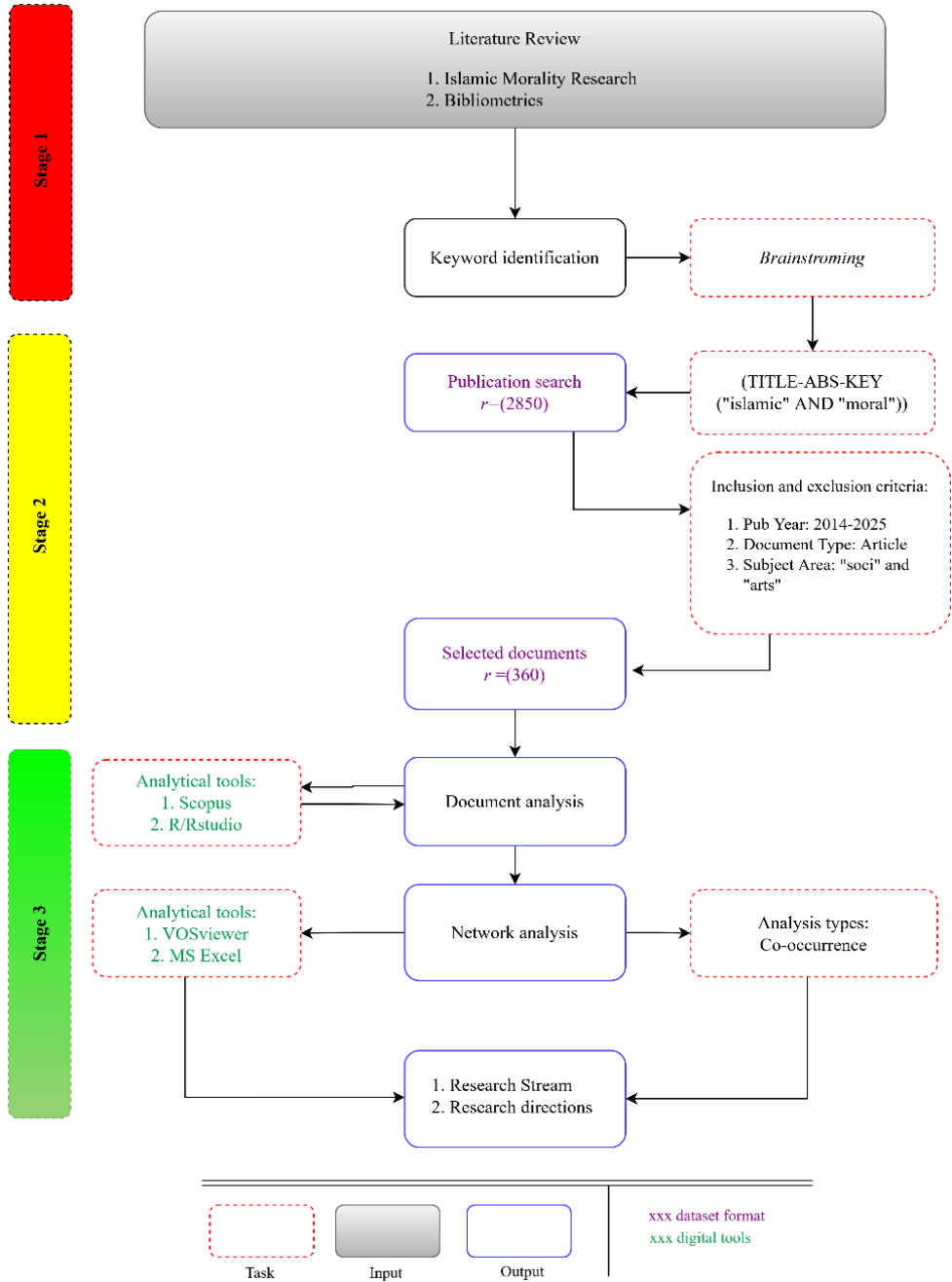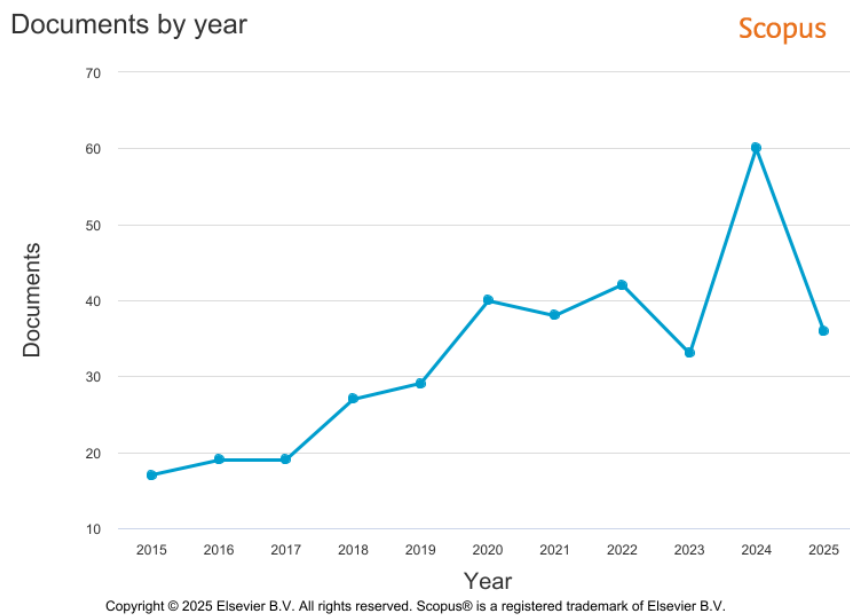


Figure 1. Research Workflow

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## Result



Figure 2. Publications by year

Based on the graph in Figure 2 above, the publication trend regarding Islam and morality shows a significant increase from 2015 to 2024. Initially, the number of publications was relatively low, with 17 articles in 2015 and only 19 articles in 2016. However, from 2017 to 2019, the publication numbers gradually increased, reaching 27 articles in 2019. A significant surge occurred in 2020 with 40 publications, likely influenced by external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which sparked deeper discussions on ethics and morality within religious contexts. This positive trend continued in 2021 and 2022, with 38 and 42 publications respectively, although no major spikes were observed.

The highest peak is seen in 2024, with 60 publications, an extraordinary increase compared to previous years. This suggests a growing interest in the topic, possibly in response to social changes or global developments in thinking about morality within Islam. While the number of publications is expected to decrease to 36 in 2025, this figure still remains higher than in previous years, indicating that the topic remains relevant and continues to attract attention in academic research. Overall, this graph illustrates that Islam and morality have become an increasingly popular focus of research in recent years.
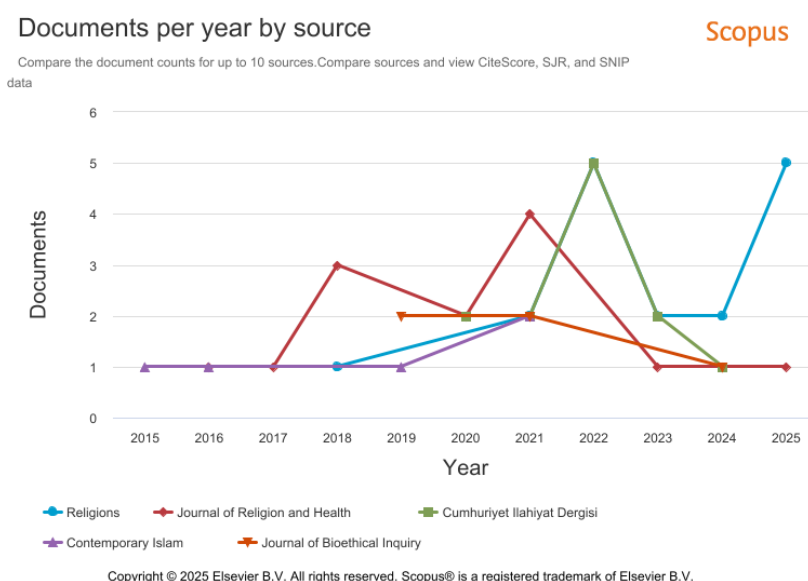
Figure 3. Most relevant source

Based on the graph presented in Figure 3, the analysis of document distribution by source from 2015 to 2025 shows an interesting variation. From 2015 to 2019, the number of publications in each source was still very low, with *Contemporary Islam* and *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* each recording one or two documents per year. The *Journal of Religion and Health* showed a stable trend with a few publications in 2017 and 2018, but there was no significant spike observed.
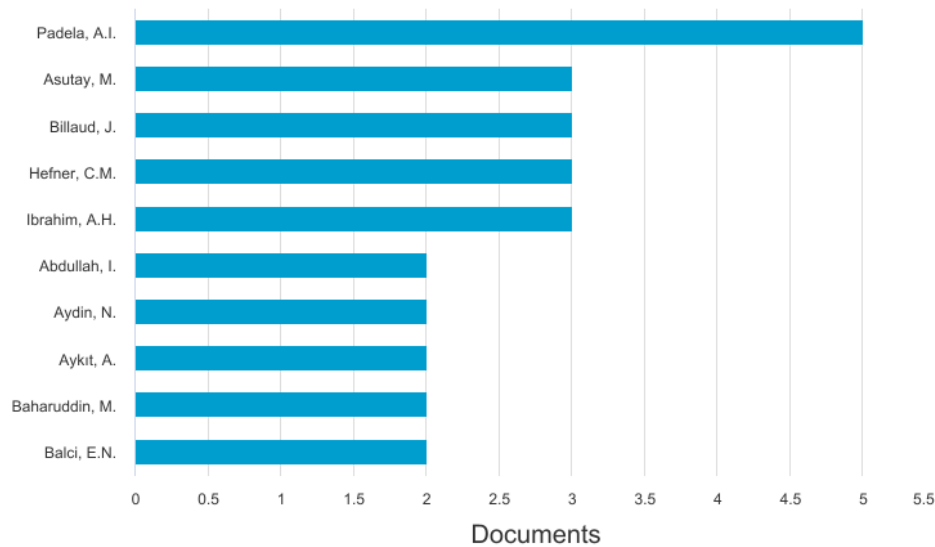
From 2020 to 2022, a significant surge was seen in *Cumhuriyet Ilahiyat Dergisi*, with the number of publications suddenly increasing sharply in 2021 and 2022. On the other hand, *Religions* and *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* also showed an increase in publications during the same period, although not as dramatically as *Cumhuriyet Ilahiyat Dergisi*. The highest peak occurred in 2022, with *Cumhuriyet Ilahiyat Dergisi* recording over five publications, while *Religions* and *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* each reached one or two documents per year.

In 2024, *Cumhuriyet Ilahiyat Dergisi* and *Religions* saw a significant decline, while *Contemporary Islam* experienced an unexpected surge in 2025. Overall, this graph illustrates significant differences in the distribution of publications across various sources, with some sources experiencing sharper fluctuations, while others remained stable throughout the analyzed period.

## Documents by author

Compare the document counts for up to 15 authors.

**Scopus**

Figure 4. Most relevant authors

Based on the graph presented in Figure 4, the analysis of publication distribution by author shows significant differences in contributions among the primary authors. *Padela, A.I.* emerges as the author with the highest number of publications, surpassing 4 documents, indicating the dominant role of this author in this field of research. Below this, *Asutay, M.* and *Billaud, J.* each have more than 2 documents, reflecting their significant contributions to the development of the topic of Islam and morality.

Other authors, such as *Hefner, C.M.*, *Ibrahim, A.H.*, and *Abdullah, I.*, each have around 2 documents, showing a balanced contribution, although not as substantial as the aforementioned authors. Authors like *Aydin, N.*, *Aykıt, A.*, *Baharuddin, M.*, and *Balcı, E.N.* also appear with one or two publications, indicating their contributions to the research, albeit fewer than some of the leading authors. Overall, this graph illustrates that while there are a few authors with significant contributions, many others have also played a role in advancing research on Islam and morality.

Table 1. Author Impact

| Author | h_index | g_index | m_index | TC | NP | PY_start |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Padela Aasim Ilyas | 5 | 5 | 0,455 | 56 | 5 | 2015 |
| Ibrahim Abdul Halim | 3 | 3 | 0,429 | 51 | 3 | 2019 |
| Abdul Rahman Noor Naemah | 2 | 2 | 0,286 | 47 | 2 | 2019 |
| Abdullah Irwan | 2 | 2 | 0,333 | 10 | 2 | 2020 |
| Asutay Mehmet | 2 | 3 | 0,286 | 13 | 3 | 2019 |
| Aydin Necati | 2 | 2 | 0,222 | 22 | 2 | 2017 |
| Baharuddin Madiha | 2 | 2 | 0,286 | 47 | 2 | 2019 |
| Bensaid Benaouda | 2 | 2 | 0,286 | 39 | 2 | 2019 |
| Billaud Julie | 2 | 3 | 0,2 | 16 | 3 | 2016 |
| Bowe Brian J. | 2 | 2 | 0,2 | 40 | 2 | 2016 |

Based on the data presented in Table 1, the author with the most significant local academic impact is *Padela Aasim Ilyas*. He has the highest h-index and g-index (5), indicating that many of his publications have a considerable impact and are frequently cited. With an m-index of 0.455, Padela also demonstrates that his contributions remain relevant over time. His total citations (TC) of 56 and number of publications (NP) of 5 show that he has had a strong impact in the field of Islam and morality, starting in 2015.

Another author with considerable impact is *Ibrahim Abdul Halim*, with h-index and g-index values of 3, as well as a TC of 51 and NP of 3. Although slightly lower than Padela's, his contributions still demonstrate significant influence on the topic since he began publishing in 2019. Authors such as *Abdul Rahman Noor Naemah* and *Abdullah Irwan*, despite having lower h-index and g-index values of 2, still contribute with over 40 citations, indicating that their work is well-received within the academic community.

*Asutay Mehmet*, *Aydin Necati*, *Baharuddin Madiha*, *Bensaid Benaouda*, and *Billaud Julie* also have noticeable contributions, though with lower h-index and g-index values and TC ranging between 20 and 30. *Bowe Brian J.* shows moderate academic impact with TC reaching 40, despite having more publications. Overall, despite variations in academic impact, *Padela Aasim Ilyas* stands out as the author with the greatest local influence in the field of research on Islam and morality.
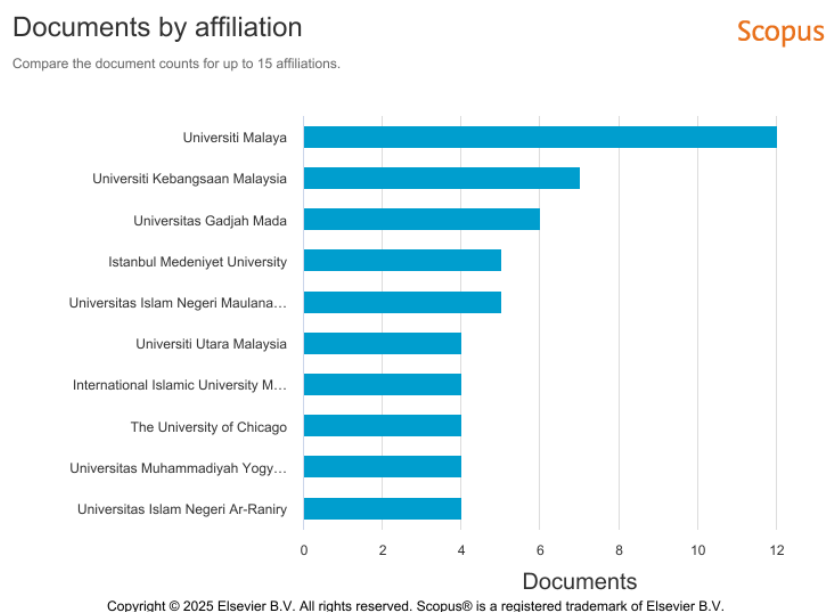
Figure 5. Most relevant affiliates

Based on the graph presented in Figure 5, the analysis of publication distribution by author affiliation shows that *Universiti Malaya* is the most dominant institution, with the highest number of publications reaching nearly 12 documents. This reflects the significant role of this university in research related to Islam and morality. It is followed by *Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia* and *Universitas Gadjah Mada*, each with more than 5 documents, indicating strong contributions from these universities to the topic.

Additionally, institutions such as *Istanbul Medeniyet University* and *Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim* each have around 3 to 4 publications, showing significant contributions,

although not as large as the top two universities. *Universiti Utara Malaysia* and *International Islamic University Malaysia* also contribute with publications in the range of 2 documents. Several other universities, including *The University of Chicago*, *Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta*, and *Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry*, have one to two publications, signaling their involvement in this research, albeit with smaller contributions. Overall, this graph illustrates that several leading universities in Asia, along with some international institutions, play a significant role in the development of research on Islam and morality.
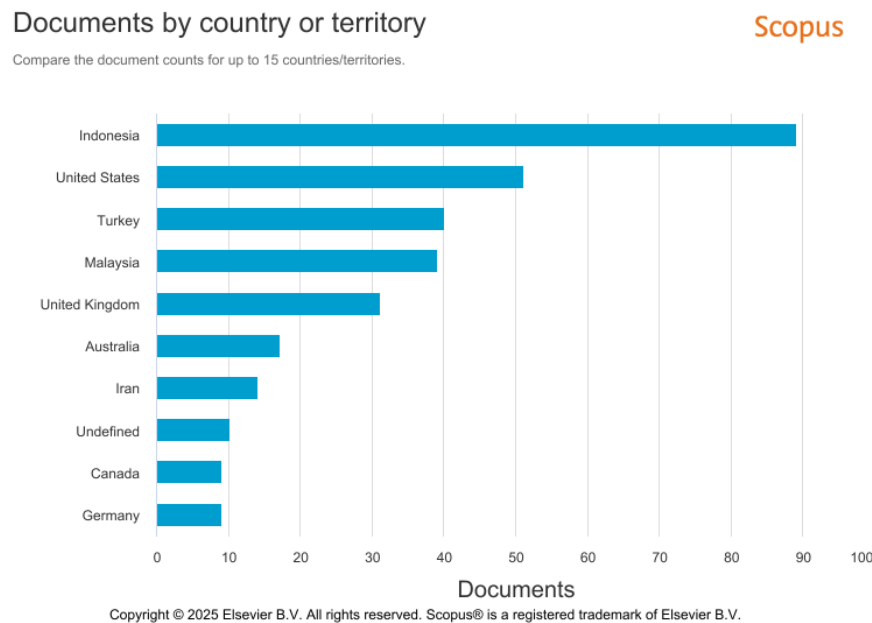


Figure 6. Most relevant countries

Based on the graph presented in Figure 6, the distribution of publications by country shows a clear dominance of Indonesia, with the highest number of publications reaching 89 documents. This indicates that Indonesia has made a significant contribution to research on Islam and morality. The United States and Turkey also show notable publication figures, with 51 and 40 documents respectively, reflecting the active involvement of these two countries in this topic.

Malaysia and the United Kingdom follow with 39 and 31 documents respectively, demonstrating important contributions, although slightly lower compared to the previous countries. Countries such as Australia and Iran have smaller contributions, with 17 and 14 documents. Other countries, including Canada, Germany, and the "Undefined" category (10 documents), are also involved, though with relatively smaller numbers. Overall, this graph illustrates that research on Islam and morality is largely led by countries like Indonesia, the United States, and Turkey, with contributions from other countries being more limited.

Table 2. Most global cite document

| Paper | Total Citations | TC per Year | Normalized TC |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wardi, 2018, Asia Pac. J. Tour. Res. | 131 | 16,38 | 10,25 |
| Hadiz, 2017, Bull. Indones. Econ. Stud. | 84 | 9,33 | 4,85 |
| Hamdan, 2018, J. Relig. Health | 68 | 8,50 | 5,32 |
| Khurshid, 2015, Gend. Soc. | 55 | 5,00 | 3,98 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gökariksel, 2017, Gend. Place Cult. | 47 | 5,22 | 2,71 |
| Ibrahim, 2019, J. Bioethical Inq. | 42 | 6,00 | 5,72 |
| Chamsi-Pasha, 2017, J. Relig. Health | 40 | 4,44 | 2,31 |
| Qurashi, 2017, Int. J. Relig. Tour. Pilgr. | 39 | 4,33 | 2,25 |
| Mahamood, 2015, Humanomics | 39 | 3,55 | 2,82 |
| Nur, 2020, Ahkam: J. Ilmu Syariah | 38 | 6,33 | 6,06 |

Based on the data in Table 2, the most cited document is the article by Wardi, 2018, published in the *Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research*, with 131 citations and a TC per Year of 16.38. This document shows a very significant global impact, with a Normalized TC of 10.25, indicating its high relevance and influence in the field of Islam and morality. The article by Hadiz, 2017, published in the *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*, also demonstrates a significant impact with 84 citations and a TC per Year of 9.33. Although not as high as Wardi's article, this document still makes a substantial contribution to the literature relevant to this topic.

Other highly cited documents include Hamdan, 2018, in the *Journal of Religious Health* (68 citations and TC per Year of 8.50), and Khurshid, 2015, published in *Gender and Society* with 55 citations. Although their citation counts are lower, these articles still show significant relevance in research on Islam and morality. Additionally, Gökariksel, 2017, and Ibrahim, 2019, also make notable contributions, with 47 and 42 citations, respectively. Overall, despite the variations in citation numbers, these articles demonstrate that they have a significant impact and sustained global relevance in the ongoing development of research in this field.
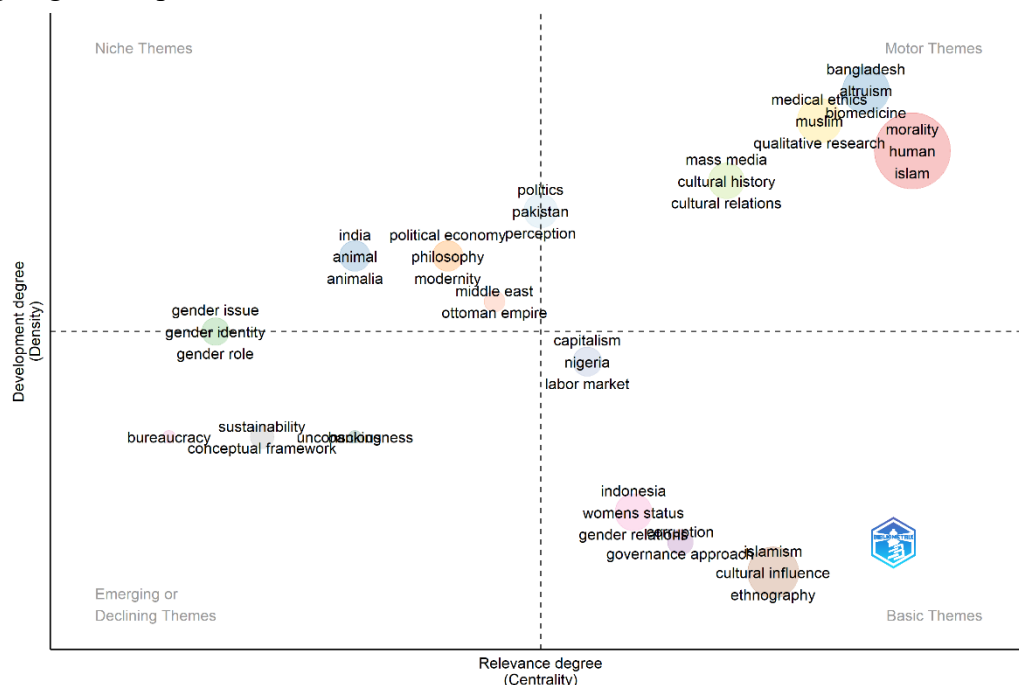


Figure 7. Thematic Map

Based on Figure 7, which is a thematic map illustrating the thematic distribution in research related to Islam and morality, we can observe several interesting patterns based on two main dimensions: degree of development (density) and degree of relevance (centrality). In the upper right quadrant, representing *Motor Themes* with high relevance and strong development, there are themes

such as morality, human, Islam, Muslim, and altruism. These themes are at the center of attention in research related to Islam and morality, indicating that the topic is highly developed and holds significant relevance among researchers. This shows that morality, in the context of Islam and humanity, is one of the most dominant and continually developing themes in the global literature.

In the lower left quadrant, which represents *Emerging or Declining Themes* with lower relevance and development, there are themes such as sustainability, bureaucracy, and uncertainty, which are more focused on topics that may be declining or less directly related to the core focus of Islam and morality. These themes may be emerging with lower interest or have limited relevance within the context of religion and morality.

In the upper left quadrant, we find themes such as gender identity, gender roles, and gender issues, which show a higher level of relevance in the social context, although their development is still relatively limited compared to the main themes in the upper right quadrant. This suggests that gender issues in the context of Islam and morality remain highly relevant but have not yet been fully developed across research.
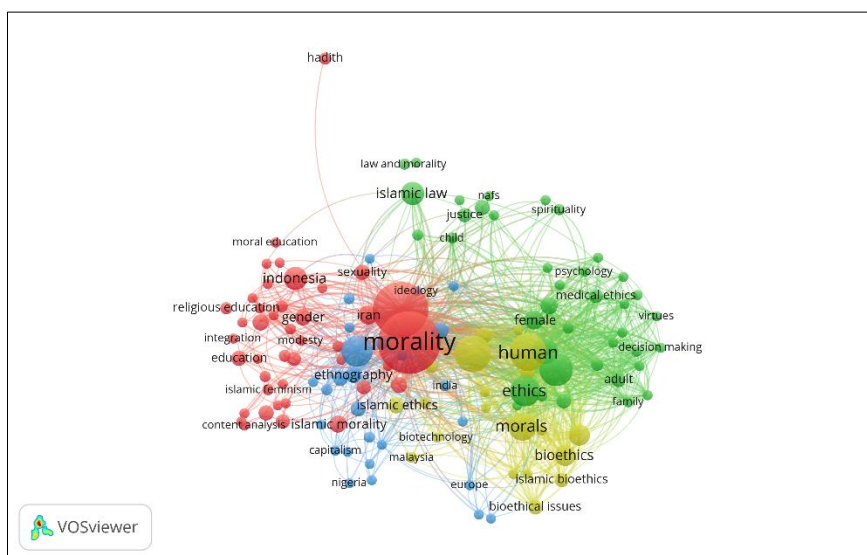


Figure 8. Clustering by occurrence

Based on Figure 8, which shows a network analysis based on co-occurrences with the largest keyword, "Morality," we can observe several key themes that are frequently associated with this topic. Morality emerges as the central keyword with the highest total link strength (571) and 117 occurrences, indicating that this topic is highly relevant and frequently linked with many other concepts in the existing literature.

Surrounding the keyword "Morality," there are several major themes that also commonly appear in related research. *Islamic law* and *Islamic ethics* are closely linked with morality, reflecting the strong influence of Islamic law and ethics in shaping views on morality within religious contexts. Themes such as *human*, *ethics*, *female*, and *gender* show that moral issues are strongly influenced by human perspectives, social ethics, and gender within various cultures, including in the context of Islam.

Additionally, there are other keywords related to *bioethics*, such as *medical ethics*, *biotechnology*, and *bioethical issues*, suggesting that morality is frequently discussed in the context of medicine and technology, especially concerning the moral issues arising from medical and

scientific advancements. Other themes connected to morality include *psychology*, *decision making*, and *virtues*, indicating that morality is also often studied in the context of human psychology, decision-making processes, and the values of goodness. Overall, this network illustrates that morality is a central theme that interacts closely with many academic disciplines and broader social contexts, including aspects of religion, gender, ethics, and bioethics.

**Discussion**

Based on the bibliometric analysis conducted, it is evident that the theme of Islam and morality has experienced significant development in the global academic literature, particularly in recent years. The sharp increase in publications in 2024 indicates a growing interest in this topic, reflecting the increasing relevance of morality in the context of Islam, which is receiving more attention among researchers. These findings emphasize that morality in Islam is not only a focus within religious studies but is also expanding into various other disciplines, such as bioethics, ethics, gender studies, and psychology, demonstrating that Islamic morality is increasingly viewed from an interdisciplinary perspective (Basri et al., 2024; Bensaid & Machouche, 2019; Guseynov, 2020).

Specifically, the keyword "morality" has a very high connectivity within the keyword network, with *Islamic law*, *human*, *ethics*, and *gender* as themes that are frequently associated. This illustrates that morality in Islam is not only discussed within theological or doctrinal contexts but is also closely tied to social, cultural, and ethical issues (Hefner, 2022; Jubba et al., 2021; Zulfikar & Roesminingsih, 2023). The connection between morality and *Islamic ethics* and *Islamic law* indicates that the understanding of morality in Islam cannot be separated from the legal framework that guides Muslim society (Fauziyah & Al Mubarok, 2023; Shaukat & Basharat, 2022). Islamic law (fiqh), with its emphasis on moral principles, plays a significant role in shaping social norms that regulate individual and group behavior within society (Santono & Chamdan, 2025). In this context, the theory of *Islamic jurisprudence* (fiqh) plays a central role in shaping morality, suggesting that morality is not just about individual actions but also about how those actions reflect broader principles that govern social life(Sinulingga et al., 2025). The implication of this finding is the importance of understanding Islamic law not only as a theological rulebook but also as a moral guide for broader social life.

Furthermore, this analysis shows that morality in Islam also has significant relevance in addressing contemporary challenges in medicine and technology, with strong connections to bioethics and medical ethics (Karademir-Hazir & Yaren, 2025; Özturan, 2025). Issues related to biotechnology, medical decision-making, and medical ethics have become central topics in the literature, demonstrating how Islamic morality plays a role in shaping views on medical and scientific issues (Sunaryo et al., 2025). Islamic bioethics emerges as a highly relevant area, where Islamic values are considered in medical decision-making as well as the ethical application of biomedical technologies. The implication of this finding is the importance of integrating Islamic moral principles into health and technology policies, as well as the need for further research to develop ethical frameworks suited to contemporary medical challenges (Mumtaz, 2024).

The connection between morality and gender issues, as seen in the increased attention to *gender identity*, *gender roles*, and *gender equality*, reflects a shift in how Islamic morality is understood and applied in contemporary society (Hall et al., 2024; Shaukat et al., 2024). These themes suggest that while morality in Islam has a solid foundation in tradition, there is room for shifts and

adaptations to broader social issues, particularly regarding gender justice and women's rights (Al-Razi et al., 2024; Embong et al., 2024). *Islamic feminism*, which challenges traditional interpretations of gender roles in Islam, as well as *intersectionality* theory, which explores how gender, religion, and class intersect, provides a useful framework for exploring how Islamic morality can be interpreted in the context of global social change. The implication of this finding is that further research is needed to explore how Islamic morality can support gender equality and women's rights, and how it can adapt to more inclusive social dynamics (Ceran, 2024).

From a global perspective, network analysis shows that countries with large Muslim populations, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Turkey, have made significant contributions to publications on Islam and morality. However, countries like Iran and Nigeria show smaller contributions, which may reflect differences in academic policies or limited access to scientific data. The implication of this finding is that while there is a rapid growth trend in some countries, there is also inequality in contributions and access to research, leading to a knowledge gap in this field (Priori et al., 2024). Therefore, it is important to facilitate stronger international collaborations and support countries with smaller contributions to participate more actively in research related to Islam and morality.

This study also reveals themes that are still underdeveloped, such as *bureaucracy*, *sustainability*, and *conceptual frameworks*, which indicate that, despite growth in certain areas, some topics have received less attention in the literature related to Islamic morality (Barizi et al., 2024; Karaömerlioğlu & Oğuz, 2024; Latifah et al., 2024). One possible explanation is that these themes are considered more focused on broader social and economic issues, with less direct connection to religion or morality in Islam. The implication of this finding is the need to expand academic discourse to integrate these contemporary themes into discussions of Islamic morality. By incorporating issues such as sustainability and economics, Islamic morality can be presented as a guide in addressing current global social and environmental challenges (Khatam, 2023; Qureshi, 2024).

Overall, the results of this bibliometric analysis show that Islam and morality are increasingly relevant and evolving topics, with strong connections between Islamic morality and many academic fields. Further research is needed to delve deeper into how Islamic morality interacts with contemporary issues, and to create more inclusive and applicable frameworks to address global social and ethical challenges. The implication of this finding is that Islamic morality should be understood not only as a religious theory but also as a practical guide for addressing the challenges of the modern world, such as social change, gender equality, and technological advancement.

### *Limitation*

This study has several limitations that need to be considered. First, the search query used limited the subject to social sciences (SOCI) and arts and humanities (ARTS), which may have excluded important literature from other relevant disciplines, such as medical ethics or Islamic law. This limitation restricts the scope of the study and may not reflect the full range of perspectives on Islam and morality. Additionally, the study focuses solely on published journal articles, meaning other publications in the form of conferences, books, or dissertations are not included, which could limit the depth and breadth of the analysis. The use of the time frame from 2015 to 2025 is also a limitation, as earlier literature or emerging trends after 2025 are not considered, reducing the historical context and recent developments in the field.

Furthermore, this research relies on data from Scopus, which, while extensive, does not include all global academic publications, especially from countries with limited access or those not indexed in Scopus. This could result in a bias in representing research from certain regions or countries. The bibliometric analysis used, while providing insights into the number of publications and citations, does not account for the quality or substantial impact of those publications, which could lead to less in-depth conclusions. Finally, the network analysis based on co-occurrence keywords offers insights into the relationships between topics, but does not take into account the broader social and political dynamics that may affect the relevance and application of these themes. Therefore, while these findings make a significant contribution, these limitations highlight the need for further research using a more holistic and comprehensive approach

## Conclusion

This study provides a comprehensive overview of the development of literature related to Islam and morality in recent years. Based on bibliometric analysis, it was found that publications on this topic have significantly increased, with a peak in 2024, indicating that morality in Islam is increasingly becoming an important focus across various disciplines, such as ethics, Islamic law, gender studies, and bioethics. These findings suggest that Islamic morality is not only linked to theological aspects but also has a strong connection to contemporary social, cultural, and scientific issues.

The keyword *morality* emerges as the central theme in this research network, with strong connections to other concepts such as *Islamic law*, *ethics*, and *gender*, highlighting the importance of morality in shaping societal views on values such as justice, human rights, and equality. The implication of these findings is the need for a more inclusive approach to understanding Islamic morality, considering broader social contexts and global developments. However, limitations in subject coverage, document types, and geographical regions indicate that this study still requires enrichment with broader data and perspectives. Therefore, further research is necessary to delve deeper into the application of Islamic morality in addressing the increasingly complex social and technological challenges of the modern era.

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