



Challenges in Interfaith Marriage: Literature Review of Faith Values and Their Implications for Families

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Abstract: This study makes an original contribution by analyzing the challenges in interfaith marriages from the perspective of religious values and their impact on the family. Although the topic of interfaith marriages has been widely discussed, this study focuses on identifying the challenges and dynamics related to religious values that affect relationship stability and their implications for the family in a global context. This study uses a systematic and in-depth literature analysis approach to explore various relevant literature. The method used in this study is a literature review with a cluster analysis approach. Data were obtained through the use of publication tools such as Perish and VOSviewer to select 60 scientific articles related to the topic of interfaith marriage. There are 4 clusters produced, namely Cluster 1 (Red): in this cluster there are 13 items related to interfaith marriage and will be labeled "Marriage Rules with Different Cultures". Cluster 2 (Green): this cluster explains the label "Ethnic Acculturation in Marriage". Cluster 3 (Blue): This cluster is divided into 13 keywords items consisting of "Ethnography in Marriage". Cluster 4 (Yellow): This yellow cluster consists of 7 keyword items, which will be labeled "Racist Actions against Children from Interfaith Marriages". The practical implications of this study provide insight for couples considering or in interfaith marriages to understand the challenges that may arise due to differences in beliefs. In addition, this study also suggests the need to increase tolerance and awareness of interfaith in society so that families in interfaith marriages can grow harmoniously.

Keywords: Challenges, interfaith marriage, family implications, bibliometrics

Abstrak: Penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi orisinal dengan menganalisis tantangan dalam perkawinan beda agama dari perspektif nilai keyakinan dan dampaknya terhadap keluarga. Meskipun topik perkawinan beda agama telah banyak dibahas, penelitian ini mengkhususkan diri dalam mengidentifikasi tantangan dan dinamika terkait nilai keyakinan yang mempengaruhi stabilitas hubungan serta implikasinya terhadap keluarga dalam konteks global. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan analisis pustaka yang sistematis dan mendalam untuk menggali berbagai literatur yang relevan. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah kajian pustaka dengan pendekatan analisis klaster. Data diperoleh melalui pemanfaatan tools publikasi seperti Perish dan VOSviewer untuk menyeleksi 60 artikel ilmiah terkait topik perkawinan beda agama. Terdapat 4 cluster yang dihasilkan yaitu Klaster 1 (Merah): dalam klaster ini terdapat 13 item yang terkait dengan perkawinan beda agama dan akan diberi label "Aturan Perkawinan dengan Budaya Berbeda". Klaster 2 (Hijau): klaster ini menjelaskan label "Akulturasi Etnis dalam Perkawinan". Klaster 3 (Biru): Klaster ini dibagi menjadi 13 item kata kunci yang terdiri dari "Etografi dalam Perkawinan". Klaster 4 (Kuning): Klaster kuning ini terdiri dari 7 item kata kunci, yang akan diberi label "Tindakan Rasis terhadap Anak dari Perkawinan Beda Agama". Implikasi praktis dari penelitian ini memberikan wawasan bagi pasangan yang mempertimbangkan atau berada dalam perkawinan beda agama untuk memahami tantangan yang mungkin muncul akibat perbedaan keyakinan. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga menyarankan perlunya peningkatan toleransi dan kesadaran lintas agama di masyarakat agar keluarga dalam perkawinan beda agama dapat berkembang dengan harmonis.

Kata Kunci: Tantangan, perkawinan beda agama, implikasi keluarga, bibliometrik

Introduction

An interfaith marriage is a marriage between two people who have different religious beliefs. Such marriages often face unique challenges and require strong agreement and compromise from both parties.¹ This study is important to dig deeper into the challenges faced by couples in interfaith marriages, which are not only related to religious differences but also culture, social norms, and their impact on the family.² Several strong arguments in this study are supported by various references that show that interfaith marriages have broad implications for relationship stability, child development, and social

¹Bello Ali, "An Exposition of Islamic Solutions To," *Profetika Jurnal Studi Islam* 24, no. 2 (2024), p. 320–31.

² Bani Syarif Maula and Ilyya Muhsin, "Interfaith Marriage and the Religion–State Relationship: Debates between Human Rights Basis and Religious Precepts," *Samarah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga Dan Hukum Islam* 8, no. 2 (2024), p. 794.

dynamics. In addition, this study also shows that despite the challenges, interfaith marriages can enrich relationships with constructive interfaith dialogue.

The impact of different religious beliefs can be a challenge in communication and understanding between couples. However, if couples are able to manage communication well, this can strengthen the relationship. Couples need to agree on the religious education of their children, which can be a source of conflict if not handled wisely. Society and family may not always support interfaith marriages,³ which can cause stress and conflict for couples. However, support from the social environment can also be a positive influence.⁴

Problems in interfaith marriages cover various aspects, ranging from religious, legal, social, cultural, to personal impacts. From a religious aspect, there are various prohibitions and views related to interfaith marriages.⁵ Legally, there are differences in the regulation of interfaith marriages in Indonesia which reflect plurality in the unification of law. Socially and culturally, interfaith marriages are still considered taboo and contrary to religious rules and doctrines as well as applicable government regulations. The personal impacts of interfaith marriages also include problems in the household, kinship relationships, and family harmony.⁶

That is, individuals and families may have a high level of tolerance and acceptance of religious differences, so they do not consider this as an obstacle to marriage. A social environment that accepts and values religious differences can influence individuals to want to enter into interfaith marriages. Ease in the marriage process or to avoid conflict with family.⁷

Reflections from an ethical and theological perspective on interfaith marriage show an increasing tendency among young people to seek a life partner without considering this very difficult decision, which has the potential to cause spiritual and marital discord.⁸ This document provides a detailed review of the

³ Rosdiana Rosdiana, Ummu Hanah Yusuf Saumin, and Masayu Mashita Maisarah, "Legitimacy on Inter-Faith Marriages: An Analysis of the Role of Religious Councils on the Legal Policy in Indonesia," *AHKAM : Jurnal Ilmu Syariah* 19, no. 1 (2019). p. 88.

⁴ Aliya Karima et al., "Kepentingan Terbaik Anak Pemohon Dispensasi Pernikahan Dalam Penafsiran Hukum Oleh Hakim," *Al-Syakhsyiah: Journal of Law & Family Studies* 5, no. 2 (2023), p. 37–57.

⁵ Edi Gunawan and Faradila Hasan, "Divorce Lawsuit Due to Polygamy in the Manado Religious Court," *Al-Mizan* 13, no. 2 (2017), p. 272–93.

⁶ Mochamad Taufiqurrachman and Agus Machfud Fauzi, "Harmony in Diversity: The Dynamics of Interfaith Families," *Jurnal Sosiologi Agama Indonesia (JSAl)* 4, no. 3 (2023), p. 328–41.

⁷ Sally Kalek, "Challenges and Issues in Mixed Marriage Between the Indonesian and Non-Indonesia Diaspora" 4, no. 2 (2024), p. 90–106.

⁸ Andrew Spaumer, Azwihangwisi Mavhandu-Mudzusi, and Segun Emmanuel Adewoye, "Marital Resilience Factors That Enhance Conflict Management in Black African Marriages in South Africa: An Afro-Centric Perspective," *E-Journal of Religious and Theological Studies*, , 2025, p. 25–36.

legal aspects of marriage in Indonesia, highlighting the central role of religion and the need for religious conformity in marriage. The conclusion emphasizes that marriage is a cultural, ethical, and religious institution that ideally brings happiness and harmony, but that interfaith marriages have the potential to disrupt family relationships and must be approached with caution.⁹

Overall, this theme was chosen by the author to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by couples in interfaith marriages and their impact on family life, which in turn can contribute to the formation of better policies and strengthen interfaith relations in society.

With the background of this research, the research questions are as follows: What are the research trends on interfaith marriage based on the number of publications in a given time period? What are the most dominant key topic trends in research on interfaith marriage? What role do specific country publications play in the development of research on interfaith marriage? How can communities around the world prepare themselves for the challenges, tolerance and values of interfaith marriage?

This research methodology uses a literature review approach with cluster analysis to identify and group key themes related to challenges in interfaith marriages, especially those related to faith values and their implications for the family. Research data was obtained through the use of publication tools such as Perish and VOSviewer to select 60 relevant and current scientific articles on interfaith marriages. These articles were then analyzed to identify key keywords related to the research topic. Based on the analysis, four thematic clusters were found that describe important aspects related to interfaith marriages, namely: (1) Marriage rules with different cultures, (2) Ethnic acculturation in marriage, (3) Etography in marriage, and (4) Racist actions towards children from interfaith marriages. Each of these clusters was then studied in more depth to provide an understanding of the challenges faced by couples in interfaith marriages and their impact on the family. By using this method, this study aims to provide a more comprehensive insight into the factors that influence the success and challenges in interfaith marriages at the global level.

SLR is a literature-based study guided by ROSES (Reporting Standards for Systematic Synthesis of Evidence)¹⁰ established ROSES with the aim of strengthening and sustaining the approach to creating SLRs by increasing transparency and ensuring the quality of the review. Although this review focuses

⁹Muhammad Ulil Albab, Ahmad Izzuddin, and Malik Ibrahim Malang, "Of the Conditions and Pillars" 10, no. (2025). Y Sonafist and Henny Yuningsih, "Islamic Law, the State, and Human Rights: The Contestation of Interfaith Marriage Discourse on Social Media in Indonesia," *JURIS (Jurnal Ilmiah Syariah)* 22, no. 2 (2023), p. 381.

¹⁰Psychology Nexus, "A Review of Intervention Approaches in Marital Conflicts," no. January (2025).

more on interfaith marriages, and given that ROSES was explicitly designed to challenge, tolerate and value beliefs in interfaith marriages.¹¹

ROSES guides the SLR process, which begins with defining the research topic using the PICO technique; 'P' for Problem or Population, 'I' for Interest, and 'Co' for Context. Next, a document search method is developed and implemented in three stages: identification, screening, and eligibility. A quality assessment method is then performed using criteria derived from.¹² The quality of each selected article was assessed before inclusion in the review. Finally, the selected publications went through multiple processes, including data extraction and analysis. Data extraction procedures the core research topic led the data extraction procedure, while qualitative data were analyzed using thematic synthesis.¹³

Formulation of Research Questions

In formulating research questions, there are two sources used in this study. The first is derived from ideas from previous studies. All of these studies are related to how society globally prepares itself to face challenges, tolerance and values of belief in interfaith marriages, the second uses PICO which indicates the existence of population and problems, interests and context. Based on these concepts, the author includes three main aspects as part of the review, namely global society (Population), interfaith marriage (Interests) and having the same values, beliefs and principles of life that underlie the relationship, tolerance for each other's religious beliefs, Readiness to Face Challenges (context). This allows the author to formulate the main research question of this study: how society globally prepares itself to face challenges, tolerance and values of belief in interfaith marriages.¹⁴

Systematic search strategy

There are 3 stages of the process in implementing the strategy in this research, starting from identification, filtering and feasibility of research data. The implementation of the research process allows the author to find and synthesize comprehensively one in conducting an organized and transparent SLR.¹⁵

¹¹Karima et al., "Kepentingan Terbaik Anak Pemohon Dispensasi Pernikahan Dalam Penafsiran Hukum Oleh Hakim."

¹²Nagendrababu Venkateshbabu et al., "Methodological Quality Assessment Criteria for the Evaluation of Laboratory-based Studies Included in Systematic Reviews within the Specialty of Endodontology: A Development Protocol," *International Endodontic Journal* 55 (January 18, 2022) p. 326–33.

¹³Muhammad Naeem et al., "A Step-by-Step Process of Thematic Analysis to Develop a Conceptual Model in Qualitative Research," *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 22 (2023).

¹⁴Simon Marginson et al., *Assessing the Contributions of Higher Education*, 2023.

¹⁵Uchendu Chigbu, Sulaiman Atiku, and Cherley du Plessis, "The Science of Literature Reviews: Searching, Identifying, Selecting, and Synthesising," *Publications* 11 (2023), p. 2.

Identification

Based on the research questions that have been formulated, there are three main keywords identified regarding how society globally prepares itself to face challenges, tolerance and values of belief in interfaith marriages.

Table 1. Search strings used in the selected databases

Database	Rope
Scopus	“marriage” OR “marriageable” and “mixed marriage” OR “mixed marriage”

Based on table 1, it shows that the search data contains research that also discusses the impact of interfaith marriages, the implementation of mental health in interfaith marriages, but this research only focuses on how the global community prepares it self to face challenges, tolerance and faith values in interfaith marriages.

Filtering

At this stage, it will be traced through several stages, namely screening is the second stage where a publication will be included or excluded from this research (using a database or manually filtered by the author) depending on several criteria.¹⁶ Considering the concept of research field maturity, this review limited the screening procedure to articles published between 2015 and 2020. This time period was chosen because the number of published studies was sufficient to conduct a comprehensive review. The authors chose to review empirical research papers because they contain primary data. In addition, to minimize ambiguity, only papers written in English were evaluated. Since the purpose of the SLR is related to community preparation.

Table 2. Filtering process

Criteria	Inclusion	Exception
Timeline	2019-2023	Before 2018
Field of study	Humanities and social	Excluding economics and psychology
Document Type	Article	Excluding book chapters, reviews, books, conference papers

¹⁶Esther Wilder and William Walters, “Using Conventional Bibliographic Databases for Social Science Research: Web of Science and Scopus Are Not the Only Options,” *Scholarly Assessment Reports* 3 (2021).

Language	English	Excluding Spanish, French, Russian and Mandarin
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Table 2 shows that before the screening process, there were 831 articles related to interfaith marriages, then a screening process was carried out which aimed to classify data and metadata according to the needs of this study. The criteria used were the time span used from 2019 to 2023. This is because in the last five years there have been various cultures that have entered several countries, as well as freedom of communication and the social environment of society.

Eligibility

The purpose of the eligibility process in systematic literature review research is to determine which articles or sources of information will be included in the systematic analysis. This process aims to ensure that only relevant and high-quality articles are used in the analysis, thereby ensuring the accuracy and validity of the research results. This process involves assessing the suitability of articles based on certain pre-determined criteria. These criteria typically include relevance to the research topic, methodological quality, clarity and accuracy of results, and relevance to the research objectives.¹⁷

By conducting a careful eligibility process, researchers can ensure that the articles used in their research are the most relevant and high-quality, thereby increasing the reliability and validity of the research results. There are 381 Scopus articles at the title and keyword screening stage and after screening the timeline, type of document required, language used, there are 60 Scopus articles and 16 science direct articles, there are 76 articles that will be used in this study.

Selected Research Background

“Publication Trend” in bibliometric analysis refers to the pattern or direction of development that can be identified from scientific publication data over time. Publication trend analysis is an important component in understanding the dynamics of scientific literature and research development. Based on Figure 1, it can be seen that publications related to interfaith marriages have decreased from year to year over a period of 5 years, this is because considered as an issue that has been widely researched before. In addition, changes in research trends and shifts in focus to other topics may also be the cause of the decline in research on interfaith marriage. Other factors may include lack of financial support for research in this area, as well as lack of access to relevant data and information. In

¹⁷Chigbu, Atiku, and du Plessis, “The Science of Literature Reviews: Searching, Identifying, Selecting, and Synthesising.”

addition, changes in government policies or shifts in societal interests may also affect research interest.¹⁸

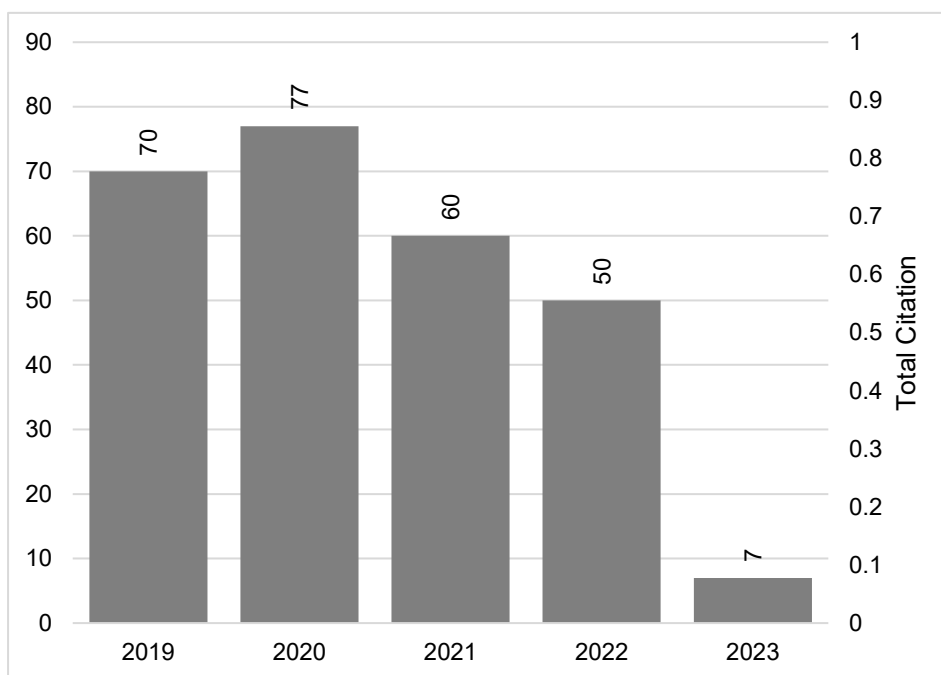


Figure 1. Publication trends from year to year

Factors causing the lack of research on interfaith marriage can be caused by the views of society, religious figures, and the government who still consider interfaith marriage to be taboo and contrary to religious norms and applicable government laws and regulations. In addition, dogmatic attitudes and rejection of interfaith marriage also contribute to the lack of research on this topic. The lack of critical review of the sacred texts of the Bible that discuss interfaith marriage is also a contributing factor.

Table 3. Publication trends for the keywords used

Keywords	TP	%
Wedding	46	76.67%
Mixed marriage	39	65.00%
Man	16	26.67%
Tribes	13	21.67%

¹⁸Sharofiddin Ashurov, Osman Sayid Hassan Musse, and Taalbi Abdelhak, "Evaluating Corporate Social Responsibility in Achieving Sustainable Development and Social Welfare," *BRICS Journal of Economics* 5, no. 2 (2024), p. 77–102.

Man	13	21.67%
Article	12	20.00%
Woman	12	20.00%
United States of America	9	15.00%
Mature	8	13.33%
Assortative Mating	7	11.67%
Child	7	11.67%
Human Experimentation	7	11.67%
Immigrant	6	10.00%
Cohabitation	5	8.33%
Homogamy	5	8.33%
Immigration	5	8.33%
Racial Identity	5	8.33%
Religion	5	8.33%
Acculturation	4	6.67%
Census	4	6.67%
Parent-Child Relationship	4	6.67%

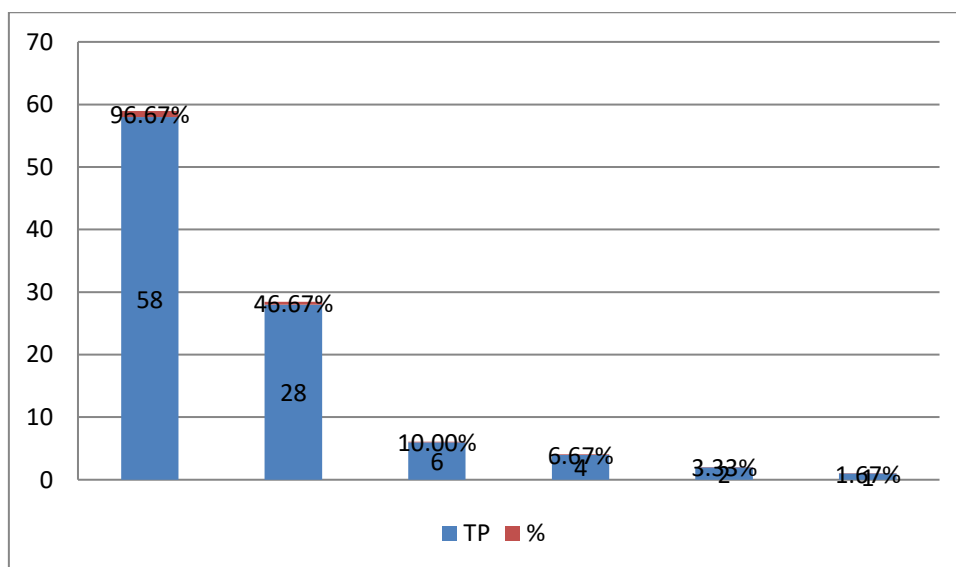


Figure 2. Recapitulation of publications based on source title

Figure 2 shows that the “Source Title” in bibliometric analysis refers to the title of the publication source, such as a journal or conference, which is the source of scientific publications.¹⁹ This analysis involves understanding the role and contribution of a particular publication source in the scientific literature, mapping, and identifying journals that are the center of attention or mainstay in the scientific field. This helps in determining journals that are often used as platforms for important publications. Figure 2 shows that there are 58 articles or 96.67% of publications from the social sciences, and 28 articles or 46.67% from the arts and humanities, and the remaining 2-6 articles on average from psychology and economics, and finance.

Table 4. Publication trends based on number of citations

Row Labels	TP	%	Cumm. TP	Cum. %	NCP	TC	C/P	C/CP
Year						year		
2019	48	20.08%	48	20.08%	46	1052	21.92	22.87
Year						year		
2020	49	20.50%	97	40.59%	46	1352	27.59	29.39
Year								Date
2021	48	20.08%	145	60.67%	46	976	20.33	21.22
Year								
2022	53	22.18%	198	82.85%	43	302	5.70	7.02
Year								
2023	41	17.15%	239	100.00%	25	125	3.05	5.00
Total number	239	100.00%			206	3807	15.93	18.48

Table 5. Publication trends based on the number of publications in Publisher

Row Labels	TP	NCP	TC	C/P	C/CP	h index
International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management	115	107	3518	30.59	32.88	35
International Journal of Operations and	75	73	10248	136.64	140.38	43

¹⁹Jeroen Baas et al., “Scopus as a Curated, High-Quality Bibliometric Data Source for Academic Research in Quantitative Science Studies,” *Quantitative Science Studies* 1 (2020), p. 1–10,

Production Management						
Measuring Business Excellence	62	57	year 1634	26.35	28.67	24
International Journal of Business Performance Management	47	44	828	17.62	18.82	14
Production Planning and Control	39	35	year 1473	37.77	date 42.09	23
International Journal of Production Research	39	38	year 2366	60.67	62.26	25
Management Accounting Research	35	34	3566	101.89	104.88	27
Public Money and Its Management	35	35	year 835	23.86	23.86	15
Journal of International Production Economics	35	35	4544	129.83	129.83	27
Total Quality Management and Business Excellence	24	22	411	Date 17.13	18.68	14
Comparison	23	22	Year 1828	79.48	83.09	14
Management Decisions	21	21	912	43.43	43.43	14
Managerial and Financial Accounting Studies	21	15	56	2.67	3.73	4
Accounting, Organizations and Society	20	19	3332	166.60	175.37	17
Public Performance Review and Management	19	19	298	15.68	15.68	11
Accountability and Financial Management	17	16	611	35.94	38.19	13
Advances in Management Accounting	16	14	81	5.06	5.79	5
Decision Management: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications	15	1	1	0.07	1.00	1

Table 6. 20 most influential authors

NO.	Writer	Title	TC
1	GL Greif (2023)	Long-term interracial and interethnic marriages: What can be learned about how couples deal with negativity from others	number 0
2	A. Oksuzyan, S. Drefahl, J. Caputo, S. Aradhya (2023)	Is It Better to Marry Someone Else? Immigration Background of Married Couples and Suicide Risk Among Natives and Immigrants in Sweden	number 0
3	BP Hawkins, C. Solheim, and Zuiker (2022)	Transnational Couple Parenting in the United States: A Story of Integration, Navigation, and Resilience	number 0
4	AM Echevarria Arsuaga (2020)	Recounting interfaith marriages, from Andalusian Christians to Moriscos	number 0
5	N. Khan (2022)	“Light unites with light”: Intermarriage discourse, LDS women of color, and the new racism	number 0
6	M. Anyawie, DT Lichter (2023)	Children of immigrants: Racial assortative mating and the transition to adulthood	number 0
7	J. H. Schroedter, J. Rossel, E. Chiapparini (2020)	Love across borders: On population structure, meeting places, and preferences in a globalizing world	number 0
8	A. Gawron and S. Carol (2023)	Immigrants' Life Satisfaction in Intermarriages with Natives: A Family Life Course Perspective	number 0
9	A. Gullickson (2022)	Interethnic Marriage Patterns in the United States, 1980–2018	number 0
10	E. Perez (2020)	The Dalton-Zamorano Family: Intimacy, intermarriage, and conquest on the US-Mexico border	number 0

11	B. Schulz and F. Siuda (2023)	Marriage and divorce: the role of unemployment insurance	number 0
12	S. Tulum-Akbulut, G. Özateşler-Ülkücan, Ö. Erarslan-İngeç, A. Tüknüklü (2023)	“We agree more than we disagree”: Exploring conflict in Alevi-Sunni mixed marriages in Türkiye	number 0
13	O. Trufanova (2023)	Siberian Sex Theory	number 0
14	M. Good (2020)	Are you still my wife? Conversion to Christianity and its legal implications for pre-existing marriages and their offspring in late medieval Castile (1480–1502)	number 0
15	S. Lempereur (2022)	'Land Asks for History'. Marriage, Land and Post-Slavery in Southern Benin	number 0
16	O. Erarslan-İngeç, G. Özateşler-Ülkücan, A. Tüknüklü, S. Tulum-Akbulut (2023)	The Impact of Family and Social Group Reactions on Mixed Marriage Decisions in Türkiye	number 0
17	A. Perez (2021)	Social inclusion and legal exclusion in a Jewish state or democracy: mixed marriages in the Zionist movement and the beginnings of the State of Israel	number 0
18	M.ROI (2020)	Phinehas is not Elijah: The spirit at Shittim (Num 25:6-15) in the light of the spirit at Horeb (1 Kgs 19), and the altar at Gilgal (Josh 22:9-34) in the light of the altar at Mount Carmel (1 Kgs 18)	number 0
19	CW-C. Up to (2020)	The role of children in marital relationships and the (in)stability	number 0

		of cross-border stepfamilies in Hong Kong	
20	C. Bradatan (2021)	The rise of mixed marriages without assimilation: consequences of historical ethnic emigration in Romania	number 0

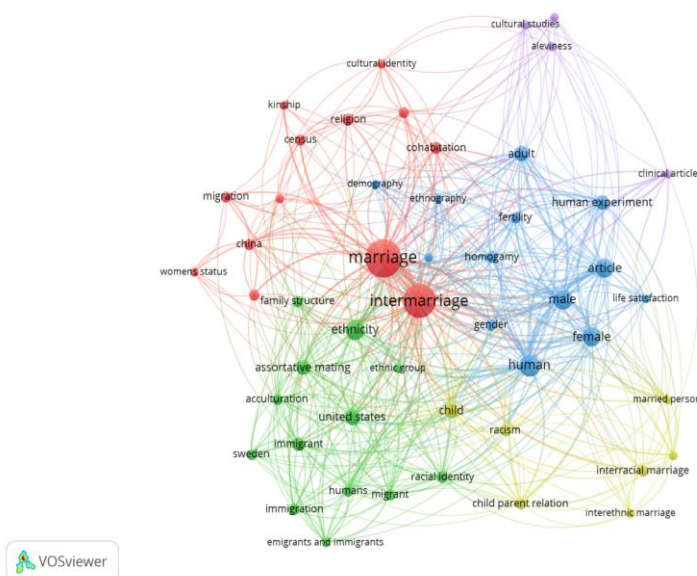


Figure 3. Overlay visualization of research trends based on keywords

Figure 3 shows a network visualization that describes the relationship between 2 research keywords related to interfaith marriage, there are 5 clusters consisting of:

Cluster 1 (Red): in this cluster there are 13 items related to interfaith marriage and will be labeled "Intercultural Marriage Rules". The rules on intercultural marriage or what is often called interfaith marriage have become polemic because they give rise to debate between those who agree and those who disagree. Although the number of interfaith marriages in Indonesia is increasing, this rule is still considered taboo and contradicts the rules and doctrines of religion and applicable government laws. In Islam, for example, the Qur'an prohibits the marriage of Muslim women with non-Muslim men. On the other hand, marriage law in Indonesia also emphasizes that marriage must be carried out in the same religion. However, interfaith marriage is considered the best solution without prayer from the couple. This rule also shows that religion has a close and

inseparable relationship with marriage, so that every religion always requires marriage between men and women of the same religion.

Cluster 2 (Green): This cluster describes the label “Ethnic Acculturation in Marriage”. That is, ethnic acculturation in interfaith marriage refers to the process by which couples from different ethnic or cultural backgrounds combine or blend elements of their cultures or traditions in their married life. This process involves adaptation, compromise, and integration between different cultural values, norms, and practices. In the context of interfaith marriage, ethnic acculturation can be a very important aspect because couples must not only overcome religious differences, but also cultural differences that may include differences in language, food, customs, and social values.²⁰ This process can be an opportunity for positive cultural exchange and enrich the life experiences of both partners, but it can also lead to conflict or difficulties if not managed well. Ethnic acculturation in interfaith marriages can also have wider impacts, such as on the children born from the marriage. These children may grow up in an environment rich in diverse cultural heritages, but may also face challenges in identity or recognition in the wider society.²¹

Cluster 3 (Blue): This cluster is divided into 13 keyword items consisting of "Ethnography in Marriage". In an ethnographic study of marriage, researchers will usually try to understand how couples interact with each other, how they divide roles and responsibilities in the household, how they resolve conflicts or problems, and how they carry out cultural traditions or rituals related to marriage. Through an ethnographic approach, researchers can gain in-depth insight into the complexity of marital relationships, as well as understand how cultural, social, and economic factors influence the dynamics in the relationship. The results of this ethnographic study can provide a better understanding of how marriage is influenced by certain cultural contexts, and how they also shape and influence culture.²²

Cluster 4 (Yellow): This yellow cluster consists of 7 keyword items, which will be labeled "Racist Actions Against Children of Interfaith Marriages". Racist actions against children of interfaith marriages can occur in various forms, ranging from discriminatory attitudes to physical or emotional harm. This can be caused by stereotypes, prejudices, or a lack of understanding of the cultural or religious differences of the couple, racist actions can also be reflected in discriminatory policies or practices against children of interfaith marriages. For example, there are countries or societies that may have laws or regulations that

²⁰Albab, Izzuddin, and Malang, “Of the Conditions and Pillars.”

²¹Vinna Rohmatul Izza and Indah Harvani, “The Role of Parents in Supporting Multicultural Education in the Era of Society 5.0,” 2023.

²²Yusdani, Ahmad Arifai, and Januariansyah Arfaizar, “The Jejuluk in Komerling Tribe Weddings in the Globalization from a Siyasa Perspective,” *Ijtihad: Jurnal Wacana Hukum Islam Dan Kemanusiaan* 23, no. 2 (2023), p. 211–34.

limit the rights or opportunities of children of interfaith marriages, such as access to education or employment.²³

From the explanation of the clusters above, here are the details of each cluster:

Table 7. Cluster Classification with Representative Publications

Group	Label group	Number of keywords	Representative publications
Cluster 1 (Red)	mixed marriage	13 items	census, chinese, cohabitation, cultural identity, cultural relations, immigrant population, intermarriage, kinship, marriage, regression analysis, religion, status of women.
Cluster 2 (Green)	Family Law	13 items	acculturation, assortative mating, emigrants and immigrants, ethnic groups, ethnicity, family structure, humans, immigrants, immigration, migrants, racial identity, Sweden, United States
Cluster 3 (Blue)	Wedding	13 items	adults, articles, demographics, education, ethnography, women, fertility, gender, homogamy, humans, human experiments, life satisfaction, men
Cluster 4 (Yellow)	Indonesia	7 items	biracial child, child, parent child relationship, interethnic marriage, interracial marriage, married people, racism

²³Hasna Lathifatul Alifa, Ali Sodiqin, and Bian Ambarayadi, “Konflik Hukum Legalitas Perkawinan Beda Agama Di Indonesia,” *Justicia Islamica* 20, no. 2 (2023), p. 193–214,.

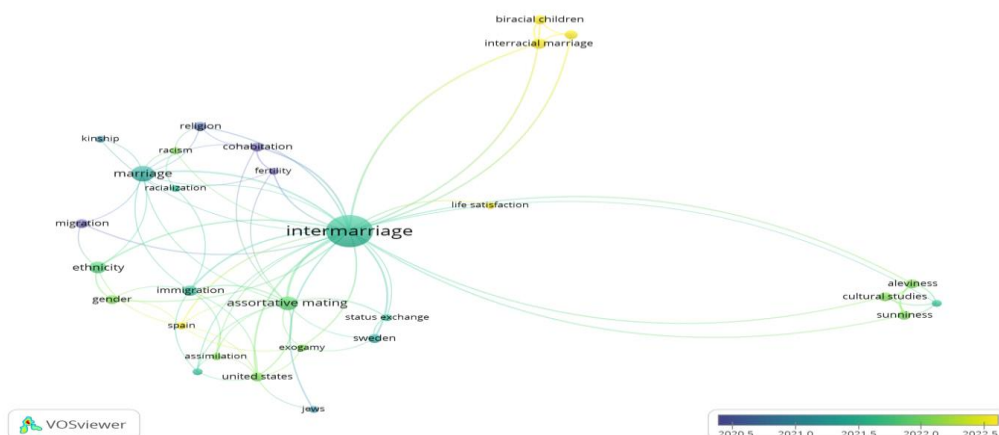


Figure 4. Overlay visualization of research trends based on document citations

Based on Figure 4, there are 7 clusters related to the keyword interfaith marriage, the explanation is as follows:

NO	Cluster Classification	Keywords used
1	Cluster 1	cohabitation, fertility, kinship, marriage, racialization, racism, religion
2	Cluster 2	Assimilation, immigration, Jews, life journey, United States
3	Cluster 3	Aleviness, cultural studies, social contact, cheerfulness
4	Cluster 4	Ethnicity, gender, migration, Spain
5	Cluster 5	Assortative mating, exogamy, status exchange, Sweden
6	Cluster 6	Biracial children, interethnic marriage, interracial marriage
7	Cluster 7	Mixed marriages, life satisfaction

The Rising Trend of Interethnic Marriages

The trend of increasing inter-ethnic marriages in Russia over the past few generations. Although there is no immediate threat of assimilation for most of the ethnic groups studied, there has been a significant increase in inter-ethnic marriages in some cities such as Kazan and Vladikavkaz, the dynamics of inter-ethnic marriages between Russian cities. For example, Kazan and Vladikavkaz, which are the capitals of ethnic republics, show a decline in endogamy for both ethnic Russians and local ethnic groups. On the other hand, Makhachkala, which has an indigenous Dagestani population, still shows strong barriers to marriages between indigenous Dagestanis and ethnic Russians.

The decline in ethnic endogamy can be explained by structural factors such as migration or urbanization that increase contact between ethnic groups, as well as by changes in marriage partner preferences.²⁴ More frequent contact between ethnic groups can contribute to changes in preferences, while changes in preferences can also trigger higher migration. The differences in trends between Latvia and Estonia suggest that local and historical contexts can have a significant impact on interethnic marriages. Therefore, it is important to take these factors into account when understanding the dynamics of interethnic marriages in Russia.

Challenges in interfaith marriage

One of the main challenges in interfaith marriages is the differences in beliefs and values between partners.²⁵ These differences can include religious practices, views on morality, and understandings of the purpose of life, which can be a source of conflict and tension in the relationship.²⁶ Couples in interfaith marriages often face challenges when it comes to raising children. They may have different approaches to teaching religious values to their children, which can lead to conflict about how to integrate different religious beliefs into the family.²⁷

Couples in interfaith marriages may also face pressures from family and society that may not support their relationship. Social stigma, cultural expectations, and rejection from family members or religious communities can add emotional burdens to couples.²⁸ By recognizing and addressing these challenges, couples in interfaith marriages can strengthen their relationship and build a solid foundation for their life together. Good communication, mutual understanding, and a commitment to working together through religious differences can help overcome challenges that arise in a relationship.

²⁴ Ani Aryati and A. Suradi, "The Implementation of Religious Tolerance: Study on Pesantren Bali Bina Insani with Bali Hindus Communities," *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun* 10, no. 2 (2022), p. 472.

²⁵ Asy'ari Asy'ari and Triansyah Fisa, "Interfaith Marriage in Perspectives of Classical and Modern Scholars," *Al-Manahij: Jurnal Kajian Hukum Islam*, , 2022, 288.

²⁶ Mochammad Rizky Eka Aditya et al., "The Problem of Interfaith Marriage in Indonesia: A Juridical-Normative Approach," *El-Usrah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga* 6, no. 2 (2023), p. 456.

²⁷ Mohammad Fakhri, "Phenomenological Study on Religious Values Development in Children of Muslim Migrant Workers Families in Lombok Island," *Khazanah Sosial* 6, no. 1 (2024), p. 174–82.

²⁸ Kemas Muhammad Gemilang et al., "Discussing the Phenomenon of the Appointment of Judges in District Courts Regarding Interfaith Marriages from a Legal Logic Perspective," *Al-Istinbath: Jurnal Hukum Islam* 8, no. 2 (2023), p. 309. Zaidah Nur Rosidah, "Sinkronisasi Peraturan Perundang-Undangan Mengenai Perkawinan Beda Agama," *Al-Ahkam* 23, no. 1 (2013), p. 4.

Tolerance towards interfaith marriages

Tolerance in interfaith marriages is an important key to building a healthy and harmonious relationship between couples who have different religious beliefs, which involves the ability to understand and appreciate the differences in religious beliefs and practices between partners. Couples need to accept that they may have different views on certain religions and values, and respecting the differences between partners in an interfaith marriage can strengthen their relationship, build mutual understanding, and create a supportive environment for both parties. Strong tolerance can help couples overcome challenges and conflicts that may arise due to religious differences, as well as strengthen emotional and spiritual bonds.²⁹

Research on interfaith marriages highlights the complexity and diversity of couples' experiences in managing religious differences in their relationships. Understanding these findings can help couples in interfaith marriages overcome challenges and strengthen their relationships.

The decline in ethnic endogamy can be explained by structural factors such as immigration or urbanization that increase contact between ethnic groups, as well as changes in marital partner preferences. More frequent contact between ethnic groups can contribute to changes in preferences, while changes in preferences can also trigger higher migration.

The rules of intercultural marriage or often referred to as interfaith marriage are polemic because they cause debate between those who agree and disagree. Although the number of interfaith marriages in Indonesia is increasing, this rule is still considered taboo and contradicts religious rules and teachings as well as government laws and regulations.³⁰

Through an ethnographic approach, researchers can gain in-depth insight into the complexity of marital relationships, as well as understanding how cultural, social, and economic factors influence the dynamics of those relationships. The results of this ethnographic research can provide a better understanding of how marriage is influenced by a particular cultural context, and how that context also shapes and influences culture.

Scholarly contributions to interfaith marriage are essential in understanding the dynamics, challenges, and impacts of such relationships on individuals, families, and society. Research on interfaith marriage has provided a deeper understanding of how religious differences affect interpersonal relationships. This research has identified factors that can strengthen or

²⁹Muhammad Abuzar, "Harmony in the Family : Indicators of Marriage Success in Cultural and Religious Foundations in Bangladesh," *Demak Universal Journal of Islam and Sharia* 2, no. 3 (2024), p. 221–30.

³⁰Danu Aris Setiyanto, Sekar Ayu Aryani, and Sri Wahyuni, "ICRP Jakarta and Interfaith Marriage Assistance in Indonesia: Civil Rights, Legal Interpretation, and Advocacy for Interfaith Couples," *Journal of Islamic Law* 5, no. 2 (2024), p. 172.

undermine interfaith marriages, as well as effective strategies for dealing with potential conflicts.

In addition, scholarly contributions to interfaith marriages include a better understanding of how individuals in these relationships develop their religious identities. These studies have highlighted the complexity of this process and how influences from family, educational, and community environments can shape a person's religious identity. Research has also highlighted the role of education in addressing religious differences in marriage. These contributions provide insight into the importance of inclusive and tolerant education for religious diversity in maintaining harmony in interfaith marriages.

Another contribution is in understanding the dynamics of families in interfaith marriages. This study has provided a better understanding of the conflicts that may arise in interfaith families and effective strategies to resolve them, thus providing guidance for families in maintaining harmony in relationships. Future research directions. As society becomes more open and inclusive, future research on interfaith marriages will become increasingly important. One area of interest for this study is the influence of interfaith marriages on child development. An in-depth study will be conducted to understand how children raised in an interfaith environment develop their religious identities, the values they adhere to, and how they interact with two different belief systems. In addition, future research will pay more attention to the role of education in addressing religious differences in marriage. This study will highlight the importance of inclusive and tolerant education towards religious diversity in efforts to maintain harmony in interfaith marriages.

Family dynamics will also be a significant focus of research. Researchers will delve deeper into the conflicts that may arise in families with different religions and effective strategies to overcome them. This research will provide a better insight into how families can remain harmonious despite having different religious beliefs. Furthermore, future research will also highlight the communication challenges faced by interfaith couples and how they can overcome them. The use of modern technology in facilitating interfaith communication will also be an interesting topic to explore.

Policies and laws that support or hinder interfaith marriages will also be a major focus of future research. This research will evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies in protecting the rights of individuals in interfaith marriages and suggest possible improvements. In this study, four thematic clusters were found namely, Marriage Rules with Different Cultures, Ethnic Acculturation in Marriage, Ethnography in Marriage, and Racist Actions towards Children from Interfaith Marriages revealing various social, cultural, and psychological challenges that affect the relationship of couples in interfaith marriages. This data can be used to enrich the understanding of the problems often faced by interfaith

couples, which are often related to the inconsistency between religious law and marriage regulations in Indonesia that regulate interfaith marriages.

This research question, namely how the challenges of faith values and their implications for families in interfaith marriages, can be answered through data mapping that shows how different religious and cultural norms often clash in family decision-making, child education, and conflict management. These findings provide an overview of the need to formulate more inclusive and adaptive policies or regulations in family law in Indonesia, in order to accommodate religious diversity in the context of marriage, as well as protect the rights of couples and children in interfaith families. Thus, this research makes a significant contribution to the development of family law in Indonesia, especially in creating a more flexible legal system that is oriented towards respecting differences in beliefs in marriage.

Carrying out an interfaith marriage can involve various aspects that need to be carefully considered in order to create a healthy and harmonious relationship between the couple. Exploring the relationship between mixed marriages and marital stability may have implications for family dynamics and long-term relationship outcomes. Identifying factors that contribute to marital satisfaction and stability may aid in developing interventions to support couples in diverse relationships.

Intermarriage can also play a role in social integration and cohesion in a society. Studying the impact of intermarriage on social networks, cultural values, and community relations can provide valuable information for policy makers and social planners.

While understanding the impact of intermarriage on subjective well-being between partners is essential to promoting healthy and harmonious relationships, it is hoped that future research will shed light on how insights into differences in social status, cultural values, and other factors influence partner well-being.

Conclusion

Interfaith marriages also involve a better understanding of how individuals in these relationships develop their religious identities. This research has highlighted the complexity of this process and how influences from family, educational, and community environments can shape an individual's religious identity. It has also highlighted the role of education in addressing religious differences in marriage. This contribution provides insight into the importance of inclusive and tolerant education for maintaining harmony in interfaith marriages. As societies become more open and inclusive, future research on interfaith marriages will become increasingly important. One area of interest for this research is the impact of interfaith marriages on child development. In-depth research will be conducted to understand how children raised in interfaith environments develop their religious identities, the values they hold, and how they

interact with two different belief systems. In addition, further research will pay more attention to the role of education in overcoming religious differences in marriage. This study will highlight the importance of inclusive and tolerant education towards religious diversity in an effort to maintain harmony in interfaith marriage relationships. Family dynamics will also be a significant focus of research. Researchers will dig deeper into the conflicts that may arise in interfaith families and effective strategies to overcome them. This study will provide a better picture of how families can remain harmonious despite having different religious beliefs. In addition, future research will also highlight the communication challenges faced by interfaith couples and how they can overcome them. The use of modern technology in facilitating interfaith communication will also be an interesting topic to study.

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