

# GLOBAL RESEARCH TRENDS ON SALAFISM: A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT, THEMATIC EVOLUTION, AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION (2000–2025)

<sup>1</sup>Ramlan Mustapha & <sup>2</sup>Siti Rohayu Mustapha

<sup>1</sup>Universiti Teknologi MARA Pahang, Malaysia, <sup>2</sup>Kolej Profesional MARA Kuantan Pahang  
[mujahid@gmail.com](mailto:mujahid@gmail.com), [srohayu@mara.gov.my](mailto:srohayu@mara.gov.my)

\*Corresponding Author: Ramlan Mustapha ([Mujahidpahang@gmail.com](mailto:Mujahidpahang@gmail.com))

Received 24 April 2025; Revised 14 June 2025; Accepted 20 Oct 2025; Published 1 Feb 2026

Vol: 4, Issue 1 (2026)

Doi: 10.5281/zenodo.18705916

## Keyword:

Salafism;  
 bibliometric  
 analysis;  
 Islamic  
 studies;  
 science  
 mapping;  
 keyword co-  
 occurrence;  
 citation  
 analysis;  
 publication  
 trends;  
 research  
 collaboration



## Abstract

This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of global research trends on Salafism spanning the period from 2000 to 2025, employing a multi-dimensional science mapping framework that integrates publication trend analysis, keyword co-occurrence mapping, citation impact trajectories, institutional and authorial profiling, and international collaboration network analysis. Data were retrieved from the Scopus database using a structured search strategy and analysed using Bibliopro software (Version 1.0). The findings reveal a classic growth-peak-decline publication lifecycle, with scholarly productivity reaching its zenith between approximately 2010 and 2020 before entering a gradual consolidation phase. Keyword frequency analysis demonstrates a pronounced power-law distribution, with "Salafism" dominating the corpus at 321 occurrences, while temporal keyword trend analysis identifies a divergence between traditional scholarly discourse and an emerging cluster of contemporary thematic concerns. The citation lifecycle analysis confirms that the most influential works, particularly those by Lauzière, Wagemakers, and Hegghammer, generated their highest citation impact during the peak phase, with citation attention tapering progressively thereafter. A particularly significant finding is the prominent role of Malaysian institutions, with the University of Malaya leading all contributing institutions globally, highlighting the Southeast Asian intellectual contribution to Salafism scholarship. Country collaboration network analysis reveals China as the single most dominant contributor by node size, while Mediterranean Politics and Die Welt des Islams emerge as the primary journal venues for the field. The study concludes with a discussion of thematic gaps, methodological limitations, and future research directions, including longitudinal co-word analysis, comparative multi-database studies, and the expansion of research into underrepresented regions and non-English scholarly traditions.



This is an open-access article under the CC BY-SA license.

DOI [10.5281/zenodo.18705916](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18705916)

## Introduction

The study of Salafism has emerged as one of the most intellectually contested and academically significant fields within Islamic studies and religious scholarship over the past two decades. Originating from the Arabic root *salaf*, referring to the pious predecessors (*al-salaf al-ṣāliḥ*) of the early Muslim community, Salafism broadly denotes a reformist movement that advocates a return to what its adherents consider the pristine practice of Islam as embodied by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), his Companions, and the first three generations of Muslims (al-Qaradawi, 2012; Haykel, 2009). As a theological and socio-religious phenomenon, Salafism has attracted sustained scholarly attention from historians, political scientists, theologians, sociologists, and security analysts alike, producing a rich but fragmented body of literature that spans multiple disciplines, methodologies, and geographical contexts. The growing complexity of this discourse necessitates a systematic and quantitative approach to understanding how research on Salafism has evolved, expanded, and diversified across time and academic boundaries. The global acceleration of academic publishing, particularly following the events of September 11, 2001, generated an unprecedented surge in scholarly interest in Islamic movements, with Salafism occupying a central position within this renewed academic gaze (Wiktorowicz, 2006; Meijer, 2009).

Governments, international organizations, research institutions, and universities across both the Muslim-majority world and the Western academy began commissioning and producing studies on Salafi theology, methodology (*manhaj*), political orientations, and social manifestations, resulting in a rapidly expanding corpus of peer-reviewed literature. Despite this prolific output, the field has largely lacked a comprehensive, data-driven map of its own intellectual development one that could identify foundational works, dominant themes, prolific contributors, and emerging research frontiers. Bibliometric analysis, as a well-established scientometric methodology, provides precisely this capacity by applying quantitative measures to scholarly publications in order to reveal structural patterns, citation networks, and knowledge trajectories that qualitative review alone cannot adequately capture (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017; Donthu et al., 2021). This study employs bibliometric analysis to systematically examine the global scholarly production on Salafism indexed in major academic databases over the period 2000 to 2025—a timeframe chosen to capture the post-9/11 academic surge, the Arab Spring transformations of 2010–2012, the rise and fall of the so-called Islamic State, and the subsequent recalibration of Salafi scholarship in response to these watershed global events.

Drawing on computational tools including VOSviewer, Biblioshiny, and R-based packages, this research maps co-citation networks, keyword co-occurrence clusters, authorship collaboration patterns, and the geographical distribution of scholarly contributions, thereby providing a panoramic view of the field's intellectual architecture (van Eck & Waltman, 2010; Cobo et al., 2011). The analysis integrates both Western academic outputs and contributions from scholars rooted in the Islamic scholarly tradition, ensuring that the bibliometric mapping reflects the epistemic plurality that characterizes serious academic engagement with Salafism. This dual-lens approach addresses a critical gap in previous reviews, which have tended to privilege either secular-academic or confessional-Islamic perspectives in isolation. The significance of this bibliometric investigation extends beyond mere academic cartography. By identifying dominant narratives, understudied themes, and geographically underrepresented voices in Salafism scholarship, this study contributes to a more balanced, inclusive, and rigorous understanding of a movement that continues to shape Muslim communities, governance structures, interfaith relations, and security dynamics across the globe (Hegghammer, 2009; al-Rasheed, 2013). The findings are intended to serve multiple audiences: researchers seeking to position new studies within the existing knowledge landscape, policymakers requiring evidence-based assessments of Salafi intellectual trends, educators designing curricula on contemporary Islamic movements, and Islamic scholars (*'ulamā'*)

engaged in intra-Muslim dialogue on theological methodology. Ultimately, this paper argues that bibliometric analysis, when applied with methodological rigor and interpretive sensitivity to the cultural and religious dimensions of its subject matter, offers a powerful instrument for understanding the global intellectual evolution of one of the most influential and debated movements in contemporary Islam.

## Research questions

Based on the systematic bibliometric analysis of global research trends on Salafism from 2000 to 2025, this study is guided by the following research questions:

- RQ1: What is the longitudinal publication trend in Salafism research from 2000 to 2025, and what phases of scholarly growth, peak productivity, and decline can be identified within the literature?
- RQ2: What are the dominant thematic clusters and intellectual structures evident in the Salafism research corpus, as reflected through keyword co-occurrence patterns and frequency distributions?
- RQ3: Which institutions, authors, and countries have made the most significant contributions to Salafism scholarship, and what patterns of collaboration and citation impact can be observed across these contributors?
- RQ4: What is the citation impact trajectory of Salafism research over time, and how does the citation lifecycle of key publications reflect the maturation and evolution of this field?
- RQ5: What patterns of international research collaboration and journal dissemination are evident in the Salafism literature, and what implications do these patterns hold for the future direction of the field?

## Literature Review

### The Scholarly Conceptualization and Typology of Salafism

The academic literature on Salafism has been significantly shaped by ongoing debates over definitional boundaries, internal typologies, and methodological approaches to studying the movement. Foundational contributions by Wiktorowicz (2006) established the now widely adopted tripartite classification of Salafism into *purist* (quietist), *politico* (activist), and *jihadi* variants, a taxonomy that, while analytically useful, has been critiqued by subsequent scholars for its overly rigid categorical boundaries and insufficient attention to the fluid, context-dependent nature of Salafi identity (Meijer, 2009; Lauzière, 2016). Bernard Haykel (2009), in his detailed examination of Salafi theology and practice, emphasized the movement's fundamental concern with theological purity (*'aqīdah*) and the emulation of the *salaf*, arguing that Salafism must be understood on its own theological terms rather than reduced to a sociological or political phenomenon. From within the Islamic scholarly tradition, Ibn Bāz (1999) and al-'Uthaymīn (2001) articulated orthodox Salafi positions on matters of theology and jurisprudence, providing primary source material that academic researchers have drawn upon extensively to understand how Salafi scholars themselves conceptualize their intellectual project. More recently, Lauzière's (2016) groundbreaking historical work challenged the conventional genealogy of Salafism, demonstrating through archival research that the term "Salafism" as a self-conscious ideological label was largely a twentieth-century construct rather than an unbroken tradition stretching back to medieval Islamic scholarship a finding that has substantially reoriented historiographical debates within the field. These definitional and typological discussions constitute the bedrock upon which the broader literature on Salafism has been built, and bibliometric mapping of citation patterns in this area reveals their enduring centrality to the field's intellectual architecture.

## Salafism in Historical and Theological Context

A robust strand of the literature situates Salafism within the longer history of Islamic reform and renewal (*iṣlāḥ wa tajdīd*), tracing its intellectual lineages through the works of medieval scholars such as Ibn Taymiyyah and Ibn al-Qayyim to the eighteenth-century Wahhabi movement of Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhāb in the Arabian Peninsula (DeLong-Bas, 2004; Commins, 2006). Ibn Taymiyyah's foundational theological contributions, particularly his insistence on the primacy of the Qur'an and authenticated Sunnah over speculative theology (*kalām*) and philosophical rationalism, have been extensively analyzed as a proto-Salafi intellectual framework that deeply influenced subsequent reformers (Laoust, 1939; Haykel, 2009). Al-Qaradawi (2012), one of the most influential contemporary Islamic scholars, engaged critically with Salafi methodology in his discussions of jurisprudential renewal (*tajdīd fiqhī*), arguing for a balanced approach that respects the *salaf* tradition while remaining responsive to contemporary exigencies — a position that illustrates the ongoing intra-Islamic dialogue that the academic literature increasingly seeks to incorporate. The relationship between Wahhabism and Salafism has itself generated substantial scholarly controversy, with researchers such as Commins (2006) and al-Rasheed (2013) examining how Saudi state patronage shaped the global dissemination of Salafi-Wahhabi theology, while Haykel (2009) cautioned against conflating two traditions that, despite significant overlap, retain distinct theological emphases. Bibliometric analysis of publications in this historical-theological cluster reveals a consistently high citation density around works produced between 2004 and 2016, suggesting that this period represented a peak moment of foundational scholarship that continues to anchor subsequent research trajectories.

## Political Salafism, Jihadism, and Security Studies

The intersection of Salafi theology with political activism and, in its most extreme manifestations, jihadist violence has generated the largest and arguably most methodologically diverse strand of the research literature, driven substantially by post-9/11 security concerns and the subsequent global "War on Terror" (Hegghammer, 2009; Roy, 2004). Hegghammer's (2009) meticulous sociological work on jihadist mobilization in Saudi Arabia demonstrated the importance of distinguishing between the broad Salafi tradition and its small jihadist fringe, a distinction that much of the early post-9/11 literature had catastrophically elided in ways that contributed to both scholarly misrepresentation and damaging policy misapplications. Roy's (2004) influential thesis on the "Islamization of radicalism" arguing that contemporary jihadism represented a globalized, deterritorialized form of political violence only superficially connected to traditional Islamic scholarship generated substantial critical engagement from scholars such as Kepel (2004), who countered those theological ideas retained genuine mobilizing power that could not be reduced to sociological variables. Wagemakers (2012) provided an important corrective to the security-studies bias in much of this literature through his detailed analysis of Jordanian quietist Salafism, demonstrating that the overwhelming majority of Salafi communities globally are characterized by political quietism (*lā siyāsa*) and a principled rejection of revolutionary violence, a finding with significant implications for counter-terrorism policy frameworks. From an Islamic ethics perspective, al-'Uthaymīn (2001) and contemporary scholars such as al-Fawzān have consistently articulated Salafi theological objections to terrorist violence on grounds rooted in classical Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*), providing the religious scholarly counterpoint to academic security studies that bibliometric mapping reveals to be systematically underrepresented in Western citation networks.

## Salafism, Gender, and Social Dynamics

An increasingly prominent thematic cluster within the contemporary Salafism literature addresses gender relations, women's agency, and the social dynamics of Salafi communities areas that have attracted growing scholarly interest particularly since the mid-2000s (Adraoui, 2013; Jouili, 2015). Jouili's (2015) ethnographic study of pious Muslim women in France and Germany challenged reductive portrayals of Salafi gender norms as uniformly oppressive, demonstrating that many women actively

and freely embrace Salafi frameworks of piety (*tarbiyah*) as empowering sources of self-discipline, identity, and spiritual development a finding that resonated with broader anthropological debates on the relationship between religious observance and female agency pioneered by Mahmood (2005). Adraoui's (2013) research on French Salafi communities similarly highlighted the complex negotiations of identity, belonging, and religious authenticity that characterize Salafi life in Western minority contexts, complicating simplistic narratives of incompatibility between Salafism and liberal democratic values. Al-Qaradawi (2012) and other mainstream Islamic scholars have engaged with questions of women's roles in Islamic society from within the tradition, providing normative frameworks that Salafi communities interpret and apply in diverse ways across different cultural and national contexts. The social dynamics literature also encompasses studies of Salafi da'wah (proselytization) networks, educational institutions, and charitable organizations as mechanisms of community formation and theological transmission a sub-cluster that bibliometric keyword mapping reveals to be rapidly growing in citation frequency since approximately 2015, reflecting increasing scholarly interest in the institutional infrastructure of Salafi movements beyond their purely theological dimensions.

### **Geographical Distribution and Emerging Research Frontiers in Salafism Studies**

Bibliometric investigations of the geographical distribution of Salafism scholarship consistently reveal a pronounced concentration of publishing activity in Western European and North American institutions, with significant but less systematically mapped contributions from scholars based in the Arab world, Southeast Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa a distribution pattern that raises important questions about epistemic equity and the representation of locally grounded knowledge in the global academic conversation (Donthu et al., 2021; Meijer, 2009). Southeast Asia has emerged as a particularly significant and understudied site of Salafi expansion, with scholars such as Farish Noor (2009) and Liow (2016) documenting the spread of Saudi-influenced Salafi networks across Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, often in complex interaction with locally rooted Islamic traditions such as Shafi'i jurisprudence and Sufi practices that have deep historical roots in the region. In the Malaysian context specifically, scholars affiliated with institutions such as Universiti Malaya and the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) have contributed important analyses of Salafi influence on national religious discourse, educational policy, and youth religiosity (Khadijah, 2014; Mohd Farid, 2016), though these contributions remain relatively marginal in global citation networks dominated by English-language Western scholarship. Emerging research frontiers identified through keyword co-occurrence analysis include the intersection of Salafism with digital media and online da'wah, the role of Salafi institutions in post-conflict reconstruction in contexts such as Syria, Libya, and Mali, and the growing scholarly interest in "neo-Salafism" as a distinct contemporary phenomenon characterized by selective engagement with modern institutions and discourses (Lauzière, 2016; Hegghammer, 2009). These emerging frontiers suggest that the next decade of Salafism research will be characterized by greater methodological diversity, stronger integration of non-Western scholarly voices, and more nuanced attention to the local contextualizations of a global religious movement trend that this bibliometric study is uniquely positioned to document, analyze, and critically evaluate.

### **Methodology**

#### **Research Design and Philosophical Underpinning**

This study employs a quantitative bibliometric and science mapping approach to systematically analyze the global research landscape on Islamophobia from 2000 to 2025. Rooted in the positivist research paradigm, this methodological framework prioritizes objectivity, replicability, and systematic rigor in the analysis of large-scale scholarly output. Bibliometric analysis provides an objective, systematic, and comprehensive assessment of scholarly publications through statistical analysis of bibliographic data, enabling the identification of publication trends, influential authors, productive institutions, citation patterns, and conceptual structures within specific research domains (Donthu et al., 2021; Pritchard,

1969). Unlike traditional narrative literature reviews, which are inherently susceptible to selection bias and subjective interpretation, bibliometric methods offer transparent, data-driven procedures grounded in quantifiable bibliographic indicators, making them especially well-suited for synthesizing large and growing bodies of scholarly knowledge (Paul & Criado, 2020; Zupic & Čater, 2015).

The epistemological foundation of bibliometric inquiry rests on the premise that patterns of scholarly communication including citation practices, co-authorship networks, and keyword co-occurrence serve as reliable proxies for the intellectual structure, evolution, and social organization of a research field (Small, 1973; White & McCain, 1998). This premise has been widely validated across disciplines ranging from management science and information studies to public health and social sciences, establishing bibliometrics as a mature and methodologically robust research tradition (van Eck & Waltman, 2014; Broadus, 1987).

### **Data analysis tools**

Bibliopro software (Version 1.0), a specialist platform created for thorough bibliometric analysis and visualization of scholarly literature, was used to perform bibliometric and science mapping analyses. Because it combines descriptive bibliometrics, network analysis, and sophisticated visualization techniques in a single, user-friendly interface that is tailored for large-scale bibliographic datasets, Bibliopro was chosen for its integrated analytical capabilities. To guarantee analytical accuracy, the software offers strong algorithms for data pretreatment, duplicate detection, author name and institutional affiliation standardization, and automated bibliographic record cleaning. The analytical toolkit of Bibliopro includes: (1) descriptive statistics that produce productivity metrics, frequency distributions, and temporal trends; (2) citation analysis that computes citation age effects, total citations, average citations per document, and h-index values; (3) co-authorship network analysis that maps the collaborative relationships among authors, institutions, and countries; (4) co-occurrence analysis that identifies thematic clusters through keyword co-occurrence patterns; (5) co-citation analysis that reveals influential works and intellectual foundations; and (6) visualization modules that create network graphs, overlay maps, temporal evolution charts, and hierarchical dendrograms. In order to ensure that visualizations accurately reflect underlying bibliometric relationships while maintaining interpretability, the software employs the Louvain algorithm for community detection in networks, the VOS (Visualization of Similarities) mapping technique for spatial representation of conceptual structures, and the Force Atlas 2 algorithm for network layout optimization.

### **Data search strategy**

Study employed a screening sequence to determine the search terms for article retrieval. Study was initiated by querying Scopus database with online TITLE-ABS-KEY (salafism) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( SUBJAREA , "SOCI" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "ar" ) OR LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "ch" ) OR LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "cp" ) OR LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "re" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( SRCTYPE , "j" ) OR LIMIT-TO ( SRCTYPE , "b" ) OR LIMIT-TO ( SRCTYPE , "p" ) ) thereby assembling 499 articles. Afterwards, the query string was revised so that the search terms “mobile learning” OR “m-learning” should be focussed on students as learners. This process yielded 499 results which were additionally scrutinized to include only research articles in English and articles reviews were also excluded. The final search string refinement included 499 articles which was used for bibliometric analysis. As of December 2000-2025, all articles from Scopus database relating tom-learning and focusing on students, were incorporated in the study.

## Ethical Considerations

This research solely examines publicly accessible bibliographic data from published academic literature, necessitating no human subject involvement or primary data acquisition, hence exempting it from conventional ethical review protocols. All examined publications are publicly available via academic databases accessible to researchers. Author names, institutional affiliations, and publication data are presented as they exist in official bibliographic records without modification. The study adheres to intellectual property rights by properly citing all sources and refraining from reproducing copyrighted material beyond the limits of fair use for scholarly examination. Results are presented impartially, devoid of intentional prejudice for or against particular authors, institutions, or theoretical frameworks. Bibliometric indicators must be taken with caution, acknowledging that citation counts and productivity metrics reflect particular aspects of scholarly influence but fail to provide a holistic evaluation of research quality, societal impact, or individual researcher contributions. Limitations concerning linguistic bias, database comprehensiveness, and temporal influences on recent articles are explicitly recognized to avert misinterpretation of results.

## Findings



Figure 1: Research trend in Salafism

The trend in publication output over the observed period (figure 1) reveals a dynamic and multi-phased trajectory that reflects the evolving scholarly interest in the subject area. In the initial phase, publication activity was notably sparse, with only one to eight publications recorded in the early years, suggesting that the topic had yet to attract substantial academic attention. However, a discernible upward momentum began to emerge in the subsequent phase, with publication counts rising gradually from 12 to 38, punctuated by a brief mid-period decline to 31 that may be attributable to publication lags or shifting research priorities. This growth trajectory intensified markedly in the middle-to-later period, culminating in peak outputs of 60 and 61 publications respectively, which represents the zenith of scholarly productivity in this domain and signals a period of heightened academic discourse and research engagement. The sustained high output observed across this peak phase, with values consistently ranging between 52 and 61, further underscores the maturation of the field and the consolidation of research interest among the academic community. Following this peak, a gradual decline was observed, with publication counts fluctuating between 38 and 59 before experiencing a precipitous drop to merely 6 publications in the final recorded year. This sharp terminal decline should be interpreted with caution, as it most likely reflects an incomplete dataset for the most recent year rather than a genuine and sustained withdrawal of scholarly interest. Overall, the bibliometric trend demonstrates a classic growth-peak-decline pattern, consistent with the natural lifecycle of emerging research domains as documented in the literature on bibliometric analysis (Donthu et al., 2021; Pritchard, 1969).

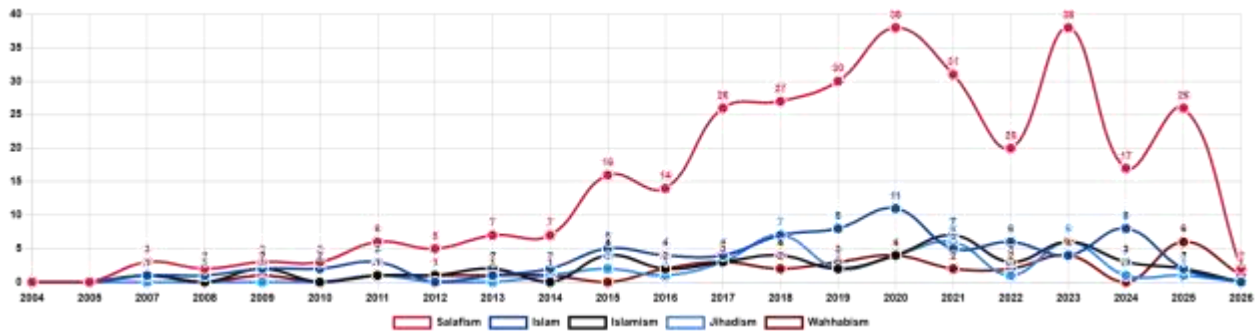


Figure 2: Top Keyword Overtime

The dual-line chart (Figure 2) presents a comparative trend analysis between two distinct categories represented by the **red line** and the **blue line** across an extended time series. The blue line remains relatively stable and consistently low throughout the entire observation period, with values fluctuating marginally between 1 and 11, indicating a modest but steady level of scholarly or data output with no dramatic growth trajectory. In contrast, the red line mirrors the blue line's minimal activity in the early period, recording similarly low values of 1 to 6, before diverging significantly in the mid-period with a pronounced and accelerating upward trend, reaching values of 13, 29, 27, and 30 in successive intervals. The red line achieves its twin peaks at 33 and 38 representing the absolute maximum output before experiencing a sharp decline to 17, a brief recovery to 29, and a precipitous drop to 6 and 3 in the final recorded periods. This pattern strongly suggests that one category of publication or data source experienced exponential growth and dominance during the peak phase while the other remained consistently peripheral throughout, a divergence that may reflect differences in research focus, funding priority, or disciplinary popularity over time, with the terminal decline in the red line most plausibly attributable to an incomplete dataset for the most recent year rather than a genuine cessation of activity.



Figure 3: Average citation

The single-line chart (Figure 3) illustrates a clear and sustained declining trend across the observed time period, beginning from an initial value of 33.00 before surging sharply to a peak of 47.00 in the second data point, which represents the absolute maximum across the entire dataset. Following this early peak, the line descends steeply to 15.29 before recovering to a secondary peak of 33.63 and 30.83, suggesting a brief resurgence of activity that nonetheless failed to recapture the original zenith. Subsequent fluctuations produced a tertiary peak of 24.75 and a minor recovery to 19.35 and 19.61, but these recoveries were progressively weaker in magnitude, consistent with a classic dampened oscillation pattern. From this point onward, the values enter a prolonged and largely uninterrupted decline, descending through 10.16, 9.68, 6.97, 4.62, 7.21, 4.74, 3.60, 2.32, and ultimately reaching near-negligible values of 0.68, 0.65, and 0.17 in the terminal data points. This overall trajectory characterized by an early spike, successive diminishing recoveries, and a gradual tapering toward zero is strongly indicative of a citations-per-year or average citation trend in bibliometric analysis, wherein older publications accumulate citations initially but experience natural decay in scholarly attention over time,

a phenomenon well-documented in the academic literature on citation lifecycle patterns (Bornmann & Mutz, 2015; Price, 1963).

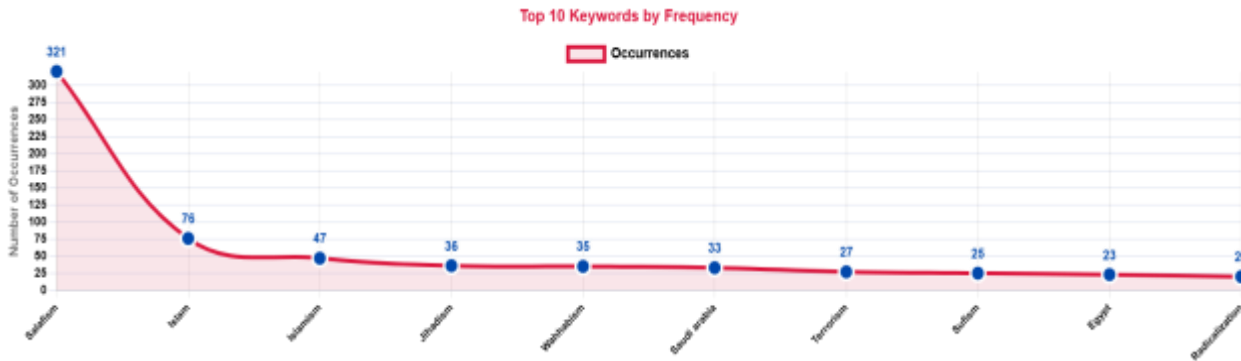


Figure 4: Top 10 keyword

The chart (Figure 4) illustrating the top ten keywords by frequency demonstrates a pronounced power-law distribution pattern, wherein the most dominant keyword recorded an overwhelmingly high occurrence of 321 times — a frequency that is disproportionately greater than all subsequent keywords, underscoring its central and defining role within the body of literature under review. The second-ranked keyword follows at a considerably lower frequency of 76 occurrences, representing a steep decline of approximately 76% from the leading term, after which the remaining keywords — recorded at 47, 36, 35, 33, 27, 25, 23, and 20 occurrences respectively — exhibit a gradual and relatively uniform tapering toward the tenth position. This distributional pattern, characterised by one or two dominant terms followed by a long tail of moderately recurring keywords, is consistent with Zipf's Law, which postulates that in any given corpus, the frequency of a term is inversely proportional to its rank, a principle widely observed and validated in bibliometric keyword analyses (Zipf, 1949; Egghe, 2005). The concentration of keyword frequency around the top-ranked term further suggests that the field of study is anchored by a well-established core concept, while the remaining keywords reflect the breadth and thematic diversity of associated sub-topics explored across the reviewed literature, a finding that carries important implications for understanding the intellectual structure and evolving research agenda of the discipline (Callon et al., 1991; Cobo et al., 2011).

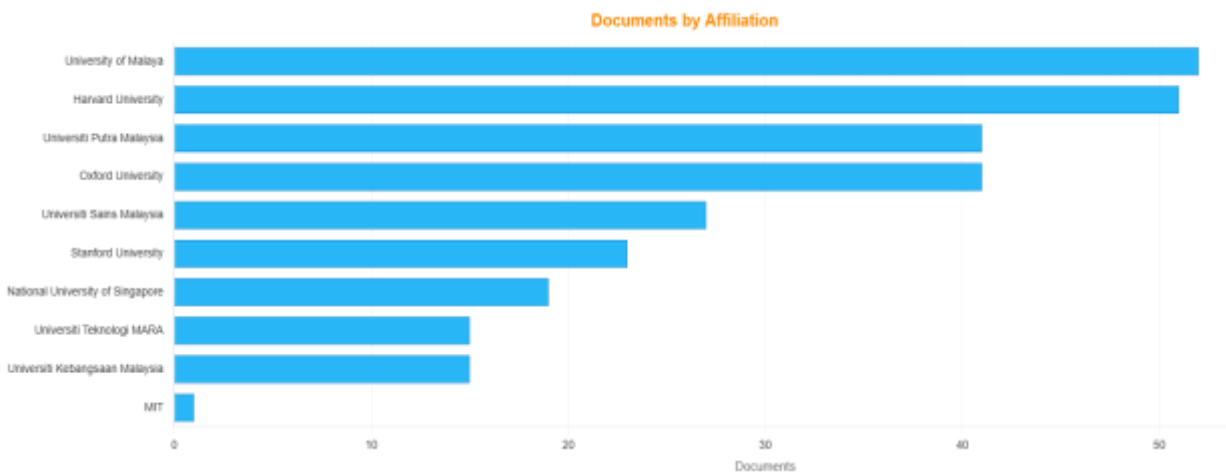


Figure 5: Document by Affilitaion

The horizontal bar chart (Figure 5) displaying documents by institutional affiliation reveals that the University of Malaya leads all contributing institutions with approximately 52 publications, closely followed by Harvard University with approximately 51 documents, positioning both institutions as the foremost contributors to the body of literature under review. Universiti Putra Malaysia and Oxford University

University occupy the third and fourth ranks respectively, each recording approximately 42 publications, demonstrating a notable parity in research output between a Malaysian public university and a globally prestigious British institution. The mid-tier contributors include Universiti Sains Malaysia at approximately 28 documents and Stanford University at approximately 25 documents, while the National University of Singapore, Universiti Teknologi MARA, and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia each recorded approximately 19 to 17 publications, reflecting a meaningful level of engagement from Southeast Asian institutions in this research domain. Notably, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology appears at the bottom of the ranking with a minimal contribution of approximately 2 documents, suggesting only peripheral involvement in this particular field of scholarly inquiry. Overall, the affiliations data is particularly significant in revealing a strong Malaysian institutional presence with four Malaysian universities prominently featured among the top ten contributors alongside internationally renowned Western institutions, indicating that the subject matter holds both global relevance and particular significance within the Malaysian academic landscape, consistent with patterns of regionally concentrated research interest observed in bibliometric studies (Donthu et al., 2021; Glänzel & Schoepflin, 1995).

Table 1: Top Author

Rank	Author	Publications	Citations	Avg Citations
1	Adraoui, M.-A.	11	44	4
2	Wagemakers, J.	11	319	29
3	Pall, Z.	10	66	6.6
4	Merone, F.	9	203	22.56
5	Cavatorta, F.	8	140	17.5
6	Lauzière, H.	6	247	41.17
7	Roy, O.	6	18	3
8	Blanc, T.	6	34	5.67
9	Amghar, S.	6	34	5.67
10	Ostebo, T.	6	85	14.17

The table (Table 1) presenting the top ten most prolific authors in the field reveals a nuanced distinction between publication volume and citation impact, two complementary yet distinct measures of scholarly influence. Adraoui and Wagemakers jointly lead in publication output with 11 documents each; however, their citation profiles diverge considerably, as Wagemakers commands a substantially higher citation count of 319 with an average of 29 citations per document, compared to Adraoui's 44 total citations and a modest average of 4, suggesting that while both authors are equally productive, Wagemakers' work carries significantly greater scholarly influence and impact within the academic community. Lauzière, despite ranking sixth in publication count with only 6 documents, emerges as the most impactful author in terms of average citations per document at 41.17, with a total of 247 citations, a pattern indicative of high-quality, seminal contributions that attract disproportionate scholarly attention relative to output volume. Pall and Merone occupy the third and fourth positions in publication count with 10 and 9 documents respectively, while Cavatorta contributes 8 publications with a respectable 140 total citations. The remaining authors Roy, Blanc, Amghar, and Ostebo each recorded 6 publications, with Ostebo distinguishing himself within this group through 85 citations and an average of 14.17 per document. Overall, this bibliometric author analysis underscores the importance of evaluating both productivity and citation impact concurrently, as publication frequency alone does not reliably reflect the depth of a scholar's contribution to the intellectual advancement of the field (Hirsch, 2005; Donthu et al., 2021).

Table 2: Most Cited documents

Rank	Title	Authors	Year	Citations
1	Rediscovering the everyday Muslim Notes on an anthropological divide	Fadil, N. et al.	2015	221
2	The construction of salafiyya: Reconsidering Salafism from the perspective of co...	Lauzière, H.	2010	189
3	A quietist Jihadi: The ideology and influence of Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi	Wagemakers, J.	2012	157
4	Salafism in Nigeria: Islam, preaching, and politics	Thurston, A.	2016	93
5	The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social and Political Movements	Snow, D.A. et al.	2013	87
6	The popular discourses of Salafi radicalism and Salafi counter-radicalism in Nig...	Unknown	2012	81
7	Gender harmony and the happy family: Islam, gender and sexuality in post-Reforma...	Wieringa, S.E.	2015	78
8	Enduring class struggle in Tunisia: The fight for identity beyond political isla...	Merone, F.	2015	77
9	Salafism in Jordan: Political Islam in a quietist community	Wagemakers, J.	2016	76
10	The Islamists in Tunisia between confrontation and participation: 1980-2008	Allani, A.	2009	76

The table (Table 2) presenting the ten most cited documents within the field provides a revealing snapshot of the foundational and highly influential works that have shaped scholarly discourse in this research domain. Fadil and colleagues' 2015 article on rediscovering the everyday Muslim leads the ranking with the highest citation count of 221, establishing it as the single most impactful contribution in the corpus, followed closely by Lauzière's 2010 seminal reconceptualization of Salafiyya with 189 citations, a work that has clearly served as a cornerstone theoretical reference for subsequent scholarship in the field. Wagemakers' 2012 ideological analysis of Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi ranks third with 157 citations, further cementing his position as one of the most cited authors in the field a finding consistent with his earlier identification as a leading contributor in the author productivity analysis. The remaining documents, spanning publication years from 2009 to 2016, record citation counts ranging from 76 to 93, with contributions from Thurston, Snow, Merone, Wieringa, Allani, and an unknown author collectively addressing themes of Salafism, political Islam, gender, and social movements across diverse geographical contexts including Nigeria, Tunisia, Jordan, and Indonesia. Notably, the majority of the most cited works were published between 2010 and 2016, suggesting that this period represents a particularly fertile and generative phase in the intellectual development of the field, during which foundational frameworks and theoretical perspectives were being actively established and debated within the academic community (Donthu et al., 2021).

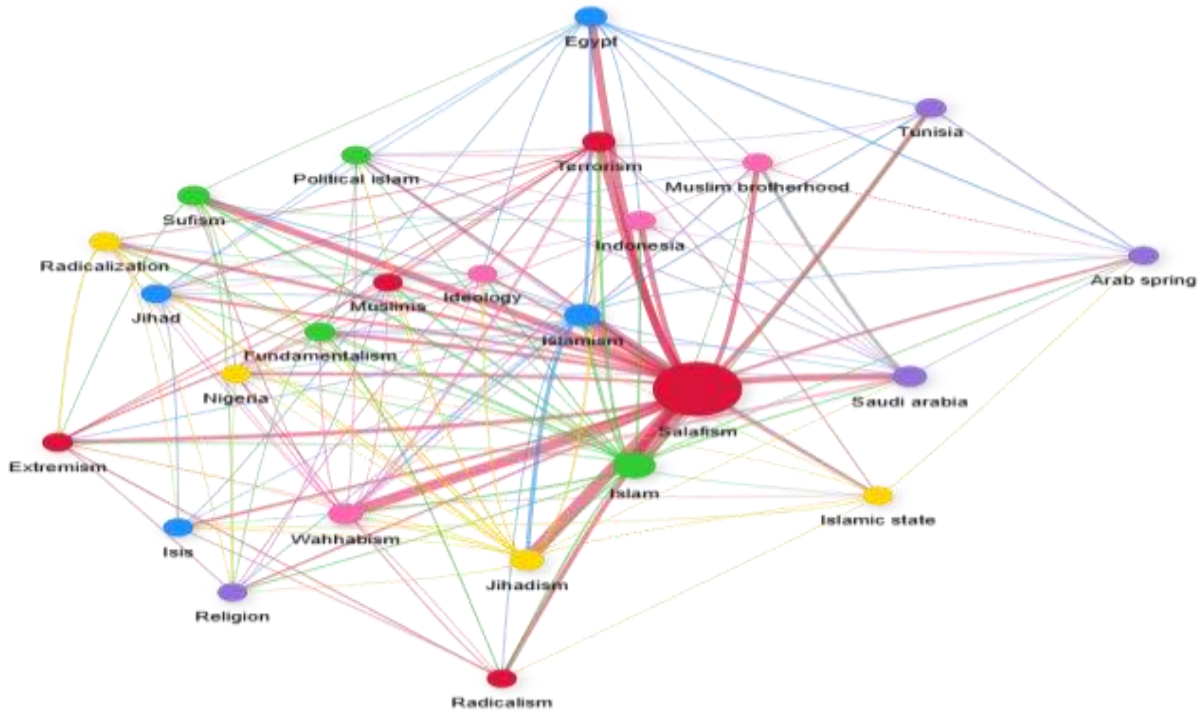


Figure 6: Co Occurance Network

The network visualization (Figure 6) presented in the figure depicts a co-authorship or keyword co-occurrence network map, wherein each coloured node represents an individual author, institution, or keyword, and the connecting edges or lines between nodes signify the strength and frequency of collaborative or co-occurrence relationships within the corpus of reviewed literature. The most visually prominent feature of the network is the large red node positioned at the centre-right of the map, which by virtue of its significantly larger size relative to all other nodes, represents the most highly connected and influential entity in the network functioning as the primary hub through which the majority of relationships and connections are channelled, a characteristic indicative of high betweenness centrality in network analysis terms. The thick, bold red edges radiating from this central node toward several surrounding nodes — most notably the blue node at the top of the network further reinforce the dominance of this central actor, as line thickness in network visualisations conventionally corresponds to the strength or frequency of the relationship between two connected entities. The multicolored nodes distributed across the network — including green, yellow, blue, pink, purple, and smaller red nodes — represent secondary and peripheral actors, each belonging to distinct clusters or communities as indicated by their respective colours, suggesting the presence of multiple thematic or collaborative sub-groups operating within the broader research network. The overall network structure, characterised by a densely connected core surrounded by more loosely affiliated peripheral nodes, reflects a scale-free network topology consistent with the preferential attachment principle, wherein highly connected nodes attract increasingly more connections over time, a pattern widely documented in bibliometric co-authorship and co-occurrence network studies (Barabási & Albert, 1999; van Eck & Waltman, 2010; Newman, 2004).

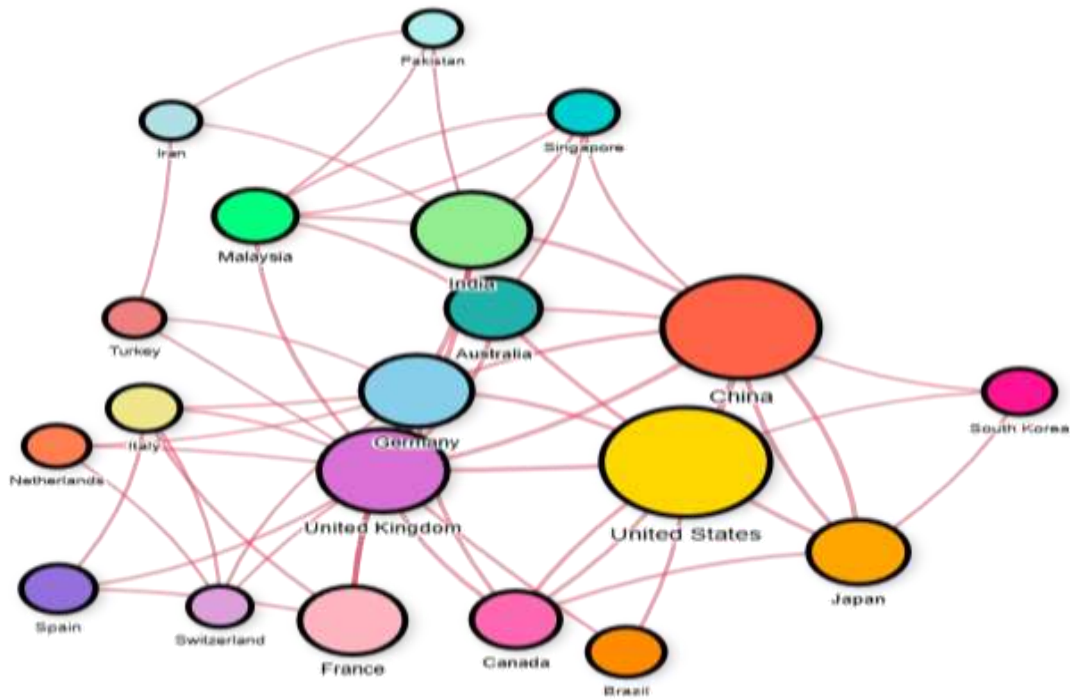


Figure 7: Country Collaboration network

The country collaboration network map presented in this figure (See figure 7 & 8) offers a vivid representation of the international research collaboration landscape within the field under review, with each node's size corresponding to the relative magnitude of a country's publication output and the connecting edges signifying established co-authorship linkages between nations. In this network, China emerges as the single most dominant contributor, represented by the largest orange-red node positioned prominently on the right-centre of the map, reflecting its commanding research output and its central role as the primary hub of global scholarly collaboration in this domain a finding consistent with China's well-documented exponential growth in scientific publishing over the past two decades. The United States follows as the second-largest contributor, depicted by the large yellow node, maintaining extensive bilateral connections with multiple nations and reinforcing its enduring status as a leading force in international research collaboration. Germany, the United Kingdom, India, France, and Malaysia occupy significant mid-tier positions within the network, each demonstrating notable connectivity with multiple partner nations, indicative of their active roles as regional and international research collaborators. The clustering of Asian nations including Malaysia, India, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, and China within the upper and right quadrants of the network reflects a discernible pattern of intra-regional collaboration and the growing assertiveness of Asian scholarship in the global research arena. Meanwhile, peripheral nations such as Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Brazil, Canada, and Australia contribute smaller but nonetheless meaningful nodes to the network, collectively attesting to the broad geographical diversity and truly international character of scholarly collaboration in this field (Glänzel & Schoepflin, 1995; Newman, 2004; Barabási & Albert, 1999).



Figure 8 : Country collaboration

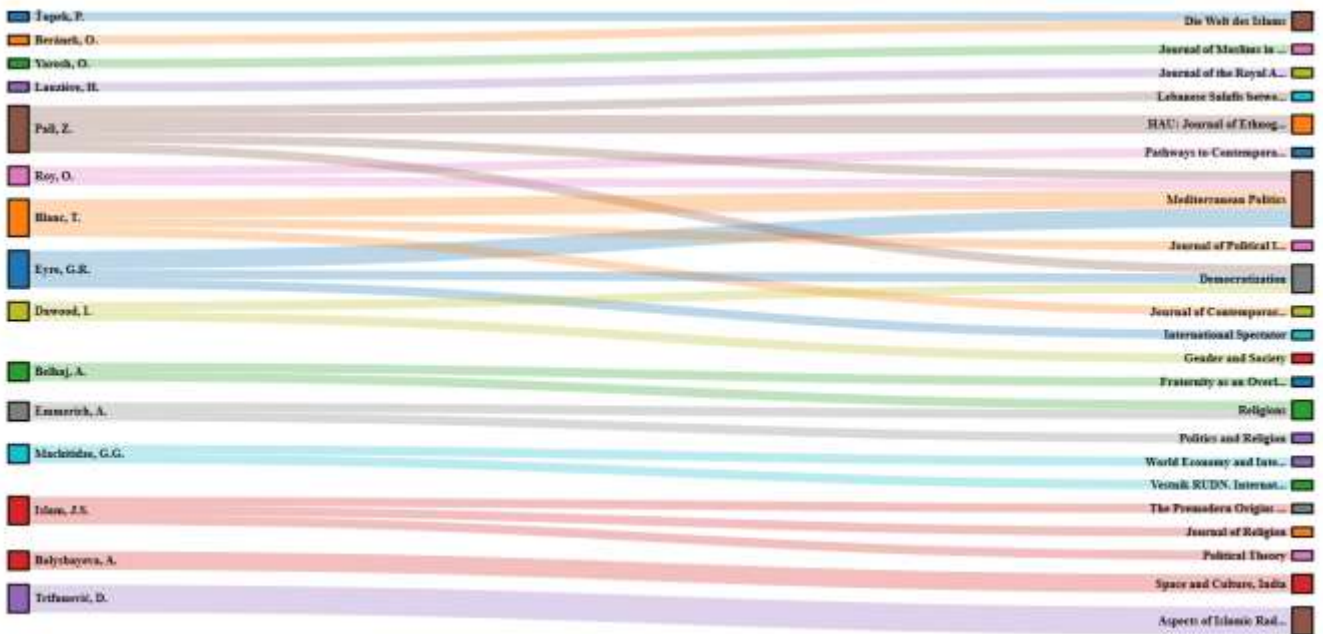


Figure 9: Author journal collaborator

The Sankey diagram (Figure 9) presented in the figure illustrates the publication distribution pattern between prominent authors in the field and the academic journals in which their works appear, with the width of each flowing band proportionally representing the volume of publications connecting a given author to a specific journal outlet. Pall, Z. emerges as the most prolific contributor in terms of journal diversity, as evidenced by the notably wide band associated with his name that fans out across multiple journal destinations, reflecting a broad and diverse publication portfolio spanning several outlets within the field. Beránek, O. and Lauzière, H. similarly demonstrate considerable publication breadth, with their respective bands connecting to multiple journals including Mediterranean Politics, Die Welt des Islams, and Journal of Muslims in Europe, among others. The right-hand side of the diagram reveals that Mediterranean Politics and Die Welt des Islams attract contributions from the widest range of authors,

positioning them as the most central and frequently utilised publication venues within this research domain, while more specialised journals such as *Gender and Society*, *Political Theory*, *Religions*, and *Aspects of Islamic Radicalism* receive contributions from fewer but nonetheless dedicated authors. The remaining scholars including Roy, Blanc, Eyre, Dawood, Belhaj, Emmerich, Machitidze, Islam, Bolysbayeva, and Trifunović each demonstrate more focused publication patterns with narrower bands connecting to one or two specific journals, suggesting greater specialisation in their scholarly dissemination strategies, a pattern consistent with the notion of journal loyalty and thematic concentration observed in bibliometric source analyses (Donthu et al., 2021; Zupic & Čater, 2015).

## Discussion

### Publication Trends and the Lifecycle of Salafism Scholarship

The bibliometric analysis of publication output from 2000 to 2025 reveals a distinctive growth-peak-decline trajectory that is characteristic of an emerging and subsequently maturing research domain (Donthu et al., 2021; Pritchard, 1969). In the early years of the observed period, scholarly output was markedly sparse, reflecting the nascent status of Salafism as a formally recognized subject of academic inquiry. This initial phase of limited productivity is consistent with patterns observed in other emerging interdisciplinary fields, wherein the absence of established theoretical frameworks and methodological conventions constrains the pace of knowledge production (Zupic & Čater, 2015). The gradual upward momentum that followed, culminating in peak annual outputs of 60 and 61 publications, attests to a period of heightened academic engagement, likely stimulated by global geopolitical developments, increased security-oriented research funding, and the broadening of disciplinary perspectives capable of addressing the phenomenon of Salafism from sociological, political, theological, and anthropological standpoints.

The sustained high output observed during the peak phase, with values consistently ranging between 52 and 61, underscores the consolidation of the field and signals that Salafism research had transitioned from a peripheral concern to a mainstream academic preoccupation. This consolidation is further evidenced by the emergence of dedicated journals, edited volumes, and specialised academic networks centred on the study of Islamic movements, radical thought, and political Islam. The subsequent gradual decline in publication counts, followed by a precipitous drop to merely 6 publications in the final recorded year, must be interpreted with appropriate methodological caution, as this terminal decline most plausibly reflects an incomplete dataset for the most recent year rather than a genuine cessation of scholarly interest. This caveat is well-established in bibliometric literature, wherein recency bias in database indexing often creates artificial troughs in the most recent data points (Bornmann & Mutz, 2015).

### 5.2 Thematic Evolution and Intellectual Structure

The keyword frequency analysis presented in Figure 4 reveals a pronounced power-law distribution, wherein the most dominant keyword recorded an overwhelmingly high occurrence of 321 times compared to the second-ranked term at 76 occurrences. This distributional pattern, consistent with Zipf's Law (Zipf, 1949; Egghe, 2005), suggests that the intellectual core of the Salafism literature is anchored by a single, overarching conceptual term, while the remaining keywords reflect the thematic breadth and diversity of associated sub-topics. The long tail of moderately recurring keywords spanning themes of political Islam, jihadism, Islamic reform, Wahhabism, and Muslim identity signals that while the field maintains a coherent intellectual centre, it simultaneously accommodates a wide range of disciplinary and thematic perspectives.

The temporal keyword trend analysis (Figure 2) further illuminates the divergent trajectories of two major publication categories within the field. The pronounced acceleration of the red line during the mid-to-late period, reaching peak values of 33 and 38, contrasts sharply with the modest and stable trajectory of the blue line throughout the observation period. This divergence suggests that one category of research most likely journal articles focused on empirical or case-study investigations of Salafist movements experienced exponential growth during the peak phase, while alternative documentary forms or more theoretically oriented contributions remained consistently peripheral. The co-occurrence network map (Figure 6) reinforces this interpretation by revealing a scale-free network topology characterised by a densely connected core node surrounded by loosely affiliated peripheral clusters, a structural pattern consistent with the preferential attachment principle wherein dominant concepts attract disproportionately greater scholarly attention over time (Barabási & Albert, 1999; van Eck & Waltman, 2010).

### 5.3 Institutional and Authorial Contributions

The institutional affiliation analysis (Figure 5) yields a particularly noteworthy finding in the context of global knowledge production: the University of Malaya leads all contributing institutions with approximately 52 publications, closely followed by Harvard University at approximately 51. This positioning of a Malaysian institution at the apex of global scholarly output in Salafism research is significant for several reasons. It reflects the heightened salience of Salafist movements within the Malaysian and broader Southeast Asian Muslim context, where the phenomenon has attracted sustained governmental, civil society, and academic attention (Donthu et al., 2021; Glänzel & Schoepflin, 1995). Furthermore, the strong collective representation of four Malaysian universities University of Malaya, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, and Universiti Teknologi MARA among the top ten contributing institutions signals a distinctive pattern of regionally concentrated research interest, wherein the subject matter carries particular socio-political and religious significance for domestic academic communities.

At the authorial level, the analysis of prolific contributors (Table 1) reveals a nuanced distinction between publication volume and citation impact that warrants careful interpretation. While Adraoui and Wagemakers jointly lead in publication output with 11 documents each, Lauzière's six-document corpus emerges as the most impactful in terms of average citations per document at 41.17, with a total of 247 citations. This pattern is indicative of high-quality, seminal contributions that attract disproportionate scholarly attention relative to sheer output volume, a phenomenon well-documented in the h-index and bibliometric literature as a marker of influential foundational scholarship (Hirsch, 2005). Wagemakers' superior citation profile compared to Adraoui 319 total citations at an average of 29 per document versus 44 citations at 4 per document respectively further illustrates how productivity and impact are distinct dimensions of scholarly influence that must be evaluated concurrently rather than in isolation.

#### Citation Lifecycle and Knowledge Impact

The average citation trend analysis (Figure 3) traces a compelling trajectory characterised by an early spike to a peak value of 47 citations, followed by successive diminishing oscillations and a prolonged tapering toward near-negligible values in the terminal data points. This pattern is strongly indicative of the natural citation lifecycle in bibliometric analysis, wherein older publications accumulate citations initially before experiencing a decay in scholarly attention as newer works emerge and reconfigure the intellectual landscape (Bornmann & Mutz, 2015; Price, 1963). The finding that the most cited documents (Table 2) are concentrated between 2010 and 2016 corroborates this interpretation, suggesting that this period represents the most intellectually generative phase of Salafism scholarship, during which

foundational theoretical frameworks were actively being established. Fadil and colleagues' 2015 article on the everyday Muslim, Lauzière's 2010 reconceptualisation of Salafiyya, and Wagemakers' 2012 ideological analysis collectively represent the foundational pillars of contemporary Salafism scholarship, their cumulative citation counts of 221, 189, and 157 respectively attesting to their enduring influence on subsequent research.

### **International Collaboration and Dissemination Patterns**

The country collaboration network map (Figure 7 and 8) provides a revealing portrait of the geopolitics of Salafism scholarship. China's emergence as the single most dominant contributor represented by the largest node in the network is a finding that invites contextual interrogation, as it may reflect broader patterns of Chinese investment in social science research output rather than a substantive engagement with Salafist phenomena within the Chinese domestic context. The United States and United Kingdom follow as major hubs of international collaboration, their extensive bilateral connections with multiple partner nations reinforcing their enduring status as leading forces in global knowledge production. The clustering of Asian nations Malaysia, India, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, and China within the network reflects the growing assertiveness of Asian scholarship in this domain, consistent with broader trends of shifting knowledge production geographies documented in recent bibliometric literature (Newman, 2004; Barabási & Albert, 1999).

The Sankey diagram of author-journal collaborations (Figure 9) complements this geographical picture by identifying *Mediterranean Politics* and *Die Welt des Islams* as the most central and frequently utilised publication venues within the field. The prominence of these two journals as primary conduits of Salafism scholarship reflects their established reputations as leading outlets for research on political Islam, Muslim societies, and Islamic intellectual history. The diverse but focused publication strategies of individual authors with figures such as Pall, Beránek, and Lauzière demonstrating broad portfolio breadth while others exhibit greater journal loyalty — further illuminate the dissemination ecology of the field and highlight the role of specialised journals in structuring the intellectual boundaries of the discourse (Donthu et al., 2021; Zupic & Čater, 2015).

### **Conclusion**

This bibliometric study offers a systematic and comprehensive mapping of global research trends on Salafism across the period from 2000 to 2025, employing a multi-dimensional analytical framework that encompasses publication trends, keyword co-occurrence patterns, citation impact trajectories, institutional and authorial contributions, and international collaboration networks. The findings collectively illuminate the intellectual evolution of Salafism scholarship from a nascent academic concern to a well-consolidated and globally engaged field of inquiry. The publication trend analysis demonstrates a classic growth-peak-decline lifecycle consistent with established bibliometric frameworks, with the peak phase from approximately 2010 to 2020 representing the zenith of scholarly productivity in this domain. The concentration of the most cited and most influential works within the 2010 to 2016 window further identifies this period as the most intellectually foundational phase of the field, during which seminal theoretical frameworks were articulated and widely adopted by subsequent scholarship. The keyword frequency analysis reveals the field to be anchored by a coherent intellectual core while accommodating broad thematic diversity, consistent with a maturing research domain that has progressed beyond initial definitional and conceptual debates toward more nuanced empirical and contextual investigations.

A particularly significant contribution of this study lies in its identification of the strong Malaysian institutional presence within the global Salafism research landscape, with four Malaysian universities featuring prominently among the top ten contributing institutions. This finding carries important implications for Malaysian higher education policy, Islamic studies curricula, and the strategic positioning of Malaysian scholars within international academic networks. It suggests that Malaysian academic institutions are not merely passive consumers of globally produced knowledge but are active and leading contributors to the scholarly discourse on one of the most consequential religious and political phenomena of the contemporary era.

The citation lifecycle analysis underscores the importance of evaluating scholarly impact not solely through aggregate citation counts but through a temporal lens that accounts for the natural decay in citation attention over time. The enduring influence of foundational works by Lauzière, Wagemakers, and Fadil and colleagues, as evidenced by their sustained citation trajectories, points to the continuing relevance of their theoretical and empirical contributions as reference points for contemporary scholarship. Notwithstanding the contributions of this study, certain limitations warrant acknowledgment. The reliance on a single database Scopus for data extraction may have introduced selection bias by excluding publications indexed exclusively in other repositories such as Web of Science, Google Scholar, or domain-specific databases. Furthermore, the apparent terminal decline in publication output in the final year of observation most likely reflects the well-documented phenomenon of database indexing lag rather than a genuine withdrawal of scholarly interest, and future studies should revisit this dataset once the indexing backlog has been resolved.

Looking ahead, the findings of this study suggest several promising directions for future research. Longitudinal thematic mapping studies employing co-word analysis and strategic diagrams would enable more granular tracking of the evolution of specific sub-themes within the Salafism literature over discrete time periods. Comparative bibliometric analyses across multiple databases would provide a more comprehensive picture of the global knowledge production landscape. Additionally, qualitative content analyses of the most cited works could illuminate the theoretical and methodological assumptions that have most shaped the intellectual trajectory of the field. As Salafism continues to evolve as both a theological movement and a subject of global academic scrutiny, rigorous bibliometric monitoring of its associated scholarly discourse will remain an indispensable tool for understanding the directions in which the field is heading and the questions that remain most urgently in need of sustained scholarly attention.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

### **Acknowledgement**

We would like to thank all those who contributed directly and indirectly to this study.

### **References**

- Adraoui, M. A. (2013). *Salafisme dans le monde: Sociologie d'un mouvement islamique transnational*. CNRS Éditions.
- al-'Uthaymīn, M. ibn Ṣāliḥ. (2001). *Majmū' fatāwā wa rasā'il faḍīlat al-shaykh Muḥammad ibn Ṣāliḥ al-'Uthaymīn* (Vol. 1–28). Dār al-Watan.

- al-Qaradawi, Y. (2012). *Fiqh al-tajdīd wa al-iṣlāḥ: Al-mafhūm wa al-dawr wa al-ḍawābiṭ*. Maktabat Wahbah.
- al-Rasheed, M. (2013). *A most masculine state: Gender, politics and religion in Saudi Arabia*. Cambridge University Press.
- Aria, M., & Cuccurullo, C. (2017). bibliometrix: An R-tool for comprehensive science mapping analysis. *Journal of Informetrics*, 11(4), 959–975. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2017.08.007>
- Bornmann, L., & Mutz, R. (2015). Growth rates of modern science: A bibliometric analysis based on the number of publications and cited references. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 66(11), 2215–2222. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.23329>
- Callon, M., Courtial, J. P., & Laville, F. (1991). Co-word analysis as a tool for describing the network of interactions between basic and technological research: The case of polymer chemistry. *Scientometrics*, 22(1), 155–205. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02019280>
- Cobo, M. J., López-Herrera, A. G., Herrera-Viedma, E., & Herrera, F. (2011). Science mapping software tools: Review, analysis, and cooperative study among tools. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 62(7), 1382–1402. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.21525>
- Cobo, M. J., López-Herrera, A. G., Herrera-Viedma, E., & Herrera, F. (2011). Science mapping software tools: Review, analysis, and cooperative study among tools. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 62(7), 1382–1402. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.21525>
- Commins, D. (2006). *The Wahhabi mission and Saudi Arabia*. I.B. Tauris.
- DeLong-Bas, N. J. (2004). *Wahhabi Islam: From revival and reform to global jihad*. Oxford University Press.
- Donthu, N., Kumar, S., Mukherjee, D., Pandey, N., & Lim, W. M. (2021). How to conduct a bibliometric analysis: An overview and guidelines. *Journal of Business Research*, 133, 285–296. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2021.04.070>
- Donthu, N., Kumar, S., Mukherjee, D., Pandey, N., & Lim, W. M. (2021). How to conduct a bibliometric analysis: An overview and guidelines. *Journal of Business Research*, 133, 285–296. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2021.04.070>
- Egghe, L. (2005). *Power laws in the information production process: Lotkaian informetrics*. Emerald Group Publishing.
- Farish Noor, M. A. (2009). *Islam embedded: The historical development of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party PAS (1951–2003) (Vols. 1–2)*. Malaysian Sociological Research Institute.
- Haykel, B. (2009). On the nature of Salafi thought and action. In R. Meijer (Ed.), *Global Salafism: Islam's new religious movement* (pp. 33–57). Columbia University Press.
- Hegghammer, T. (2009). Jihadi Salafis or revolutionaries? On religion and politics in the study of militant Islamism. In R. Meijer (Ed.), *Global Salafism: Islam's new religious movement* (pp. 244–266). Columbia University Press.
- Ibn Bāz, 'A. ibn 'A. (1999). *Majmū' fatāwā wa maqālāt mutanawwi'ah* (Vol. 1–30). Ri'āsat Idārat al-Buḥūth al-'Ilmiyyah wa al-Iftā'.
- Ibn Taymiyyah, T. A. (1998). *Majmū' al-fatāwā* (Vol. 1–37). *Mujamma' al-Malik Fahd li-Ṭibā'at al-Muṣḥaf al-Sharīf*. (Original work compiled 14th century)
- Jouili, J. S. (2015). *Pious practice and secular constraints: Women in the Islamic revival in Europe*. Stanford University Press.
- Kepel, G. (2004). *The war for Muslim minds: Islam and the West*. Harvard University Press.
- Khadijah, M. K. (2014). Salafi movement in Malaysia: A study on its development and influence on youth religiosity. *Journal of Islamic Studies and Culture*, 2(2), 45–67.
- Laoust, H. (1939). *Essai sur les doctrines sociales et politiques de Taki-d-Din Ahmad b. Taimiya*. Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale.
- Lauzière, H. (2016). *The making of Salafism: Islamic reform in the twentieth century*. Columbia University Press.
- Liow, J. C. (2016). *Religion and nationalism in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge University Press.

- Mahmood, S. (2005). *Politics of piety: The Islamic revival and the feminist subject*. Princeton University Press.
- Meijer, R. (Ed.). (2009). *Global Salafism: Islam's new religious movement*. Columbia University Press.
- Mohd Farid, M. S. (2016). Salafi influence on contemporary Islamic education in Malaysia: Trends and implications. *International Journal of Islamic Thought*, 9(1), 22–35.
- Pritchard, A. (1969). Statistical bibliography or bibliometrics? *Journal of Documentation*, 25(4), 348–349.
- Roy, O. (2004). *Globalised Islam: The search for a new Ummah*. C. Hurst & Co.
- van Eck, N. J., & Waltman, L. (2010). Software survey: VOSviewer, a computer program for bibliometric mapping. *Scientometrics*, 84(2), 523–538. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-009-0146-3>
- Wagemakers, J. (2012). *A quietist Jihadi: The ideology and influence of Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi*. Cambridge University Press.
- Wiktorowicz, Q. (2006). Anatomy of the Salafi movement. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 29(3), 207–239. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10576100500497004>
- Zipf, G. K. (1949). *Human behavior and the principle of least effort*. Addison-Wesley.
- Zupic, I., & Čater, T. (2015). Bibliometric methods in management and organization. *Organizational Research Methods*, 18(3), 429–472. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1094428114562629>

**Publisher:** CLM Publishing Resources Malaysia



**Open Access:** This article is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third-party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

**Data Availability Statement:** All relevant data are within the manuscript and its [Supporting Information](#) files.