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Bibliometrics of Family Law Research Trends in Southeast Asia: An Analysis Two Decades 2003-2023

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Abstract

Family law has an essential role in ensuring the stability and well-being of society. Conceptually and praxis show that family law has excellent complexity in responding to family problems that continue to develop along with the massive cultural transformation in society. This study aims to identify and evaluate two decades of family law research in Southeast Asia. This study not only uses bibliometric analysis but also utilizes VOSviewers software to visualize the network, trends, and characteristics of family law research in Southeast Asian countries in two decades based on the publication of articles in the Scopus database. Of the 427 published family law research documents in Southeast Asian countries over two decades, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore contributed the most research based on the subject areas of social sciences and arts humanities. However, these studies have been unable to intervene and overcome the problems that arise in marriage, divorce, child custody, and inheritance, which still have the potential to raise various kinds of misconceptions ideologically and praxis. This study also recommends the importance of future studies to analyze the factors and implications of ideological and practical family law misconceptions for family welfare in the future.

Keywords: Bibliometric analysis, Scopus, Southeast Asian, family law

Abstrak

Hukum keluarga mempunyai peranan penting dalam menjamin stabilitas dan kesejahteraan masyarakat. Secara konseptual dan praksis menunjukkan bahwa hukum keluarga memiliki kompleksitas yang sangat baik dalam menyikapi permasalahan keluarga yang terus berkembang seiring dengan masifnya transformasi budaya di masyarakat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan mengevaluasi penelitian hukum keluarga selama dua dekade di Asia Tenggara. Penelitian ini tidak hanya menggunakan analisis bibliometrik tetapi juga memanfaatkan software VOSviewers untuk memvisualisasikan jaringan, tren, dan karakteristik penelitian hukum keluarga di negara-negara Asia Tenggara dalam dua dekade berdasarkan publikasi artikel di database Scopus. Dari 427 dokumen penelitian hukum keluarga yang diterbitkan di negara-negara Asia Tenggara selama dua dekade, Indonesia, Malaysia, dan Singapura berkontribusi terhadap penelitian terbanyak berdasarkan bidang studi ilmu sosial dan seni humaniora. Namun kajian-kajian tersebut belum mampu mengintervensi dan mengatasi permasalahan yang muncul dalam perkawinan, perceraian, hak asuh anak, dan warisan, sehingga masih berpotensi memunculkan berbagai macam miskonsepsi baik secara ideologis maupun pada tataran praktiknya. Penelitian ini juga merekomendasikan pentingnya penelitian di masa depan untuk menganalisis faktor dan implikasi miskonsepsi hukum keluarga secara ideologis dan praktis terhadap kesejahteraan keluarga di masa depan.

Kata Kunci: Analisis bibliometrik, Scopus, Asia Tenggara, hukum keluarga

Introduction

Family law has an essential role in ensuring the stability and well-being of society. However, in their study, Morton¹ found that family law also raises controversy in deciding family issues. According to Sitkova², this context occurs because the conception and praxis of family law in solving problems are often dilemmatic between protecting the state's or individuals' interests. Conceptually and praxis show that family law has excellent complexity in responding to family problems that continue to develop along with the massive cultural transformation in

¹ Mavis Morton, et. al., "The Degendering of Male Perpetrated Intimate Partner Violence Against Female Partners in Ontario Family Law Courts," *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*, (2021). Danial Danial, et.al., "Sexual Violence in the Islamic Law Perspective: Aceh Islamic Law and Local Wisdom Approach," *Ulumuna: Journal of Islamic Studies* 27, No. 1 (2023). Annisa Ariftha and Anang Anas Azhar, "Symbolic Violence Against Women in Medan's Patriarchal Culture," *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun* 11, No. 2 (2023).

Olga Y. Sitkova, "Problems Of Recognition And Protection of Cross-Border Family Relations In Russia," 2022, p. 579–84.

society.³ Family law studies must find new directions in identifying and analyzing contemporary family issues⁴, especially in Southeast Asia, which has fluctuated over two decades. In addition to identifying family law studies of the last two decades, this study also evaluates the focus of discussion of family law studies in Southeast Asia through Scopus databases.

Family law refers to legal rules and norms governing interactions between family members, such as marriage, divorce, child custody, and financial responsibilities that include property division.⁵ The main focus of family law is to create a fair and effective legal framework for dealing with household problems protecting rights while ensuring the safety and well-being of each family member.⁷ As society evolves, family law undergoes transformations that reflect contemporary demands and values that influence family law.⁸ The transformation of family law in this context includes contemporary issues that reflect modern society, such as changing views on gender roles in the family.⁹ Thus, family law continues to evolve along with the dynamics in society.

Family law norms and regulations can differ across societies.¹⁰ This context can differ because it is influenced by three important factors, namely ethnicity, religion, and culture.¹¹ Family law in Southeast Asia is different in each country because it is influenced by the religion and culture of the community, such as Islamic family law in Indonesia.¹² The practical application of Islamic family law is

³ Vladislav Vasilyevich Kudryashov et al., "Legal Regulation of the Family Members' Entrepreneurial Activity and Inheritance Relations: Law Enforcement Problems," ed. A.P. Alekseeva, *SHS Web of Conferences* 108 (May 2021), p. 01011.

⁴ Ihsan Yilmaz, "Evolution of Unofficial Muslim Family Laws to Islamist Legal Pluralism in Erdogan's Turkey," in *Boundaries of Religious Freedom: Regulating Religion in Diverse Societies*, (2023), p. 99–116

⁵ Martina Purna Nisa, "Critical Review of Domestic Violence as Reason for Divorce (Comparison of Divorce Laws in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Maldives)," *al-Ihkam: Jurnal Hukum dan Pranata Sosial* 16, No. 1 (2021).

⁶ Lenore E. Walker, David Shapiro, and Stephanie Akl, "Family Law: Marriage and Divorce," in *Introduction to Forensic Psychology* (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2020), p. 185–201.

⁷ Polly Morgan, "Introduction," in *Family Law* (Oxford University Press, 2021), p. 1–7. Martin Partington, *Introduction to the English Legal System 2019-2020*, *Introduction to the English Legal System 2019-2020*, (2019).

⁸ Deanne Sowter, "Increasing the Emphasis on Family Law Lawyering: Correspondent's Report from Canada," *Legal Ethics*, (2018).

⁹ Malathi Das, "Singapore's Women's Charter: Revolution or Evolution?," in *Our Lives To Live: Putting A Woman's Face To Change In Singapore*, 2015.

¹⁰ Agus Hermanto and Habib Ismail, "Criticism of Feminist Thought on the Rights and Obligations of Husband and Wife from the Perspective of Islamic Family Law," *Journal of Islamic Law* 1, No. 2 (2020), p. 182-99.

¹¹ Wei-Jun Jean Yeung, et.al., "Families in Southeast and South Asia," *Annual Review of Sociology* 44, no. 1 (2018), p. 469–95.

Gavin Willis Jones, "Muslim and Non-Muslim Divorce Trends in Southeast Asia in the 21st Century," *Asian Journal of Social Science* 51, no. 3 (2023), p. 137–45. Irene Schneider, https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/usrah/index Vol. 7, No. 1, June 2024

emphasized with a focus on divorce, financial matters, children's rights, and domestic violence, which differ in interpretation and implementation from laws in other countries. ¹³ In this context, Islamic family law contains religious, ethical, and moral principles that guide the behavior of each family member. ¹⁴ Islamic family law seeks justice, equality, and balance in family relationships by Islamic values. Thus, family law in practice and implementation may vary in different countries.

So far, studies on family law conducted in Southeast Asia over the past two decades have only focused on three aspects. First, studies discuss family law in normative law enforcement. In her study, Nisa rexplains that normative issues in family law, such as early marriage, are not the least chosen to be the focus of family law studies in Indonesia. Second, studies discuss family law in the conception of values and norms. Mohd Razif explains that the issue of values and norms to explain the issue of intimacy is not the least chosen to be the focus of family law studies in Malaysia. Third, studies discussing family law regarding mediation

"Polygamy and Legislation in Contemporary Iran: An Analysis of the Public Legal Discourse," *Iranian Studies* 49, no. 4 (July 2016), p. 657–76. Muhammad Abdillah et al., "Transwomen and Transmen from Islamic Family Law Perspective," *IAS Journal of Localities* 1, no. 1 (May 24, 2023), p. 67–80.

¹³ Siti Musawwamah, "Divorcing Husbands as a Solution to Protect Women's Dignity: A Case Study of Domestic Violence at Madura Religious Court," *Samarah*, 2022.

¹⁴ Alfitri, Islamic Law and Society in Indonesia, Islamic Law and Society in Indonesia: Corporate Zakat Norms and Practices in Islamic Banks (London: Routledge, 2022).

¹⁵ 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. 456-470.

¹⁶ Eva F. Nisa, "Battling Marriage Laws: Early Marriage and Online Youth Piety in Indonesia," *Hawwa* 20, no. 1–2 (2020), p. 76–102. Nur Putri Hidayah and Galih Wasis Wicaksono, "Legal Knowledge Management System on Family Law for Society," *Jurnal Hukum Novelty* 11, no. 1 (2020), p. 68. Suci Ramadhan, "Islamic Law, Politics and Legislation: Development of Islamic Law Reform in Political Legislation of Indonesia," *ADHKI: Journal of Islamic Family Law* 2, no. 1 (July 2020).

¹⁷ Nisa, "Battling Marriage Laws: Early Marriage and Online Youth Piety in Indonesia."

¹⁸ Danish Suleman, "Women Discrimination in Malaysia: Examining 'The Gender Agenda' from the Viewpoint of Lenore Manderson's Women, Politics, and Change," *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 2021. Nurul Huda Mohd. Razif, "Intimacy Under Surveillance: Illicit Sexuality, Moral Policing, and the State in Contemporary Malaysia," *Hawwa* 18, no. 2–3 (2020), p. 325–56. Melati Sumari, Sarada Devi R. Subramaniam, and Norfaezah Md Khalid, "Coping with Parental Divorce: A Study of Adolescents in A Collectivist Culture of Malaysia," *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage* 61, no. 3 (2020), p. 186–205.

¹⁹ Mohd. Razif, "Intimacy Under Surveillance: Illicit Sexuality, Moral Policing, and the State in Contemporary Malaysia."

effectiveness.²⁰ In their study, Chung²¹ explained that mediation and parenting issues are not the least chosen focus of family law studies in Singapore.

In general, studies that discuss family law issues in Southeast Asia over the past two decades have only focused on three aspects, namely: normative aspects, ²² a conception of values and norms, ²³ and mediation effectiveness. ²⁴ In other words, family law studies in Southeast Asia have not been conducted comprehensively, so they have not been able to intervene and overcome the problems that arise in the practice of marriage, divorce, child custody, and inheritance, which still have the potential to raise various kinds of misconceptions ideologically and praxis. ²⁵ In addition to having caused a dilemma in the application of family law, the misconceptions of family law in ideology and praxis are also contemporary issues that are very important to be explained and analyzed in family law studies. ²⁶ In addition to identifying family law studies in Southeast Asia, this study also evaluates the trends and focus of family law research over two decades using bibliometric analysis based on the publication of articles in the Scopus database.

Bibliometrics is a method used to identify and analyze data in scientific publications.²⁷ In bibliometrics, scientific data such as the number of citations, author names, institutions, countries, H-index, publication frequency, and bibliographies become indicators that are processed to measure and evaluate a research trend in a scientific field.²⁸ Data processing in bibliometrics involves collecting data from electronic databases, which are then extracted or organized with the help of

²⁰ Tommie Forslund et al., "Attachment Goes to Court: Child Protection and Custody Issues," *Attachment & Human Development* 24, no. 1 (2022), p. 1–52. Laura Vitis, "Private, Hidden and Obscured: Image-Based Sexual Abuse in Singapore," *Asian Journal of Criminology* 15, no. 1 (2020): 25–43. Gerard Siew Keong Chung et al., "Associations between Work–Family Balance, Parenting Stress, and Marital Conflicts during COVID-19 Pandemic in Singapore," *Journal of Child and Family Studies* 32, no. 1 (2023), p. 132–44.

²¹ Chung et al., "Associations between Work–Family Balance, Parenting Stress, and Marital Conflicts during COVID-19 Pandemic in Singapore."

²² Nisa, "Battling Marriage Laws: Early Marriage and Online Youth Piety in Indonesia."

²³ Mohd. Razif, "Intimacy Under Surveillance: Illicit Sexuality, Moral Policing, and the State in Contemporary Malaysia."

²⁴ Chung et al., "Associations between Work–Family Balance, Parenting Stress, and Marital Conflicts during COVID-19 Pandemic in Singapore."

²⁵ Sholahuddin Al-Fatih, et.al., "Academic Freedom of Expression in Indonesia: A Maqashid Sharia Notes," *El-Mashlahah* 13, No. 2 (2023), p. 203-224.

²⁶ Henky Fernando et al., "The Dual Burden of Child Sexual Abuse: Victim Experiences and Law Implementation Gaps," *Jurnal Hukum Novelty* 14, no. 2 (2023), p. 154–69.

²⁷ Samiran Nundy, Atul Kakar, and Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, *How to Practice Academic Medicine and Publish from Developing Countries? A Practical Guide, How to Practice Academic Medicine and Publish from Developing Countries? A Practical Guide*, 2021.

²⁸ Xinyue Hu et al., "Mapping the Field: A Bibliometric Literature Review on Technology Mining," *Heliyon* 10, no. 1 (2024). Otávio José de Oliveira et al., "Bibliometric Method for Mapping the State-of-the-Art and Identifying Research Gaps and Trends in Literature: An Essential Instrument to Support the Development of Scientific Projects," in *Scientometrics Recent Advances* (IntechOpen, 2019).

computers to produce information that can be used to measure and evaluate the impact and relevance of research.²⁹ In line with that, Raman³⁰ said in their study that bibliometric methods are tools researchers often use to evaluate and plan further research in various disciplines.

The use of bibliometrics in a study has three advantages. Firstly, it allows us to scientifically expand the boundaries of knowledge by identifying relevant topics in a study.³¹ Second, bibliometric methods increase rigor and reduce researcher bias in reviewing scientific literature while complementing meta-analysis of research.³² Third, bibliometrics is a method that can measure impact in various fields, including publications in the legal field.³³ In the legal context, bibliometrics can compare research productivity between different legal institutions.³⁴ By applying bibliometrics in law, researchers can reveal the development of literature, understand the structure and dynamics of research, and identify the relevance of legal research to phenomena occurring in society.³⁵

Studies on family law in Southeast Asia in the last two decades have shown a contextual complexity. ³⁶ However, the challenges in implementing interventions in the concept and praxis of family law have been gaps for over two decades in Southeast Asia, so it is essential to identify and evaluate them. ³⁷ In identifying and evaluating family law studies in Southeast Asia over the past two decades, this study utilizes bibliometric analysis based on published articles in the Scopus database. The bibliometric analysis is used to identify trends and gaps in family law studies in Southeast Asia over two decades to serve as a basis for evaluating new directions of family law research that are more reflective and applicable. In line with that, this study is also based on the argument that family law research in Southeast Asia has

²⁹ Miltos K. Lazarides, et.al., "Bibliometric Analysis: Bridging Informatics With Science," *The International Journal of Lower Extremity Wounds*, January 2023.

³⁰ Raghu Raman et al., "Research Contribution of Bibliometric Studies Related to Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainability," *Discover Sustainability* 5, no. 1 (January 15, 2024), p. 7.

³¹ Massimo Aria and Corrado Cuccurullo, "Bibliometrix: An R-Tool for Comprehensive Science Mapping Analysis," *Journal of Informetrics* 11, no. 4 (2017), p. 959–75.

³² Ivan Zupic and Tomaž Čater, "Bibliometric Methods in Management and Organization," *Organizational Research Methods* 18, no. 3 (July 2015), p. 429–72.

³³ Karen Blakeman, "Bibliometrics in a Digital Age: Help or Hindrance," *Science Progress* 101, no. 3 (2018), p. 293–310.

³⁴ Rahmat Fadhli et al., "Uncovering Patterns of Author Productivity in Educational Leadership and Management in Indonesia," *Record and Library Journal* 9, no. 2 (2023), p. 306–18.

³⁵ Muhammad Ade Kurnia Harahap et al., "A Biblio-Systematic Analysis of Development Planning for Better Environment: A Case Study of 4 Countries," *Civil Engineering and Architecture* 11, no. 3 (2023), p. 1209–19.

³⁶ Hasanudin, et.al., "Phenomena of Domestic Violence Against Women and Divorce in 2020-2022 in Indonesia: An Islamic Perspective," *Al-Manahij: Jurnal Kajian Hukum Islam 17 No.* (2023), p. 137–152.

³⁷ Henky Fernando et al., "Crime of the Personal Closeness: Characteristics Perpetrators of Child Sexual," *Nurani: Jurnal Kajian Syari'ah Dan Masyarakat* 23 (2023), p. 11–24. https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/usrah/index

fluctuated over two decades, so the focus and findings of existing studies have not been able to answer family issues that continue to undergo fundamental transformations.

This study was undertaken amidst the rise of controversial global policies and attitudes in response to family issues such as domestic violence, marriage, parental rights, and property division.³⁸ However, based on article search results in the Scopus database, this study only focuses on exploring and evaluating studies that address family law issues over the two decades 2003-2023 in Southeast Asia. The selection of family law issues is also based on three considerations. First, family law is a central issue that has not been comprehensively explored over the past two decades in Southeast Asia. Second, family law has contextual characteristics in concept and praxis, so it must be explored. Third, family law is a fundamental issue to be reflected upon to evaluate policies and attitudes. These three considerations form the basis for this study to explore and evaluate family law studies over the two decades 2003-2023 in Southeast Asia based on article search results in the Scopus database.

Southeast Asia has complex cultural, ethnic, and social diversity. Southeast Asia is culturally and socially diverse, consisting of countries such as Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam. This diversity can be seen through various aspects of its society, including the legal system. In Southeast Asia, Islam has had a strong influence, so countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam adhere to a legal system that promotes Islamic values and ethics. In line with this, Fathoni also said Southeast Asia is the most populous Islamic region in the world, so Islamic values influence law implementation in its society. As such, faith-based legal systems significantly influence society in Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asia, which consists of eleven countries with cultural and religious diversity, has differences in the practice and implementation of family law.⁴³ Although some countries in Southeast Asia apply legal systems based on customary law and local traditions, others have adopted and incorporated elements of Islamic

³⁸ Nita Triana, "Urgency Critical Legal Studies Paradigm for the Protection of Women Victims of Domestic Violence in the Divorce Case," *Syariah: Jurnal Hukum dan Pemikiran* 18, No. 2 (2018), p. 167-191.

^{2 (2018),} p. 167-191.

Sumanto Al Qurtuby, "Southeast Asia: History, Modernity, and Religious Change," *Al-Albab*, (2015).

⁴⁰ Nazirah Hassan, "Rasuah Dalam Penguatkuasaan Undang-Undang Di Asia Tenggara: Satu Tinjauan Skop," *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 2021.

⁴¹ Ahmad Khoirul Anam, "Application of Muslim Family Law in Southeast Asia: A Comparison (Penerapan Hukum Keluarga Muslim Di Asia Tenggara: Sebuah Perbandingan)," *Jurnal Bimas Islam*, (2017).

⁴² Ahmad Fathoni, "Sejarah Sosial Hukum Islam di Asia Tenggara; Studi Pemberlakuan dan Pengkodifikasian Hukum Islam di Malaysia," *Asy-Syari'ah* 17, no. 1 (2014).

law in their family law.⁴⁴ Indonesia and Malaysia apply a dual legal system, namely national and Islamic law, in regulating family law.⁴⁵ In this context, Islamic family law is very important in the midst of Muslim society because family issues include marriage and inheritance that cannot be equated with laws for non-Muslims, so people want Islamic family law.⁴⁶

This study is descriptive qualitative using bibliometric analysis. Bibliometric analysis is a method used to explore and evaluate large amounts of scientific data, making it possible to uncover and highlight an evolution in a particular field of science.⁴⁷ In line with that, Donthu⁴⁸ also pointed out that bibliometric analysis can be used to parse and map scientific knowledge cumulatively so that trends and research productivity of specific fields of science can be observed and analyzed comprehensively. In other words, studies based on bibliometric analysis can provide recommendations and build a strong foundation in evaluating established scientific fields, identifying knowledge gaps, obtaining new ideas, and contributing to the development of specific fields of science empirically, methodologically, and theoretically. In this context, this study used bibliometric analysis to explore and evaluate the productivity of family law research in Southeast Asia over two decades.

The search strategy and data analysis were carried out using the keywords family and law in the Scopus database, which resulted in 41,049 documents. the limitation process was then carried out using the TITLE-ABS-KEY (family AND law) AND PUBYEAR > 2002 AND PUBYEAR < 2024 AND (LIMIT TO (SUBJAREA, "SOCI") OR LIMIT TO (SUBJAREA, "ARTS")) AND (LIMIT TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT TO (PUBSTAGE, "final")) AND (LIMIT TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Indonesia") OR LIMIT TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Malaysia") TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Singapore") OR LIMIT-LIMIT-(AFFILCOUNTRY, "Thailand") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Viet Nam") LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Philippines") OR LIMIT-(AFFILCOUNTRY, "Cambodia") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Brunei Darussalam") OR LIMIT-TO (AFFILCOUNTRY, "Myanmar") OR LIMIT-TO

⁴⁴ Mursyid Djawas et al., "The Construction of Islamic Inheritance Law: A Comparative Study of the Islamic Jurisprudence and the Compilation of Islamic Law," *Juris: Jurnal Ilmiah Syariah*, (2022).

⁴⁵ Nurul Miqat et al., "The Development of Indonesian Marriage Law in Contemporary Era," *De Jure: Jurnal Hukum Dan Syar'iah*, (2023). Said Amirulkamar, et. al., "Administration Reagent of Aceh Family Law Qanun: Siri Marriage Motives Towards the Legality of Polygyny," *De Jure: Jurnal Hukum Dan Syar'iah* 15, no. 1 (2023), p. 129–43.

⁴⁶ Eko Setiawan, "Dinamika Pembaharuan Hukum Keluarga Islam di Indonesia," *De Jure: Jurnal Hukum Dan Syar'iah* 6, no. 2 (2014).

⁴⁷ Johan A. Wallin, "Bibliometric Methods: Pitfalls and Possibilities," *Basic & Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology* 97, no. 5 (2005), p. 261–75.

⁴⁸ Naveen Donthu et al., "Mapping of Journal of Service Research Themes: A 22-Year Review," *Journal of Service Research*, (2022).

(AFFILCOUNTRY, "Laos")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English")) (refer to figure 1).

Identified from search of Scopus database (n=41.049)Keywords: Family and Law Years: 2003-2023 (n=30.708)Subject area: Social science; Art and Humanities Limitation process (n=16.119)(n=9.847)Document type: Articles (n=9.670)Publication stage: Final (n=493)Country: 10 Southeast Asia Countries (n=427)Language: English Studies using bibliometric analysis

Figure 1. Collection process and limitations in the Scopus database.

Sources: Authors analysis in 2024

Figure 1 shows the collection and limitation process carried out on the Scopus database. The data that has been collected is then exported into RIS (Research Information Sytems) and CSV (Comma comma-separated values) documents based on the Scopus database. The exported data was then subjected to a randomness analysis process using the VOSviewers application. Therefore, the data described in this study represents a visualization of images, graphs, diagrams, and tables containing 10 patterns and categories of dominant entity clusters based on the relevance of family law research trends over two decades in Southeast Asia. From this process, it is possible to draw a conclusion on the exploration and evaluation of

two decades of family law research trends in Southeast Asia based on the Scopus database.

Documents of family law research in Southeast Asia in two decades

After searching through the Scopus database with a limitation focused on family law research publications over two decades in Southeast Asian countries, then the trend of family law research publications can be explored and evaluated thematically based on the number of publication documents for two decades in Southeast Asian countries (see figure 2 and figure 3).

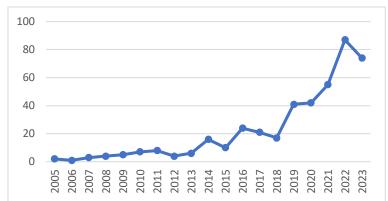


Figure 2. Two decades of family law research documents in Southeast Asia.

Source: Adopted from Scopus database in 2024

Figure 2 is a chart that shows family law research documents over two decades in 10 Southeast Asian countries based on article search results on the Scopus database with a total of 427 documents. In 2004 with 2 documents, in 2005 with 1 document, in 2006 with 3 documents, in 2008 with 4 documents, in 2009 with 5 documents, in 2010 with 7 documents, in 2011 with 8 documents, in 2012 with 4 documents, in 2013 with 6 documents, in 2014 with 16 documents, in 2015 with 10 documents, in 2016 with 24 documents, in 2017 with 21 documents, in 2018 with 17 documents, in 2020 with 41 documents, in 2021 with 55 documents, in 2022 with 87 documents, and in 2023 with 74 documents. Based on these two decades, three significant trends of family law research publications can be seen in the 10 Southeast Asian countries: 2022 being the year of the most publications with 87 documents, 2014 being the year of the most publications with 16 documents, and 2005 is the year of the most minor publications with one document.

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Figure 3. The 10 Southeast Asian countries with the most publications.

Source: Adopted from Scopus database in 2024

Figure 3 is a mapping that shows the 10 most active Southeast Asian countries in family law research publications over two decades based on the results of article searches in the Scopus database with a total of 448 publications, such as Indonesia with 246 publications, Malaysia with 97 publications, Singapore with 35 publications, Thailand with 31 publications, Viet Nam with 20 publications, Philippines with 11 publications, Brunei Darussalam with three publications, Cambodia with three publications, Laos with one publication, and Myanmar with one publication. From the 10 Southeast Asian countries, we can also see three essential trends regarding family law research publications over two decades; namely, Indonesia is the most active country in publishing family law research with 246 documents, Thailand is the active country in publishing family law research with 31 documents and Myanmar and Laos being the least active countries in publishing family law research with one document each.

Affiliation and Sources of Family Law Research Publications

This study explored the 10 institutions and journals that have published the most family law research over two decades in Southeast Asia to find consistent affiliations and publication sources for family law research publications (see Figure 4 and Figure 5).

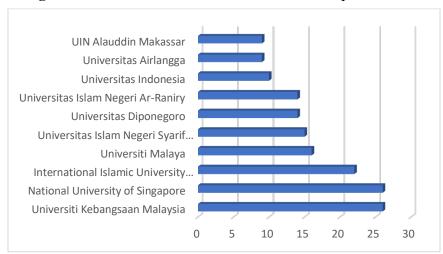


Figure 4. 10 Affiliates that are active in research publications.

Source: Adopted from Scopus database in 2024

Figure 4 is a diagram that shows the 10 affiliates that have been most active in publishing family law research over two decades based on article search results in the Scopus database with a total of 161 publications. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia with 26 publications, National University of Singapore with 26 publications, International Islamic University Malaysia with 22 publications, Universiti Malaya with 16 publications, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta with 15 publications, Diponegoro University with 14 publications, Ar-Raniry State Islamic University with 14 publications, University of Indonesia with 10 publications, Airlangga University and Alauddin University Makassar with 9 publications each. Three significant trends of affiliates publishing family law research over the two decades, namely, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and National University of Singapore being the most active affiliates with 26 publications each, Diponegoro University and Ar-Raniry State Islamic University being moderately active affiliates with 14 publications each, Airlangga University and UIN Alauddin Makassar with 9 publications each.

Figure 5. 10 journals that is consistent in research publications.



Source: Adopted from Scopus database in 2024

Figure 5 is a diagram showing 10 sources that have consistently published family law research over two decades based on article search results in the Scopus database. Samarah Journal has 38 publication documents, Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities with 12 publication documents, Ahkam Journal of Sharia Science with 11 publication documents, Al Ihkam Journal of Law and Social Order has 10 publication documents, Journal of Indonesian Islam has eight publication documents, Al Jami ah journal with 7 publication documents, Al Istinbath Journal of Islamic Law journal with 6 publication documents, Ijtihad Journal of Islamic and Humanitarian Legal Discourse journal with 6 publication documents, Journal of Legal Ethical and Regulatory Issues with 6 publication documents, and Novelty Law Journal with 6 publication documents. From these 10 sources, three significant trends of sources active in publishing family law research over two decades, namely, Samarah Journal is the journal with the most publications with 38 publications, Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities is the journal with sufficient publications with 12 publications, Al Istinbath Journal of Islamic Law, Ijtihad Journal of Islamic Legal Discourse and Humanity, Journal of Legal Ethical and Regulatory Issues, and Novelty Law Journal are the least published with 6 publications each.

Patterns of interconnectedness of various entities in family law research publications

This study identified the frequency of relevance of frequently occurring keywords through entity-based cluster visualization via VOSviewers to elucidate the pattern of family law research publications in Southeast Asia over two decades (see Figure 6, Figure 7, and Figure 8).

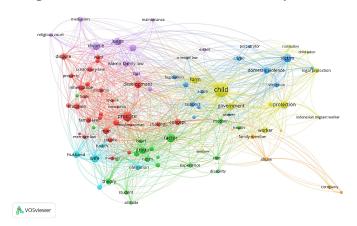


Figure 6. Network visualization of family law studies.

Source: Authors' analysis by VOSviewer (2024).

Figure 6 is a Network visualization of family law studies in Southeast Asian countries, showing seven clusters with 91 items most frequently used as keywords in family law research publications over two decades. The first cluster is colored red with 28 items: Bride, challenge, concept, couple, custom, customary law, development, dispute, distribution, emergence, equality, family law, inheritance, interfaith marriage, man, marriage law, medium, Muslim, Muslim woman, Muslims, practice, property, religion, settlement, sharia, spouse, tradition, and waqf. The second cluster is green with 20 items: Attitude, awareness, belief, care, disability, effect, evidence, experience, and factor. Cluster three is blue with 14 items: Abortion, action, child marriage, constitution, crime, criminal law, domestic violence, legislation, perpetrator, politics, support, victim, violence, and women. Cluster four is yellow with 13 items: Child, child labor, child protection, form, Government, Indonesian migrant worker, law number, legal protection, protection, reality, restitution, welfare, and worker. Cluster five is purple with 10 items: Decision, difference, divorce, extent, fact, Islamic family law, judge, maintenance, mediation, and religious court. Cluster six is highlighted in blue: Hadith, husband, obligation, polygamy, and wife. Cluster seven is orange with four items: Abuse, company, family member, and shareholder.

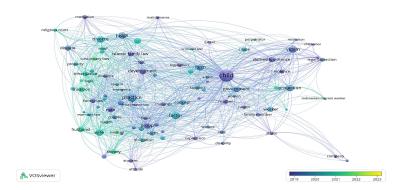


Figure 7. Overlay visualization of family law studies.

Source: Author's analysis by VOSviewer in 2024

Figure 7 is an overlay visualization of family law studies in Southeast Asian countries, showing the keywords that appear most frequently in family law research publications over two decades in the last five years. In 2019, 10 keywords appeared and were used most frequently, such as child, victims, development, protection, factor, violence, divorce, abuse, mediation, and maintenance. In 2020, 10 keywords are often used: spouse, wife, obligation, property, divorce, child, domestic violence, practice, couple, and family. In 2021, 10 keywords are often used: form, wife, theory, factor, divorce, meditation, victim, protection, development, and abuse. In 2022, 10 keywords appear most frequently and are used, such as child marriage, decision, health, abuse, violence, protection, perpetrator, practice, Islamic family law, and experience. In 2023, 10 keywords are often used, such as customary law, inheritance, tradition, practice, child, crime, victims, divorce, criminal law, meditation, and theory.

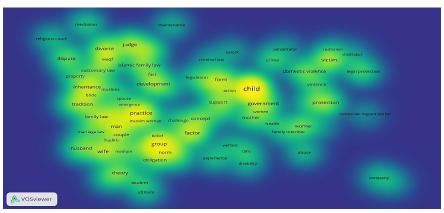


Figure 8. Density visualization of family law studies

Source: Author's analysis by VOSviewer in 2024

Figure 8 is a Density visualization of family law studies in Southeast Asian countries showing four dominant ranges with the 10 most relevant and frequent keywords in family law research publications based on article search results in the Scopus database over two decades. The first range is solid yellow with 10 dominant keywords: Child, practice, group, religion, norm, victim, divorce, Islamic family law, fact, and development. The second range is the standard yellow color with 10 dominant keywords: Government, protection, domestic violence, form, legislation, family law, customary law, family member, knowledge, and wife. The third range is light yellow, with 10 dominant keywords: Waqf, property, marriage law, obligation, constitution, health, worker, emergence, women, and dispute. The fourth range is greenish yellow with 10 dominant keywords: polygamy, attitude, experience, welfare, Indonesian migrant worker, legal protection, restitution, perpetrator, mediation, and religious court.

Subject and focus of family law research publications

This study thematically evaluated the ten most relevant. It cited articles over two decades in Southeast Asia to explore the subject and focus of family law research applications (see Figure 9 and Table 1).

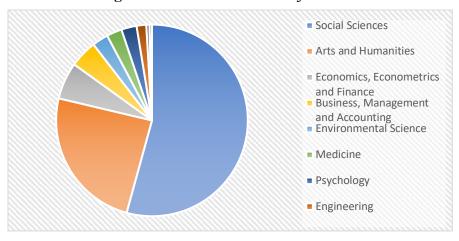


Figure 9. 10 most relevant subject areas.

Source: Adopted from Scopus database in 2024

Figure 9 is a diagram that shows the top 10 subject areas that have been the focus of family law research publications over two decades, with a total of 737 subject areas based on article search results in the Scopus database over two decades. First, studies that focus on human rights and gender equality with 76 citations. Second. Subject area Social Sciences with 400 publications, subject area Arts and Humanities with 180 publications; subject area Economics, Econometrics, and Finance with 46 publications; subject area Business, Management, and Accounting with 34 publications; subject area Environmental Science with 20 publications; https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/usrah/index

subject area Medicine with 20 publications, subject area Psychology with 19 publications, subject area Engineering with 12 publications, subject area Nursing with four publications, and subject area Agricultural and Biological Sciences with three publications. From these ten subject areas, we can also see three significant trends regarding the subject of research publications in two decades, namely, the subject area of Social Sciences is the most appearing subject with 400 documents, the subject area of Environmental Science is a reasonably appearing subject with 20 documents, the subject area of Agricultural and Biological Sciences is the least appearing subject with three documents.

Authors	Year	Title	Focus	Citations
Othman ⁴⁹	2006	Muslim women and the challenge of Islamic fundamentalism/extremism: An overview of Southeast Asian Muslim women's struggle for human rights and gender equality	Human Rights and Equality Gender	76
Al-Matary and Ali ⁵⁰	2014	Controversies and considerations regarding the termination of pregnancy for Foetal Anomalies in Islam	Transmissi on of pregnancy and fetus in Islam	45
Mohamad ⁵¹	2010	Making majority, undoing family: Law, religion and the Islamization of the state in Malaysia	Family Law in the Islamic Context	36

Table 1. Most articles of family law studies.

⁴⁹ Norani Othman, "Muslim Women and the Challenge of Islamic Fundamentalism/Extremism: An Overview of Southeast Asian Muslim Women's Struggle for Human Rights and Gender Equality," *Women's Studies International Forum* 29, no. 4 (July 2006): 339–53, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2006.05.008.

⁵⁰ Abdulrahman Al-Matary and Jaffar Ali, "Controversies and Considerations Regarding the Termination of Pregnancy for Foetal Anomalies in Islam," *BMC Medical Ethics* 15, no. 1 (December 2014): 10, https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6939-15-10.

Maznah Mohamad, "Making Majority, Undoing Family: Law, Religion and the Islamization of the State in Malaysia," *Economy and Society* 39, no. 3 (August 2010): 360–84, https://doi.org/10.1080/03085147.2010.486218.

https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/usrah/index

Nurlaelawa ti and Salim ⁵²	2013	Gendering the Islamic judiciary: Female judges in the religious courts of Indonesia	Gender in Islamic Justice	21
Rokhmad and Susilo ⁵³	2017	Conceptualizing authority of the legalization of Indonesian women's rights in Islamic family law	Women's rights in family law	20
Djawas ⁵⁴	2021	The Government's role in decreasing divorce rates in Indonesia: The Case of Aceh and South Sulawesi	Divorce	17
Diamond- Smith ⁵⁵	2016	Delivery and postpartum practices among new mothers in Laputta, Myanmar: intersecting traditional and modern practices and beliefs	Delivery and postpartu m practices among mothers	15
Husni ⁵⁶	2015	The problem of domestic violence and its solutions in the light of Maqasid Shariah	Maqasid Sharia	14
Jahar ⁵⁷	2019	Bureaucratizing Sharia in modern Indonesia: The case	Zakat and waqf	13

⁵² Euis Nurlaelawati and Arskal Salim, "Gendering the Islamic Judiciary: Female Judges in the Religious Courts of Indonesia," *Al-Jami'ah: Journal of Islamic Studies* 51, no. 2 (December 2013), p. 24..

⁵³ Abu Rokhmad and Sulistiyono Susilo, "Conceptualizing Authority of The Legalization of Indonesian Women's Rights in Islamic Family Law," *Journal Of Indonesian Islam* 11, no. 2 (2017), p. 489.

⁵⁴ Mursyid Djawas. et. al., "The Government's Role in Decreasing Divorce Rates in Indonesia: The Case of Aceh and South Sulawesi," *Ahkam: Jurnal Ilmu Syariah*, (2021).

⁵⁵ Nadia Diamond-Smith et al., "Delivery and Postpartum Practices among New Mothers in Laputta, Myanmar: Intersecting Traditional and Modern Practices and Beliefs," *Culture, Health & Sexuality* 18, no. 9 (2016), p. 1054–66.

⁵⁶ Ahmad Bin Muhammad Husni, et.al., "Problem of Domestic Violence and Its Solutions in the Light of Maqasid Shariah," *Asian Social Science*, 2015.

⁵⁷ Asep Saepudin Jahar, "Bureaucratizing Sharia in Modern Indonesia: The Case of Zakat, Waqf and Family Law," *Studia Islamika*, 2019, https://doi.org/10.15408/sdi.v26i2.7797. https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/usrah/index Vol. 7, No. 1, June 2024

		of zakat, waqf, and family law		
S. Ashraf ⁵⁸	2017	Domestic violence against Women: Empirical evidence from Pakistan	Domestic violence	12

Sources: Adopted from Scopus database (2024).

Table 1 evaluates 10 studies selected based on the highest citations and the most relevant focus to family law research publications in Southeast Asia based on the results of searching articles in the Scopus database over two decades. First, the studies that focus on human rights and gender equality with 76 citations. Second, studies that focus on Islamic transmission of pregnancy and fetus with 45 citations. Third, studies that focus on family law in the Islamic context with 36 citations. Fourth, studies that focus on gender in Islamic judiciary with 21 citations. Fifth, studies that focus on women's rights in family law with 20 citations. Sixth, studies that focus on divorce with 17 citations. Seventh, the study focused on childbirth and postpartum practices among mothers with 15 citations. Eighth, the study focused on Maqasid Shariah with 14 citations. Ninth, studies that focus on zakat and waqf with 13 citations. Tenth, the study focused on domestic violence with 12 citations.

Making Sense of Family Law Research Trends and Gaps in Southeast Asia Two Decades 2003-2023

The study shows family law research has fluctuated in Southeast Asia over two decades. From identifying 427 total family law research documents over two decades in Southeast Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore became the most active countries in publishing family law research over two decades. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, National University of Singapore, and Ar-Raniry State Islamic University became the three most affiliates in publishing family law research in Samarah Journal, Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Novelty Law Journal for two decades in Southeast Asia. The fluctuating trend of family law research in Southeast Asia for the past two decades has long-term implications in intervening in family issues in concept and praxis. This context can be reflected through the interrelated patterns of dominant entities in family law publications over the past two decades in Southeast Asia, which tend to experience fluctuations in theme and focus of discussion.

The productivity of family law studies over the past two decades in Southeast Asia can be identified through three visualizations of the interconnectedness patterns of various entities. First, the network visualization reveals 91 interconnected items,

⁵⁸ S. Ashraf, M. Abrar-ul-Haq, and S. Ashraf, "Domestic Violence against Women: Empirical Evidence from Pakistan," *Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 2017. https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/usrah/index Vol. 7, No. 1, June 2024

forming the dominant keywords in family law studies (figure 6). These keywords often appear in the subject area of sociology (figure 9), so the most cited articles related to human rights and gender justice (table 1). Second, the overlay visualization shows the 50 central keywords most frequently in family law studies in the last five years (figure 7). These keywords are often found in the subject area of arts and humanities (figure 9), so the most cited articles are related to gender justice and family law (table 1). Third, the density visualization describes four ranges of themes with 40 dominant keywords that are often discussed in family law studies. These themes are often addressed through the subject areas of social science and arts and humanities, so the most frequently cited articles relate to the concept and praxis of family law (table 1).

Family law is a set of norms that regulate relationships within the family, including marriage, divorce, child custody, inheritance, and obligations between family members. ⁵⁹ Maula ⁶⁰ said that family law aims to create a fair and balanced legal framework for handling conflicts and protecting the rights and interests of each family member. Family law is based on norms that refer to aspects such as the minimum age for marriage, divorce procedures, and the division of joint property within a family. ⁶¹ In addition to being norm-based, family law accommodates the social and cultural values prevailing in a society, so the legitimacy of family law is more contextual in responding to situational family dynamics. Therefore, family law studies must be able to identify family issues contextually. ⁶² However, in its development, studies on family law are still fluctuating and normative, especially in Southeast Asia, in response to family issues.

Family law research in Southeast Asia in the last two decades has shown a contextual complexity. However, the challenges in implementing interventions conceptually and praxis still show gaps in Southeast Asia over the past two decades. Umberson and Thomeer⁶³ also said that family law studies only focus on explaining the dynamics of gender, sexuality, socio-economic, and racial diversity. Therefore, future research directions that accommodate the manifestations of family law

⁵⁹ Mujebb Ahmad, "'Ulamā' and the Muslim Family Laws in Pakistan," *Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Islamabad* 59, no. 2 (2020), p. 51–78.

⁶⁰ Bani Syarif Maula, "The Concept of Ṣulḥ and Mediation in Marriage Conflict Resolution in Religious Courts: A Comparative Study between Contemporary Indonesian Family Law and Classical Islamic Law," *El-Aqwal: Journal of Sharia and Comparative Law* 2, no. 1 (2023), p. 73–86.

⁶¹ Sara Ramshaw, "Law and Humanities: A Field Without a Canon," *Law, Culture and the Humanities*, 2023.

⁶² Ampuan Situmeang, Ninne Zahara Silviani, David Tan, "The Solving Indonesian Intellectual Property Rights Transfer Issue," *Al-Risalah: Forum Kajian Hukum dan Sosial Kemasyarakatan* 23, No. 1 (2023), p. 59–74.

⁶³ Debra Umberson and Mieke Beth Thomeer, "Family Matters: Research on Family Ties and Health, 2010 to 2020," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 82, no. 1 (2020), p. 404–19. https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/usrah/index Vol. 7, No. 1, June 2024

concepts and praxis are needed. Reczek⁶⁴ also emphasized that future family law studies must be able to perfect the measurement and analysis of family issues theoretically and applicatively. Thus, studies that discuss family law issues for two decades in Southeast Asia can experience empirical, methodological, and theoretical developments so that future family law studies are no longer focused on normative topics, as can be reflected through the studies of Perry-Jenkins⁶⁵ and Smock⁶⁶.

Along with societal and cultural developments, family issues have undergone various transformations that have become increasingly complex and contextualized over the past two decades. Schoppe-Sullivan and Fagan⁶⁷ also said that studies on family issues must find new directions to explain, analyze, and recommend a model to address family issues in the context of accommodative law enforcement in the 21st century. This study's findings evaluate the trend of family law research over two decades in Southeast Asia and recommend the importance of applicable studies in responding to contemporary family law issues. Systemic evaluation is necessary because family issues are far more complex in the future, requiring a new direction of research that is more comprehensive and reflective. Thus, the findings in this study can be used as lessons learned and open new avenues for future family law research to be more based on policy manifestations that accommodate the interests and welfare of the subjects.

Conclusion

This study highlights that the publication of family law research in Southeast Asia over the past two decades has fluctuated fin theme and focus. Countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore have been the most active in publishing family law research based on social sciences, arts, and humanities subjects over the past two decades. However, the focus and findings of these studies so far have not been able to intervene and overcome the problems that arise in marriage, divorce, child custody, and inheritance, which still have the potential to raise various kinds of misconceptions ideologically and praxis. The results of this exploration and evaluation form the basis for this study to recommend the importance of future studies analyzing the factors and implications of the occurrence of family law misconceptions in ideology and praxis for family welfare. A commitment to accommodating family law can benefit the future welfare of families in the context

⁶⁴ Corinne Reczek, "Sexual- and Gender-Minority Families: A 2010 to 2020 Decade in Review," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 82, no. 1 (2020), p. 300–325.

⁶⁵ Maureen Perry-Jenkins and Naomi Gerstel, "Work and Family in the Second Decade of the 21st Century," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 82, no. 1 (2020), p. 420–53

⁶⁶ Pamela J. Smock and Christine R. Schwartz, "The Demography of Families: A Review of Patterns and Change," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 82, no. 1 (2020), p. 9–34.

⁶⁷ Sarah J. Schoppe-Sullivan and Jay Fagan, "The Evolution of Fathering Research in the 21st Century: Persistent Challenges, New Directions," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 82, no. 1 (2020), p. 175–97.

https://jurnal.ar-raniry.ac.id/index.php/usrah/index

of marriage, divorce, child custody, and inheritance. For stakeholders, the recommendations from the family law studies can be used as a basis for reflecting on the authorities' commitment to responding to and resolving the fundamental problems experienced by a family. For researchers, the findings of this study can be used as a basis for reference in empirically, methodologically, and theoretically identifying and responding to family law research gaps over two decades in Southeast Asia. Thus, knowledge about the conception and praxis of family law can be explored so that the fundamental problems experienced by a family can be responded to and resolved constructively in the future.

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