



The Development of Trends and Themes of Polygamy in Islamic Law in the Contemporary World

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Abstract: Polygamy and Islam are significant topics to discuss along with the lack of research literature on polygamy in Islam in recent years. Therefore, this study aims to find out the current situation of research on polygamy in Islam supported by a bibliometric analysis of scientific publications indexed in the Scopus database. This study applied bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer software to visualize the results of previous studies on polygamy in Islam indexed in the Scopus database from 1982-2022. The findings of the bibliometric analysis showed that previous studies on polygamy in Islam based on the Scopus database indicated the tendency of rare attention of academics toward this topic. Therefore, in the future, such a topic has very broad opportunities that may focus on theoretical and empirical studies to improve science development. This article is the first study to discuss polygamy in Islam through a bibliometric analysis approach. Thus, it is expected that this study has implications for future research trends by paying attention to variables that are still rarely investigated by academics.

Keywords: Polygamy, Islamic, Bibliometric analysis, VOSviewer

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Abstrak: *Poligami dan Islam merupakan topik signifikan untuk dibahas mengingat minimnya literatur penelitian mengenai poligami dalam Islam dalam beberapa tahun terakhir. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui situasi terkini penelitian tentang poligami dalam Islam yang didukung oleh analisis bibliometrik publikasi ilmiah yang diindeks dalam basis data Scopus. Penelitian ini menerapkan analisis bibliometrik menggunakan perangkat lunak VOSviewer untuk memvisualisasikan hasil-hasil penelitian sebelumnya tentang poligami dalam Islam yang diindeks dalam basis data Scopus dari tahun 1982-2022. Temuan dari analisis bibliometrik menunjukkan bahwa penelitian sebelumnya tentang poligami dalam Islam berdasarkan basis data Scopus menunjukkan kecenderungan minimnya perhatian akademisi terhadap topik ini. Oleh karena itu, di masa mendatang, topik ini memiliki peluang yang sangat luas yang dapat berfokus pada studi teoretis dan empiris untuk meningkatkan pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan. Artikel ini merupakan studi pertama yang membahas poligami dalam Islam melalui pendekatan analisis bibliometrik. Dengan demikian, diharapkan studi ini memiliki implikasi terhadap tren penelitian masa depan dengan memperhatikan variabel-variabel yang masih jarang diteliti oleh akademisi.*

Kata kunci: *Poligami, Hukum Islam, Analisis bibliometrik, VOSviewer*

Introduction

Polygamy is a topic that is often observed and analyzed among researchers around the world since it is considered to have many consequences for women, children, and society in general.¹ In Malaysia, polygamy became the subject of debate in the 1980s regarding women's rights in polygamy. Different views argue that Islam promotes injustice and ill-treatment among women in polygamy.² The same idea is also supported by Hassounh-Phillips, who stated that Muslim women in America were treated unfairly by their husbands in polygamy.³ In a case study in Bedouin Arabia, polygamous families were considered to have low self-esteem because they came from low-income families and low academics.⁴

Likewise in Africa, the government was trying to slow down the growth rate of polygamy because the growth rate of the female workforce was also

¹ Aurangzaib Alamgir, "Polygamy and Law in Contemporary Malaysia: The Rights of Women and Children," *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family* 28, no. 3 (2014), p. 332–353. Nora Alhuzail, "The Consequences of Polygamy on Family Dynamics in Saudi Arabia," *Journal of Family Issues* 43, no. 1 (2022), p. 121–140.

² Aurangzaib Alamgir, "Islam and Gender Justice: Debates on Polygamy and Women's Rights in Malaysia," *Journal of Islamic Studies* 25, no. 2 (2014), p. 184–210.

³ Dena Hassounh-Phillips, "Polygamy and Wife Abuse: A Qualitative Study of Muslim Women in America," *Health Care for Women International* 22, no. 8 (2001), p. 735–748.

⁴ Alean Al-Krenawi, et.al., "The Psychological Impact of Polygamous Marriages on Women and Children: A Study in Bedouin Society in the Negev," *Child and Family Social Work* 7, no. 1 (2002), p. 84–95.

decreasing as a consequence of the high practice of polygamy⁵. Thus, polygamy is considered negative for women, so most do not agree with such practice. On the other hand, women thought that polygamy could improve their welfare because they were to live in an established family. Therefore, they considered polygamy to be a positive thing for their welfare.⁶ Another opinion states that polygamy can positively impact older single women because they can produce offspring for themselves.⁷ Such opinion proves that according to Islam, the practice of polygamy is the best and most humane,⁸ since Islam exists to side with women and protect them from social degradation and low moral values in the practice of polygamy.

Polygamy in Islamic law is explained in Surah An-Nisa verse 3. A man may marry and have two wives, three wives, and four wives. In other words, a man is allowed to have many wives.⁹ However, the practice of polygamy in Islamic law must consider the first wife's consent, and guarantees for the wives and children, and a husband must act fairly. This shows that Islam pays attention to the benefit of families who can afford polygamy. On the other hand, a big question arises among academics, whether the practice of polygamy is a result of men's sexual desire or a result of men's obedience to religious orders that allow polygamy. Therefore, an in-depth analysis of the results of studies on polygamy in Islamic law is required to determine the extent to which the research carried out have major implications for Muslim families around the world.

Polygamy in Islamic law is a very controversial issue because it is related to family harmony. In pre-Islamic societies, it was common for a man had many or an unlimited number of wives. Then Islam came by providing a limit for a man to have a maximum of 4 wives¹⁰. Surah an-Nisa verse 3 explains that a man may marry and have two wives, three wives, and four wives. The stipulation that permits a man to have four wives is that the man should be fair and based on faith in Allah SWT¹¹. If he cannot do justice to all his wives, then only one wife is enough. Restriction for a man to marry four women is the most appropriate

⁵ James Fenske, "African Polygamy: Past and Present," *Journal of Development Economics* 117 (2015), p. 58–73.

⁶ Céline Guirking, Elise Gross, and Jean-Philippe Platteau, "Polygamy and Women's Welfare in Africa: Evidence from Senegal," *World Development* 144 (2021), p. 105451.

⁷ Nora Alhuzail, "The Consequences of Polygamy on Family Dynamics in Saudi Arabia," *Journal of Family Issues* 43, no. 1 (2022), p. 121–140.

⁸ Anwar Sadat and Ipanang, "Polygamy in Islam: A Comparative Study of Islamic Law and Indonesian Law," *Journal of Legal Studies*, 39, No. 1 (2020), p. 56–70.

⁹ Novita A. Tarigan, et.al., "The Implementation of Polygamy According to Islamic Law in Indonesia," *Indonesian Journal of Islam and Muslim Societies* 11, no. 2 (2021), p. 201–220.

¹⁰ Amira Mashhour, "Islamic Law and the Modern World: Reformed Polygamy in Muslim Societies," *Journal of Islamic Studies* 28, no. 1 (2017), p. 25–48.

¹¹ Abid Hussain, "Polygamy in Islam and Its Social Impact," *Islamic Quarterly* 9, no. 3 (1965), p. 120–135.

attempt to be fair. Fairness in the household is relative, and sharing a husband's love for his wives fairly is very difficult there are more than four wives, despite they have tried. In addition, if a husband desires to add another wife, then one of the four must be divorced so that the number remains as many as four wives.¹²

Al-Quran in Surah an-Nisa verses 3 and 129 explain the limits and conditions to be adhered to if a man wants to be polygamous. The essence of the explanation of the two verses is that Islam only "allows" polygamy, it is not mandatory or the sunnah. In other words, polygamy in Islam has laws that guide individual attitudes to choosing polygamy action. In fact, polygamy's purpose is to protect women with the intention of worshiping Allah SWT.¹³

In Islamic law, polygamy is a way to overcome certain family problems. However, it must consider the principle aspects of Islam, namely fairness and benefit. If the implementation of polygamy is based on such a main principle, polygamy can fulfill the requirements for the realization of fairness between husbands, wives, and their children. It is surely different if polygamy is implemented only for the fulfillment of lust or just looking for achievement and prestige in the midst of a hedonist and materialist society today and ignoring the fulfillment of the two main principles in Islamic law. Of course, polygamy is not allowed for such reasons.¹⁴

This study applied the bibliometric analysis technique to map the findings of previous studies on polygamy in Islam published in the SCOPUS database. The bibliometric analysis describes scientific communication quantitatively, creating a structure of research areas, central themes, and existing correlations, for example in the form of clusters and networks. The bibliometric analysis method is believed to have advantages in planning future research with the level of novelty and popularity of the study topic. Thus, this study aims to find out the current situation of research on polygamy in Islam by reviewing the literature through the bibliometric method based on several parameters. In addition, this study aims to provide initial ideas for prospective researchers in the field of polygamy in Islam and is expected to contribute to the creation of knowledge in determining and evaluating publications and trends in the field of polygamy in Islamic law.

This study applied bibliometric analysis, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to literature studies.¹⁵ The bibliometric method combines

¹² Muhammad Alwi, "Polygamy in the Context of Modern Islamic Jurisprudence," *Journal of Islamic Law Studies* 45, no. 2 (2013), p. 101–118.

¹³ Nasir Sadat and Andi Ipandang, "Polygamy in Islam: A Comparative Study of Islamic Law and Indonesian Law," *Journal of Legal Studies* 39, no. 1 (2020), p. 56–70.

¹⁴ Muhammad Marzuki, "Polygamy and Family Harmony in Islam," *Journal of Islamic Family Law* 13, no. 4 (2005), p. 297–310.

¹⁵ Rishi K. Baker, et.al., "Twenty-Five Years of the *Journal of International Management*: A Bibliometric Overview," *Journal of International Management* 26, no. 3 (2020), p. 100–211.

several fields of science, from information science, sociology, and the history of science to the evaluation of scientific research and policy.¹⁶ The bibliometric analysis serves to trace the knowledge structure of the topic being observed and has proven to be very useful in identifying established research areas. In addition, bibliometric analysis functions as a plagiarism checker of research results conducted by researchers. This function is very effective along with the many studies conducted.¹⁷

In the bibliometric analysis applied here, the indicators used were author and article, citation, institution, and country¹⁸. To obtain data on polygamy in Islam, this study focused on data collection based on the findings of previous studies using the Scopus database, a multidisciplinary data provider suitable for information systems researchers¹⁹. Scopus is also the largest database that provides high-quality articles through rigorous peer review.²⁰ The procedure for collecting data from the Scopus database started in the period 1982-2022 through the keywords of “Polygamy and/or Islam”, “Polygamy and/or Islamic”, “Polygamous and/or Islam”, “Polygamous and/or Islamic”, “Polygyny and/or Islam”, and “Polygyny and/or Islamic”. Based on the results of data filtering based on certain keywords and periods, 234 article documents were obtained as presented in table 1.

Table 1: Scopus Database Research process

No	Term Searched			Scopus
	First Term Searched for	And	Second First Term Searched for	
1	Polygamy		Islam	80
2	Polygamy		Islamic	69
3	Polygamous		Islam	22
4	Polygamous		Islamic	22
5	Polygyny		Islam	23
6	Polygyny		Islamic	18
Total of articles				234

¹⁶ Rishi K. Baker, et.al., “Twenty-Five Years of the *Journal of International Management*, p. 100–211.

¹⁷ Vitaliy Gureyev and Nikita Mazov, “Bibliometric Analysis and Visualization of Russian Research on Bibliometrics and Scientometrics in 2000–2020,” *Scientometrics* 121, no. 3 (2022), p. 1211–1232.

¹⁸ Naveen Donthu et al., “How to Conduct a Bibliometric Analysis: An Overview and Guidelines,” *Journal of Business Research* 133 (2021), p. 285–296.

¹⁹ Chitu Okoli, “A Guide to Conducting a Standalone Systematic Literature Review,” *Communications of the Association for Information Systems* 37 (2015), p. 879–910.

²⁰ Megan Oakleaf, “Writing Information Literacy Assessment Plans: A Guide to Best Practice,” *Communications in Information Literacy* 3, no. 2 (2009), p. 80–89.

Furthermore, an initial screening process was carried out on 234 articles. The first stage resulted in the exclusion of 82 articles because there were the same articles in the search process using predetermined keywords. After the initial screening process, there were 152 articles remaining and each was analyzed based on the title and summary. Ten articles were found not to specifically discuss polygamy in Islam, so the remaining 142 articles were considered to be analyzed in this study. Figure 1 shows the results of the screening process.

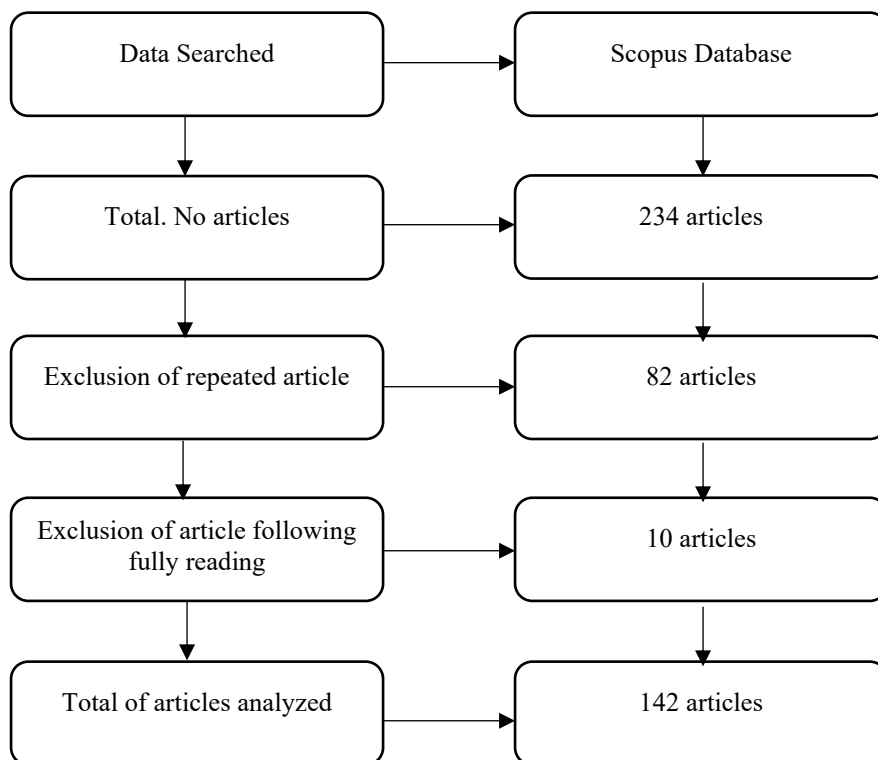


Figure 1. Design of study

Furthermore, 142 articles have proceeded for bibliometric analysis using the VOSviewer software which produced a bibliometric analysis network of coupling of institutions, coupling of countries, and co-occurrence of keywords.²¹

Number of Publications and Citation

Polygamy is a topic that is often studies among researchers in the period 1982-2022. Figure 2 shows the research documents spanning four decades. In the first decade of 1982-1991 the number of research documents was 12 articles. In the second decade of 1992-2001, the number of research documents was 18

²¹ Naveen Donthu et al., "How to Conduct a Bibliometric Analysis, p. 285–296.

articles. In the third decade of 2002-2011, the number of research documents was 39 articles. In the fourth decade of 2012 until 2022, the number of research documents was 73 articles. There was an increase in the number of studies in polygamy in Islam every decade; the highest number was in the fourth decade of 73 research documents. Based on year analysis, the highest number of publications based on the Scopus database was found in 2021 as many as 13 articles, followed by 2009 as many as 12 articles. On the other hand, there were years when researchers did not publish any research on polygamy in Islam, namely 1985, 1988, 1989, 2001, 2002, 2004. Based on these data, research on polygamy in Islam still tends to be rarely carried out by academics worldwide.

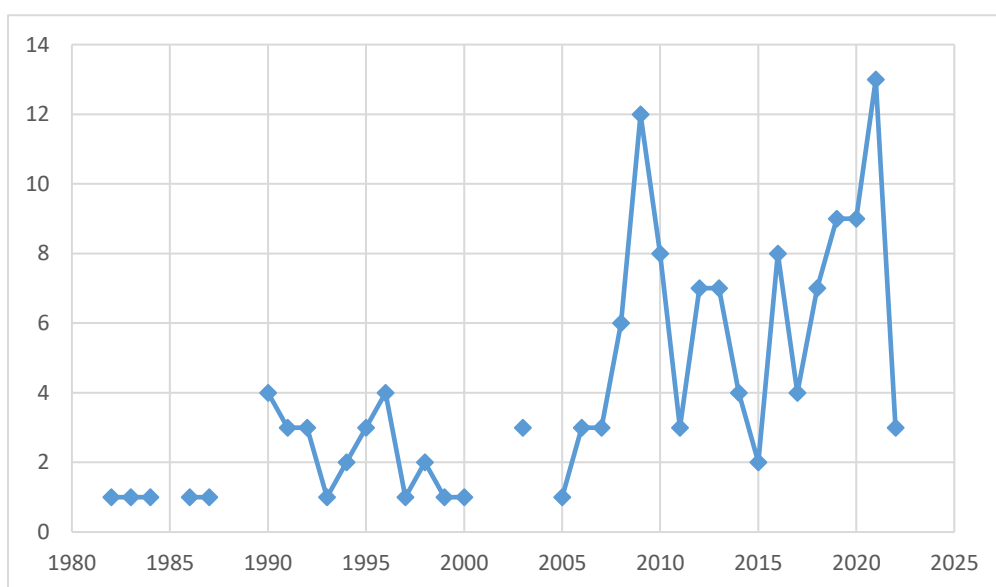


Figure 2: The annual number of publications published

Table 2 shows the top 10 articles with the most citations based on the Scopus database. The most cited article was an essay conducted by Strassmann,²² with 69 citations recorded. The second article was El Azayem & Hedayat-Diba,²³

²² Beverly I. Strassmann et al., "Religion as a Means to Assure Paternity," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 109, no. 25 (2012): 9781–9785.

²³ Gamal A. El Azayem and Zahava Hedayat-Diba, "The Psychological Aspects of Islam: Basic Principles of Islam and Their Psychological Corollary," *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* 4, no. 1 (1994), p. 41–50.

with 65 citations recorded, and the third was Al-Krenawi & Graham with 64 citations recorded.²⁴

Table 2: The Top 10 Most Cited Articles

Rank	Total citations	Title	Author/year
1	69	Religion as a means to assure paternity	(Strassmann et al., 2012)
2	65	The Psychological Aspects of Islam: Basic Principles of Islam and Their Psychological Corollary	(El Azayem & Hedayat-Diba, 1994)
3	64	Social Work Practice with Polygamous Families	(Al-Krenawi et al., 1997)
4	61	A Vulnerability Interpretation of the Geography of HIV/AIDS in Ghana, 1986–1995	(Oppong, 1998)
5	53	The sharia, Islamic family laws and international human rights law: Examining the theory and practice of polygamy and talaq	(Rehman, 2007)
6	52	Evaluation of the effectiveness of AIDS health education interventions in the Muslim community in Uganda	(Kagimu et al., 1998)
7	40	The sharia, Islamic family laws and international human rights law: Examining the theory and practice of polygamy and talaq	(Gruenbaum, 1991)
8	39	Muslim Family Law, Prenuptial Agreements, and the Emergence of Dowry in Bangladesh	(Ambrus, Field, & Torero, 2010)
9	37	Women, piety and practice: A study of women and religious practice in Malaysia	(Tong & Turner, 2008)
10	29	Transformation of Sexual and Matrimonial Behavior of Tajik Labor Migrants in Russia	(Ryazantsev, Pismennaya, Karabulatova, & Akramov, 2014)

²⁴ Alean Al-Krenawi, et.al., “A Comparison of Bedouin-Arab Clients’ Use of Traditional and Western Mental Health Services,” *Community Mental Health Journal* 33, no. 6 (1997), p. 451–462.

Meanwhile, the results of the analysis of document citations through the visualization of the VOSviewer are presented in Figure 3. The most citations for research results were Strassmann, El Azayem & Hedayat-Diba, and Al-Krenawi & Graham as described by more visible visualization compared to other researchers.

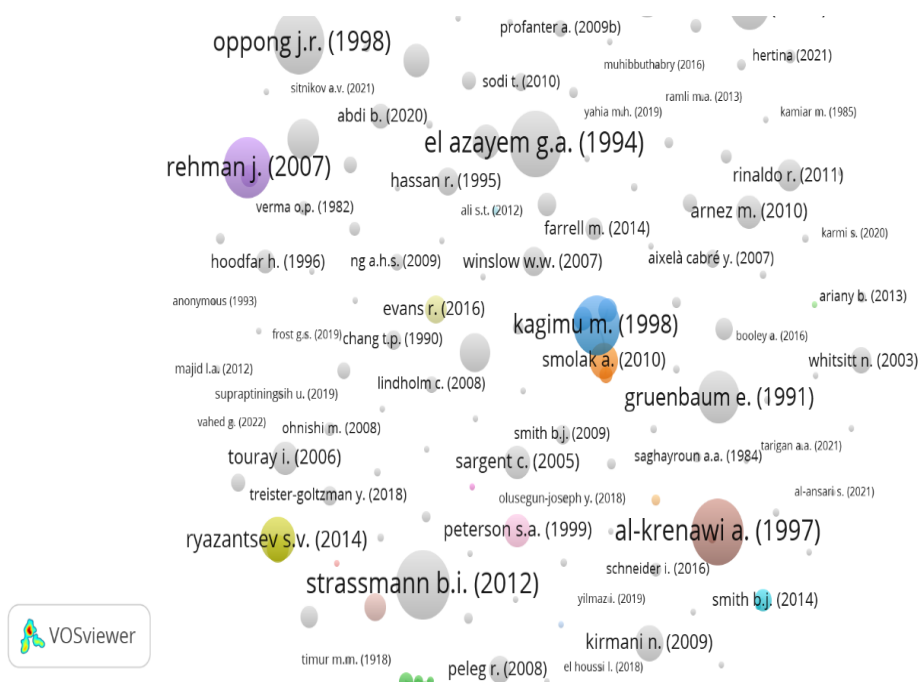


Figure 3. Citation of Documents

Top Authors, Countries, and Institutions

This section applied an analysis on leading authors, institutions, and countries that discussed polygamy in Islam. This analysis conducted a Scopus database monitoring of the ten most prolific authors. Based on Table 3, it was revealed that Magid Kagimu and Roni Peleg were the top productive writers who had the most research documents, namely three articles on the topic of polygamy in Islam. Furthermore, in the third to last order, the authors had as two research documents. Such findings indicated relatively rare researchers who focused their studies on polygamy in Islam.

Table 3: The top 10 Productive Authors

Rank	Author	Institution	Country	Total papers	Citation
1	Yours, Magid	Islamic Medical Association	Uganda	3	60
2	Peleg, Roni	Ben Gurion University of the Negev	Israel	3	17
3	Walakira, Yusuf	Islamic Medical Association	Uganda	2	60
4	Marum, Elizabeth	Islamic Medical Association	Uganda	2	60
5	Marcotte, Roxanne D	The University of Queensland	Australia	2	34
6	Smith, Bianca J	University of Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam	2	13
7	Hoodfar, Homa	Concordia University	Canada	2	9
8	Abdullah, Raihanah	University of Malaya	Malaysia	2	7
9	Gate, Stephanie Ryan	Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University	Saudi Arabia	2	6
10	Professor, Annemarie	Free University of Bozen-Bolzano	Italy	2	6

Furthermore, this study analyzed the top 10 institutions which discussed polygamy in Islam. Based on Table 4, it was revealed that the University of Malaya was the most productive institution in producing studies on polygamy in Islam, namely three articles. Furthermore, the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University, and University Putra Malaysia showed

the same number of articles, namely two research articles. In addition, it can be stated that the most dominating institutions for studies on polygamy in Islam were located in Malaysia, namely three research institutions.

Table 4: The Most Productive Institutions

Rank	Institution	Country	Total papers
1	University of Malaya	Malaysia	3
2	Free University of Bozen-Bolzano	Italy	2
3	Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University	Saudi Arabia	2
4	Halal Product research institute, University Putra Malaysia	Malaysia	2
5	Center of excellence women and child health, agan khan university	Malaysia	1
6	Ghent university	Belgium	1
7	International center for reproductive health	Kenya	1
8	International Islamic center for population studies and research, al azhar university	Egypt	1
9	Population Council	Kenya	1
10	United Nations Population Fund	Tanzania	1

Another important part was mapping out the combined bibliographies of these institutions. This part involved the specification of two cited articles from different institutions in the third article. The results shown in Figure 2 indicated a minimum threshold of three articles cited at least between 1982 and 2022. The University of Malaya ranked first as the most productive institution in publishing studies on polygamy in Islam. Next, in second place was the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, and in third place was Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University.

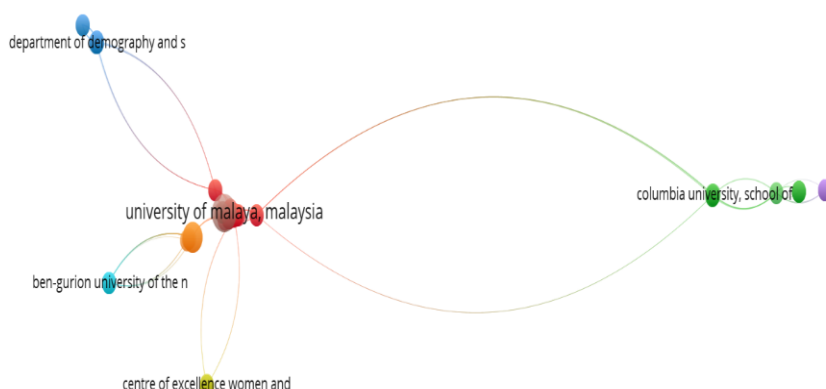


Figure 4. Bibliographic coupling of institutions

Table 5 presents the most productive countries in publishing studies on polygamy in Islam. The first was in the United States with a number of publications of 20 articles. The second was the United Kingdom and Malaysia with the number of publications of 11 articles.

Table 5. The top productive countries

Rank	Country	Total papers
1	United States	20
2	United kingdom	11
3	Malaysia	11
4	Indonesia	9
5	Nigeria	7
6	Russian Federation	7
7	Israel	6
8	Canada	5
9	Egypt	4
10	South Africa	4

As shown in Figure 5, it was indicated that most academics who published studies on polygamy in Islam came from the United States in the first place and the United Kingdom in second place. In fact, both countries were dominated by non-Muslim populations. Furthermore, the third and fourth places were for countries that were dominated by Muslim populations, namely Malaysia and Indonesia. This is a very interesting topic to be developed because countries with the most Muslim populations such as Malaysia and Indonesia have a high interest in researching and discussing polygamy in Islam. The other country, Egypt, a Muslim-majority country, ranked 9th after Israel and Canada. Such findings

indicated that Egypt has the opportunity and potential to study polygamy in Islam both conceptually and empirically.

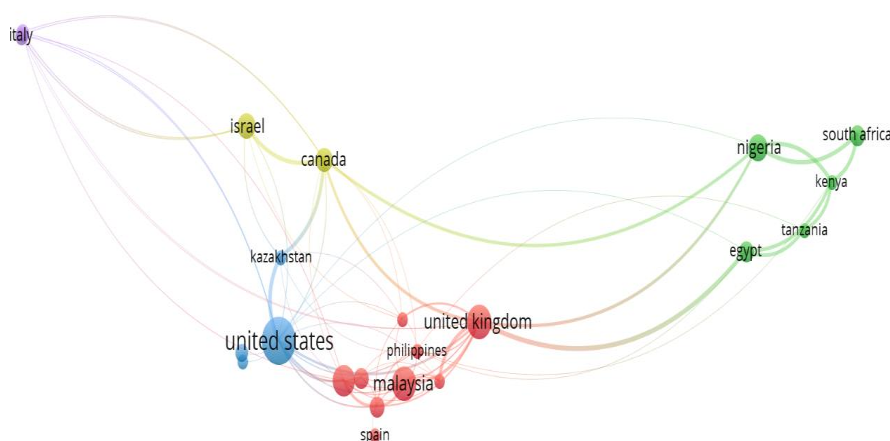


Figure 5. Bibliographic coupling of countries

Co-occurrence of Author Keywords

Co-occurrence of keywords published in journals is intended to indicate the frequency of words that are related between research articles²⁵. These keywords were analyzed and taken from the titles and abstracts which were then arranged with five minimum numbers of occurrences. In Figure 6, it was shown that there were 103 co-occurrence relationships in the period 1982-2022. Based on this data, Islam was the keyword with the most connections, followed by the keywords of polygamy and marriage.

In the case of co-occurrence, Islam was the first and most common keyword because Islam exists in life activities, be it in social, economic, political, or legal life. In addition, Islam is an individual belief related to the ethics and values contained in religion so that it is still interesting to discuss by researcher. Furthermore, the second most common keyword was "polygamy", which was also studied here. Such findings proved that polygamy still had popularity for further research. Therefore, discussing polygamy in various family lives. Meanwhile, the third common keyword was "marriage". This keyword relates to the status of an individual in living life. Marriage is individual identity and greatly impacts individual maturity and emotionality.

²⁵ Mauricio Gaviria-Marín, et.al., "Twenty Years of the *Journal of Knowledge Management: A Bibliometric Analysis*," *Journal of Knowledge Management* 22, no. 6 (2018), p. 1655–1687.

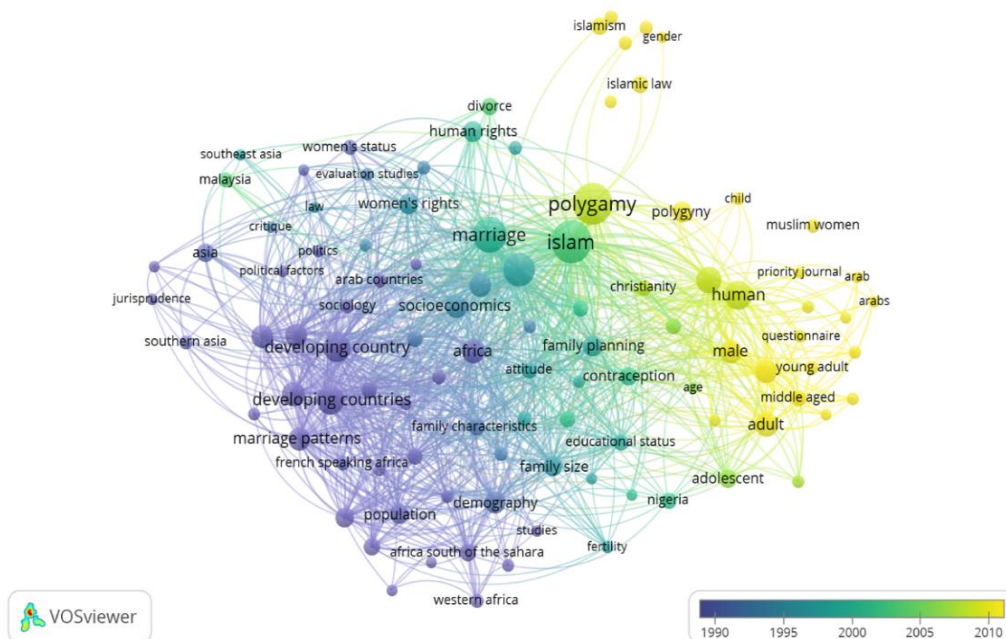


Figure 6. Co-occurrence of Author Keywords

To see the results regarding keywords, Table 5 shows the ten most favorite keywords in the journal by considering several bibliometric measures as shown earlier. Table 5 further confirms the trend of research topics according to the objectives, as well as the aims and scope of the journal. The most influential keywords were “Islam”, “Polygamy” and “Marriage”.

Table 5: The most common and influential keywords

Rank	Keywords	Total link strength	Occurrences
1	Islam	819	63
2	Polygamy	547	58
3	Marriage	649	44
4	Religion	703	40
5	Developing countries	641	29
6	developing country	616	29
7	Human	439	29
8	Female	403	25
9	Nuptiality	482	20
10	Africa	470	20

Meanwhile, Table 6 shows the least common and influential keywords. The last three keywords were Indonesia, gender, and feminism. Such findings indicated that these keywords were still rarely discussed. Therefore, it can be a recommendation for researchers to further discuss these matters, more specifically in the context of polygamy within Islamic law in Indonesia.

Table 6. The Least Common and Inuential Keywords

Rank	Keywords	Total link strength	Occurrences
1	Indonesia	13	7
2	Gender	17	5
3	Feminism	20	7
4	women status	20	7
5	Muslim women	22	7
6	Islamism	25	11
7	Family law	28	6
8	Islamic Law	32	11
9	Court decision	68	5
10	Jurisprudence	68	5

Furthermore, VOSviewer also provides a visualization of currently popular research trends. It is shown in yellow as presented in Figure 4. The most popular studies were among others: the relationship between polygamy and Muslim women based on some researcher such as Ali,²⁶ Treister-Goltzman & Peleg,²⁷ Islamic law from Shukri & Owoyemi,²⁸ Supraptiningsih & Barkah,²⁹ Tarigan,³⁰ Islamization, adolescents, women from El Houssi³¹ and gender from

²⁶ Shaheen Sardar Ali, *Modern Challenges to the Status of Muslim Women in Islamic Law* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

²⁷ Yael Treister-Goltzman and Roni Peleg, "Female Muslim Physicians in Israel: The Influence of Religion and Gender on Daily Life," *Journal of Religion and Health* 57, no. 2 (2018), p. 544–555.

²⁸ Ahmad Shukri and Musa Owoyemi, "Islamic Law and the Status of Muslim Women in Malaysia," *International Journal of Business and Social Science* 5, no. 1 (2014), p. 213–219.

²⁹ Supraptiningsih and Bariyyah Bariyyah, "Reinterpretasi Hukum Poligami dalam Perspektif Keadilan Gender," *Al-Daulah: Jurnal Hukum dan Perundangan Islam* 9, no. 1 (2019), p. 46–67.

³⁰ Nurlaila A. Tarigan, et.al., "The Implementation of Polygamy According to Islamic Law in Indonesia," *Indonesian Journal of Islam and Muslim Societies* 11, no. 2 (2021), p. 201–220.

³¹ Leila El Houssi, "Islamisation and the Construction of Muslim Identities in Contemporary Tunisia: Women, Youth and Political Engagement," *Journal of North African Studies* 23, no. 3 (2018), p. 432–449.

Azam, Rubab, Salahuddin, & Usman.³² Thus, there is an opportunity and need for further research regarding these popular topics.

Conclusions

This study presents an overview of polygamy from an Islamic perspective in the four decades from 1982 to 2022. Based on the Scopus database search results, this study was the first to conduct a bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer software to observe polygamy in Islam. Studies dominated studies on polygamy in Islam in developed countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom. In fact, those countries had a small Muslim population. In contrast, in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Egypt, countries with large Muslim populations, the number of publications on polygamy in Islam was below the number in the US and UK. However, in the context of the institution's productivity, the highest number of publications was found for the country with the largest Muslim population, namely Malaysia. Such findings revealed country with the largest Muslim population had an interest in studying polygamy in Islam from various perspectives. From a theoretical point of view, this study has developed a stronger theoretical basis on the issue of polygamy in Islam. Based on the bibliometric analysis, polygamy in Islam was still relatively rare to study. So there is an opportunity to develop studies regarding aspects related to polygamy. In addition, the current study provides guidance for academics in developing new topics regarding polygamy in Islam so that they can add scientific novelty conceptually. In other words, this study offers a complete insight into the idea of polygamy in Islam which can be referred to by researchers for their future studies. This study provides practical implications by providing information on the development of significant study results regarding polygamy in Islam and providing the information needed by researchers to conduct further research on polygamy in Islam. Furthermore, this study recommends that the government formulate and implement polygamy rules in Islam to accommodate the Muslim population, considering that religious rights are also within the scope of state protection. The limitation of this study lies in the use of the Scopus database which only focuses on the type of research documents. Therefore, future research is expected to be able to analyze data originating from document types such as books, book chapters, reviews, conference papers and short surveys. Furthermore, this study only involved Scopus as a data bank. In future research, researchers are expected to simultaneously involve the Scopus and WOS databases as data providers, considering that the indexing agencies have high credibility in conducting peer reviews.

³² Azam, M., Rubab, A., Salahuddin, A., and Usman, M., "The Relationship Between Gender Inequality and Muslim Societies: A Panel Data Analysis," *Journal of Gender Studies* 30, no. 4 (2021), p. 435–450.

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